

SPOTTING LA NIÑA



TEMPERATURES

in the tropical Pacific Ocean cool, both at the surface and below



SURFACE PRESSURE

changes across the Pacific; higher in the east, lower in the west



TRADE WINDS

are much stronger than normal



CLOUD

decreases near the Date Line

WHEN DO THEY OCCUR?

USUALLY LA NIÑA DEVELOPS IN **AUTUMN OR WINTER** AND FINISHES THE FOLLOWING AUTUMN

HALF OF ALL LA NIÑA EVENTS HAVE LASTED FOR **2 OR 3 YEARS**



ON AVERAGE THEY OCCUR EVERY **3 TO 7 YEARS**

40% OF EL NIÑO EVENTS ARE FOLLOWED BY LA NIÑA

TYPICAL IMPACTS ON OUR CLIMATE

↑ RAINFALL INCREASES IN EASTERN, CENTRAL AND NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

↓ TEMPERATURE DECREASES SOUTH OF THE TROPICS (DAYTIME TEMPERATURES)



THE 2010–12 LA NIÑA SAW A **5 MM DROP IN GLOBAL SEA LEVEL** AS MORE EVAPORATED SEA WATER RAINED OVER LAND THAN NORMAL

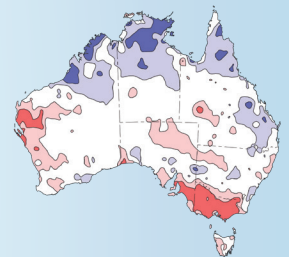
OTHER IMPACTS

- MORE TROPICAL CYCLONES**
- INCREASED CHANCE OF WIDESPREAD FLOODING**
- LONGER DURATION** HEATWAVES IN SOUTHEAST, BUT LESS INTENSE
- EARLIER FIRST RAINS** ACROSS NORTHERN AUSTRALIA
- INCREASED CHANCE OF INDIAN OCEAN HEATWAVES**

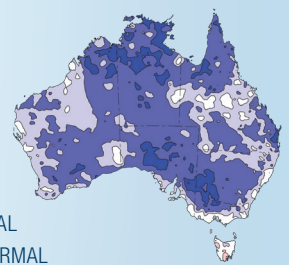
EVERY LA NIÑA IS DIFFERENT

LA NIÑA WINTER AND SPRING RAINFALL

1938



1973



RED = DRIER THAN NORMAL
BLUE = WETTER THAN NORMAL

THERE HAVE BEEN

18 LA NIÑA EVENTS SINCE 1900 **12** HAVE LED TO WIDESPREAD WET CONDITIONS

AUSTRALIA'S WETTEST 2-YEAR PERIOD WAS DURING THE **2010–12 LA NIÑA**