16 February 2017

UNDER EMBARGO until 4.30pm

Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 15 February 2017, rainfall was recorded across northern Australia, Western Australia, western Tasmania and coastal areas of eastern Australia.

- Unseasonal heavy rainfall across southern Western Australia has resulted in localised flooding, causing damage to farm infrastructure and extensive erosion of topsoil. While stock loss across the region has been minimal, producers are now looking at ways to bring feed for their livestock.

- Maximum and minimum temperatures were between 2°C and 8°C above average across much of New South Wales, southern Queensland and north-east South Australia for the week ending 14 February 2017.

- The forecast for the next eight days indicates that rainfall totals in excess of 15 millimetres are expected across northern Australia, northern and central-west Western Australia, eastern Australia and western Tasmania.

- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 350 gigalitres (GL) during the week ending 16 February 2017 to 16,922 GL, and are at 75 per cent of total capacity.

- In Victoria, low reliability allocations have increased in the Murray Valley system.

- Most Australian grain and canola indicator prices rose in the second week of February 2017 following gains in world prices.

- Low goat supplies are driving over the hooks goat prices higher. In the week ending 10 February 2017 the goat indicator price was around 25 per cent higher than for the same period in 2016.

- Indicator prices for cattle and sheep all fell in the week ending 10 February 2017, but strong restocker demand in both sectors continues to lend support to prices when compared to a year ago.

Outlook 2017 - Innovation in agriculture - capturing the opportunities
Registrations are now open for Australia’s premier information and networking forum for agriculture sector stakeholders.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

For the week ending 15 February 2017, rainfall was recorded across northern Australia, Western Australia, western Tasmania and coastal areas of eastern Australia. Little or no rainfall was recorded in large areas of southern Queensland, southern Northern Territory, New South Wales, South Australia and north-western Victoria.

The monsoon trough extended across northern Australia during the past week, bringing rainfall totals in excess of 300 millimetres across tropical Western Australia and the Top End of the Northern Territory (see map below). Rainfall totals above 15 millimetres were recorded along coastal New South Wales, eastern Victoria, south-east and northern Queensland, much of Western Australia and western Tasmania. The highest recorded weekly total was 320 millimetres at Dum in Merrie Island near Darwin in the Northern Territory.

Unseasonal heavy rainfall across southern Western Australia has resulted in localised flooding. Rainfall totals of up to 300 millimetres were recorded in the region that extends from Perth to Esperance causing damage to farm infrastructure and extensive erosion of topsoil. While stock loss across the region has been minimal, at around 800 head, producers are now looking at ways to bring feed for their livestock that have been stranded by flood waters or lost valuable fodder and pastures due to the flooding.

The rainfall analyses and associated maps utilise data contained in the Bureau of Meteorology climate database, the Australian Data Archive for Meteorology (ADAM). The analyses are initially produced automatically from real-time data with limited quality control. They are intended to provide a general overview of rainfall across Australia as quickly as possible after the observations are received.

For further information go to http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/rainfall/

Rainfall for the week ending 15 February 2017
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 14 February 2017, maximum and minimum temperatures were between 2°C and 8°C above average across much of New South Wales, southern Queensland and eastern South Australia. Maximum temperatures were up to 10°C above average in eastern New South Wales. Maximum and minimum temperatures were average or slightly below average across the rest of the country (see maps below).

**Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 14 February 2017**

![Map of maximum temperature anomalies](image1)

**Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 14 February 2017**

![Map of minimum temperature anomalies](image2)

Note: Spatial temperature analyses are based on historical weekly temperature data provided by the Bureau of Meteorology. These temperature anomaly maps show the departure of the maximum and minimum temperatures from their long-term averages. Temperature anomalies are calculated using high-resolution gridded datasets from 1911 onwards. For further information go to [http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/temp/index.jsp](http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/temp/index.jsp).
1.3. Rainfall forecast

The forecast for the next eight days indicates that rainfall totals in excess of 15 millimetres are expected across northern Australia, northern and central-west Western Australia, eastern Australia and western Tasmania. Across large areas of central and south-east Australia there is little to no rainfall forecast for the next eight days (see map below).

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, there is a low to moderate chance that a cyclone could form in the southern Gulf of Carpentaria near the Northern Territory and Queensland border. Forecast rainfall totals for this area are expected to exceed 200 millimetres.

This rainfall forecast is produced from computer models. As it contains no input from weather forecasters, it is important to check local forecasts and warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology.

Total forecast rainfall (mm) for the period 16 February to 23 February 2017
2. Water

2.1. Water availability

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 350 gigalitres (GL) during the week ending 16 February 2017 to 16,922 GL, and are at 75 per cent of total capacity. This water storage level is 39 percentage points or 8,915 GL more than at the same time last year.

Information on irrigation water available in the Murray–Darling Basin from 1 January 2001 to 16 February 2017 is shown above. The top horizontal (short dash) line indicates the storage level during a similar time last year. The bottom horizontal (long dash) line indicates the amount of ‘dead’ or unusable storage.
2.2. Water availability

The current water allocations for the 2016–17 water trading season for licence holders in New South Wales, Victorian and South Australian water systems are summarised in the following table.

