Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 16 August 2017 rainfall was recorded across southern Australia, with totals between 5 and 50 millimetres in south-western Western Australia, southern South Australia, Victoria, southern New South Wales, and Tasmania.

- For the week ending 15 August 2017 maximum temperatures were well above average across most of mainland Australia. Minimum temperatures were above average in western, central and southern parts of Australia, and below average in parts of eastern and northern Australia.

- Starting in August 2017, the Bureau of Meteorology will be issuing climate outlooks twice-monthly, rather than monthly. The mid-month issue will provide an early outlook for the months and season ahead.

- The mid-month climate outlook indicates that spring (September to November 2017) rainfall is likely to be below average for western parts of Australia. The remainder of the country has roughly equal chances of above or below average rainfall during this period.

- During the next eight days rainfall is expected to be restricted to southern parts of the country. Totals between 5 and 50 millimetres are forecast for south-western Western Australia, south-eastern South Australia, most of Victoria, southern New South Wales, and western Tasmania. Rainfall totals are forecast to exceed 50 millimetres in western Tasmania, and alpine regions of New South Wales and Victoria.

- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) increased during the week 17 August 2017 by 291 gigalitres (GL) to 16,074 GL and are at 71 per cent of total capacity. This is 12 percentage points or 2,705 GL more than at the same time last year.

- New South Wales Department of Primary Industries - Water announced General Security water allocations in the NSW Border Rivers, Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Macquarie and Cudgegong systems. The Northern Victoria Resource Manager announced increases in allocations in all catchments except the Campaspe.

- Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin increased slightly in the week up to 17 August 2017 to $143.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 16 August 2017 a series of cold fronts and low pressure systems brought rainfall to much of southern Australia. Rainfall totals between 5 and 50 millimetres were recorded in south-western Western Australia, southern South Australia, Victoria, southern New South Wales, and Tasmania. Rainfall totals exceeded 50 millimetres in south-western Western Australia, western Tasmania, and in alpine regions of Victoria and New South Wales. The highest recorded weekly total was 173 millimetres at Perisher Valley in New South Wales’ Snowy Mountains. Little to no rainfall was recorded in northern and eastern Western Australia, the Northern Territory, Queensland, and most of South Australia and New South Wales.

Rainfall during the first half of August 2017 is likely to improve yield prospects for winter crops in the southern states. When compared to the monthly average for August, rainfall totals for August-to-date are now average to above average in the cropping regions of Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria. However, August-to-date totals remain below average in New South Wales’ cropping zones.

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 16 August 2017
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

During the week ending 15 August 2017 maximum temperatures were between 2°C and 8°C above average for most of mainland Australia. Maximum temperature anomalies were particularly high (6°C to 8°C) in south-western Queensland, northern South Australia and southern parts of the Northern Territory. Minimum temperatures were above average (2°C to 6°C) in western, central and southern parts of Australia, and below average (-2°C to -4°C) in parts of eastern and northern Australia.

Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 15 August 2017

Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 15 August 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 the average over the 1961 to 1990 reference period. For further information go to: http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/temp/index.jsp.
1.3. Mid-month National Climate Outlook

Starting in August 2017, the Bureau of Meteorology will be issuing climate outlooks twice-monthly, rather than monthly. The mid-month issue will provide an early outlook for the months and season ahead. The end-of-month issue will contain a more comprehensive look at the current influences on Australian climate.

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/

Both of Australia’s major climate drivers, the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), are at neutral levels. The current climate outlook is more likely to be affected by localised influences, such as moderate shifts in the location and strength of the sub-tropical ridge and local sea surface temperatures. Cooler sea surface temperatures off the coast of Western Australia are likely to be decreasing moisture flow and influencing the drier outlook for western parts of Australia.

There is strong consensus amongst climate model that neutral ENSO and IOD levels will continue for the remainder of 2017.

Rainfall during September 2017 is more likely to be below average in south-western Australia and above average in southern Queensland, north-eastern Tasmania, and central parts of the Northern Territory. The remainder of mainland Australia has roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier than average September (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 17 August 2017).

