# La Niña in Australia

La Niña is part of a natural cycle in the tropical Pacific Ocean that can affect global weather.

La Niña is only one factor in a complex system that influences Australia's climate. The long-range forecast is the best guide to the season ahead.

# Signs of La Niña



## **Temperatures**

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



#### **Trade winds**

are much stronger than normal.

# **Surface pressure**

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



#### Cloud

decreases near the Date Line.

# Historical climate impacts



#### **Increase** in:

- rainfall in eastern, central and northern Australia
- number of tropical cyclones
- chance of widespread flooding
- length of low intensity heatwaves in the south-east
- chance of Indian Ocean heatwaves
- earlier first rains across northern Australia



- daytime temperatures south of the tropics
- the number of late season frosts

# When does La Niña occur?



La Niña usually develops in

### winter

They usually finish the following

autumn

Around half of all La Niña events have lasted for

2 or 3 years

They occur on average every

3 to 7 years

40%

of El Niño events are followed by La Niña

# Every La Niña is different

#### Winter to spring rainfall varies in each La Niña





