Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 18 October 2017 rainfall totals between 5 and 50 millimetres were recorded in all states and territories with higher totals (between 50 and 400 millimetres) in parts of north-eastern New South Wales and across much of eastern Queensland.

- For the week ending 17 October 2017 maximum temperatures were above average (2°C to 4°C) across southern Australia and isolated parts of northern Australia. They were below average (-2°C to -4°C) in south-eastern Queensland and the Gascoyne region in Western Australia.

- Following a dry September 2017 in eastern and southern Australia, October-to-date (1 to 18 October) has been particularly wet in eastern and southern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales. Month-to-date rainfall is also well above average in central and northern South Australia, southern and northern parts of the Northern Territory, and in southern, central and northern Western Australia.

- While the recent heavy rainfall across eastern and southern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales has arrived too late to benefit winter crop production, it has provided sufficient moisture for summer crop planting to commence and is likely to provide a timely boost to pasture production.

- For the next eight days, widespread rainfall is forecast in eastern Australia, with totals between 5 and 50 millimetres expected across most of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased during the week ending 19 October 2017 by 83 gigalitres (GL) to 16,419 GL and are at 73 per cent of total capacity. This is 8 percentage points or 1,839 GL less than at the same time last year.

- Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin remained flat in the week ending 19 October 2017 at $141 per ML.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 18 October 2017 rainfall totals between 5 and 50 millimetres were recorded in all states and territories. Higher totals (between 50 and 400 millimetres) were recorded in parts of north-eastern New South Wales and across much of eastern Queensland—particularly in the south-east. The highest recorded weekly total was 589 millimetres at Makowata near Bundaberg in Queensland. Little to no rainfall was recorded in far western Queensland, western South Australia, around the Gascoyne region and eastern parts of Western Australia.
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

During the week ending 17 October 2017 maximum temperatures were above average (2°C to 4°C) across southern Australia and isolated parts of northern Australia. They were below average (-2°C to -4°C) in south-eastern Queensland and the Gascoyne region in Western Australia. Minimum temperatures were above average (2°C to 6°C) across parts of western, northern and eastern Australia. They were close to average for the remainder of the country.

**Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 17 October 2017**

![Maximum temperature anomalies map](image)

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).

**Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 17 October 2017**

![Minimum temperature anomalies map](image)
1.3. Monthly rainfall to date

Following a dry September 2017 in eastern and southern Australia, October-to-date (1 to 18 October) has been particularly wet in eastern and southern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales. Some areas around Bundaberg have already received seven times their monthly average rainfall for October. Month-to-date rainfall is also well above average in central and northern South Australia, southern and northern parts of the Northern Territory, and in southern, central and northern Western Australia.

The heavy rainfall events in Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales were driven by a series of coastal troughs and upper-level low pressure systems. There are reports of damage to broadacre and vegetable crops in some areas around Bundaberg, and delays to the start of grain harvesting across southern Queensland. While the rainfall arrived too late to benefit winter crop production, it has provided sufficient moisture for summer crop planting to commence and is likely to provide a timely boost to pasture production.

**Rainfall percentages 1 to 18 October 2017**

Source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology
1.4. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

Widespread rainfall is forecast for most of eastern Australia during the next eight days. A low pressure trough and series of cold fronts are expected to generate rainfall totals between 5 and 50 millimetres across most of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. Higher totals of up to 150 millimetres are forecast for isolated areas around Brisbane and Cairns. Little to no rainfall is forecast for the remainder of the country, except south-western Western Australia and western parts of the Top End— with rainfall totals between 5 and 25 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 19 to 26 October 2017
2. Water

2.1. Water availability

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased during the week ending 19 October 2017 by 83 gigalitres (GL) to 16,419 GL and are at 73 per cent of total capacity. This is 8 percentage points or 1,839 GL less 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 19 October 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

On 16 October 2017 NSW Department of Primary Industries – Water announced allocation increases of:

- 1% for NSW Murray general security to 30%

On 16 October 2017 the Resource Manager for Northern Victoria announced seasonal determination increases of:

- 9% for Victoria Broken high reliability to 50%
- 5% for Victoria Campaspe low reliability to 29%
- 10% for Victoria Goulburn high reliability to 91%
- 10% for Victoria Loddon high reliability to 91%

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 and charts.

