

MID-SUMMER FORECAST UPDATE

FOR MURRAY DARLING BASIN 2014/15

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THIS IS A GENERAL FORECAST WRITTEN FOR THE LOWER MURRAY DARLING BASIN REGIONS

More specific and detailed forecasts for other regions - supported with regular email updates - are available through my subscription forecast service. See details on the home page of : www.thelongview.com.au

ANTARCTIC "SEA ICE EXTENT" SETS NEW MAXIMUM RECORDS AGAIN THIS YEAR

I wish to draw attention to the continued rapid growth of global sea ice which has risen to the fifth highest seen on this day for the last 35 years, together with Antarctic sea ice smashing all previous maximum sea ice records again this year . I believe this reversal of the recent trends to be a very important indicator of future global cooling trends. Reducing solar radiation is the key driver behind this global cooling indicator and persistent declining average rainfall trends. During 2014, new higher Antarctic sea ice records were set again - smashing most of the high monthly records that were set during 2013. This embedded Antarctic sea ice growth trend of recent decades is now showing up in the Arctic - with a massive 50% more sea ice left at the end of the last two Summers compared to the record lows of 2012. I believe these higher sea ice averages will soon become widely accepted as one of the dominant drivers of Australia's developing Mega-Drought cycle. Australia's average rainfall records show good correlations with the Antarctic sea ice trends (i.e. years with increasing sea ice go hand-in-hand with below-average rainfall and heavier late winter and spring frosts).

EI NINO LOSING STRENGTH - A BETTER WET SEASON DEVELOPING

The cool seas that have dominated most northern coastal regions around Australia during the last 15 months have warmed significantly during the last few weeks. Furthermore, other indicators show El Nino effects are about to start fading away. This overall situation gives improving chances that the inland north regions will have a better "Top End wet" this Summer. But these good summer rains are unlikely to last long enough to break the drought conditions that currently dominate most of inland QLD and NSW. Therefore I forecast late Summer will be hot and dry again for most MDB regions.

THE PEAK OF THE N.E. LUNAR AIR TIDE HAS PASSED ... BUT MORE RAIN MAYBE COMING IN LATE JANUARY

The strongest peaks of the Northeast Air Tides occurred in late Spring (24th Nov 2014) delivering storms and little rain across most regions - except for north central Victoria which received several good rain events towards the end of Spring. The next (weaker) Northeast Air Tide surge will occur in the week before Christmas but I forecast little chance of wide spread rains developing due to the present very dry state of Australia.

The following air tide surges due in mid-January would normally be too weak to trigger any major rain event, but luckily this Summer the remaining air tides surges will all be strengthened by the passage of Jupiter. Hence, late January has the best chance of the heaviest general rains this Summer - but no guarantees. The strongest cyclones are also due at that time.

Therefore I forecast only a short monsoon season, very quickly settling down again soon after the end of January. The drier transition phase of the air tide cycle will cause below-average rains from late February to early April.

(For more details, read "LUNAR AIR TIDE CYCLE EXPLAINED" in the "Supporting Documents" section of my website.)

THE 2015 AUTUMN BREAK AND BEYOND

The Autumn break will be much shorter and not as wet as 2014 was for most regions. The break will be kicked off by the first active round of the Southern Air Tides during mid-April. The strongest Southern Air Tides will occur during mid-May, enhanced by the passage of Mercury and Saturn later that month. Consequently, I forecast that mid to late-May will produce the heaviest general rains of the Autumn period. The heaviest of those rains are most likely to fall across southern SA and the southern regions of Victoria, including south eastern NSW.

The third productive surge of the Southern Air Tide will come through during mid-June. This represents the last chance to consolidate the Autumn break. The following Winter months and early Spring will again be affected by the next dry transition phase of the air tide cycle. During late Winter there will be a chance of better rains due to the passage of Venus.

Consequently there will be a very high risk that most regions of the MDB will again fail to receive enough rain during the critical Spring period to grow profitable crops. Furthermore, inflows to dams and reservoirs will also be well below average.

THE SUMMER FORECAST **In brief: Best general rains during last half of Dec and mid-to-late Jan.**

I warn of a hot dry windy end to Summer, followed up by a short Autumn break (as described in the section above). Average rains in early and late Winter. Below-average rains with high frost risk setting in again during early Spring.

The long term forecast for the Lower Murray Darling Basin regions is for generally dry conditions for the majority of 2015, with mostly small rainfall events that will struggle to accumulate 80% of average rainfall by Christmas.

I wish you all the best for what I believe will be an improving year, but watch out for the dry spring again.

For more information: www.TheLongView.com.au