- In Victoria, low reliability allocations have increased in the Murray Valley system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocations at</th>
<th>16 February 2017 (%)</th>
<th>9 February 2017 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General security</td>
<td>High security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Murray Valley *</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Murrumbidgee Valley *</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Lower Darling *</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Macquarie and Cudgegong Valley *</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Hunter Valley</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Lachlan Valley *</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Lower Namoi *</td>
<td>124.67</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Upper Namoi *</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Gwydir Valley *</td>
<td>72.87</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Border Rivers *</td>
<td>100  / 79.5\textsuperscript{b}</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Peel Valley</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Low reliability *</td>
<td>High reliability *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Murray Valley</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Goulburn</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Campaspe</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Loddon</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Bullarook</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Broken</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>High security</td>
<td>High security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia Murray Valley</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Carryover water may also be available
a General security A class. b General security B class
3. Commodities

3.1. Market focus

Domestic grain prices
Most Australian grain and canola indicator prices rose following gains in world prices. The feed wheat indicator price (General purpose, Sydney) rose 3 per cent to $204 a tonne, the grain sorghum indicator price (Sydney) rose 2 per cent to $239 a tonne, and the feed barley indicator price (Sydney) rose 3 per cent to $183 a tonne.


Goat prices
The Australian goat indicator price (OTH 12.1-16kg eastern states) averaged 3 per cent higher for the week ending 10 February at 640 cents a kilogram (carcase weight). The goat indicator price is around 25 per cent higher than in the same period last year, with low supplies for slaughter driving up prices for goats. Goat slaughter for the period July 2016 to January 2017 is around 185,000 head or 18 per cent lower year on year.

Livestock prices
Indicator prices for cattle and sheep all fell in the week ending 10 February, but strong restocker demand in both sectors continues to lend some support to prices when compared with the previous year. The eastern young cattle indicator remains 10 per cent higher year on year, while the mutton and lamb indicator prices are 50 per cent and 15 per cent higher respectively.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Week ended</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Latest price</th>
<th>Price week prior</th>
<th>Weekly change</th>
<th>Price 12 months prior</th>
<th>Year on year change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected World Indicator Prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Dollar - AUD/USD Exchange Rate</td>
<td>15-Feb</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat - US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>14-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains - US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>15-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola - Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>14-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton - Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>15-Feb</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>85.8</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>65.8</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar - Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>15-Feb</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool - Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>09-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,437</td>
<td>1,422</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1,284</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool - Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>10-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,472</td>
<td>1,456</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1,328</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling wheat - ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>15-Feb</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>-27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat - General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>15-Feb</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>-26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley - Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>15-Feb</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>-22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola - Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>13-Feb</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum - Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>15-Feb</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic livestock indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef - Eastern Young Cattle Indicator</td>
<td>10-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>589</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton - Mutton indicator (18-24 kg fat score 2-3), Vic</td>
<td>10-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb - Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>09-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>-4%</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig - Eastern Seaboard (60.1-75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>03-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat - Eastern States (12.1-16 kg)</td>
<td>06-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle - Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>04-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep - Live wether (Muchea WA saleryard) to Middle East</td>
<td>06-Feb</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy - Whole milk powder</td>
<td>07-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,314</td>
<td>3,283</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1,952</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy - Skim milk powder</td>
<td>07-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,608</td>
<td>2,612</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1,792</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy - Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>07-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,798</td>
<td>3,940</td>
<td>-4%</td>
<td>2,807</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy - Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>07-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>5,765</td>
<td>5,528</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3,486</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Global Dairy Trade prices are updated twice monthly on the first and third Tuesday of each month.
3.2. Selected world indicator prices

- **World wheat indicator price**
  US No. 2, hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf
  Week ended 14 February 2017

- **World coarse grains indicator price**
  US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
  Week ended 15 February 2017

- **World canola indicator price**
  Europe fob Hamburg
  Week ended 14 February 2017

- **World cotton indicator price**
  Cotlook ‘A’ index
  Week ended 15 February 2017
3.3. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices
3.4. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

Grain sorghum indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 15 February 2017

Feed barley indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 15 February 2017

Feed wheat indicator price
General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
Week ended 15 February 2017

Milling wheat indicator price
ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
Week ended 15 February 2017
Canola indicator price
Portland, Victoria
Week ended 13 February 2017
3.5. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

Eastern Young Cattle Indicator  
Week ended 10 February 2017

Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator  
Week ended 9 February 2017

Mutton indicator price in Victoria  
(18–24 kg fat score 2–3)  
Week ended 10 February 2017

Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard  
(60.1–75 kg)  
Week ended 3 February 2017
3.6. Movements in selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 11 February 2017
4. Data attribution

Climate

**Bureau of Meteorology**


Water

**New South Wales**


**Queensland**


**South Australia**


**Victoria**


Commodities

**Fruit and vegetables**


**Mutton, lambs, wheat, barley and grain sorghum**


**Cattle, mutton and lambs**


**Pigs**


**Canola**

- Weekly Times: hardcopy

**Dairy**