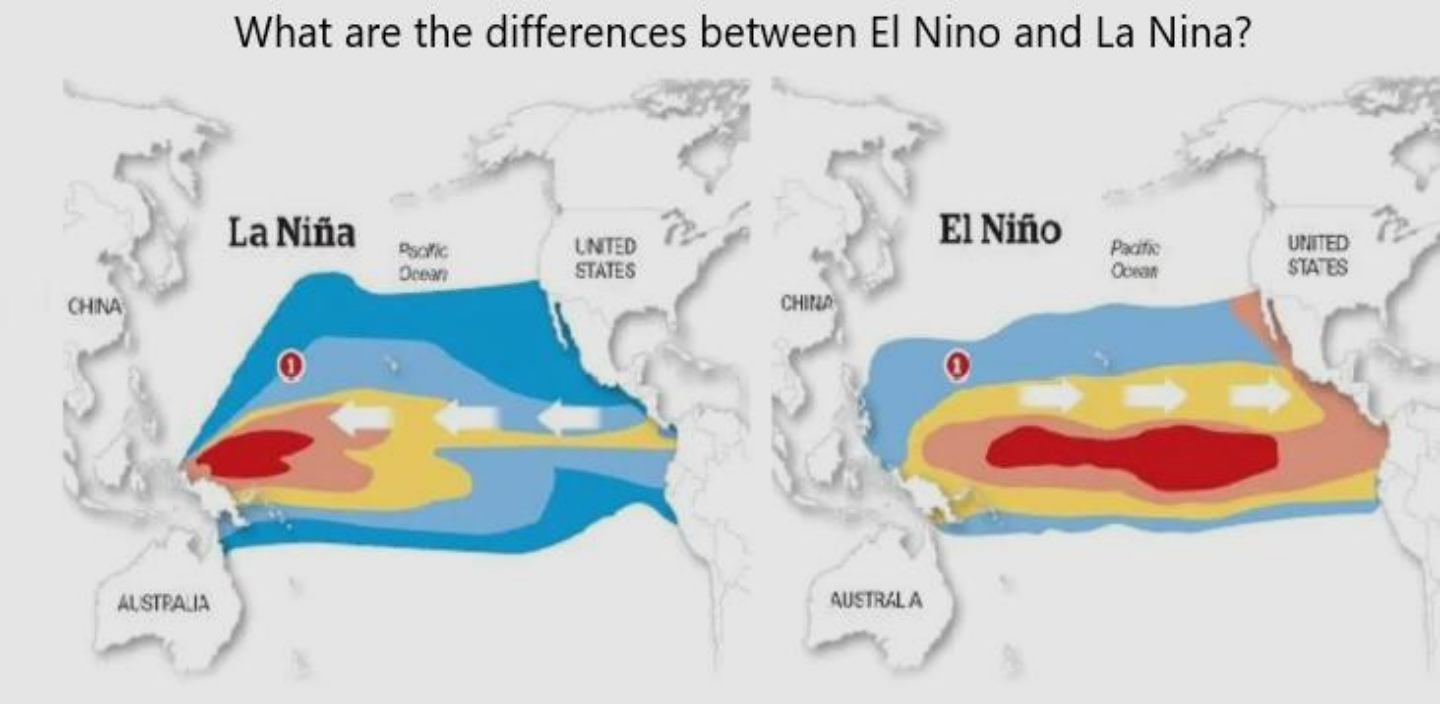
RMD ENSO Report:

12 August 2025 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.

A negative Indian Ocean Dipole event likely in the coming months

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.



