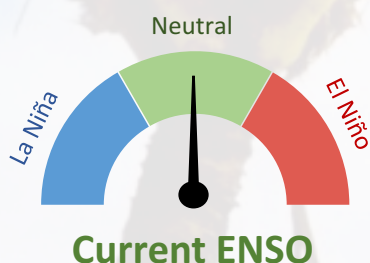


Recent



El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are currently near **neutral**, but atmospheric and oceanic signals are mixed.

Sea Surface Temperatures are slightly above average across the Equatorial Pacific.

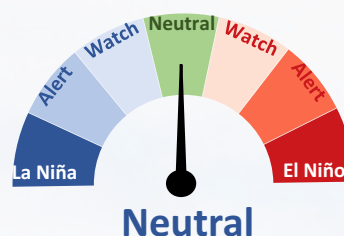
The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) is negative (-0.9 for June 2017).

60%

chance for **ENSO-neutral** conditions to persist over **July – September 2017**.

Chance for **ENSO-neutral** conditions persisting until **October – December 2017**

43%



Forecast

ENSO situation summary

The tropical Pacific remained in an **ENSO (El Niño – Southern Oscillation) neutral state** (neither El Niño nor La Niña) during June 2017, but oceanic and atmospheric anomalies were mixed, with some indicators leaning towards El Niño and others towards La Niña.

Across the equatorial Pacific Ocean, **sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are currently slightly above normal**.

The large-scale atmospheric circulation continues to generally reflect **ENSO-neutral conditions**, but is showing **conflicting signals**: the **Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) is currently negative** (*i.e.* leaning towards El Niño), with a value of -0.9 for June 2017, but **large-scale rainfall and convection anomalies** are showing **La Niña-like** patterns, with *e.g.* more intense than normal convection and rainfall over large parts of Indonesia.

International guidance – in contrast to previous months – now suggests that **the tropical Pacific Ocean is more likely to remain in an ENSO neutral state (60% chance) than to transition towards El Niño (35% chance)** over the next three month period (July – September 2017).

The probability for **El Niño** increases only slightly later during the year, with a **maximum of 43% chance** over the **October-December 2017** period. Chances for La Niña development remain low (less than 15%).

Rainfall outlook for July – September 2017

Below normal rainfall for eastern Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, the Marshall Islands and the northern Cook Islands.

Normal or below normal rainfall for the Marquesas, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, central Kiribati, the northern Marianas, western Kiribati and Guam.

Normal or above normal rainfall for Fiji.

Above normal rainfall for Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Tonga.

Near normal rainfall for the southern Cook Islands, Niue, Pitcairn Island, Tokelau, Wallis & Futuna, American Samoa, the austral Islands, New Caledonia, the Society Islands, and the Tuamotu archipelago.

Rainfall outlook table for July – September 2017

ISLAND	PROBABILITY (%)			OUTLOOK	CONFIDENCE
	Below	Normal	Above		
Palau	20	30	50	ABOVE	Moderate
Papua New Guinea	20	35	45	ABOVE	Moderate-High
Solomon Islands	20	35	45	ABOVE	Moderate-High
Tonga	20	35	45	ABOVE	High
Fiji	15	45	40	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate
Cook Islands (Southern)	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate
Niue	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate
Pitcairn Island	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate
Tokelau	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate-High
Wallis & Futuna	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate
American Samoa	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate
Austral Islands	35	45	20	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate-High
New Caledonia	35	45	20	NEAR NORMAL	High
Society Islands	35	45	20	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate-High
Tuamotu Islands	35	45	20	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate-High
Marquesas	35	40	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate-High
Samoa	35	40	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate
Tuvalu	35	40	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate-High
Vanuatu (South)	35	40	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate
Central Kiribati (Phoenix)	35	40	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate
N. Marianas	35	40	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate
Kiribati (Western)	40	35	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate
Vanuatu (North)	40	35	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate
Guam	40	35	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate
Kiribati (Eastern)	45	35	20	BELOW	Moderate-High
FSM	45	35	20	BELOW	Moderate-High
Nauru	45	35	20	BELOW	Moderate
Marshall Islands	50	30	20	BELOW	Moderate
Cook Islands (Northern)	45	40	15	BELOW	Moderate-High

Note: Rainfall estimates for Pacific Islands for the next three months are given in terms of tercile probabilities (e.g. 20:30:50). These are derived from the averages of several global climate models. They correspond to the odds of the observed rainfall being in the lowest one third of the distribution, the middle one third, or the highest one third of the distribution. For the long term average, it is equally likely (33% chance) that conditions in any of the three terciles will occur. *If conditions are climatology, we expect an equal chance of the rainfall being in any tercile.

The Island Climate Update bulletin is currently being produced by NIWA in association with the Pacific Island Meteorological Services and other supporting meteorological organisations.

The Island Climate Update is prepared as soon as possible following the end of the month, once the data and information are received from the Pacific Island meteorological services. Delays in data collection and communication occasionally arise. While every effort is made to verify observational data, NIWA does not guarantee the accuracy and reliability of the analysis and forecast information presented, and accepts no liability for any losses incurred through the use of this advisory and its contents.

