Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 26 April 2017 rainfall was predominantly recorded in southern and central Australia with weekly totals exceeding 50 millimetres in Victoria and adjacent parts of New South Wales, central South Australia and northern Tasmania.

- These falls have provided a timely autumn break and boosted soil moisture levels in cropping areas in southern New South Wales, western Victoria and South Australia as these areas enter the optimal planting window for winter cereals and oilseeds.

- During the week ending 25 April 2017 maximum temperatures were between 4°C and 6°C above average in parts of south-western Queensland and the Northern Territory. Minimum temperatures were generally above average across much of south-eastern and central Australia.

- The rainfall outlook for May to July 2017 indicates that below average rainfall is more likely across most of Australia with the exception of Far North Queensland, the Top End in the Northern Territory and Tasmania, where there are roughly equal chances of above or below average rainfall.

- The forecast for the next eight days indicates little to no rainfall is forecast for most of mainland Australia.

- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased during the week ending 27 April 2017 by 165 gigalitres (GL) to 15,064 GL and are at 67 per cent of total capacity.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 26 April 2017 rainfall was predominantly recorded across southern and central Australia. Weekly totals exceeding 50 millimetres were recorded across most of Victoria and adjacent parts of New South Wales, central South Australia, and northern Tasmania. Similar totals were recorded in parts of Western Australia, the Northern Territory and isolated parts of tropical northern Australia. The highest recorded weekly total was 350 millimetres at Horn Island, in the Torres Strait, north of Cape York in Queensland.

Timely rainfall has provided a good autumn break and boosted soil moisture levels in cropping areas in southern New South Wales, western Victoria and South Australia as these areas enter the optimal planting window for winter cereals and oilseeds.

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 26 April 2017
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

During the week ending 25 April 2017 maximum temperatures were between 4°C and 6°C above average in parts of south-western Queensland and the Northern Territory. Isolated areas in Western Australia and South Australia recorded maximum temperatures between 2°C and 4°C below average. Minimum temperatures were generally above average across much of south-eastern and central Australia. Parts of western New South Wales, south-western Queensland, South Australia and southern parts of the Northern Territory recorded minimum temperatures between 4°C and 6°C above average for this time of year.

Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 25 April 2017

Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 25 April 2017

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.
1.3. National Climate Outlook to the end of July

The rainfall and temperature outlooks presented below show the likelihood, represented as a percentage, of experiencing wetter or drier (and warmer or cooler) than median climatic conditions for the given outlook periods. Climate outlooks are generated by the Predictive Climate Ocean Atmosphere Model for Australia (POAMA), a dynamical (physics-based) climate model developed by the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric research division.

For further information, go to http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/about/

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral, but tropical Pacific Ocean waters have been steadily warming since January. While the majority of international climate models still indicate El Niño may develop later this year, some caution should be exercised as models have lower accuracy at this time of year. El Niño typically biases Australia’s climate towards a drier than average winter-spring, and warmer daytime temperatures in the south. Some El Niño-like effects may still be felt even if an event doesn’t fully develop.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral. However, slightly cooler than average sea surface temperatures are forecast for the central parts of the tropical Indian Ocean, which may have some effect upon Australian rainfall.

It should be noted than northern Australia officially enters its dry season at the start of May. For the May to July period, large parts of northern Australia typically have a median rainfall that is less than 10 millimeters for this three month period.

Rainfall during May 2017 is likely to be below average across most of Australia. Parts of central New South Wales, eastern South Australia and south-western Western Australia have the lowest chances of exceeding the median rainfall during this time (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 26 April 2017).

![Chance of exceeding the median rainfall May 2017](image-url)
The rainfall outlook for May to July 2017 indicates that below average rainfall is more likely across most of Australia with the exception of Far North Queensland, the Top End in the Northern Territory and Tasmania, where there are roughly equal chances of above or below average rainfall (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 26 April 2017).
The temperature outlook for May to July 2017 indicates maximum temperatures are likely to be above median across most of Australia, with the exception of the Top End in the Northern Territory where maximum temperatures are more likely to be below median. Minimum temperatures are likely to be close to median for much of Australia, except for parts of south-eastern Australia, Tasmania, and far western Western Australia which have increased chances of exceeding the median minimum temperature (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 26 April 2017).
1.4. Rainfall forecast for the next 8 days

The forecast for the next eight days indicates that little to no rainfall is forecast for most of mainland Australia. Rainfall totals exceeding 25 millimetres are expected in western Tasmania. In the far north, a tropical low developing over the Arafura Sea is forecast to strengthen and move south-west through the Timor Sea. Rainfall totals exceeding 50 millimetres are expected in northern parts of the Northern Territory (see map below). The Bureau of Meteorology report that the tropical low is unlikely to develop into a tropical cyclone, although there is still a slight risk.

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 27 April to 4 May 2017
2. Water

2.1. Water availability

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased during the week ending 27 April 2017 by 165 gigalitres (GL) to 15,064 GL and are at 67 per cent of total capacity. This is 37 percentage points or 8,421 GL more than at the same time last year.

Information on irrigation water available in the Murray–Darling Basin from 1 January 2001 to 27 April 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.
3. Commodities

3.1. Market focus

Wheat
The European Commission released an update on crop conditions in the Monitoring Agricultural Resources Bulletin on the 24 April. Mild conditions and above average solar radiation have been favourable for winter cereal development and spring sowing in most regions. Some areas are currently rainfall deficient, including some parts of France, the south-eastern UK and north-west Spain. Rainfall in the coming weeks will be important for crop development in those regions. In Ukraine, recent dryness should have little impact on crop development with substantial rainfall forecast in the coming week.

