

RMD ENSO Report:

12 May 2026

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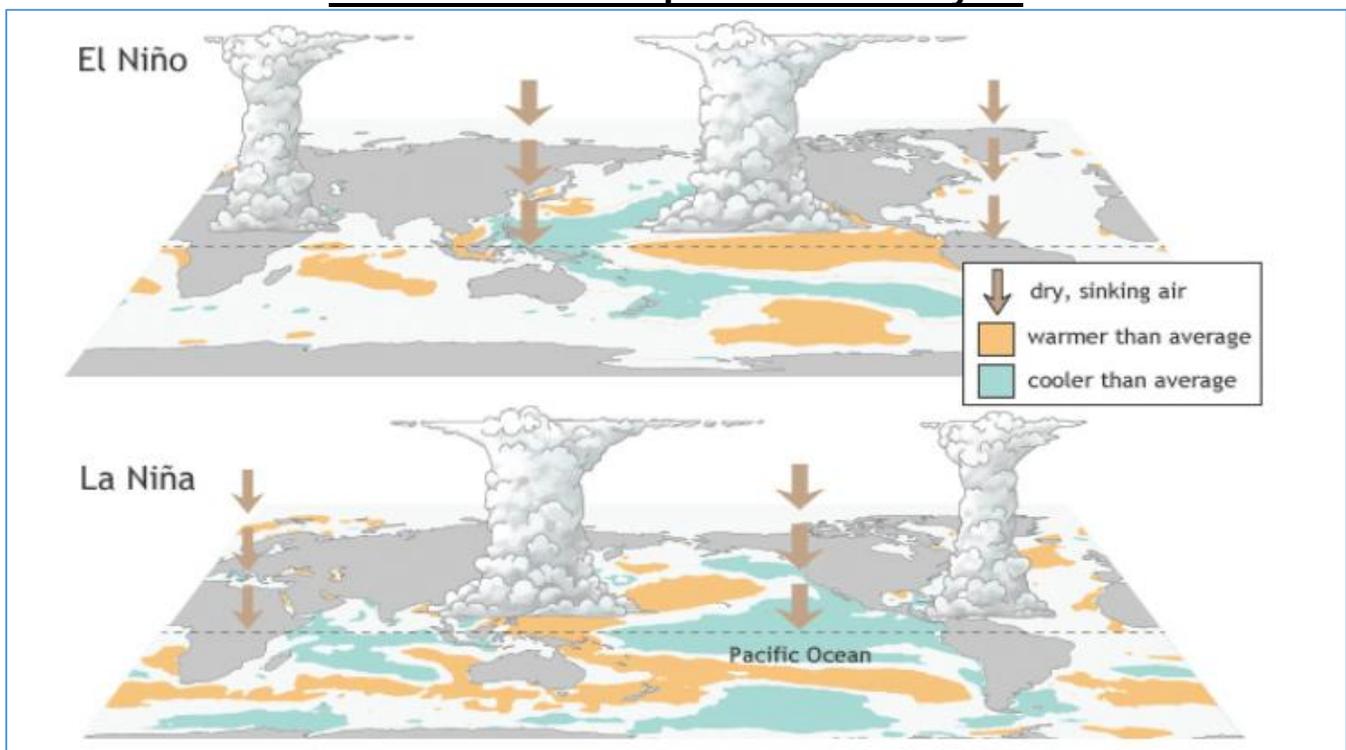
This is not presented as a commodity trading recommendation. Weather is only one of many factors which can influence the market on any given day.

Tropical Pacific continues to warm as models suggest a transition to El Niño during winter

*The Pacific Ocean is monitored closely for the current state of the **El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO)**. ENSO refers to the oscillation between warmer (**El Niño**) and cooler (**La Niña**) states of the central and eastern tropical Pacific region. ENSO is considered one of the dominant modes of climate variability in Australia. The influence of each individual event varies, particularly in conjunction with other climate indicators such as the **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)**.*

*The ENSO signal is characterised by sea surface temperature (SST) patterns in the central and eastern tropical Pacific. Cooler than average SSTs are associated with **La Niña**, while warmer SSTs are associated with **El Niño**.*

El Niño vs La Niña phases- ENSO cycle



El Niño /La Niña map

SST analysis for the week ending 10 May 2026 shows warmer waters (up to 2 °C above average) across southern and eastern Australia, peaking 3–4 °C near New South Wales and eastern Tasmania.

Western and northern waters are average to cooler.

Forecasts for June–August indicate widespread warmth, especially in the Tasman Sea, enhancing moisture for rain systems.

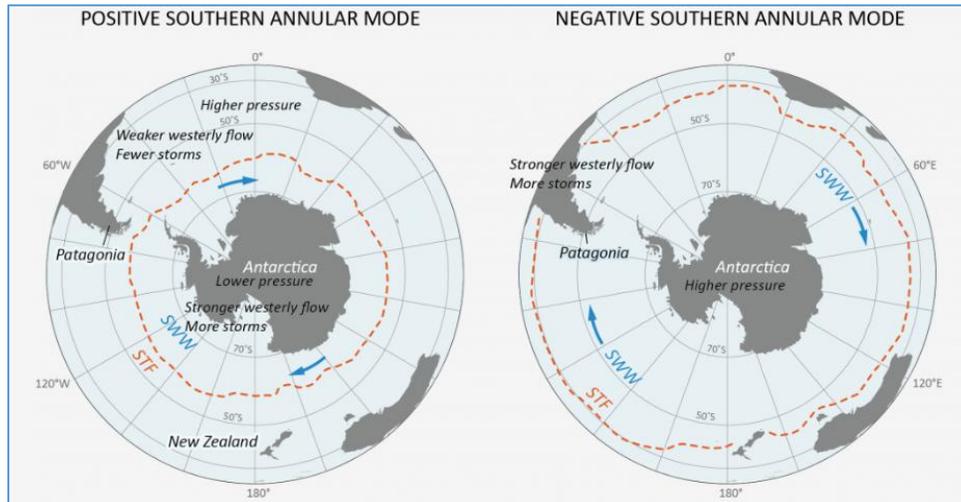
ENSO remains neutral, though Niño3.4 has risen to +0.52 °C, with notable subsurface warming suggesting further increases.

Atmospheric indicators are neutral, but a re-strengthening Madden–Julian Oscillation could support Pacific warming.

Models project El Niño thresholds by early winter, with moderate to possibly strong intensity.

Southern Annular Mode (SAM)

The SAM describes the north-south shift of rain-bearing westerly winds and weather systems in the Southern Ocean. A positive SAM indicates a southward shift, while a negative SAM indicates a northward shift. Its impact on rainfall varies by season and interaction with ENSO. Sustained SAM index above +1 signals a positive event; below -1 signals a negative event.



The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) index is neutral as at 9 May 2026. It is forecast to remain mostly neutral over the coming fortnight.

Source:

bom.gov.au