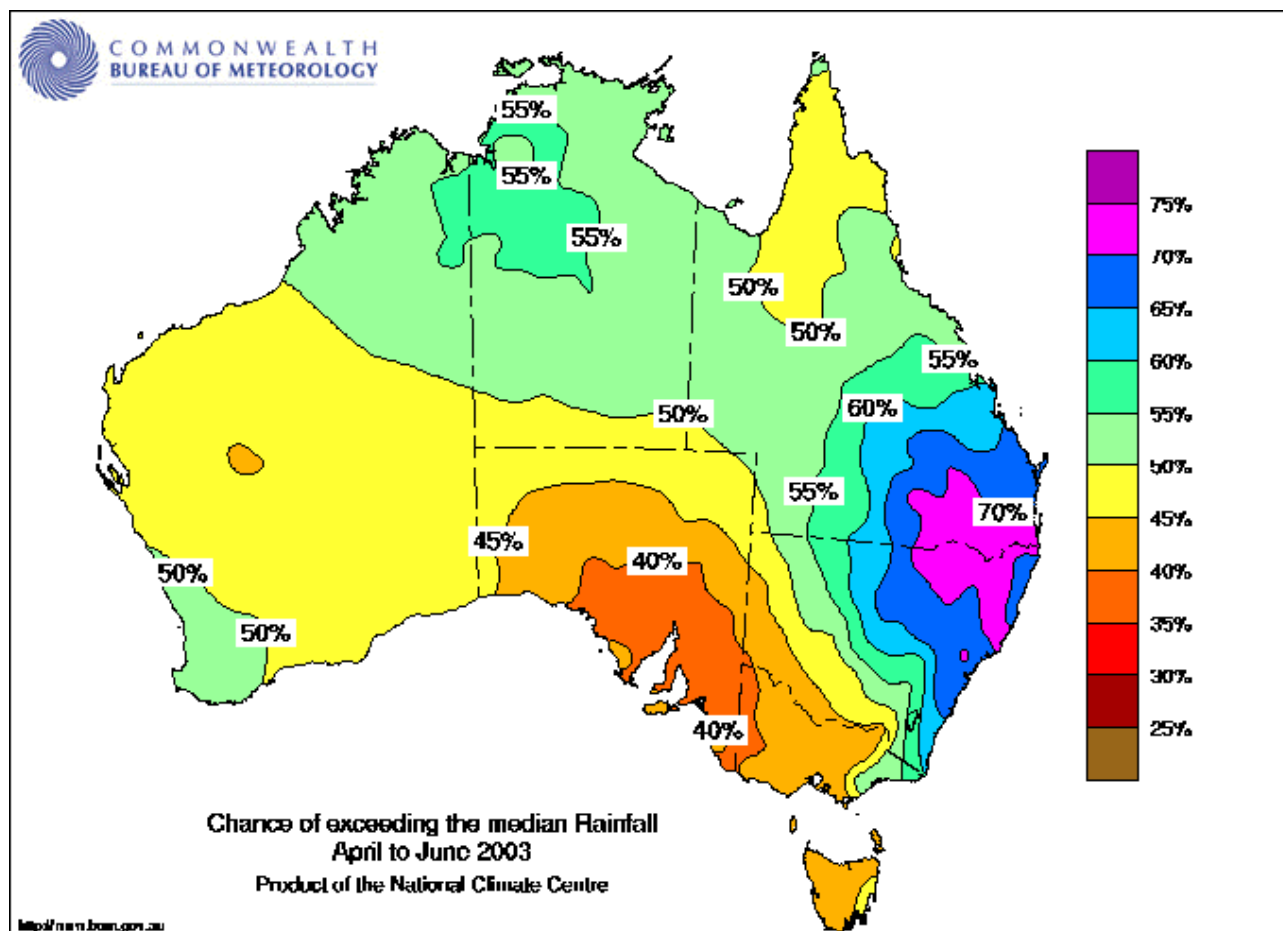


THREE-MONTH SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK SUMMARY

Rainfall probabilities for April to June 2003

Wetter in parts of Qld/NSW, drier in parts of SA/Vic

The latest seasonal rainfall outlook from the Bureau's National Climate Centre shows a contrasting pattern of odds for the June quarter, particularly in the east and southeast of the country. The chances of above median rainfall for the **April to June** period are between 60 and 75% in the southeast quarter of Queensland and much of the eastern half of NSW. So with climate patterns like the current, about 7 seasons out of 10 are expected to be wetter than average in these areas, whilst about 3 out of 10 are drier.



