



THREE-MONTH SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK STATEMENT

Page 2

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 65% across northern and western South Australia, and between 55 and 60% over remaining parts of the State (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 6 winters out of every 10 are expected to be warmer than average across SA, with about 4 out of 10 being cooler. The Bureau's winter maximum temperature outlooks have low to moderate reliability over South Australia (see *background on page 1*).

In South Australia the chances of above average *seasonal minimum temperatures* grade from near 50% in the south of the State to near 70% in the far northeast (see *Figure 2*). However, minimum temperature outlooks for winter have mainly low reliability over SA.

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)

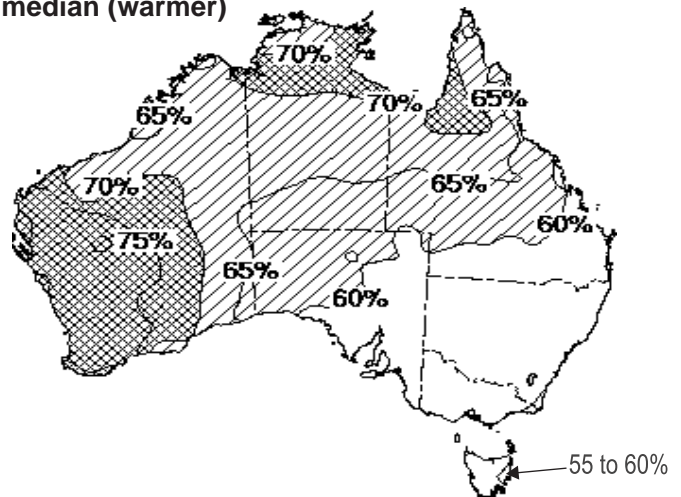
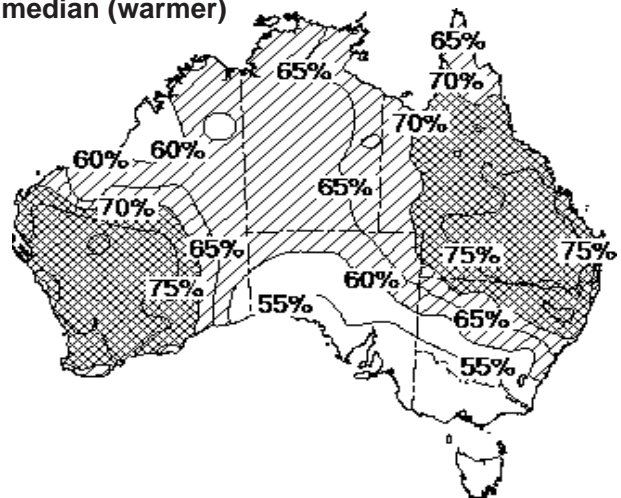


Fig.2: Chance that min temps averaged over winter will be above median (warmer)



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 Adelaide Office: (08) 8366 2664.