



AS IT IS

Australia Prepares for More Rain After La Niña Confirmed

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Australia's government weather agency is predicting unusually heavy rains in the coming months linked to an ocean event.

The Bureau of Meteorology said the weather-affecting event known as La Niña is happening for the third straight year and would likely last into next year.

La Niña is produced by currents in the Pacific Ocean. It is known in Australia to produce wet, windy summers. During La Niña, sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean are cooler than normal while waters in the western tropical Pacific are warmer than normal. That situation creates **moisture** that brings rain to eastern and central Australia.

The weather event was among other reasons that would bring an "80 percent chance of above average rainfall for many parts of the eastern half of Australia," the bureau said in a statement.

The warning affects the country's east coast. Many people in the east are still rebuilding after floods linked to the most recent La Niña conditions, which continued into early 2022.

Extreme weather in Australia brought its worst fires in years in late 2019 and early 2020. That was followed by two La Niña events which pushed rivers beyond their limits and flooded thousands of homes.

Mark Gibbs is a professor with Queensland University of Technology's Institute for Future Environments. He said: "This is not good news for communities, businesses, homeowners, and **renters** who are living or operating out of buildings and dwellings that are at risk from **inundation.**"

He added that this “may be particularly problematic for those that are still recovering from recent floods, especially in light of the present **challenges** in securing the services of builders and building suppliers.”

I’m Dan Novak.

Dan Novak adapted this story for VOA Learning English based on reporting by Reuters.

Words in This Story

moisture — *n.* amounts of water or liquid that makes something wet

renter -*n.* a person who pays the owner of property to use it

inundation — *n.* to cover with flood water

challenge — *n.* a difficult problem or situation
