



THREE-MONTH SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK STATEMENT
Temperature probabilities for May to July 2003, issued 15th April 2003

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Cooler nights likely across Victoria

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 close to the long-term 50% across Victoria (see Figure 1). So with climate patterns like the current, about 5 seasons out of 10 are expected to have above median seasonal maximum temperatures, with about 5 out of 10 below average. These probabilities have resulted from higher than average sea temperatures in both the tropical Pacific and Indian Oceans.

The objective statistical outlook model has fairly high reliability over Victoria for the May to July period (see background on page 1).

The chances of above average *seasonal minimum temperatures* are between 35 and 45% across Victoria (see Figure 2). This means the chances of **BELOW** median seasonal minimum temperatures are between 55 and 65%. So with climate patterns like the current, about 4 seasons out of 10 are expected to have above median seasonal minimum temperatures, with about 6 out of 10 below average. The outlooks have fairly low reliability over the state for the May to July period however.

Background Information:

- These outlooks are for the average maximum and minimum temperatures for the entire outlook period. Information about whether individual days or weeks 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.
- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are shown on page 3.

Fig.1: Chance that max temps averaged over May-July will be above median (warmer)

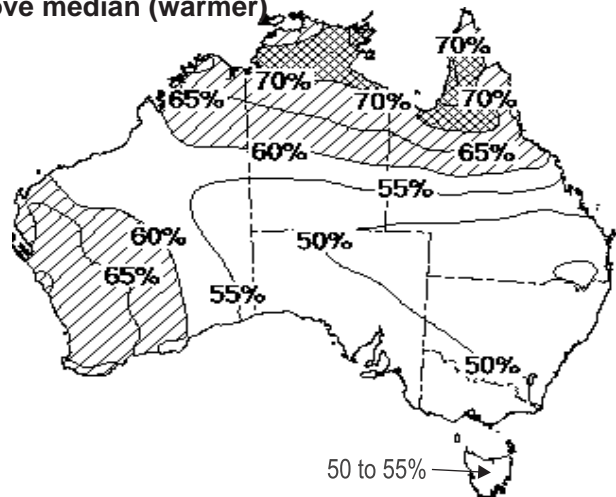
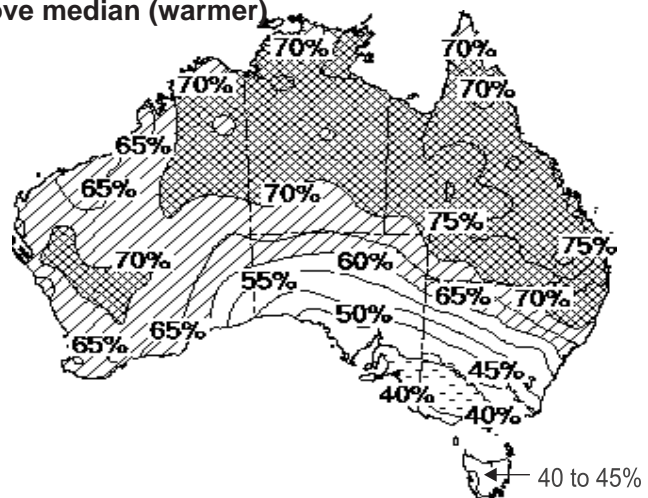


Fig.2: Chance that min temps averaged over May-July will be above median (warmer)



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 from 9:00am to 5:00pm (EST) Monday to Friday by contacting the Climate and Consultancy section in the Bureau's Melbourne Office: (03) 9669 4949.