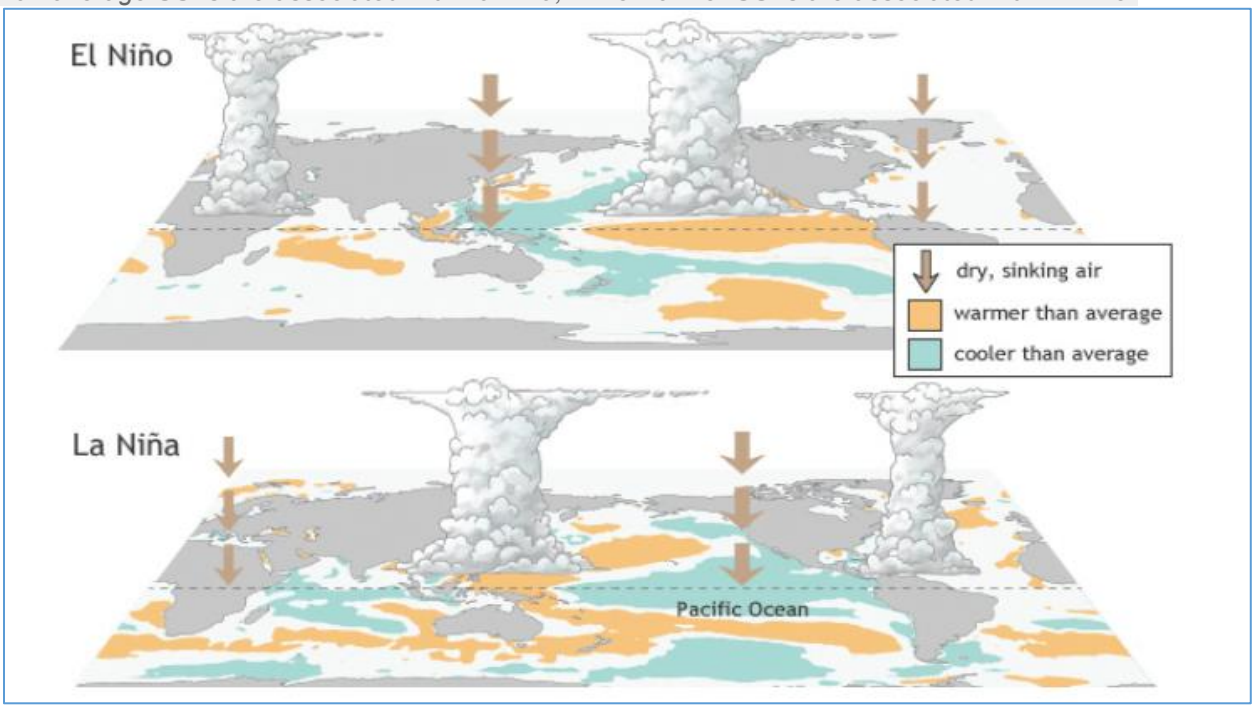
RMD ENSO Report:

19 June 2026 Compiled by Dirk J Fourie

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.

El Niño underway in the tropical Pacific

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.



