Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 30 August 2017 a series of weak cold fronts brought rainfall totals between 5 and 50 millimetres to south-central Western Australia, southern Victoria, and parts of New South Wales and South Australia. Rainfall totals exceeded 50 millimetres in western Tasmania.

- For the week ending 29 August 2017 maximum temperatures were between 2°C and 8°C above average for most of Western Australia. Over the remainder of the country, maximum temperatures were generally close to average. Minimum temperatures were above average (2°C to 10°C) in Western Australia, and below average (-2°C to -6°C) in parts of south-eastern and northern Australia.

- The rainfall outlook for September to November 2017 indicates that rainfall is more likely to be below average for parts of Western Australia and above average in south-eastern 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 and western parts of the country. Totals between 5 and 50 millimetres are forecast for parts of Western Australia, southern South Australia, most of Victoria and Tasmania, and parts of southern New South Wales.

- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) increased during the week ending 31 August 2017 by 105 gigalitres (GL) to 16,611 GL and are at 74 per cent of total capacity. This is 4 percentage points or 903 GL more than at the same time last year.

- Allocation prices across markets of the southern Murray–Darling Basin were mixed in the week up to 31 August 2017. Average prices across the whole southern system increased slightly to $129/ML. This is an increase of $1 from the same time last week. This contrasts with an average price of $124 in July across the whole southern MDB.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 30 August 2017 a series of weak cold fronts brought rainfall totals between 5 and 50 millimetres to south-central Western Australia, southern Victoria, and parts of New South Wales and South Australia. Rainfall totals exceeded 50 millimetres in western Tasmania, where the highest recorded weekly total was 138 millimetres at Mount Read. Little to no rainfall was recorded in northern Western Australia, the Northern Territory, Queensland, and most of South Australia and New South Wales.

Rainfall for the week ending 30 August 2017
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

During the week ending 29 August 2017 maximum temperatures were between 2°C and 8°C above average for most of Western Australia. Over the remainder of the country, maximum temperatures were generally close to average. Minimum temperatures were above average (2°C to 10°C) in Western Australia, and below average (-2°C to -6°C) in parts of south-eastern and northern Australia.

**Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 29 August 2017**

![Image of maximum temperature anomalies map]

**Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 29 August 2017**

![Image of minimum temperature anomalies map]

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](http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/temp/index.jsp).
1.3. National Climate Outlook

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. International climate models surveyed by the Bureau suggest the tropical Pacific Ocean is likely to persist at ENSO-neutral levels until at least late 2017. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) have cooled over much of the central tropical Pacific during the past several weeks, yet have remained within the neutral range. Other indicators of ENSO, such as the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI), cloudiness near the Date Line and trade winds are also at neutral levels.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is neutral, though index values have generally been above zero for the past several months. Most climate models suggest a neutral IOD is likely to continue. However, two of the six climate models surveyed suggest a positive IOD may develop during spring.

Rainfall during September 2017 is more likely to be below average in isolated parts of northern and western Australia and above average in southern Australia. The remainder of mainland Australia has roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier than average September (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 31 August 2017).

Chance of exceeding the median rainfall September 2017

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Issued: 31/08/2017
Model Run: 27/08/2017
Base Period: 1981-2010
The rainfall outlook for spring (September to November 2017) indicates that rainfall is more likely to be below average in parts of Western Australia and above average in south-eastern 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’, 31 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 northern Australia and south-eastern Australia, where there is a greater than 80 per cent chance of exceeding the median maximum temperature. The remainder of the country has roughly equal chances of above or below average maximum temperatures during this period.

Minimum temperatures are more likely to be above average for much of northern and eastern Australia. The remainder of the country has roughly equal chances of above or below average minimum temperatures during this period. (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 31 August 2017).

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

![Map of Australia showing the chance of exceeding the median maximum temperature for September to November 2017.](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate)

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

![Map of Australia showing the chance of exceeding the median minimum temperature for September to November 2017.](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate)
1.4. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

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

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 31 August to 7 September 2017
2. Water

2.1. Water availability

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) increased during the week ending 31 August 2017 by 105 gigalitres (GL) to 16,611 GL and are at 74 per cent of total capacity. This is 4 percentage points or 903 GL more than at the same time last year.

Information on water available in dams used for irrigation the Murray–Darling Basin from 1 January 2001 to 31 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

Water allocations remained constant in the week to 31 August 2017. Allocation updates are expected on 1 September in Victoria and New South Wales.

Select water allocations in the southern Murray–Darling Basin
Water markets

Allocation prices across markets of the southern Murray–Darling Basin were mixed in the week up to 31 August 2017. Average prices across the whole southern system increased slightly to $129/ML. This is an increase of $1 from the same time last week. This contrasts with an average price of $124 in July across the whole southern MDB.

