

# THE SPRING FORECAST

## FOR SOUTHERN MDB REGIONS 2018



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Please consider my \$200 per year “**SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE**”. You may receive email updates on changing conditions within the season, as well as emerging trends. Personal phone support is also included if required.

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### THE SPRING SEASON UNFORTUNATELY HAS NOTHING TO BUILD ON

This Spring will have little to offer most regions of the MDB. Generally, the Autumn and the Winter periods have failed to deliver enough rain to establish crops. Therefore the growing season in many MDB regions never got under way.

Only the southwest of Victoria and my region of Central Victoria have received close to average Winter rains. But even in these wetter regions, sub-soil moisture is very low and a couple of weeks of warm weather without any decent rain will bring the Spring growing season to a premature finish.

Extended periods of dry weather during Spring will greatly increase the risk of damaging Spring frosts, like the ones that have just occurred during the last week of Winter.

### NEGATIVE OCEAN DRIVERS

The dominance of below-average sea surface temperatures (SST's) to the south and west of Australia continues to reduce the chances of significant rain from that direction. The Indian Ocean as a whole is well below average (continuing the cooling trend that commenced in early 2016) and is a strong driver of below-average Spring rains.

### SMALL POSITIVE OCEAN DRIVERS

THE NEXT EL NINO EVENT is currently being held back by cool sea surface temperatures in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. However, I still expect El Nino to become another dominant force during next year 2019.

ANTARCTIC SEA ICE has grown only a little during this Winter period (slightly above the record lows of last year). I view this as one of the small positive drivers for this growing season. However, once the Antarctic sea ice has returned to above-average, we will see another dry climate force added to our climate mix.

### APPROACHING THE DEPTH OF THE 18.6 YEAR DROUGHT CYCLE

For those that have been following my forecasts and website, you will know I have been warning of the most damaging drought which is likely to occur from 2019-2021. I have been forecasting this since the wet extreme of 2010-11.

*“The dry follows the wet 9.3 years later”* This is the normal dominant Lunar Cycle I have seen in my lifetime. Droughts have occurred without fail every 18.6 years, with every second cycle (37.2 years) being very damaging and extreme.

**The record dry of 1982 is now due to return. My analysis is that a Mega-Drought is now forming.**

**The period 2019-21 is very likely to be the driest period in the Australian climate for over 200 years.**

The major 18.6 year Lunar Cycle is also synchronising with very cool seas all around Australia, planetary forces at the low of a 297-year cycle, and sunspot cycles weakening since mid-last century. (See website for my detailed articles.)

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**Strong highs. Weak southern lows. Weak cold fronts.**

ENSO / El Nino remains neutral, but the SOI is in decline and recently reached -7.6. Cooler seas are dominating most regions around Australia. Only a small chance of productive rain should be expected mainly during mid to late Spring.

Frost damage will be greater than for many years, due to a cooler Indian Ocean and reducing Jetstream moisture flows.

**Most MDB northern regions will receive barely 40% of average rainfall for this year. Southern regions have a good chance of receiving up to 60%.** Central Victoria is likely to continue getting the lion's share of rain, with the regions south of the divide drying out very quickly during early Spring (especially so for the Gippsland regions).

In Victoria, Winter hydro power production and environmental releases have remained high. G-MW reservoirs have only increased 8% for the year so far (currently 69% full). This rise represents only 1/4 of the yearly water requirement.

Well done to all the farmers with promising crops, and all the best for the 2018 harvest season. Kind regards, Kevin.

For more information: [www.TheLongView.com.au](http://www.TheLongView.com.au)