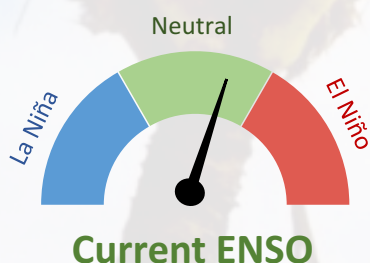


### Recent



El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are currently near **neutral**, but leaning towards a weak El Niño state.

Sea Surface Temperatures are near to or marginally above average across the Equatorial Pacific.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) is slightly positive (+0.1 for May 2017).

**57%** chance for El Niño conditions to develop over June – August 2017.

Chance for El Niño conditions developing over August – October 2017 **60%**



### Forecast

## ENSO situation summary

The tropical Pacific continued to exhibit an **ENSO** (El Niño – Southern Oscillation) **neutral state** (neither El Niño nor La Niña) during May 2017, although is now **close to the threshold of a weak El Niño**. Across the entire equatorial Pacific, sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are near or marginally above normal.

Ocean subsurface temperatures in the eastern equatorial Pacific rose markedly between the end of April and end of May, but there is no immediate indication that these warmer waters will emerge at the ocean's surface.

The **Southern Oscillation Index (SOI)** is currently very **slightly positive** with an estimated value of +0.1 for May 2017; *i.e.*, suggestive of **ENSO neutral conditions**.

International guidance still suggests that a **transition toward El Niño conditions** over the next three month period (**June – August 2017**) is **more likely than not**, with a **57% chance**, versus 42% chance for persistence of the current ENSO neutral state.

Compared to last month, the forecast is less aggressive on El Niño development, now **reaching a peak (60% chance)** during the **August-October 2017** period versus 69% last month.

## Rainfall outlook for June – August 2017

**Below normal** rainfall for New Caledonia and Vanuatu.

**Normal or below normal** rainfall for the Marquesas, Pitcairn Island, the Society Islands, Tuvalu, Wallis & Futuna, the southern Cook Islands, Samoa, the Tuamotu Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Austral Islands and the northern Cook Islands.

**Normal or above normal** rainfall for eastern Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, central Kiribati (Phoenix Islands), Guam, the northern Marianas and Tokelau.

**Above normal** rainfall for Papua New Guinea and Palau.

**No clear guidance** for western Kiribati and Nauru.

## Rainfall outlook table for June – August 2017

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

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.

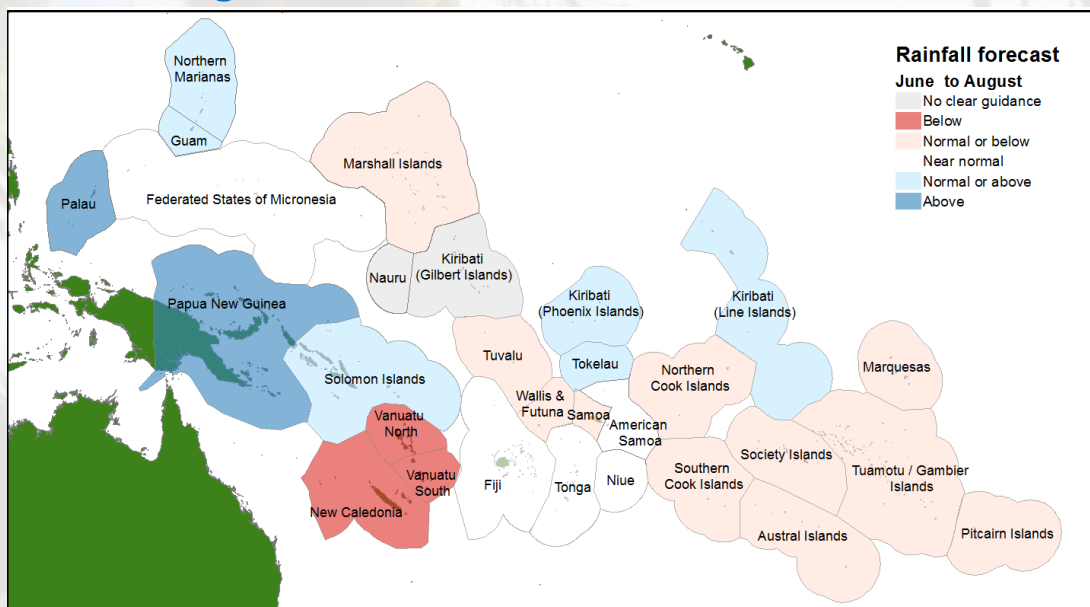
The Island Climate Update is prepared as soon as possible following the end of the month, once the data and information are received from the Pacific Island meteorological services. Delays in data collection and communication occasionally arise. While every effort is made to verify observational data, 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.

The contents of this advisory and the Island Climate Update may be freely disseminated provided the source is acknowledged.

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



## June to August 2017 rainfall forecast

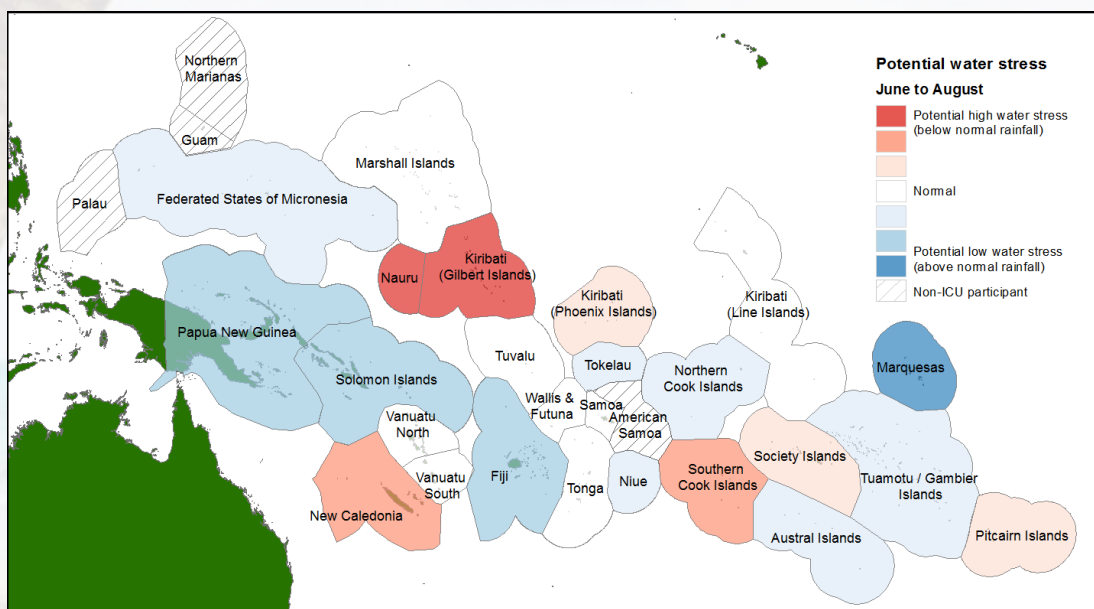


## Regional drought potential advisory

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

**Nauru, Kiribati Gilbert Islands:** Normal or well below normal rainfall experienced over the past 6 months. No clear guidance was available over the next 3 months.

**Southern Cook Islands, New Caledonia:** Normal or well below normal rainfall experienced over 3 of the past 6 months. Below normal rainfall is forecast for New Caledonia over the next 3 months while normal or below normal rainfall is forecast for the southern Cook Islands.



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.

The contents of this advisory and the Island Climate Update may be freely disseminated provided the source is acknowledged.

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