

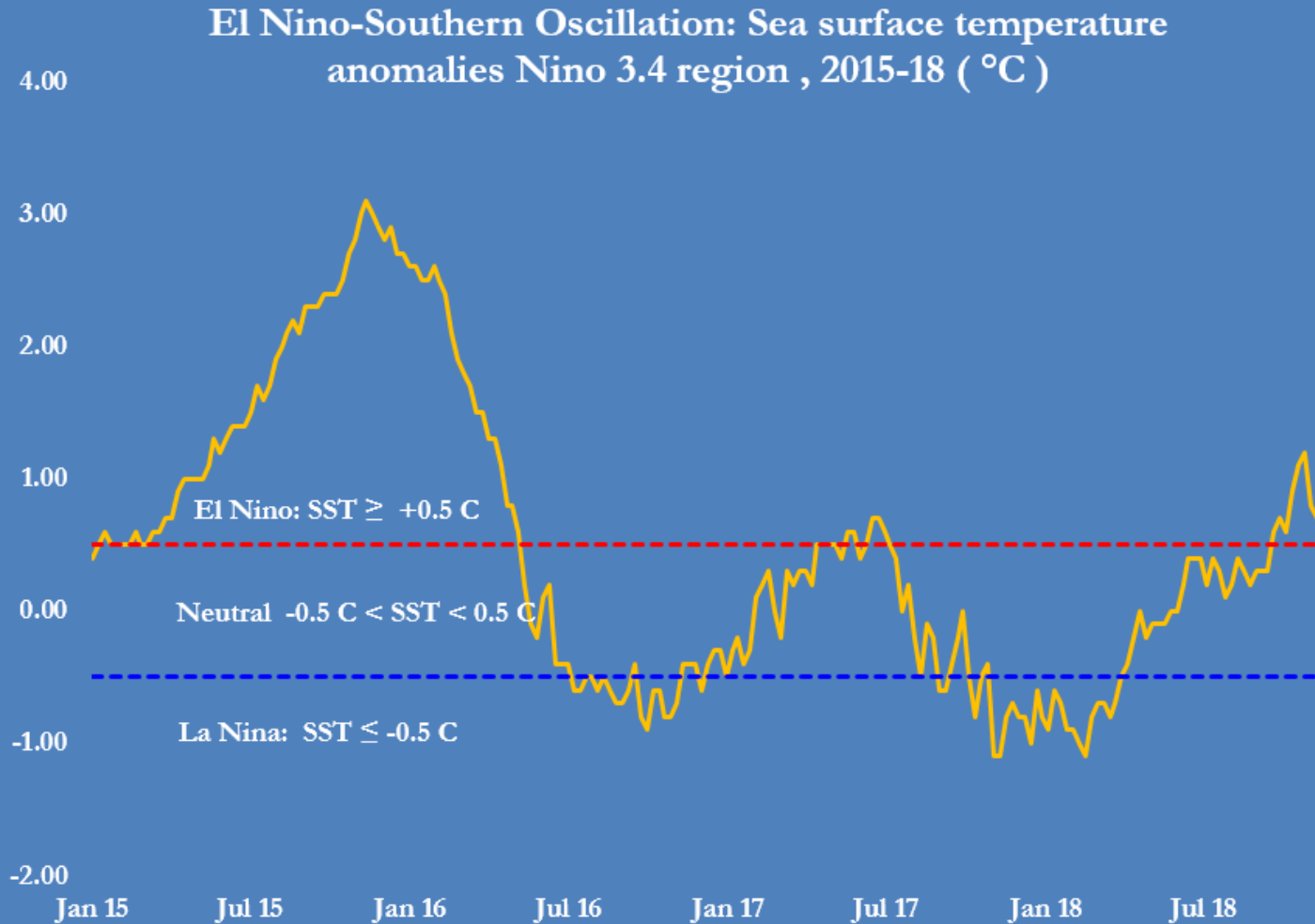
El Nino-Southern Oscillation

Selected indicators

JOHN KEMP
REUTERS

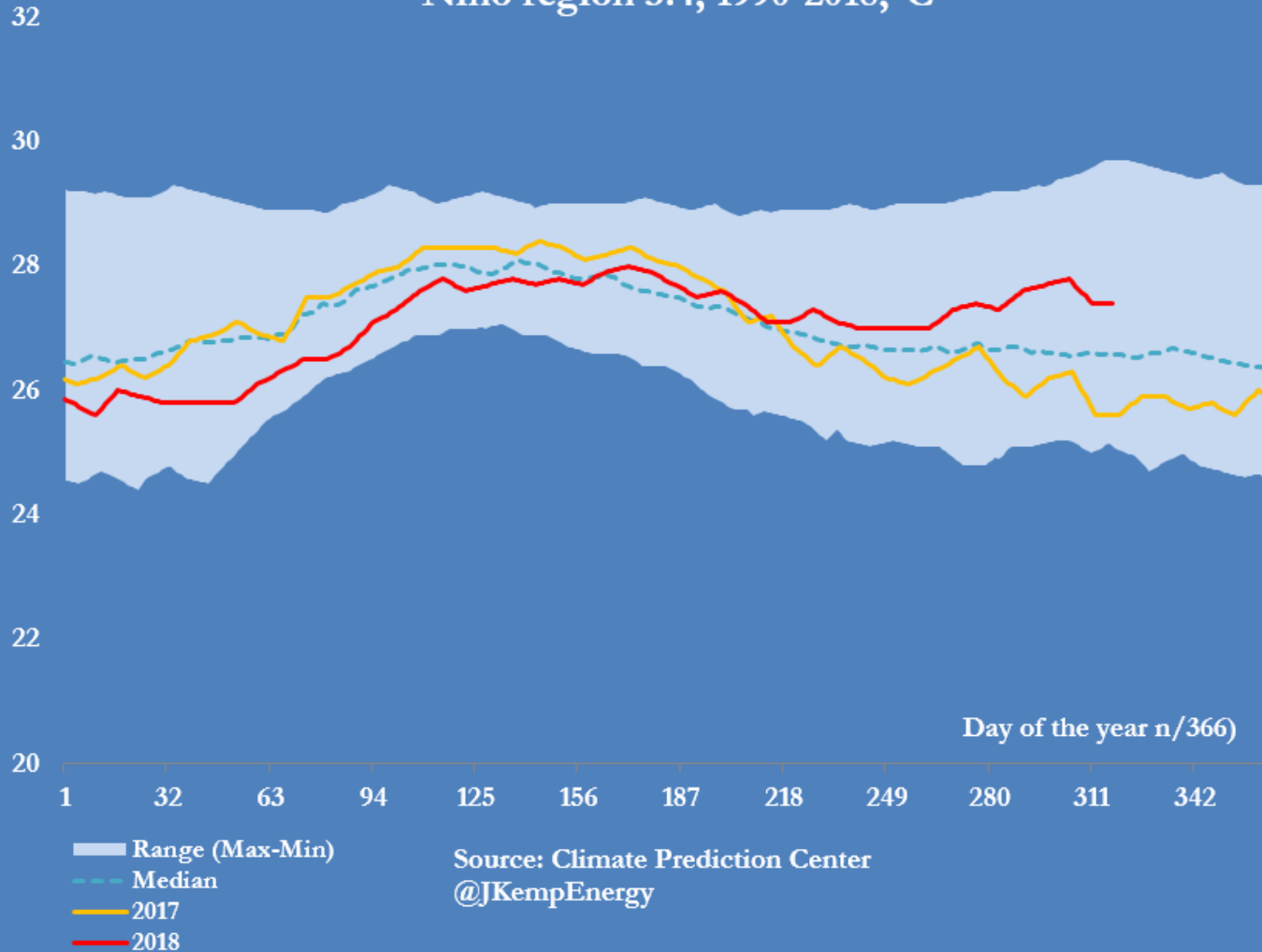
Data for the week centred on 14 Nov 2018

El Niño signal weakened again with sea surface temps in central-eastern Pacific +0.7C above long-term average down from +1.2C two weeks prior



Sea surface temperatures in central-eastern Pacific have steadied after warming counter-seasonally in previous weeks

Sea surface temperature in the central-eastern Pacific
Nino region 3.4, 1990-2018, °C

