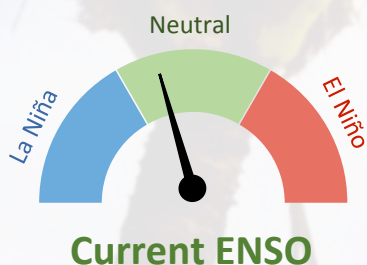


### Recent



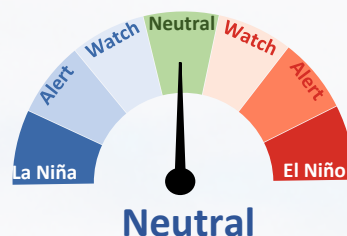
El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are currently near **neutral**, but some indicators lean slightly towards a **weak La Niña** state.

Sea Surface Temperatures are slightly below average across the central Equatorial Pacific.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) is slightly positive (+0.2 for December 2016).

**77%** chance for **ENSO neutral conditions** to continue over **January – March 2017**.

Chance of **neutral** conditions over the **April to June 2017** season **78%**



### Forecast

## ENSO situation summary

The tropical Pacific continues to exhibit mainly **ENSO-neutral conditions**. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the central Equatorial Pacific Ocean remain marginally below average, with a value of  $-0.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the NINO3.4 region, and thus do not exceed the threshold used by NOAA's Climate Prediction Centre (CPC) to define La Niña events.

In the sub-surface ocean, the pockets of cooler than average temperatures that were present in November 2016 have contracted and warmed.

**The atmospheric setup is mixed** as stronger easterly trade winds in the central Pacific along with enhanced convection north and east of Papua New Guinea are consistent with La Niña conditions. **The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) is weakly positive** (+0.2 for December 2016) and is consistent with ENSO-neutral conditions

**International guidance now strongly favours ENSO-neutral conditions (77% chance) over the next three month period (January – March 2017)**. Thus, any La Niña-like conditions observed in the ocean or atmosphere during recent months are likely to have peaked and will subside toward a neutral state during the next 3 months. **ENSO-neutral conditions are most likely to continue (78% chance) during April – June 2017**.

## Rainfall outlook for January – March 2017

**Below normal rainfall** for Tokelau, Tuvalu, all of Kiribati, and Nauru.

**Normal or below normal rainfall** for the Solomon Islands and Pitcairn Island.

**Normal or above normal rainfall** for the Austral Islands, the Society Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, the Marshall Islands, Guam, the Northern Marianas Islands and the Southern Cook Islands.

**Above normal rainfall** for the Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Samoa, Palau and American Samoa.

## Rainfall outlook table for January – March 2017

ISLAND	PROBABILITY (%)			OUTLOOK	CONFIDENCE
	Below	Normal	Above		
FSM	20	30	50	ABOVE	High
Niue	20	35	45	ABOVE	High
Samoa	20	35	45	ABOVE	High
Palau	20	35	45	ABOVE	Moderate
American Samoa	20	35	45	ABOVE	Moderate
Austral Islands	25	35	40	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate-High
Society Islands	25	35	40	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate-High
Tonga	25	35	40	AVG - ABOVE	High
Vanuatu (South)	25	35	40	AVG - ABOVE	High
Marshall Islands	25	35	40	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate
Guam	25	35	40	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate
N. Marianas	25	35	40	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate
Cook Islands (Southern)	25	40	35	AVG - ABOVE	High
Vanuatu (North)	25	40	35	AVG - ABOVE	
Marquesas	30	35	35	CLIMATOLOGY	Moderate-High
Cook Islands (Northern)	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate-High
Fiji	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate-High
New Caledonia	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate-High
Papua New Guinea	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate-High
Tuamotu Islands	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate-High
Wallis & Futuna	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate-High
Pitcairn Island	40	35	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate
Solomon Islands	40	35	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate-High
Tokelau	45	35	20	BELOW	High
Kiribati (Eastern)	50	30	20	BELOW	High
Tuvalu	50	30	20	BELOW	High
Central Kiribati (Phoenix)	50	30	20	BELOW	High
Nauru	50	30	20	BELOW	Moderate
Kiribati (Western)	55	30	15	BELOW	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.