| Water allocations in the Murray–Darling Basin (NSW, Victoria and South Australia) |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| **Allocations at** | **19 October 2017** | **3 October 2017** |
| **New South Wales** | **General security** | **High security** | **General security** | **High security** |
| NSW Murray | 30% | 97% | 29% | 97% |
| NSW Murrumbidgee | 33% | 95% | 33% | 95% |
| NSW Lower Darling | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| NSW Macquarie and Cudgegong | 38% | 100% | 38% | 100% |
| NSW Hunter | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| NSW Lachlan | 2% | 100% | 2% | 100% |
| NSW Lower Namoi | 7% | 100% | 7% | 100% |
| NSW Upper Namoi | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| NSW Gwydir | 12% | 100% | 12% | 100% |
| NSW Border Rivers | 100%(a)/11.1%(b) | 100% | 100%(a)/11.1%(b) | 100% |
| NSW Peel | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| **Victoria** | **Low reliability** | **High reliability** | **Low reliability** | **High reliability** |
| Victoria Murray | 0% | 100% | 0% | 100% |
| Victoria Goulburn | 0% | 91% | 0% | 81% |
| Victoria Campaspe | 29% | 100% | 24% | 100% |
| Victoria Loddon | 0% | 91% | 0% | 81% |
| Victoria Bullarook | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Victoria Broken | 0% | 50% | 0% | 41% |
| **South Australia** | **Class 3a/3b** | **Class 3a/3b** |
| South Australia Murray | 100% | 100% |

(a) General Security A class. (b) General Security B class
Select water allocation percentages in the southern Murray–Darling Basin
2.3. **Water markets**

Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin remained flat in the week ending 19 October 2017 at $141. This contrasts with an average price of $122 in September across the whole southern MDB, and $97 during the same time last year.

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 19 October 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><strong>Current week: 13/10/17 - 19/10/17</strong></td>
<td>$140.72</td>
<td>$123.16</td>
<td>$152.96</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$142.45</td>
<td>$148.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last week: 06/10/17 - 12/10/17</strong></td>
<td>$140.98</td>
<td>$117.29</td>
<td>$133.94</td>
<td>$149.84</td>
<td>$152.88</td>
<td>$148.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 2017</strong></td>
<td>$122.20</td>
<td>$102.43</td>
<td>$148.68</td>
<td>$127.87</td>
<td>$130.27</td>
<td>$131.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 2016</strong></td>
<td>$96.51</td>
<td>$119.58</td>
<td>$172.27</td>
<td>$64.04</td>
<td>$119.94</td>
<td>$109.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 3. Commodities

### 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>18-Oct</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>&lt;1% ▼</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>9% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>18-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>&lt;1% ▼</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>-3% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>-3% ▼</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>18-Oct</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td>&lt;1% ▼</td>
<td>79.6</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>18-Oct</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>-38% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>12-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,566</td>
<td>1,550</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
<td>1,318</td>
<td>19% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>13-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,621</td>
<td>1,608</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>1,348</td>
<td>20% ↑</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>03-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>6% ↑</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>16% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>18-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>9% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>18-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>33% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>&lt;1% ▼</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>18-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>37% ↑</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>12-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>2% ↑</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>-26% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>13-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>4% ↑</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>-15% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>12-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>10% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>06-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>-27% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>-21% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>14-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep – Live wether (Muchea WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>6% ↑</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Latest price</td>
<td>Price week prior</td>
<td>Weekly change</td>
<td>Price 12 months prior</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
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<td>------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,014</td>
<td>3,037</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>2,760</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>1,797</td>
<td>1,895</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>2,204</td>
<td>-18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>4,107</td>
<td>4,109</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>3,290</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>6,841</td>
<td>6,504</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5,007</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices
2.4. Selected world indicator prices

- World wheat indicator price
  US No. 2, hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf
  Week ended 17 October 2017

- World coarse grains indicator price
  US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
  Week ended 18 October 2017

- World canola indicator price
  Europe fob Hamburg
  Week ended 17 October 2017

- World cotton indicator price
  Cotlook 'A' index
  Week ended 18 October 2017
2.5. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

- Whole milk powder price
  - 17 October 2017

- Skim milk powder price
  - 17 October 2017

- Cheddar cheese price
  - 17 October 2017

- Anhydrous milk fat price
  - 17 October 2017
2.6. Selected domestic crop indicator prices
Canola indicator price
Portland, Victoria
Week ended 16 October 2017

A$/t

Jan  Feb  Mar  Apr  May  Jun  Jul  Aug  Sep  Oct  Nov  Dec

2015  2016  2017
2.7. **Selected domestic livestock indicator prices**

- **Eastern Young Cattle Indicator**
  - Week ended 12 October 2017

- **Mutton indicator price in Victoria**
  - (18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
  - Week ended 13 October 2017

- **Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator**
  - Week ended 12 October 2017

- **Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard**
  - (60.1–75 kg)
  - Week ended 6 October 2017
2.8. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 14 October 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)
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