Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 18 April 2018 rainfall was mainly restricted to eastern Australia and isolated parts of southern and northern Australia. Little to no rainfall was recorded across the remainder of the country.

- Maximum temperatures were between 2°C to 4°C above average across most of mainland Australia for the week ending 17 April 2018. Higher maximum temperatures (4°C to 6°C above average) were recorded across most of New South Wales, parts of south-western Queensland, western parts of the Northern Territory and adjacent parts of Western Australia.

- According to the Australian Plague Locust Commission, locust population levels have remained low over most of eastern Australia throughout the 2017–18 season.

- During the next eight days, rainfall is mainly expected in eastern and parts of south-western Australia. Little to no rainfall is forecast for the remainder of the country.

- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased during the week ending 19 April 2018 by 139 gigalitres (GL) to 11,271 GL and are at 50 per cent of total capacity. This is 17 percentage points or 3,747 GL less than at the same time last year.

- Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin increased in the week ending 19 April 2018 to $134 per ML. This is an increase of $5 from the same time last week.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 18 April 2018 rainfall was mainly restricted to eastern Australia and isolated parts of southern and northern Australia. Little to no rainfall was recorded across the remainder of the country.

Rainfall totals between 25 and 50 millimetres were recorded in south-eastern South Australia, southern Victoria, and isolated parts of north-eastern New South Wales. Similar totals were recorded in coastal parts of northern Queensland and isolated areas of the Kimberley and adjacent parts of the Top End. Higher totals (between 50 and 100 millimetres) were recorded in alpine regions of Victoria and New South Wales, and western Tasmania. The highest recorded weekly total was 285 millimetres at Euramo, south of Innisfail in northern Queensland.

Rainfall for the week ending 18 April 2018
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 17 April 2018, maximum temperatures were between 2°C to 4°C above average across most of mainland Australia. Higher maximum temperatures (4°C to 6°C above average) were recorded across most of New South Wales, parts of south-western Queensland, western parts of the Northern Territory and adjacent parts of Western Australia. Minimum temperatures were also above average for most of the country, with the exception of southern parts of Western Australia (2°C to 4°C below average). The highest anomalies were in central parts of New South Wales and south-western parts of the Northern Territory where minimum temperatures were between 4°C to 8°C above average for this time of year.

Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 17 April 2018

Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 17 April 2018

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/temps/index.jsp.
1.3. Australian Plague Locust

The Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC) produces a monthly Locust Bulletin during the periods of locust activity (spring, summer and autumn). The bulletin gives regional summaries of the locust situation and weather events of potential significance for locust development. It also provides a forecast of likely developments for the next two months (or from autumn to spring) for the Australian plague locust (*Chortoicetes terminifera*), spur-throated locust (*Austracris guttulosa*), and the migratory locust (*Locusta migratoria*).

According to the APLC, the Australian plague locust population level has remained low over most of eastern Australia throughout the 2017–18 season. Most areas that received rainfall during summer dried out rapidly and prolonged high temperatures are likely to have caused increased mortality of nymphs and adults. Surveys during March recorded low numbers of adults and occasional nymphs in the Central West, Central Highlands and South Central regions of Queensland. Only occasional adults were recorded in most areas of the Riverina, Far Southwest and southern Central West regions of New South Wales.

The outlook for the remainder of autumn is for population densities to remain low in most regions of inland eastern Australia. There is a very low risk of swarms affecting any agricultural region during the remainder of autumn. There is a low risk of high density nymph infestations developing in any region during spring (Locust Bulletin April 2018).


**Australian Plague Locust Distribution**

1 to 31 March 2018

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*Densities estimated for areas of locust habitat, based on current surveys and reports from current and previous month.*

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Issued: 05/04/2018
1.4. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

During the next eight days, rainfall is mainly expected in eastern and parts of south-western Australia. Totals between 25 and 50 millimetres are forecast for south-eastern Queensland and coastal parts of northern New South Wales. Similar totals are expected in south-western Western Australia. Little to no rainfall is forecast for the remainder of the country.

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 April 2018
2. Water

2.1. Water availability

Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased during the week ending 19 April 2018 by 139 gigalitres (GL) to 11,271 GL and are at 50 per cent of total capacity. This is 17 percentage points or 3,747 GL less than at the same time last year.

Information on water available in dams used for irrigation in the Murray–Darling Basin from 1 January 2001 to 19 April 2018 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 and charts.

