



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 the chances of above average *seasonal daytime temperatures* are between 60 and 70% across the NT, nearing 75% in a large part of the north of the Territory (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 7 winters out of every 10 are expected to be warmer than average across the Northern Territory, with about 3 out of 10 being cooler. The Bureau's winter maximum temperature outlooks have moderate reliability over much of the NT (see background on page 1).

The chances of above average *seasonal minimum temperatures* are between 60 and 70% across the NT (see Figure 2), and minimum temperature outlooks for winter have low to moderate reliability over the Territory.

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.

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

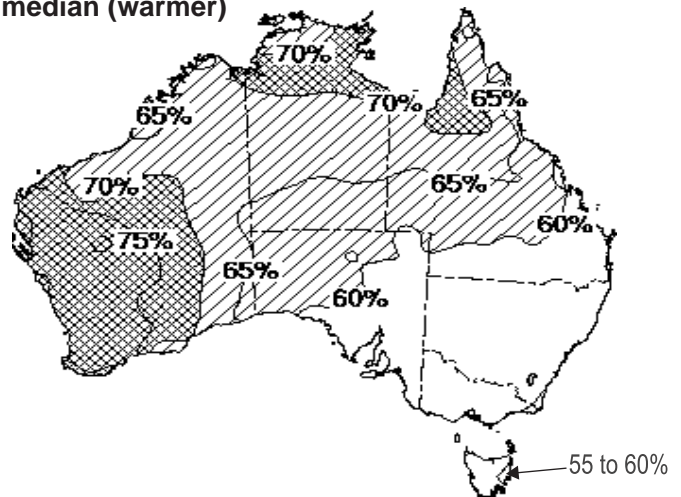
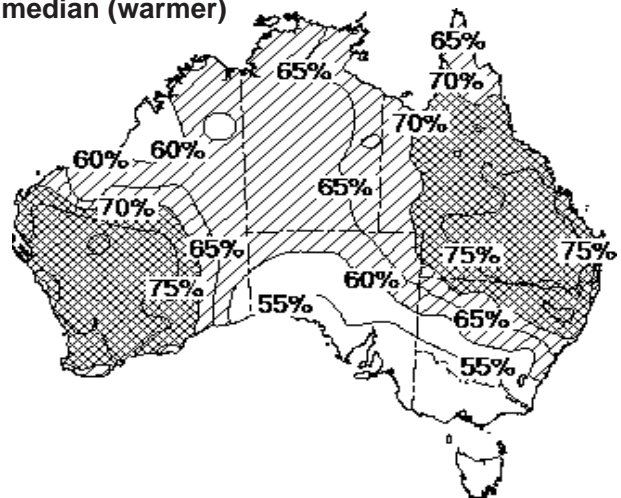


Fig.2: Chance that min temps averaged over winter will be above median (warmer)



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 (CST) Monday to Friday by contacting the Climate and Consultancy section in the Bureau's Darwin Office: (08) 8920 3813.