



THREE-MONTH SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK STATEMENT

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Temperature probabilities for Winter 2003, issued 15th May 2003

Odds favour warmer than average winter

The Bureau's winter temperature outlook shows the odds for a warmer than average season are better than 50:50 over the entire country for both daytime and nighttime temperatures. The strongest swings in the odds are over the west and north of Australia.

For the **June to August** period in Victoria though, there is only a marginal shift in the odds with the chances of above average *seasonal daytime temperatures* being between 55 and 60% (see Figure 1). These probabilities have resulted from higher than average sea temperatures in the tropical Indian and western tropical Pacific Oceans.

So with climate patterns like the current, about 5 or 6 winters out of every 10 are expected to be warmer than average over Victoria, with about 4 or 5 out of 10 being cooler. The Bureau's winter maximum temperature outlooks have low to moderate reliability over the State (see background on page 1).

The chances of above average *seasonal minimum temperatures* are between 50 and 55% across Victoria (see Figure 2) and minimum temperature outlooks for winter have low reliability over the State.

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

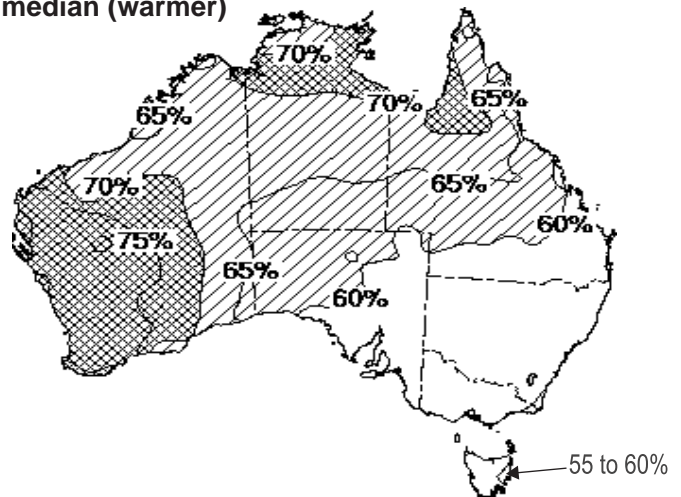
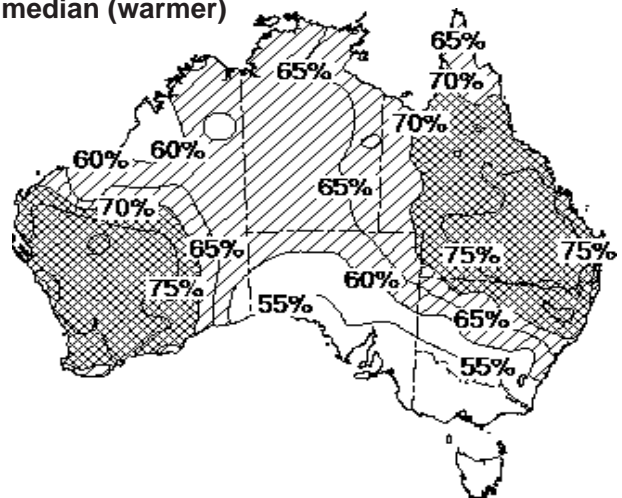


Fig.2: Chance that min temps averaged over winter will be above median (warmer)



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. The Pacific has been cooling but remains warm in the west, whilst the Indian is warmer than average over large areas.
- 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.

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 Victorian Regional Office: (03) 9669 4949.