

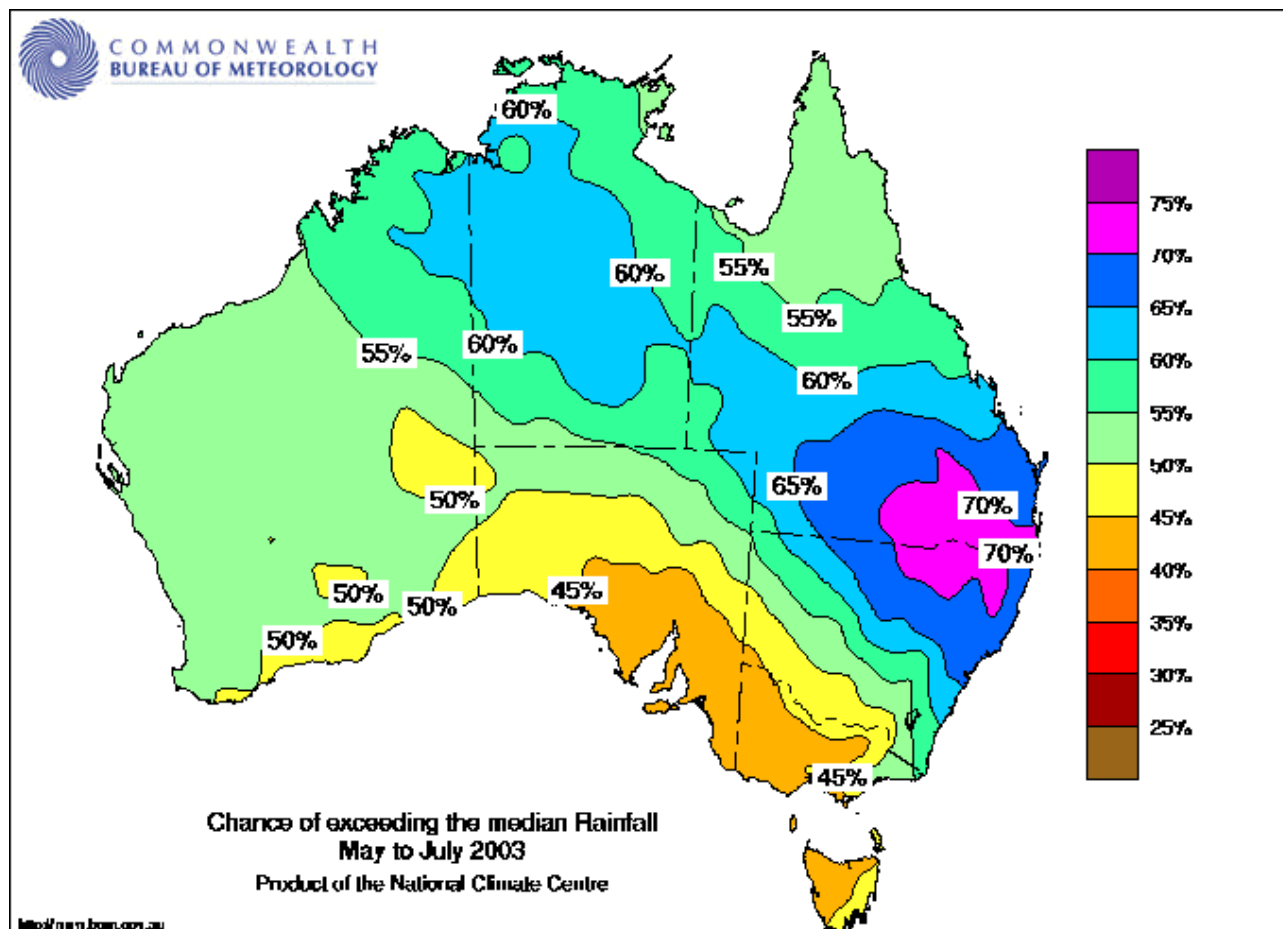
## THREE-MONTH SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK SUMMARY

*Rainfall probabilities for May to July 2003, issued 15th April 2003*

**Wetter for 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, particularly in the east and southeast of the country. The chances of above median rainfall for the May to July 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 6 to 7 seasons out of 10 are expected to be wetter than average in these areas, whilst about 3 to 4 out of 10 are drier. The probabilities are above 60% across much of the Northern Territory, but these should be treated with caution because it is the dry season there.



In contrast, the chances of above median rainfall are between 40 and 45% over much of southern SA, western/central Victoria and northwest Tasmania, meaning below median falls have a 55 to 60% 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 the areas where the chances for above median rainfall are more than 60%, but lower reliability elsewhere.