In contrast the chances of above median rainfall are between 35 and 40% over much of southern SA and the western border areas of Victoria, meaning below median falls have a 60 to 65% chance of occurring. This equates to about 6 seasons out of 10 being below average under the present climate scenario. The objective statistical outlook scheme has moderate to strong reliability over much of SA and western Victoria for this period, and moderate reliability in south-east Queensland and parts of eastern NSW.

The overall pattern of probabilities is almost entirely a result of warm and rising temperatures in the Indian Ocean. As far as the El Niño is concerned, most of the main indicators show the event is very close to being over. Whilst a regeneration of El Niño cannot be ruled out entirely, this is much less likely than either neutral or La Niña conditions. For more detail see <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso>

Background Information:

The Outlook probabilities are based on recent Indian and Pacific Ocean temperatures. Both oceans were warmer than average in February.

Model Reliability: Strong reliability means that tests of the model on historical data show a high correlation between the most likely outlook category (above/below median) and the verifying observation (above/below median). Low reliability means the historical relationship is weak.

The Australian impacts of 23 El Niño events since 1900 are summarized on the Bureau's web site at http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/australia_detail.shtml

February's value of the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) was -7, a drop of 5 points from the -2 in January. The approximate SOI for the 30 days ending 15th March was -4.

This outlook represents a summary, more detail is available from the contact people or web sites listed below.

Important: Probability outlooks should not be used as if they were categorical forecasts. More on probabilities is contained in the booklet "*The Seasonal Climate Outlook - What it is and how to use it*", available from the National Climate Centre.

The national text, and a colour map, are on the WEB at http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/rain_ahead.shtml