On 16 April 2018 NSW Department of Primary Industries – Water announced allocation increases of:

- 3 per cent for NSW Murrumbidgee general security to 41 per cent

| Water allocations in the Murray–Darling Basin (NSW, Victoria and South Australia) |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| **New South Wales**                      | 19 April 2018 | 3 April 2018 |          |
| General security                         | High security | General security | High security |
| NSW Murray                                | 51%         | 97%         | 51%       | 97%       |
| NSW Murrumbidgee                          | 41%         | 95%         | 38%       | 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                                | 18%         | 100%        | 18%       | 100%      |
| NSW Border Rivers                         | 100%(a)/19.62%(b) | 100% | 100%(a)/19.62%(b) | 100% |
| NSW Peel                                  | 100%        | 100%        | 100%      | 100%      |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victoria</th>
<th>Low reliability</th>
<th>High reliability</th>
<th>Low reliability</th>
<th>High reliability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Murray</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Goulburn</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Campaspe</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Loddon</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Bullarook</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Broken</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>South Australia</th>
<th>Class 3a/3b</th>
<th>Class 3a/3b</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Australia Murray</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Select water allocation percentages in the southern Murray–Darling Basin
2.3. Water markets

Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin increased in the week ending 19 April 2018 to $134 per ML. This is an increase of $5 from the same time last week. This contrasts with an average price of $117 in March across the whole southern MDB, and $42 during the same month 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 19 April 2018. Trade activity is shown as colour density.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocation trade prices, southern Murray–Darling Basin trade zones (price per ML)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Southern MDB</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current week:</strong> 13/04/18 – 19/04/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last week:</strong> 06/04/18 – 12/04/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March 2018</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March 2017</strong></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-Apr</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>27% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>18-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>13% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>18-Apr</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>91.7</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
<td>87.1</td>
<td>7% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>18-Apr</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>-3% ↓</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>-28% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>12-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,776</td>
<td>1,772</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>1,512</td>
<td>17% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>13-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,884</td>
<td>1,871</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>1,532</td>
<td>23% ↑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Selected domestic crop indicator prices

| Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA                      | 17-Apr     | A$/t   | 242          | 242              | 0% ●          | 181                   | 34% ↑                |
| Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW                                 | 11-Apr     | A$/t   | 280          | 278              | <1% ↑         | 211                   | 33% ↑                |
| Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW                                                | 11-Apr     | A$/t   | 284          | 279              | 2% ↑          | 193                   | 47% ↑                |
| Canola – Portland, Vic.                                                   | 16-Apr     | A$/t   | 502          | 492              | 2% ↑          | 515                   | -3% ↓                |
| Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW                                              | 11-Apr     | A$/t   | 360          | 350              | 3% ↑          | 249                   | 45% ↑                |

### Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

<p>| Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator                                     | 12-Apr     | Ac/kg cwt | 523          | 540              | -3% ↓         | 661                   | -21% ↓               |
| Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic                  | 13-Apr     | Ac/kg cwt | 438          | 458              | -4% ↓         | 498                   | -12% ↓               |
| Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator                                | 12-Apr     | Ac/kg cwt | 580          | 600              | -3% ↓         | 687                   | -16% ↓               |
| Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers         | 06-Apr     | Ac/kg cwt | 269          | 269              | 0% ●          | 318                   | -15% ↓               |
| Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)                                       | 09-Apr     | Ac/kg cwt | 472          | 472              | 0% ●          | 643                   | -27% ↓               |
| Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia                        | 14-Apr     | Ac/kg lwt | 285          | 310              | -8% ↓         | 340                   | -16% ↓               |
| Live sheep – Live wether (Muchea WA salleyard) to Middle East            | 09-Apr     | $/head   | 124          | 124              | 0% ●          | 124                   | 0% ●                 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Week ended</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Latest price</th>
<th>Price week prior</th>
<th>Weekly change</th>
<th>Price 12 months prior</th>
<th>Year on year change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,311</td>
<td>3,278</td>
<td>1%⇧</td>
<td>2,998</td>
<td>10%⇧</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>1,913</td>
<td>1,849</td>
<td>3%⇧</td>
<td>2,044</td>
<td>-6%⇩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,855</td>
<td>3,679</td>
<td>5%⇧</td>
<td>3,462</td>
<td>11%⇧</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>6,120</td>
<td>5,806</td>
<td>5%⇧</td>
<td>5,930</td>
<td>3%⇧</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- World wheat indicator price
  US No. 2, hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf
  Week ended 17 April 2018

- World coarse grains indicator price
  US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
  Week ended 18 April 2018

- World canola indicator price
  Europe fob Hamburg
  Week ended 17 April 2018

- World cotton indicator price
  Cotlook ‘A’ index
  Week ended 18 April 2018
2.5. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

- Whole milk powder price
  - 17 April 2018

- Skim milk powder price
  - 17 April 2018

- Cheddar cheese price
  - 17 April 2018

- Anhydrous milk fat price
  - 17 April 2018
2.6. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

- **Grain sorghum indicator price**
  - Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 11 April 2018

- **Feed barley indicator price**
  - Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 11 April 2018

- **Feed wheat indicator price**
  - General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 11 April 2018

- **Milling wheat indicator price**
  - ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
  - Week ended 17 April 2018
Canola indicator price
Portland, Victoria
Week ended 16 April 2018

A$/t

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

2016 2017 2018
2.7. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

- Eastern Young Cattle Indicator
  Week ended 12 April 2018

- Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator
  Week ended 12 April 2018

- Mutton indicator price in Victoria
  (18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
  Week ended 13 April 2018

- Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard
  (60.1–75 kg)
  Week ended 6 April 2018
2.8. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 14 April 2018

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