Australia’s Variable Rainfall
April to March Annual Australian Rainfall Relative to Historical Records 1890–2011

Classification of years
Years are classified according to column, based on whether they are either 'El Niño' years (red), 'La Niña' years (blue) or 'ENSO Neutral' years (black).

El Niño
A year is termed El Niño typically if the six-month average Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) exceeds +1.5. The column shows the six-month average ending in any month between November and April.

La Niña
A year is termed La Niña typically if the six-month average SOI falls below -1.5. The column shows the six-month average ending in any month between July and October.

ENSO neutral
A year is termed ENSO Neutral if the six-month average SOI falls between -1.5 and +1.5. The column shows the six-month average ending in any month between November and April.

Rainfall classification
Maps for each year show rainfall ranked against historical records from 1890 to 2011. The ranking is expressed as a percentile: 10–20: Below average rainfall; 20–30: Average rainfall; 30–70: Above average rainfall; 70–100: Well above average rainfall.

Graph
The bottom graph illustrates the relationship between ENSO and rainfall. The graph shows the correlation between the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) and rainfall for each year from 1890 to 2011. The graph also shows the correlation between the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) and rainfall for each year from 1890 to 2011.

Acknowledgements