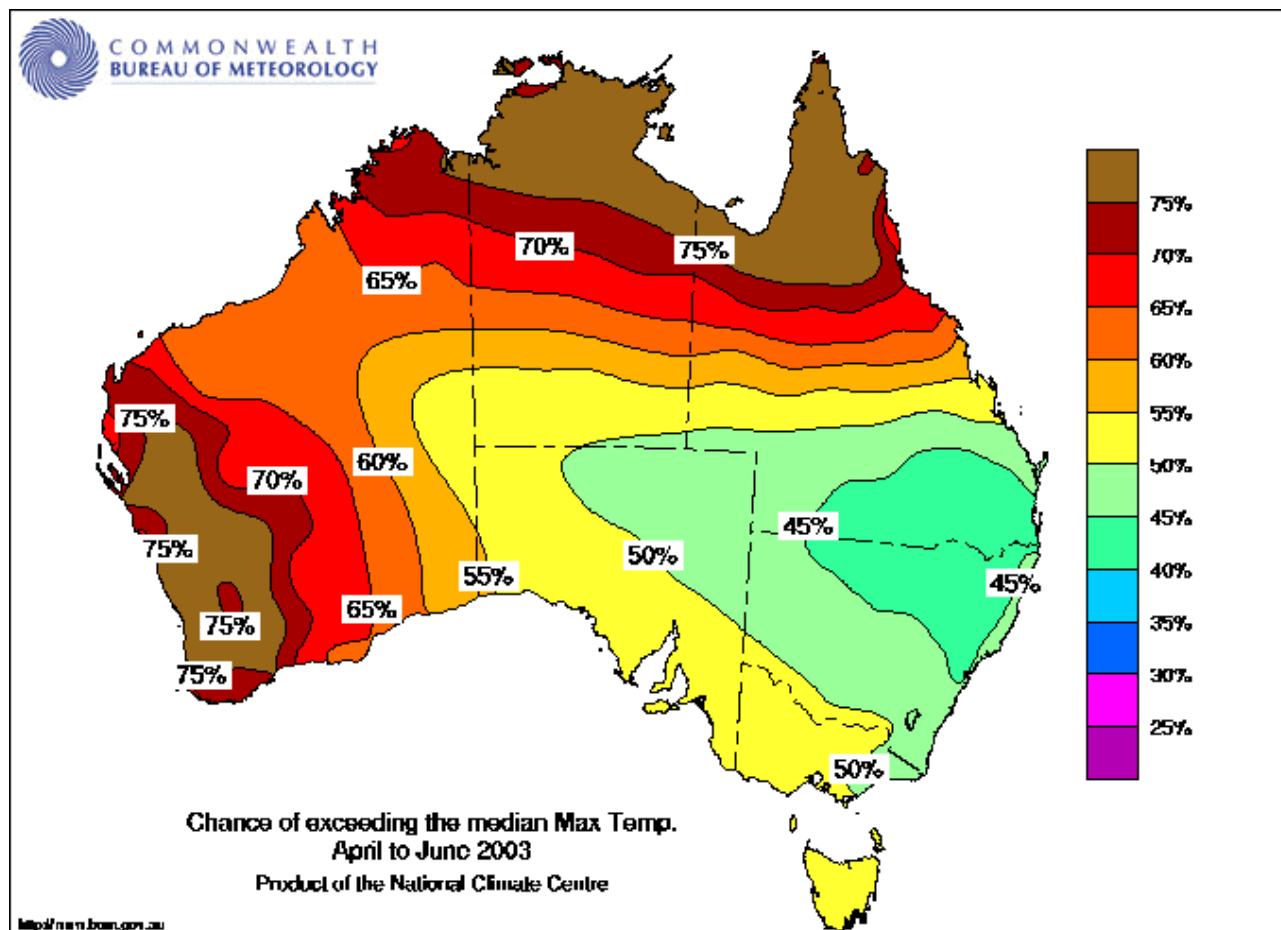
An online Seasonal Climate Outlook subscription service is available at <http://www.bom.gov.au/silo>

Temperature probabilities for April to June 2003

Mixed outlook for June quarter temperatures

The latest seasonal temperature odds from the Bureau's National Climate Centre show moderate to strong swings towards above average temperatures in the tropics and Western Australia for the June quarter.