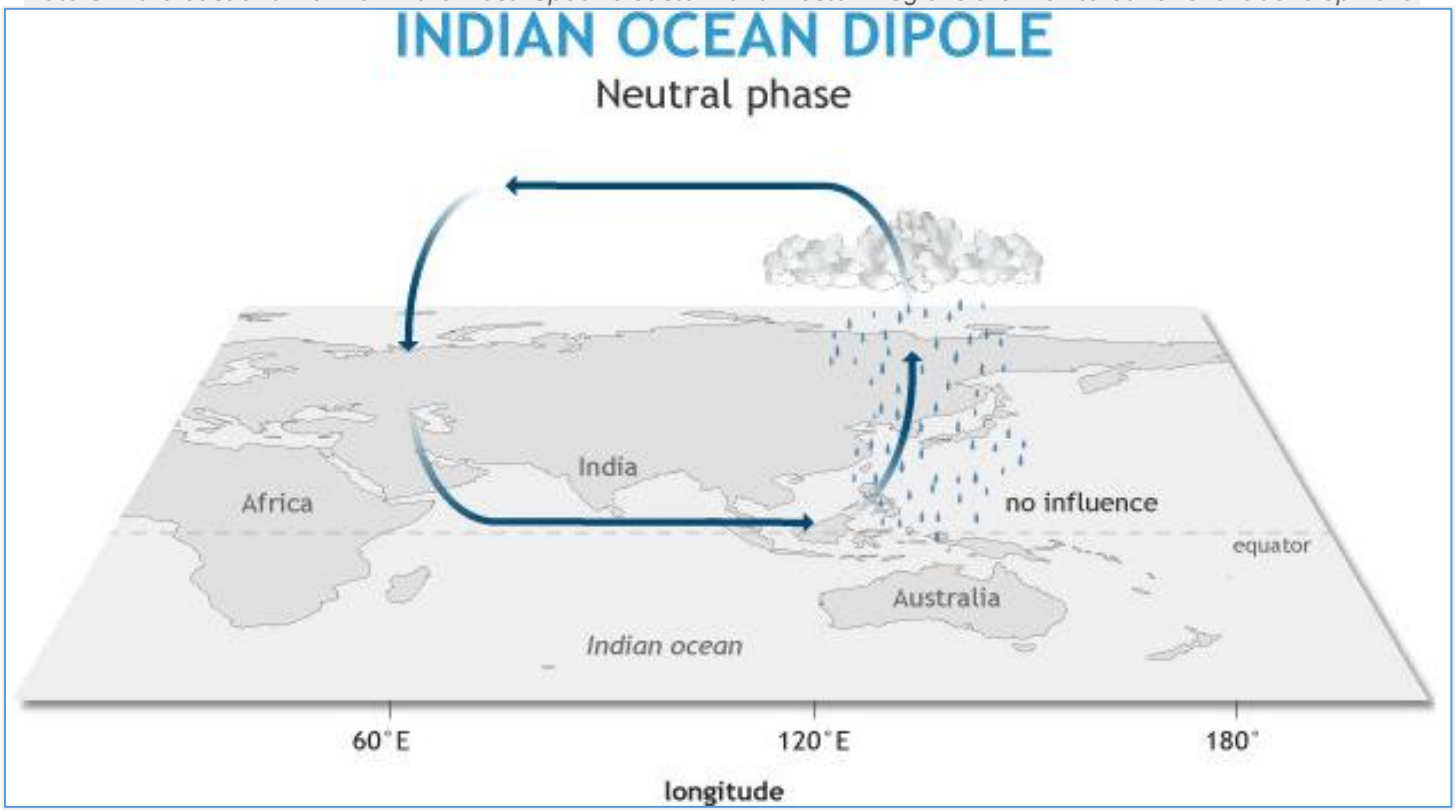
El Niño /La Niña map

El Niño is firmly underway in the tropical Pacific, with sea surface temperatures exceeding thresholds and atmospheric indicators reinforcing the state.
The Niño3.4 index reached +0.92 °C for the week ending 14 June, confirming sustained warming.
Models project continued intensification, with forecasts pointing to a strong to very strong event lasting through year's end.
Trade winds are weaker or reversed across much of the basin, cloud patterns near the Date Line are shifting, and the Southern Oscillation Index has dropped sharply to −23.3. These signals highlight ocean–atmosphere coupling typical of El Niño.
Around half of climate models suggest this event could peak among the strongest observed since 1950, underscoring its potential global significance.
While strength is increasingly evident, regional impacts remain uncertain, as ENSO interacts with other climate drivers.