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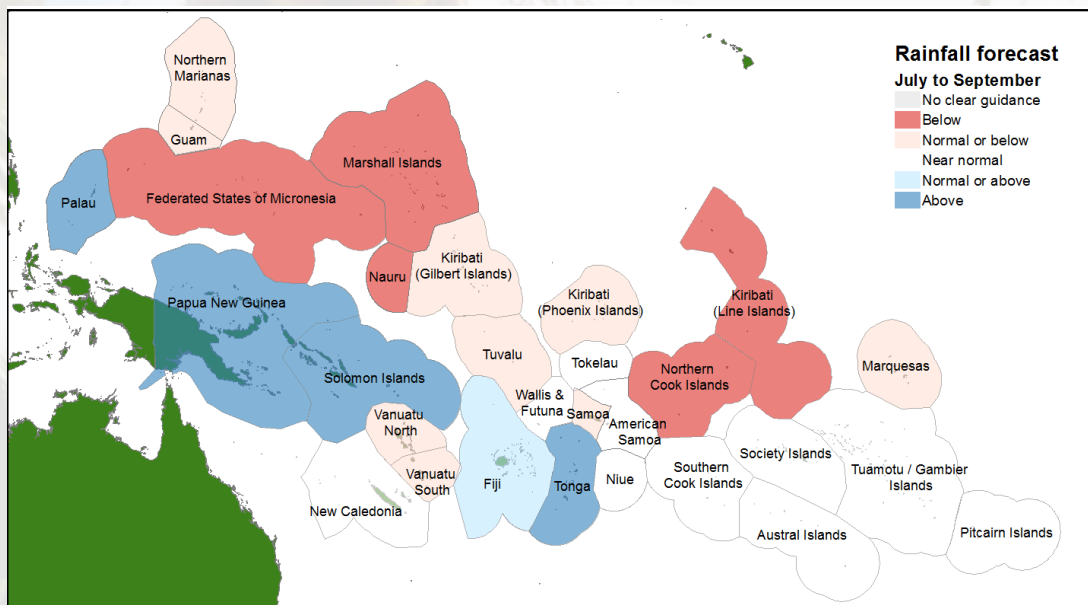
For more information see: <http://www.niwa.co.nz/climate/icu> <https://www.facebook.com/IslandClimateUpdate/>

The Island Climate Update

Drought Watch

July 2017

July to September 2017 rainfall forecast



Regional drought potential advisory

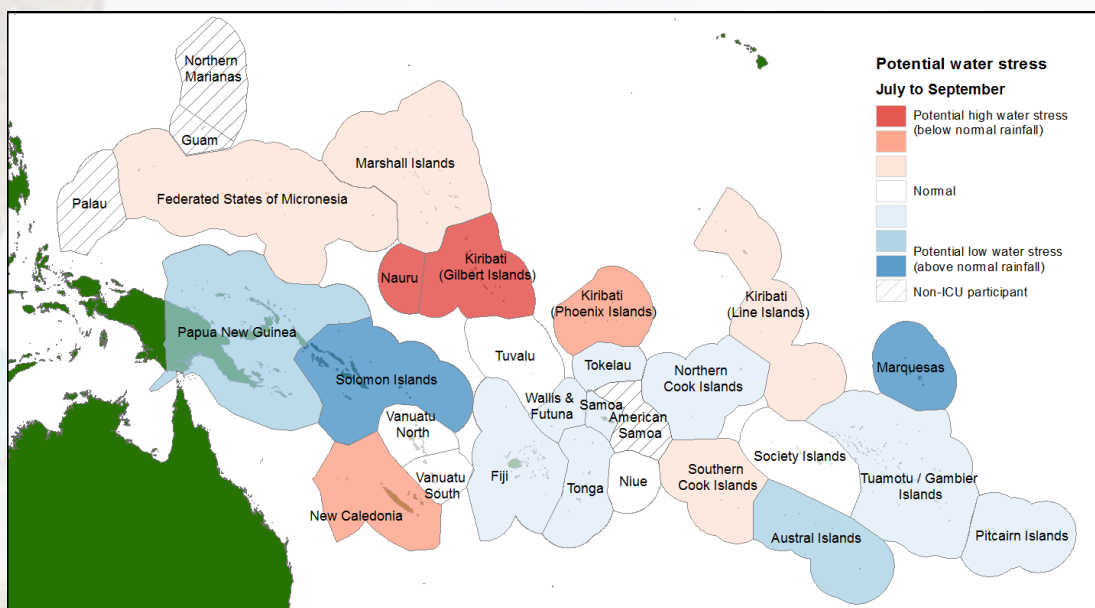
Based on rainfall anomaly classification over the past six months and forecast rainfall anomaly classification over the next 3 months

Nauru, Kiribati Gilbert Islands: Below to well below normal rainfall experienced over the past 6 months. Below normal rainfall is forecast over the next 3 months in Nauru and normal or below normal rainfall is forecast for the Gilbert Islands.

Marshall Islands: A drought state of emergency remains in place for the northern atolls of the Marshall Islands.

Kiribati Phoenix: Below or well below normal rainfall experienced over 4 of the past 6 months. Normal or below normal rainfall is forecast over the next 3 months.

New Caledonia: Below normal rainfall experienced over 3 of the past 6 months. Near normal rainfall is forecast over the next 3 months.



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