Chance of exceeding the median rainfall September 2017
The rainfall outlook for spring (September to November 2017) indicates that rainfall is more likely to be below average for parts of Western Australia. The remainder of the country has roughly equal chances of above or below average rainfall during this period (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 17 August 2017).

Chance of exceeding the median rainfall September to November 2017
The temperature outlook for spring (September to November 2017) indicates that maximum temperatures are more likely to be above average for most of Australia. Chances are highest in northern and south-eastern Australia, where there is a greater than 80 per cent chance of exceeding the median maximum temperature.

Minimum temperatures are more likely to be above average for most of Australia, except in central and southern Western Australia, and South Australia, where there are equal chances of above or below median minimum temperatures (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 17 August 2017).

**Chance of exceeding the median maximum temperature September to November 2017**

**Chance of exceeding the median minimum temperature September to November 2017**
1.4. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

Rainfall is expected to be restricted to southern parts of the country during the next eight days. Totals between 5 and 50 millimetres are forecast for south-western Western Australia, south-eastern South Australia, most of Victoria, southern New South Wales and western Tasmania. Rainfall totals are forecast to exceed 50 millimetres in western Tasmania, and alpine regions of New South Wales and Victoria.

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 17 to 24 August 2017
2. Water

2.1. Water availability

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) increased during the week 17 August 2017 by 291 gigalitres (GL) to 16,074 GL and are at 71 per cent of total capacity. This is 12 percentage points or 2,705 GL more than at the same time last year.

![Water storage in the Murray–Darling Basin](image)

Information on water available in dams used for irrigation the Murray–Darling Basin from 1 January 2001 to 17 August 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 allocations

The current water allocations for the 2017–18 water trading season for licence holders in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia water systems are summarised in the following table.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries - Water announced allocation increases of:

- 3.1% for NSW Border Rivers General Security B entitlements to 11.1%
- 2% for NSW Lachlan General Security entitlements to 2%
- 3% for NSW Murrumbidgee General Security entitlements to 23%
- 2% for NSW Macquarie & Cudgegong General Security entitlements to 38%

The Resource Manager for Northern Victoria announced seasonal determination increases of:

- 9% for Victoria Broken High Reliability on 15 August, 2017 to 15%
- 68% for Victoria Bullarook High Reliability on 15 August, 2017 to 100%
- 35% for Victoria Bullarook Low Reliability on 15 August, 2017 to 35%
- 5% for Victoria Goulburn High Reliability on 15 August, 2017 to 45%
- 5% for Victoria Loddon High Reliability on 15 August, 2017 to 45%
- 4% for Victoria Murray High Reliability on 15 August, 2017 to 70%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocations at</th>
<th>17 August 2017</th>
<th>7 August 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales</td>
<td>General security</td>
<td>High security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Murray</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Murrumbidgee</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Lower Darling</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Macquarie and Cudgegong</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Hunter</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Lachlan</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Lower Namoi</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Upper Namoi</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Gwydir</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Border Rivers</td>
<td>100%(a)/11.1%(b)</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Peel</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</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Goulburn</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Campaspe</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Loddon</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Bullarook</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Broken</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>Class 3a/3b</td>
<td>Class 3a/3b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia Murray</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) General Security A class. (b) General Security B class
2.3. Water markets

Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin increased slightly in the week up to 17 August 2017 in most systems. Average prices across the whole southern system climbed to $143. This is an increase of $1 or half a per cent from the same time last week. This contrasts with an average price of $124 in July and $32 in June across the whole southern MDB.

The trades shown reflect market activity and do not encompass all register trades. The price line reflects locally fitted price values for the entire southern Murray–Darling Basin. Data shown is current until Thursday 17 August, 2017. Trade activity is shown as colour density.