Cotton
Data from Chinese Customs shows the country imported around 744,000 tonnes of raw cotton in the first eight months of 2016–17, 15 per cent higher than the same period last season. Increased world import demand for cotton in 2016–17, particularly from China, Vietnam and Bangladesh, has resulted in the world cotton price increasing to around US88 cents a pound in the week ending 26 April 2017, 24 per cent higher than the same time last year.
### Selected World Indicator Prices

<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>Australian Dollar - AUD/USD Exchange Rate</td>
<td>26-Apr</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat - US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>25-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains - US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>26-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola - Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>25-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton - Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>26-Apr</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>88.4</td>
<td>87.1</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>71.5</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar - Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>26-Apr</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool - Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>13-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,512</td>
<td>1,459</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1,241</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool - Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>14-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,532</td>
<td>1,459</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1,356</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Selected domestic crop indicator prices

<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>Milling Wheat - ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>25-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>-23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat - General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>26-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>-14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley - Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>26-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>-13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola - Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>24-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum - Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>26-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

<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>Beef - Eastern Young Cattle Indicator</td>
<td>21-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton - Mutton indicator (18-24 kg fat score 2-3), Vic</td>
<td>21-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb - Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>20-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>667</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig - Eastern Seaboard (60.1-75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>14-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>-18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat - Eastern States (12.1-16 kg)</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle - Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>22-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep - Live wether (Mucheia WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>10-Apr</td>
<td>/head</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Latest price</td>
<td>Price week prior</td>
<td>Weekly change</td>
<td>Price 12 months prior</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy - Whole milk powder</td>
<td>18-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,998</td>
<td>2,924</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2,156</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy - Skim milk powder</td>
<td>18-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,044</td>
<td>1,913</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>1,727</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy - Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>18-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,462</td>
<td>3,288</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2,636</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy - Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>18-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>5,930</td>
<td>5,936</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>3,240</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices a*

*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 25 April 2017

- **World coarse grains indicator price**
  - US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
  - Week ended 26 April 2017

- **World carola indicator price**
  - Europe fob Hamburg
  - Week ended 25 April 2017

- **World cotton indicator price**
  - Cotlook ‘A’ index
  - Week ended 26 April 2017
3.3. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

- Whole milk powder price
  - 18 April 2017
  - Graph showing price trends from Jan to Dec 2017 for 2015, 2016, and 2017.

- Skim milk powder price
  - 18 April 2017
  - Graph showing price trends from Jan to Dec 2017 for 2015, 2016, and 2017.

- Cheddar cheese price
  - 18 April 2017
  - Graph showing price trends from Jan to Dec 2017 for 2015, 2016, and 2017.

- Anhydrous milk fat price
  - 18 April 2017
  - Graph showing price trends from Jan to Dec 2017 for 2015, 2016, and 2017.
3.4. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

Grain sorghum indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 26 April 2017

Feed barley indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 26 April 2017

Feed wheat indicator price
General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
Week ended 26 April 2017

Milling wheat indicator price
ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
Week ended 25 April 2017
Canola indicator price
Portland, Victoria
Week ended 24 April 2017
3.5. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

- Eastern Young Cattle Indicator
  Week ended 21 April 2017

- Mutton indicator price in Victoria (18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
  Week ended 21 April 2017

- Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator
  Week ended 20 April 2017

- Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg)
  Week ended 14 April 2017
Goat indicator price Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)
Week ended 17 April 2017

Live cattle indicator price
light steers ex Darwin
Week ended 22 April 2017

Live sheep indicator price
wether ex Western Australia
Week ended 10 April 2017
3.6. Movements in selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 22 April 2017

Weekly wholesale prices for blueberry, pineapple (smoothleaf), watermelon (seedless) & banana (cavendish)

Weekly wholesale prices for kiwifruit (hayward), strawberry, apple (royal gala) & avocado (hass)

Weekly wholesale prices for onion (brown), cauliflower, potato (white, brushed) & tomato (field gourmet)

Weekly wholesale prices for broccoli, lettuce (iceberg), pumpkin (grey bulk) & bean (round stringless)
4. Data attribution

Climate
Bureau of Meteorology

Water
New South Wales

Queensland
- Sunwater: www.sunwater.com.au
- Seqwater: http://seqwater.com.au

South Australia
- South Australian Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources: www.environment.sa.gov.au

Victoria
- Goulburn–Murray Water: www.g-mwater.com.au

Commodities
Fruit and vegetables
- Datafresh: www.freshstate.com.au

Pigs
- Australian Pork Limited: www.australianpork.com.au

Canola
- Weekly Times: hardcopy

Dairy

World wheat, canola
- International Grains Council

World coarse grains
- United States Department of Agriculture

World cotton
- Cotlook: www.cotlook.com/

World sugar
- New York Stock Exchange - Intercontinental Exchange

Wool

Milling wheat
- ProFarmer

Domestic wheat, barley, sorghum
- The Land: hardcopy or online at www.theland.farmonline.com.au/markets

Domestic canola
- The Weekly Times: hardcopy

Cattle, beef, mutton, lamb, goat and live export