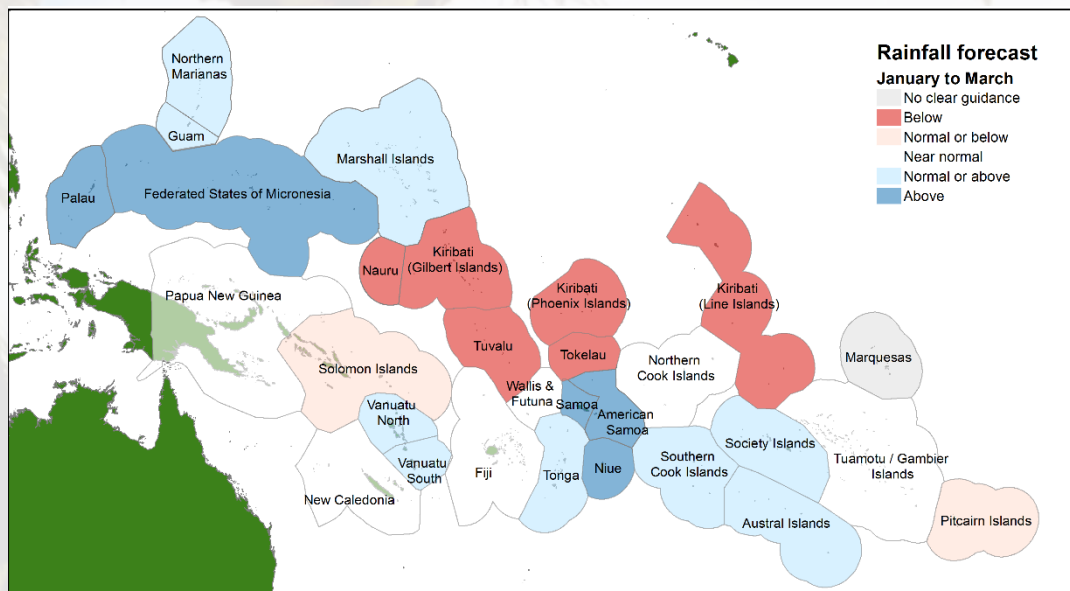
The Island Climate Update is prepared as soon as possible following the end of the month, once the data and information are received from the Pacific Island meteorological services. Delays in data collection and communication occasionally arise. While every effort is made to verify observational data,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



### January to March 2017 rainfall forecast



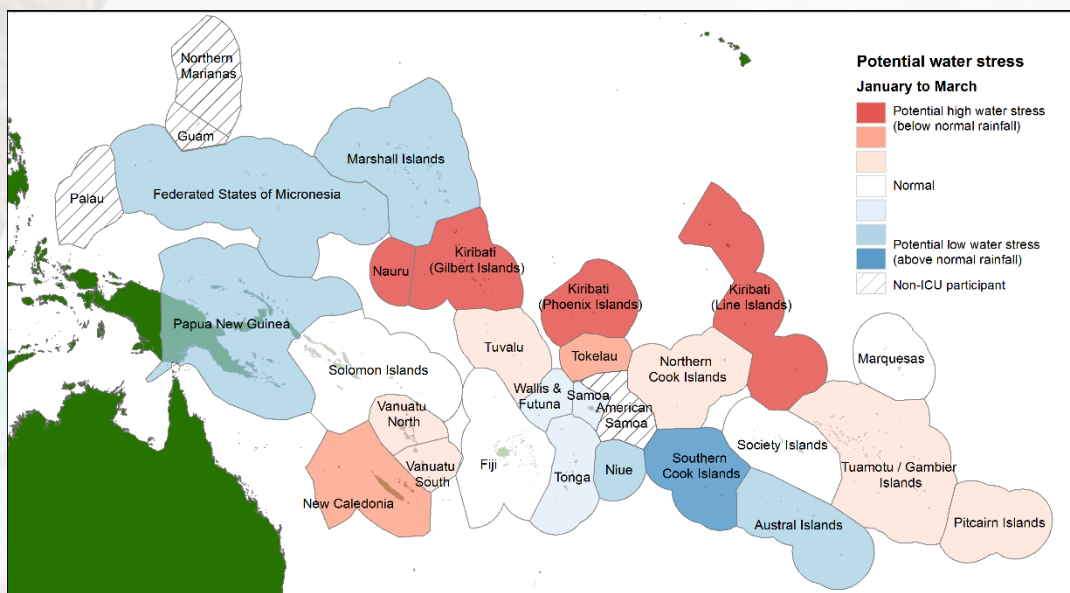
### Regional drought potential advisory

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

**Nauru, Kiribati Gilbert and Line Islands:** Below or well below normal rainfall experienced over the past 6 months in the Gilbert Islands and Nauru and 5 of the past 6 months in the Line Islands. Below normal rainfall is forecast over the next 3 months.

**Tokelau:** Below normal rainfall experienced over 3 of the past 6 months. Below normal rainfall is forecast over the next 3 months.

**New Caledonia:** Below or well below normal rainfall experienced over 5 of the past 6 months. Near normal rainfall is forecast over the next 3 months.



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