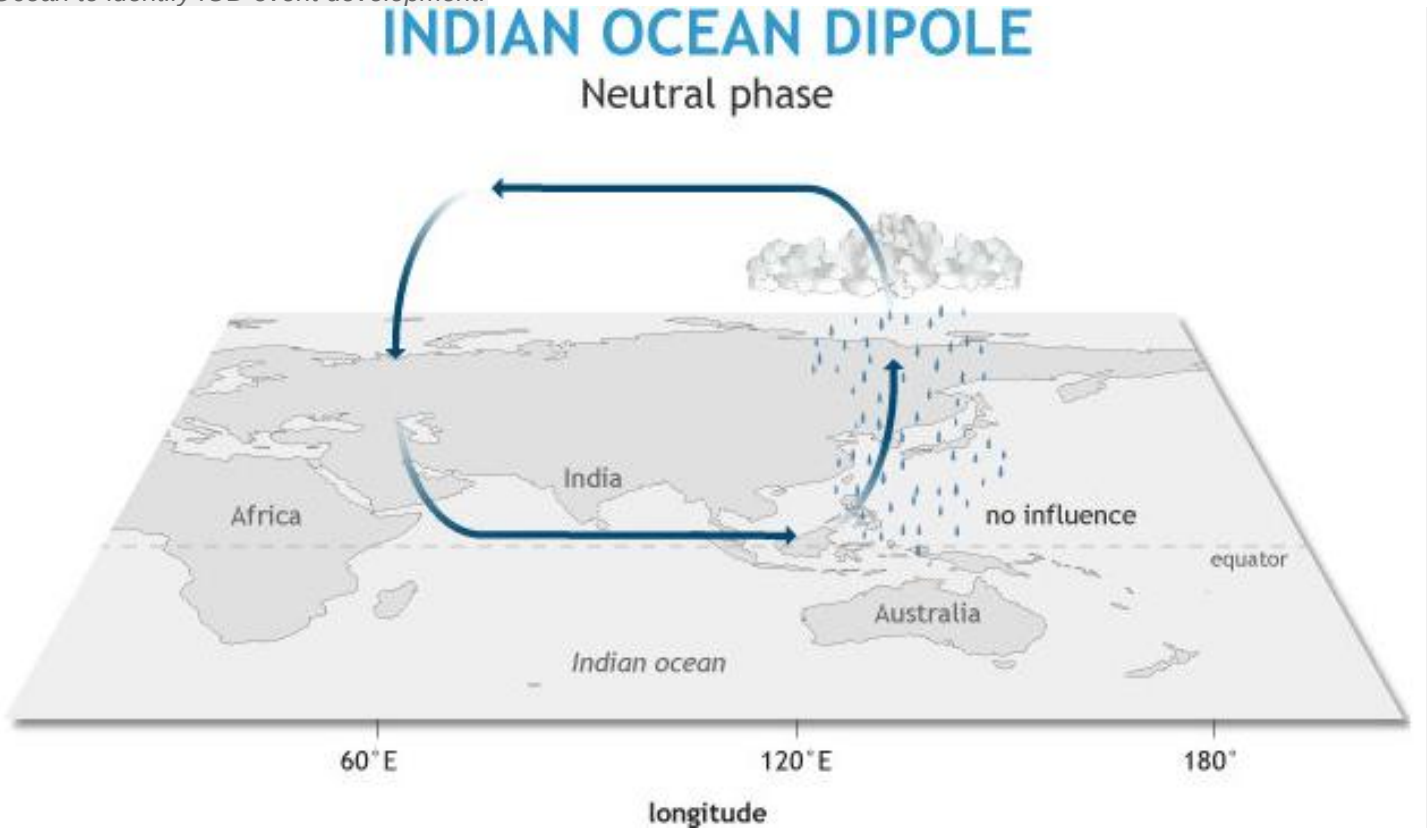
El Niño /La Niña map

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral. The latest Niño3.4 value for the week ending 10 August is −0.12 °C. Neutral ENSO values for Niño3.4 are between –0.8 °C and +0.8 °C.
The model predicts a neutral ENSO (neither El Niño nor La Niña) until at least January. This is consistent with forecasts from 6 out of 8 international models assessed, with 2 indicating borderline La Niña levels during the southern spring and early summer. There is a relatively large spread in the model forecasts, indicating more uncertainty than usual in the ENSO forecast.

Indian Ocean

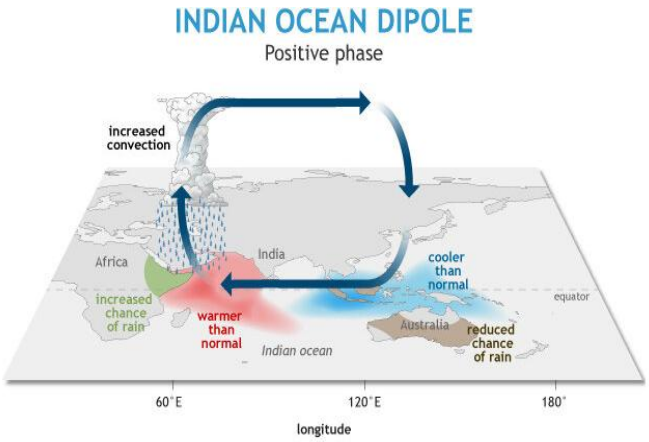
The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is defined by the difference in sea surface temperatures between the eastern and western tropical Indian Ocean. The influence of the IOD varies in conjunction with other climate indicators such as the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

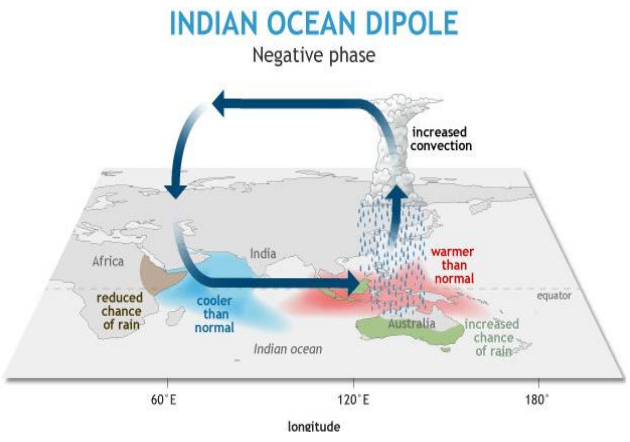
During a negative IOD, waters are typically warmer than average in the eastern parts of the tropical Indian Ocean and cooler than average in the west. During a positive event, the reverse occurs, with cooler than average waters in the eastern parts of the tropical Indian Ocean and warmer in the west. Specific regions are monitored in the eastern and western Indian Ocean to identify IOD event development.



