

THE SPRING FORECAST

FOR THE MDB REGIONS 2026



by Kevin Long (Bendigo VIC) 1 September 2026 TheLongView.com.au 0487 973081

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'EL NINO' HAS ONLY AFFECTED THE NORTHERN MDB ... EFFECTS ARE OVERDUE ELSEWHERE

El Nino forces can be blamed for the dry year so far in the northern regions of the MDB. In contrast, well-above-average rains have been received in northern QLD, most of the NT, SA and most of Victoria.

The central regions of Australia and Central Vic are enjoying one of the best growing seasons in living memory. In Central Vic, the months of March, June and August have all delivered about 200% of average monthly rainfall. Local reservoirs and dams have filled steadily during Winter, and should be over-flowing during Spring.

The El Nino anomaly has already become very strong during Winter. Hence, below-average rains are overdue.

BIG RAIN EVENTS THIS YEAR HAVE CORRELATED WITH THREE STRONG PLANETARY ALIGNMENTS

Strong planetary alignment forces were the main drivers of the above-average rains this year so far.

The drier "transition phase" of the Lunar Air Tide cycle during Winter had no wide-spread negative effects on our weather, as I expected it would. Hence, only southwest Victoria and the northern regions of the MDB have remained drier than average so far this year.

During late-Winter and Spring, we will again have positive planetary forces and positive northeast Lunar Air Tide forces. These combining forces will help drive good Spring rains, close to each New Moon phase during Spring.

However, "building negative" El Nino forces, are counteracting the "positive" planetary and Lunar Air Tide forces.

EL NINO FORCES WILL HELP DRIVE COOL SEA CURRENT UPWELLING

The upwelling of cool sea currents along coastal regions is a strong drought driver for Australia. El Nino forces help to drive this upwelling especially near QLD. Hence, about 75% of Australia has cool seas nearby presently.

LOW LEVELS OF "HIGH-ALTITUDE ATMOSPHERIC MOISTURE" IS ALSO A STRONG DROUGHT DRIVER

During the last two years, the MDB has been heavily impacted by the global trend of reducing "high-altitude atmospheric moisture", as well as the presence of cool local coastal seas around most of Australia.

I forecast it will take another year before the upper atmospheric moisture levels can be fully recharged again.

This El Nino system is essential to "re-prime" atmospheric moisture levels, before the next La Nina wetter climate cycle can kick in again. (forecast to peak during 2029-2031). Remember the old saying: "no pain, no gain".

THE SPRING FORECAST IN BRIEF: **El Nino-enhanced drier climate to develop.**

Drying El Nino forces are expected to kick in during Spring. This will deliver a drying climate trend well into 2027. Prepare for a generally hot dry Summer, with extremely high fire risk once again.

Cooling Sea Surface Temperatures along the Australian east coast regions (driven by El Nino) will result in continuing drought for the regions that have remained dry, so far this year.

The wetter northeast Lunar Air Tide forces will help to drive monsoon moisture southwards during Spring. Low moisture levels in the upper atmosphere will reduce rain totals until after El Nino has peaked.

Most MDB reservoirs will remain at below-average levels, with minimal inflows until the next La Nina anomaly has developed. This will most likely occur in late 2027 (based on the present ENSO forecast models).

Many farm dams will dry up during the next year. This will be a great opportunity to clean and enlarge them. This will be necessary to prepare for longer periods of dry climate which will most likely return after 2032.

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