### Allocation trade prices, southern Murray–Darling Basin trade zones (price per ML)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Southern MDB</th>
<th>Victoria Goulburn</th>
<th>SA Murray</th>
<th>NSW Murrumbidgee</th>
<th>Victoria Murray</th>
<th>NSW Murray</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current week: 11/08/17 - 17/08/17</td>
<td>$143.68</td>
<td>$122.00</td>
<td>$183.91</td>
<td>$121.60</td>
<td>$145.32</td>
<td>$144.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last week: 04/08/17 - 10/08/17</td>
<td>$142.89</td>
<td>$131.69</td>
<td>$148.44</td>
<td>$145.55</td>
<td>$146.88</td>
<td>$142.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2017</td>
<td>$124.67</td>
<td>$111.64</td>
<td>$191.30</td>
<td>$107.76</td>
<td>$118.65</td>
<td>$117.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2016</td>
<td>$157.33</td>
<td>$229.63</td>
<td>$240.60</td>
<td>$115.56</td>
<td>$181.01</td>
<td>$208.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 3. Commodities

<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>16-Aug</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>3% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>-1% ▼</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>7% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>16-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>-1% ▼</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>1% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>&lt;1% ▼</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>3% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>16-Aug</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>78.9</td>
<td>80.7</td>
<td>-2% ▼</td>
<td>79.7</td>
<td>-1% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>16-Aug</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>-6% ▼</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>-34% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>13-Jul</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,522</td>
<td>1,524</td>
<td>&lt;1% ▼</td>
<td>1,311</td>
<td>16% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator a</td>
<td>11-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,606</td>
<td>1,570</td>
<td>2% ▲</td>
<td>1,397</td>
<td>15% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>-2% ▼</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>16-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>-4% ▼</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>7% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>16-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>-4% ▼</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>29% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>14-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>&lt;1% ▼</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>3% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>16-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>&lt;1% ▲</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>42% ▲</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-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>-3% ▼</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>-19% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>11-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>8% ▲</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>5% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>10-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>1% ▲</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>-5% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>04-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>-27% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>31-Jul</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>13% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>05-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>3% ▲</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>-4% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep – Live wether (Muchea WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>07-Aug</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>10% ▲</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a The Australian Wool Exchange remains on recess for the Eastern Market, week prior price for Western Market Indicator is from 14 July.*
## Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average 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>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,143</td>
<td>3,155</td>
<td>&lt;1% ▼</td>
<td>2,695</td>
<td>17%     ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>1,968</td>
<td>1,966</td>
<td>&lt;1% ▲</td>
<td>2,028</td>
<td>-3%     ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>4,005</td>
<td>3,932</td>
<td>2% ▲</td>
<td>3,157</td>
<td>27%     ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>6,199</td>
<td>6,289</td>
<td>-1% ▼</td>
<td>4,148</td>
<td>49%     ▲</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- World wheat indicator price
  US No. 2, hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf
  Week ended 15 August 2017

- World coarse grains indicator price
  US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
  Week ended 16 August 2017

- World canola indicator price
  Europe fob Hamburg
  Week ended 15 August 2017

- World cotton indicator price
  Cotlook 'A' index
  Week ended 16 August 2017
3.2. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

- Whole milk powder price
  - 15 August 2017
- Skim milk powder price
  - 15 August 2017
- Cheddar cheese price
  - 15 August 2017
- Anhydrous milk fat price
  - 15 August 2017
3.3. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

- Grain sorghum indicator price
  - Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 16 August 2017

- Feed barley indicator price
  - Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 16 August 2017

- Feed wheat indicator price
  - General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 16 August 2017

- Milling wheat indicator price
  - ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
  - Week ended 15 August 2017
3.4. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

- Eastern Young Cattle Indicator
  Week ended 10 August 2017

- Mutton indicator price in Victoria
  (18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
  Week ended 11 August 2017

- Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator
  Week ended 10 August 2017

- Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard
  (60.1–75 kg)
  Week ended 4 August 2017
3.5. Movements in selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 12 August 2017
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