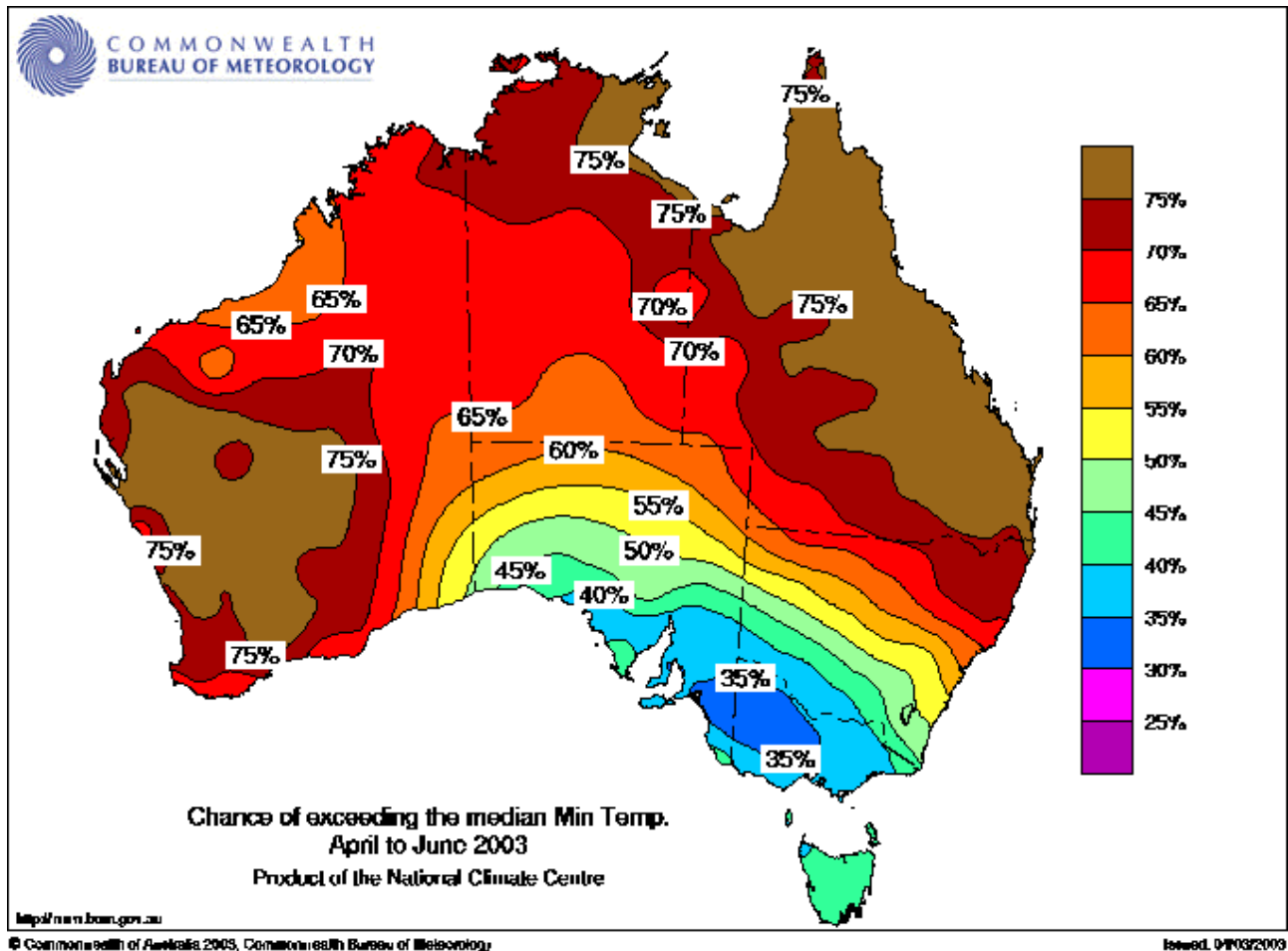
For the **April to June** period the chances of above average **seasonal maximum temperatures** are over 60% across most of the tropics and WA, reaching about 80% in the far north and far west. These probabilities have resulted from higher than average sea temperatures in both the tropical Pacific and Indian Oceans.



So with climate patterns like the current, about 7 seasons out of every 10 are warmer than average across these parts of the country, with about 3 out of 10 being cooler. Furthermore, the objective statistical outlook model has moderate to high reliability over these parts of the country for the April to June period.

The chances of above average **seasonal minimum temperatures** are between 60 and 80% across WA, the NT, Queensland and parts of northern NSW, and minimum temperature outlooks for this period have moderate to high reliability over most of these areas. In contrast, over most of Victoria, far southern NSW and some of southern SA, the chances of above average overnight temperatures are between 30 and 40%

meaning that below average overnight temperatures have a 60 to 70% chance of occurring. The outlook scheme has moderate reliability in these areas.



Background Information:

These outlooks are for the average maximum and minimum temperatures for the entire outlook period. Information about individual days or weeks, which may be unusually hot or cold, is unavailable.

This outlook uses data from both the Pacific and Indian Oceans, with the Pacific Ocean having the major influence on the north of the country and the Indian Ocean the chief influence on southern areas.

This outlook represents a summary: more detail is available from the contact people or web site listed below.

Important: Probability outlooks should not be used as if they were categorical forecasts. More on probabilities is contained in the booklet "The Seasonal Climate Outlook - What it is and how to use it", available from the National Climate Centre.

The national text, with colour maps, is also on the WEB at http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/temps_ahead.shtml

More information on this outlook is available during normal office hours from 9:00am to 5:30pm (EDT) Monday to Friday by contacting the following climate meteorologists in the National Climate Centre:

Blair Trewin - (03) 9669 4603 David Jones - (03) 9669 4085 Janita Pahalad - (03) 9669 4859