The Indian Ocean Dipole.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is neutral; however, the last 3 weeks of the IOD index have been below the negative IOD threshold. The latest IOD index value for the week ending 10 August is −0.84 °C. Sustained index values less than or equal to −0.4 °C for at least 8 weeks are typical of a negative IOD event.

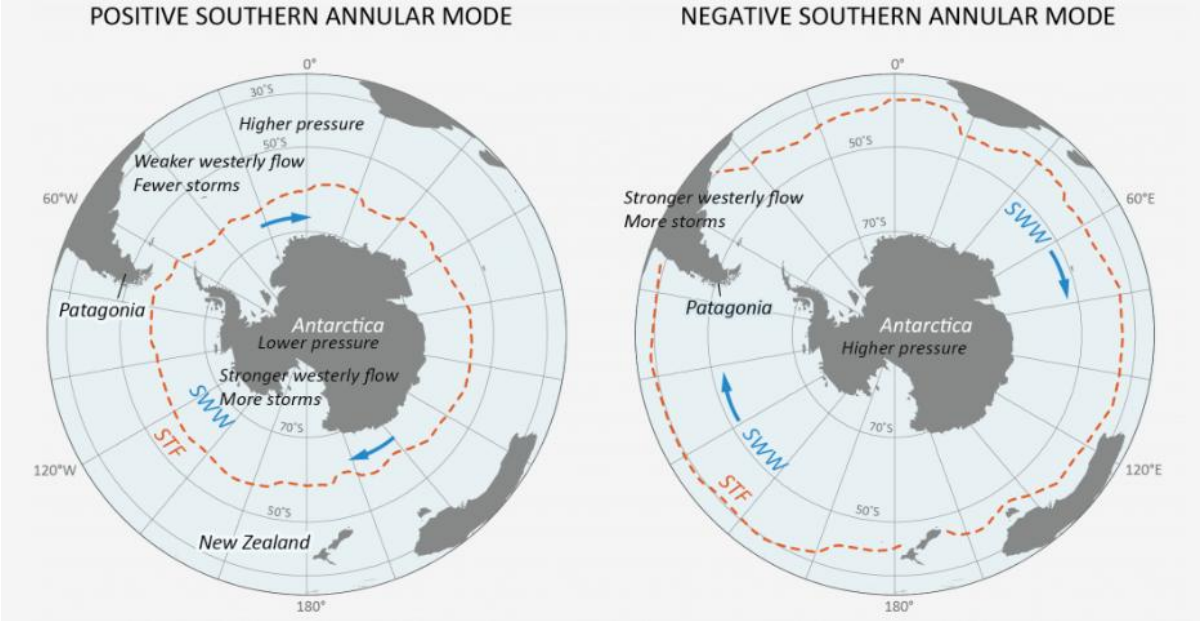




Southern Annular Mode (SAM)

The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) refers to the north-south movement of rain-bearing westerly winds and weather systems in the Southern Ocean, compared to the usual seasonal position. A positive SAM refers to a southward shift while a negative SAM refers to a northward shift. The typical impact on Australian rainfall from positive and negative phases of SAM depends on the time of year and interaction with other climate indicators such as El Niño or La Niña.

Sustained values of the SAM index above +1 indicate a positive SAM event, while sustained values below -1 indicate a negative SAM event



The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) index is positive as of 9 August. However, models suggest this is likely to be short-lived, with the SAM index likely to remain mostly neutral over the coming fortnight

- Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the Australian region during July 2025 were +0.56 °C above the 1991–2020 average; the warmest July on record since observations began in 1900. SSTs since July 2024 have been the warmest or second warmest on record for each respective month. Similarly, global SSTs remain substantially above average, with July 2025 the third warmest on record.
- The sea surface temperatures (SST) analysis for the week ending 10 August 2025 shows warmer than average waters are present across much of the north-eastern Australian region including the Coral Sea. Waters surrounding much of south-east and south-west Australia are also warmer than average.
- Forecasts for the next 3 months show SSTs around Australia are likely to remain warmer than average to the north, east, and south-east, with waters near to slightly above average surrounding much of Western Australia and South Australia.

Source:

bom.gov / SAWB / GRADS/ NASS / DTN / AWB / CWB / Intellicast / FNMOC / Unisys/ NOAA/ YR / KBWS / Wunderground / TWC / WordPress / WXRisk / Drovers / TWC / AG-BoM / Accuweather / SPC / NOAA / soybeansandcorn / Windy / agrimoney / en sat24 / agweb / blackseagrain / Europa / woeurope / timeanddate / myweather2 / meteox / meteoblue / intellicast / iweathar / Columbia / weather-atlas / ec.europa.eu / NASA / nasagrace / usda.gov / *USDA/WAOB*