The overall pattern of probabilities is almost entirely a result of warmer than average temperature in the Indian Ocean, with little contribution from the Pacific Ocean. As far as the El Niño is concerned, most of the main indicators show the event is nearly over. Whilst a regeneration of El Niño cannot be ruled out entirely, this is much less likely than neutral 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 March.
- 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](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/australia_detail.shtml)
- March's value of the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) was -7, the same as February's value. The approximate SOI for the 30 days ending 12th April was -13.
- 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](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 May to July 2003

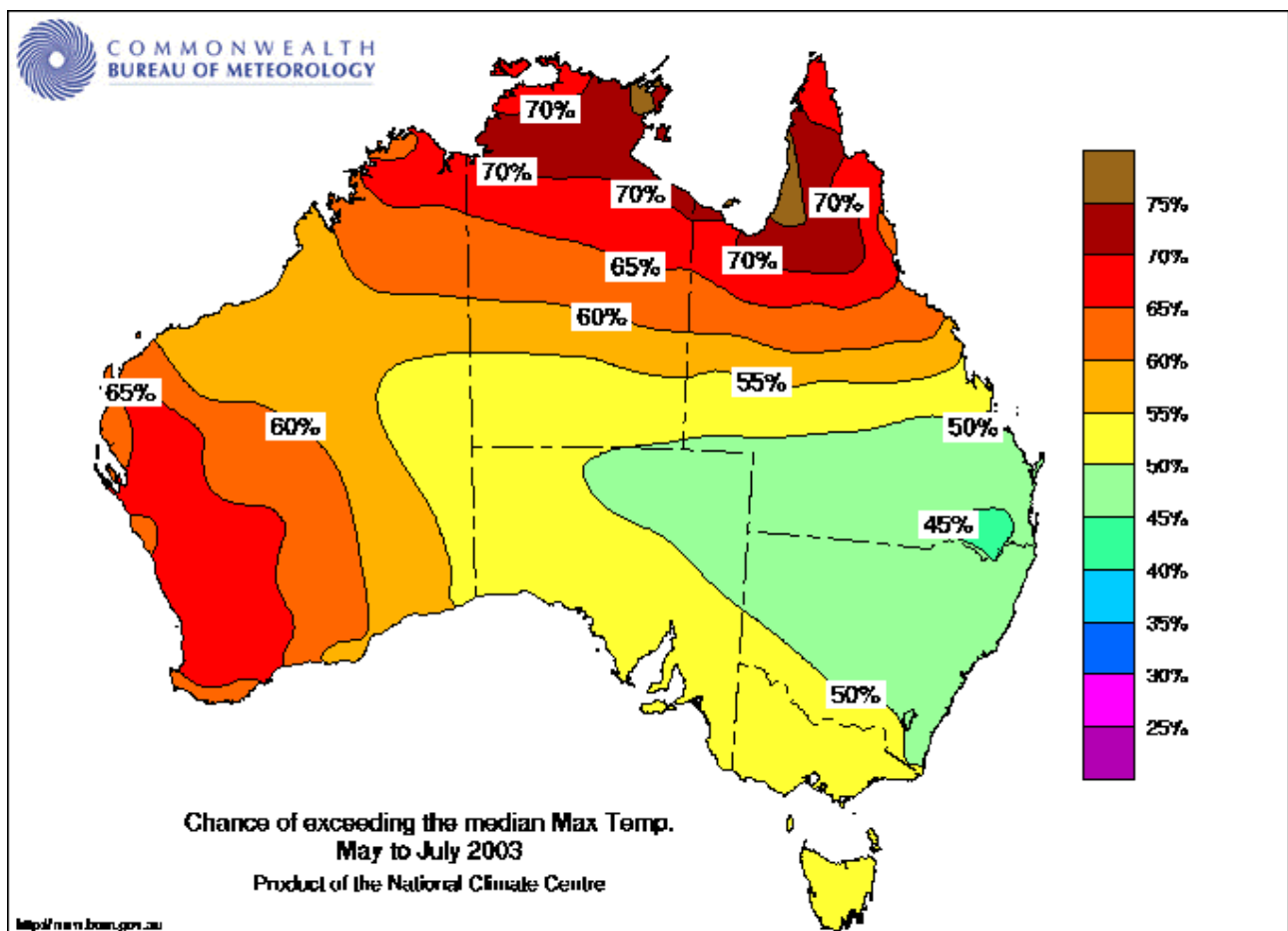
#### Warmer days more likely in tropics and SW WA

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 southwest WA.