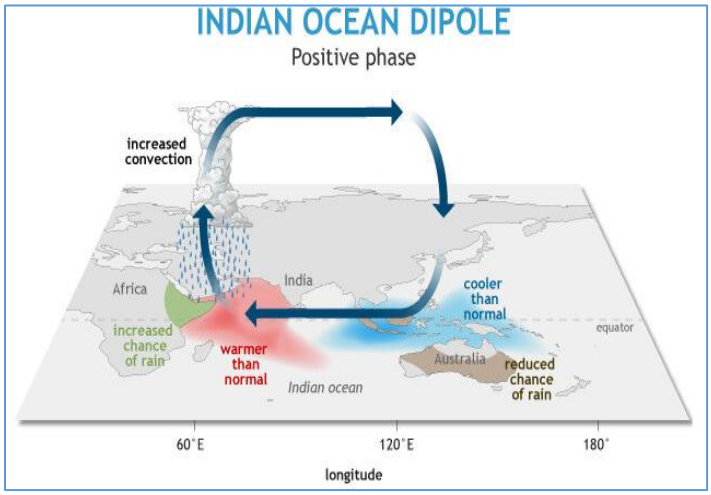
Indian Ocean

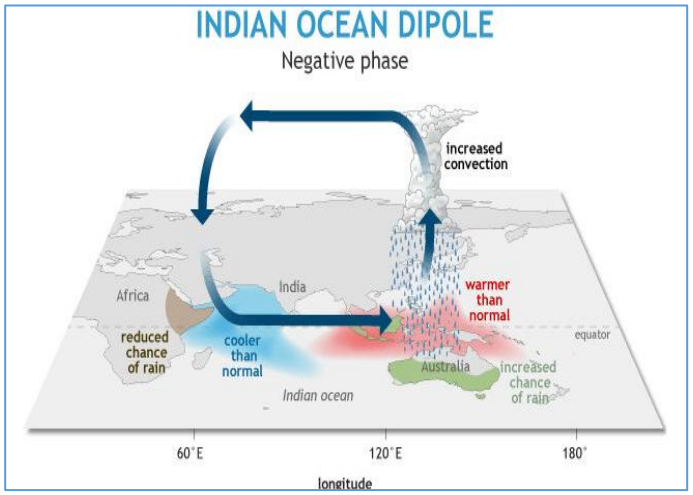
The IOD is defined by the sea surface temperature difference between the eastern and western tropical Indian Ocean. Its influence often interacts with ENSO.

A negative IOD features warmer-than-average waters in the east and cooler in the west. A positive IOD brings cooler waters in the east and warmer in the west. Specific eastern and western regions are monitored for event development.



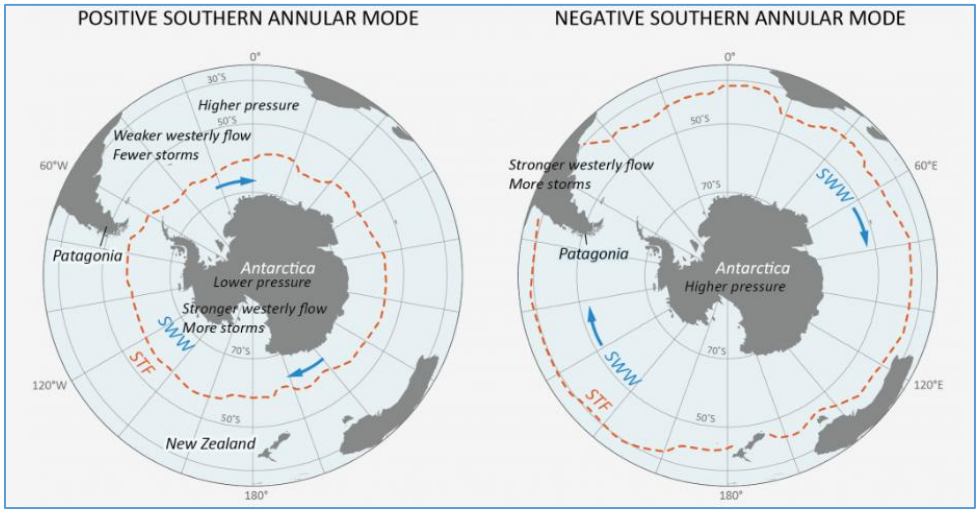
The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral. As of 14 June 2026, the IOD index is −0.13 °C. Models suggest a positive IOD event is likely in the southern hemisphere winter-spring. However, model forecasts show a large variation in both the timing and strength of this potential event.





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 positive as of 13 June 2026. It is forecast to return to neutral in late June.

Super El Niño

Super El Niño is underway, with sea surface temperatures in the central Pacific exceeding thresholds and atmospheric signals reinforcing the event.

The Niño3.4 index reached +0.92 °C mid-June, and subsurface anomalies are near +5 °C, comparable to 1997.

Trade winds have weakened or reversed, cloud patterns shifted, and the SOI dropped to −23.3, confirming strong ocean–atmosphere coupling.

Forecasts suggest a strong to very strong El Niño lasting through year's end, with about half of models projecting peak levels among the highest since 1950.

Source:
bom.gov.au