Allocation trade activity in the southern Murray–Darling Basin

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 31 August, 2017. Trade activity is shown as colour density.

| Allocation trade prices, southern Murray–Darling Basin trade zones (price per ML) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Current week: 25/08/17 - 31/08/17 | $129.01 | $106.88 | $162.57 | $148.15 | $135.36 | $124.97 |
| Last week: 18/08/17 - 24/08/17 | $127.98 | $123.14 | $140.00 | $127.75 | $137.62 | $128.60 |
| July 2017 | $124.63 | $109.79 | $191.30 | $107.76 | $118.40 | $117.80 |
| July 2016 | $157.33 | $229.63 | $240.60 | $115.56 | $181.01 | $208.58 |
### 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>30-Aug</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>4% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>29-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>-1% ▼</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>7% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>30-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>-5% ▼</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>-1% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>29-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>1% ▲</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>4% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>30-Aug</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>79.8</td>
<td>77.7</td>
<td>3% ▲</td>
<td>76.6</td>
<td>4% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>30-Aug</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>3% ▲</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>-32% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>13-Jul</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,522</td>
<td>1,524</td>
<td>&lt;1% ▼</td>
<td>1,311</td>
<td>16% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>18-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,680</td>
<td>1,606</td>
<td>5% ▲</td>
<td>1,397</td>
<td>20% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>22-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>-6% ▼</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>-5% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>30-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>-2% ▼</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>&lt;1% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>30-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>-2% ▼</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>21% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>28-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>2% ▲</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>2% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>30-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>-5% ▼</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>45% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic livestock indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator</td>
<td>24-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>4% ▲</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>-20% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>25-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>-15% ▼</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>-14% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>24-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>4% ▲</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>7% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>11-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>&lt;1% ▲</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>-27% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>28-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>-21% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>26-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>3% ▲</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>-8% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep – Live wether (Mu chea WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>14-Aug</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>-20% ▼</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>20% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Latest price</td>
<td>Price week prior</td>
<td>Weekly change</td>
<td>Price 12 months prior</td>
<td>Year on year change</td>
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<td>-----------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>US$/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 (GDT) weighted average prices a

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

- **World wheat indicator price**
  - US No. 2, hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf
  - Week ended 29 August 2017

- **World coarse grains indicator price**
  - US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
  - Week ended 30 August 2017

- **World canola indicator price**
  - Europe fob Hamburg
  - Week ended 29 August 2017

- **World cotton indicator price**
  - Cotlook ‘A’ index
  - Week ended 30 August 2017
2.4. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

![Whole milk powder price](image)

![Skim milk powder price](image)

![Cheddar cheese price](image)

![Anhydrous milk fat price](image)
2.5. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

Grain sorghum indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 30 August 2017

Feed barley indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 30 August 2017

Feed wheat indicator price
General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
Week ended 30 August 2017

Milling wheat indicator price
ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
Week ended 22 August 2017
Canola indicator price
Portland, Victoria
Week ended 28 August 2017

A$/t
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

2015 2016 2017
2.6. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices
### 2.7. Movements in selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 26 August 2017

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

- **Index Dec-13=100**
- **Dec-13**  | **Jun-14**  | **Dec-14**  | **Jun-15**  | **Dec-15**  | **Jun-16**  | **Dec-16**  | **Jun-17**
- Blueberry  | Pineapple (smoothleaf) | Watermelon (seedless) | Banana (cavendish)

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

- **Index Dec-13=100**
- **Dec-13**  | **Jun-14**  | **Dec-14**  | **Jun-15**  | **Dec-15**  | **Jun-16**  | **Dec-16**  | **Jun-17**
- Kiwifruit (hayward)  | Strawberry  | Apple (royal gala)  | Avocado (hass)

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

- **Index Dec-13=100**
- **Dec-13**  | **Jun-14**  | **Dec-14**  | **Jun-15**  | **Dec-15**  | **Jun-16**  | **Dec-16**  | **Jun-17**
- Onion (brown)  | Tomato (gourmet)  | Cauliflower  | Potato (white, brushed)

#### Weekly wholesale prices for broccoli, lettuce (iceberg), pumpkin (grey bulk) & bean (round stringless)

- **Index Dec-13=100**
- **Dec-13**  | **Jun-14**  | **Dec-14**  | **Jun-15**  | **Dec-15**  | **Jun-16**  | **Dec-16**  | **Jun-17**
- Broccoli  | Lettuce (iceberg)  | Pumpkin (grey bulk)  | Bean (round, stringless)
3. 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