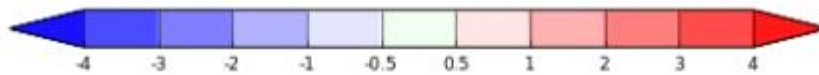
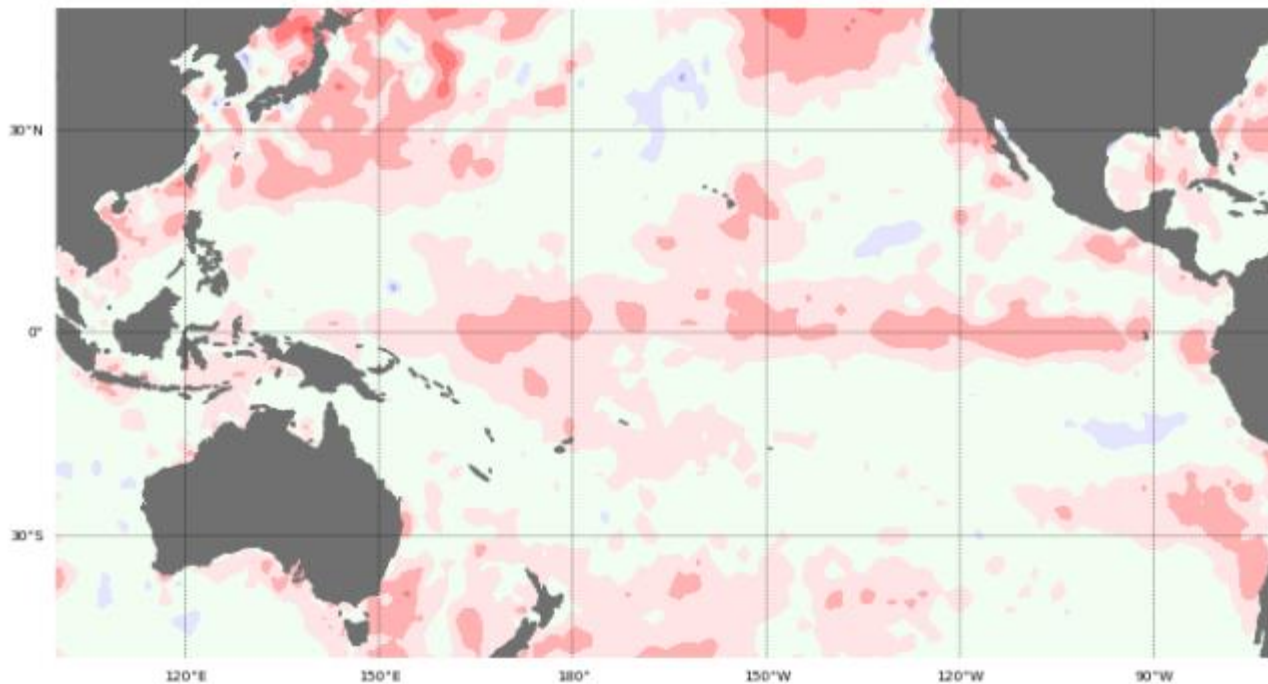


Sea surface temperatures are above seasonal average throughout the equatorial Pacific

Weekly sea surface temperature anomalies in the tropical Pacific



Sea surface temperature anomaly: 12/11/2018 to 18/11/2018



Data: ABOM BNOC
Climatology baseline: 1961 to 1990
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<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate>

