EL NIÑO IN AUSTRALIA

SPOTTING AN EL NIÑO

TEMPERATURES
in the tropical Pacific Ocean warm, both at the surface and below

SURFACE PRESSURE
changes across the Pacific; higher in the west, lower in the east

TRADE WINDS
weaken, and sometimes reverse

CLOUD
increases near the Date Line

TYPICAL IMPACTS ON OUR CLIMATE

RAINFALL DECREASES IN EASTERN AUSTRALIA

TEMPERATURE INCREASES IN SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA (DAYTIME TEMPERATURES)

OTHER IMPACTS

- INCREASED BUSHFIRE RISK
- FEWER TROPICAL CYCLONES
- LATER START TO NORTHERN WET SEASON
- MORE HEATWAVES
- LONGER FROST RISK SEASON
- REDUCED CHANCE OF WIDESPREAD FLOODS
- LESS CHANCE OF INDIAN OCEAN HEATWAVES
- STRONGER SEABREEZES

WHEN DO THEY OCCUR?

USUALLY EL NIÑO DEVELOPS IN **AUTUMN TO WINTER** AND STARTS TO DECAY IN SUMMER

EL NIÑO EVENTS CAN LAST FOR AS LITTLE AS 6 MONTHS *OR AS LONG AS* **2 YEARS**

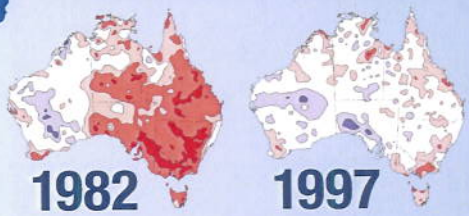
ON AVERAGE THEY OCCUR EVERY **3 TO 5 YEARS**

THE LAST EL NIÑO *WAS IN* **2009–10**

GLOBALLY, **7 OUT OF 10** OF THE HOTTEST YEARS ON RECORD WERE IN AN EL NIÑO YEAR OR THE YEAR FOLLOWING

EVERY EL NIÑO IS DIFFERENT

EL NIÑO WINTER AND SPRING RAINFALL



1982 **1997**

RED = *DRIER THAN NORMAL* **BLUE** = *WETTER THAN NORMAL*

THERE HAVE BEEN **26** EL NIÑO EVENTS SINCE 1900 **17** HAVE BROUGHT WIDESPREAD DROUGHT

7 OF AUSTRALIA'S 10 DRIEST YEARS ON RECORD **WERE DURING EL NIÑO**

Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

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