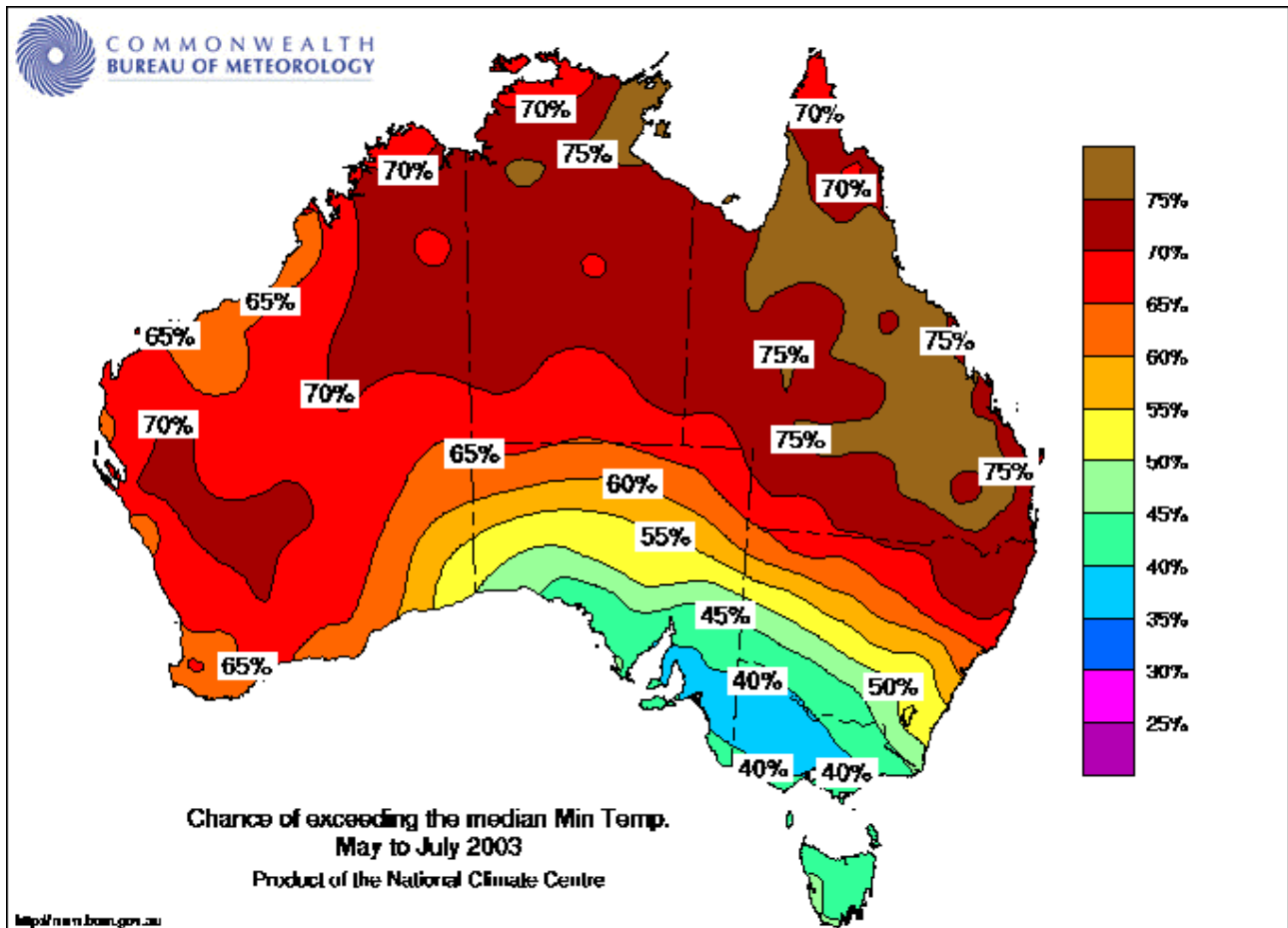
For the **May to July** period the chances of above average **seasonal daytime temperatures** are over 60% across most of the tropics and southwest WA, reaching 75% on Cape York Peninsula.

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 6 to 7 seasons out of every 10 are expected to be warmer than average across these parts of the country, with about 3 to 4 out of 10 being cooler.

Furthermore, the objective statistical outlook model has moderate to high reliability over these parts of the country for the May to July period. Elsewhere in the country, the chances are close to the long-term 50%.



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.



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Issued 07/04/2003

In contrast, over Tasmania, most of Victoria, far southern NSW and some of southern SA, the chances of above average overnight temperatures are between 35 and 45%, meaning that below average overnight temperatures have a 55 to 65% chance of occurring. The outlook scheme has lower reliability in these areas, however.

#### 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, both of which are warmer than average.
- 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](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 on (03) 9669 4603 - Janita Pahalad on (03) 9669 4859 - Andrew Watkins on (03) 9669 4360  
William Wright on (03) 9669 4781