Week ending: 18/11/2018
Created: 19/11/2018

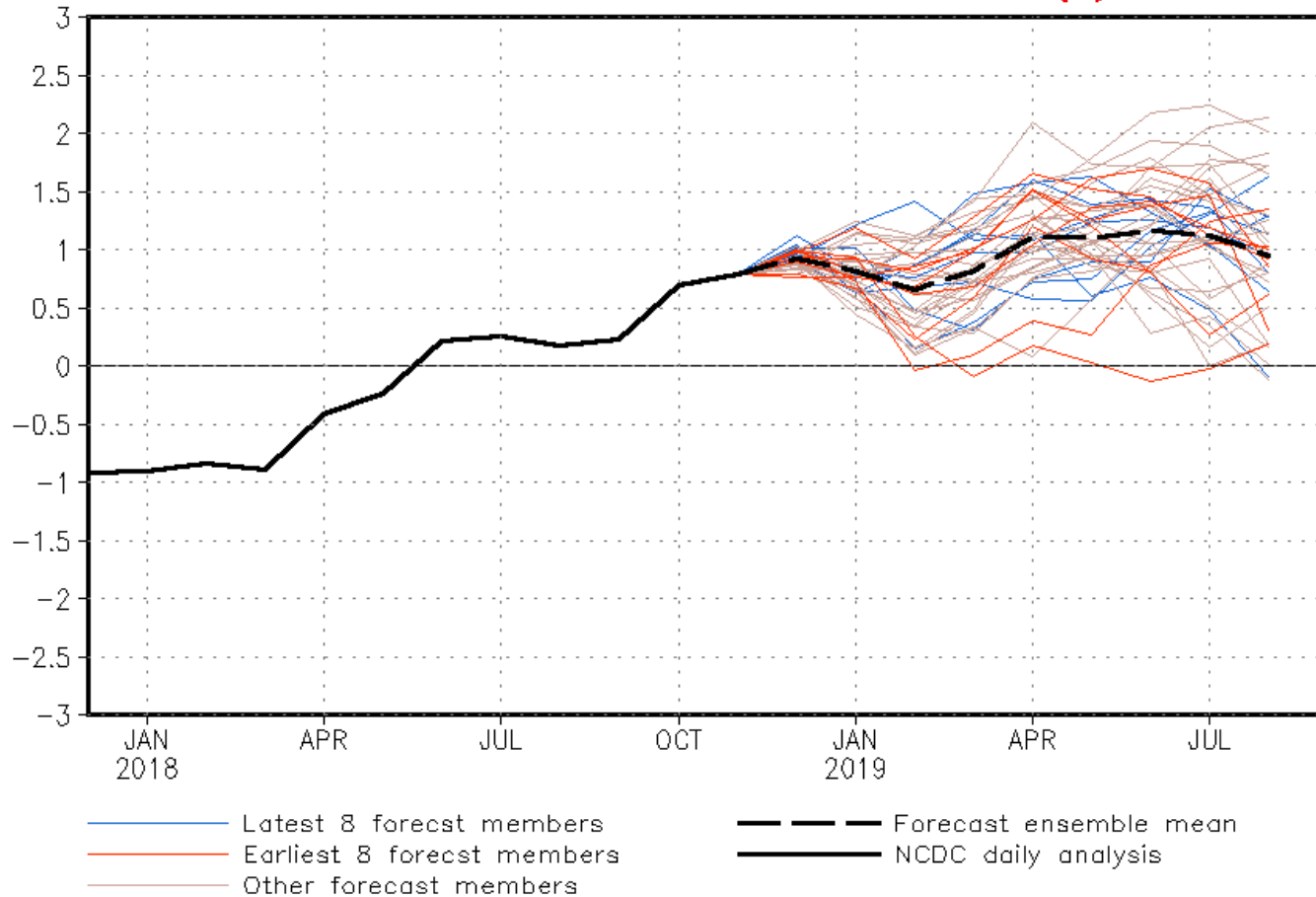
U.S. government projection shows El Niño conditions persisting for the next few months



NWS/NCEP/CPC

Last update: Mon Nov 19 2018
Initial conditions: 9Nov2018–18Nov2018

CFSv2 forecast Nino3.4 SST anomalies (K)



— Latest 8 forecast members
— Forecast ensemble mean
— Earliest 8 forecast members
— NCDC daily analysis
— Other forecast members

(Model bias correct base period: 1999–2010; Climatology base period: 1982–2010)

Australia maintains El Niño Alert, but notes atmospheric counterpart of El Niño remains weak or absent

El Niño ALERT and positive Indian Ocean Dipole continue

The tropical Pacific continues to meet some, but not all, El Niño criteria, while a positive [Indian Ocean Dipole](#) (IOD) persists in the Indian Ocean. The Bureau's [ENSO Outlook](#) remains at El Niño ALERT, meaning there is at least a 70% chance of El Niño fully forming in 2018.

Sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean now exceed El Niño thresholds. However, atmospheric indicators—such as trade winds, cloudiness, pressure patterns and the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI)—have yet to show consistent or sustained signs of El Niño. This clearly indicates that the tropical ocean and atmosphere are not currently reinforcing each other and remain 'uncoupled'. This coupling is required to not only fully develop and sustain an El Niño but is what drives widespread Australian and global weather and climate impacts.

International climate models predict sea surface temperatures to remain above El Niño levels in the coming months. By February, two of the eight surveyed models dip just below El Niño thresholds. El Niño effects in Australia over summer typically include higher fire risk, greater chance of heatwaves, and fewer tropical cyclones.