

# THE WINTER FORECAST

## FOR THE MDB REGIONS 2023



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### MAJOR FLOODING IS ON THE CARDS, EVEN THOUGH WE ARE MOVING INTO EL NINO

Since the mid-October 2022, floods, rainfall has swung to below-average across the MDB (generally 50%)

I would normally expect rain events to be small, due to the cooler coastal seas currently around most of Australia, together with very weak lunar and planetary forces during Winter, and the SOI in the negative.

However, the small amount of warm seas off QLD has been enough to clash with weak cold fronts from the south, producing unexpectedly massive rains in early June already (150mm or more in high country VIC).

Now the catchments are wet and Lake Eppalock is nearing capacity. The next major rain event will likely produce flooding on the Campaspe River again, with unthinkable mental trauma for residents of Rochester on the cards.

**It is essential to maintain at least 10% air space in all reservoirs if catastrophic flood damage is to be minimised this year. The challenge is to get this through to all water authorities in time.**

### TRENDS FOR THE REST OF THIS YEAR

- Winter crops will be very high-yielding, helped by some good rains during late Winter
- Expect two small rain events each month during Winter (i.e. one each time the Moon crosses the Equator).
- The best of these rain events will usually occur close to the New Moon and Full Moon periods.
- The “money rains” for this growing season are most likely to fall during early October and early November.
- These rains will be the result of the next peak of the Northeast Air Tides for this year.
- Also enhanced rain during first week of Nov as Earth passes Jupiter during a Northeast Air Tide surge.

### GLOBAL TEMPERATURES ARE RISING AGAIN

Global temperatures remained above average, even during the recent years of the La Nina “cooling” anomaly. This was due to record-low average Antarctic Sea ice during the last two years, and a boost to the high-altitude moisture levels resulting from the under-sea Tongan volcano eruption in Jan 2022.

Therefore, as the first signs of El Nino start to take form, we should not be surprised to see global temperatures have once again, started rising. In May 2023, global temperatures were 0.37 C° above average. This is a massive 0.4 C° rise this year - even before El Nino is declared. Record-high temperatures are likely in the next two years.

### THE WINTER FORECAST

**IN BRIEF: Only about 80% of average Winter rain.**

There are very few rain-enhancing forces in play before the end of September, as we currently have a developing El Nino, with cooler than average Seas Surface Temperatures (SST's) dominating most of the Australian coast, as well as very weak lunar and Planetary forces.

The only exception is the slightly warm SST along the northern Qld coast, which will help feed a little extra moisture into the MDB regions during Winter, while the moon is south of the Equator each lunar month.

The southern MDB catchments are saturated. It will only take one more heavy rain event to produce another cycle of catastrophic flooding events similar to last October!! **Therefore 10% air space must be maintained.**

Maximum irrigation allocations and low water prices are locked in for next season, but carry-over water from last season will be flushed by water authorities in the name of creating air space in the reservoirs.

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