Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 20 June 2018 little to no rainfall was recorded across much of mainland Australia, with falls restricted to the west and south of the country and areas of central Queensland.
- For the week ending 19 June 2018, maximum and minimum temperatures were generally average across much of the country.
- During the next eight days, rainfall is expected to be restricted to the south-west and east of mainland Australia and western Tasmania. Little to no rainfall is forecast across much of the remainder of the country.
- In cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 1 and 25 millimetres are forecast for western and central Western Australia. Higher totals of between 5 and 100 millimetres are expected for cropping regions in northern New South Wales and Queensland. Little to no rainfall is forecast for cropping regions in central and southern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and northern and eastern Western Australia.
- The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains in a neutral state—neither El Niño nor La Niña. However, the latest climate model outlooks and recent warming in the tropical Pacific Ocean indicate that the chance of El Niño forming in late spring has increased. As a result, the Bureau of Meteorology has raised its ENSO Outlook status to El Niño WATCH.
- If El Niño were to form in 2018, it would likely be very late in the year, at which point it could have little impact on rainfall patterns in Australia. The impact of an El Niño event on agricultural production is not uniform and is difficult to predict. The effect of El Niño on Australia’s agricultural production depends on the intensity of the event and the timing of rainfall.
- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) increased during the week ending 21 June 2018 by 206 gigalitres (GL) to 11,628 GL, and are at 51 per cent of total capacity. This is 17 percentage points or 3,936 GL less than at the same time last year.
- Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin declined in the week ending 21 June 2018 to $172 per ML. This is a decrease of $11 from the same time last week.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 20 June 2018 little to no rainfall was recorded across much of mainland Australia, with falls restricted to the west and south of the country and areas of central Queensland. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across parts of south-eastern and coastal New South Wales, southern and eastern Victoria, areas of central Queensland, the south of South Australia, the far south-west and north-west of Western Australia, and Tasmania.

Higher totals of between 50 and 150 millimetres were recorded across coastal and alpine regions of New South Wales, alpine and southern areas of Victoria and western Tasmania. The highest recorded weekly total was 234 millimetres at Falls Creek (Rocky Valley) in northern Victoria.

In cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 5 and 50 millimetres were recorded in Victoria, South Australia and the southern cropping regions of New South Wales. In Western Australia, rainfall totals of between 5 and 15 millimetres were recorded across most cropping regions. Little to no rainfall was recorded across cropping regions in Queensland and northern New South Wales.

Rainfall analysis for the week ending 20 June 2018
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 19 June 2018, maximum and minimum temperatures were generally average across much of the country. Maximum temperatures were slightly below average (-2°C to -6°C) across much of central and western Queensland, and scattered areas of south-eastern Australia. Minimum temperatures were slightly above average (2°C to 6°C) across parts of northern Australia and slightly below average (-2°C to -4°C) across a broad band of central Australia, extending from central Western Australia to southeast Queensland.

**Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 19 June 2018**

![Map showing maximum temperature anomalies]

**Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 19 June 2018**

![Map showing minimum temperature anomalies]

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. **Rainfall forecast for the next eight days**

During the next eight days, rainfall is expected to be restricted to the south-west and east of mainland Australia and western Tasmania. Little to no rainfall is forecast across much of the remainder of the country. Totals between 10 and 50 millimetres are forecast for parts of north-eastern New South Wales, southern-eastern and coastal areas of Queensland, the far south-west of Western Australia, and western Tasmania. Heavier falls of between 50 and 200 millimetres are forecast for parts of north-eastern New South Wales and southern-eastern Queensland.

In cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 1 and 25 millimetres are forecast for western and central Western Australia. Higher totals of between 5 and 100 millimetres are expected for cropping regions in northern New South Wales and Queensland. Little to no rainfall is forecast for cropping regions in central and southern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and northern and eastern Western Australia.

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 21 to 28 June 2018**
1.4. El Niño–Southern Oscillation Update

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains in a neutral state—neither El Niño nor La Niña. However, the latest climate model outlooks and recent warming in the tropical Pacific Ocean indicate that the chance of El Niño forming in late spring has increased. As a result, the Bureau of Meteorology has raised its ENSO Outlook status to El Niño WATCH.

Oceanic indicators are currently neutral but are showing some signs of potential El Niño development. Sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean, though currently neutral, have been slowly warming since April. More importantly, waters below the surface of the tropical Pacific are now warmer than average—a common precursor for El Niño development.

The majority of international climate models surveyed by the Bureau of Meteorology indicate that the tropical Pacific Ocean will continue to warm but stay in the neutral range during July and August. However, five of eight climate models indicate that ocean temperatures are likely to reach El Niño thresholds by November 2018, and a sixth model prediction falls just short of threshold values. During El Niño, rainfall in eastern Australia is typically below average during winter and spring (Bureau of Meteorology, ‘ENSO Wrap-Up’, 19 June 2018).

If El Niño were to form in 2018 it would likely be late in the year, at which point it could have little impact on rainfall patterns in Australia. The impact of an El Niño event on agricultural production is not uniform and is difficult to predict. While reduced rainfall is often associated with El Niño, the timing of the rainfall can have a significant effect on crop and pasture production. The effect of El Niño on Australia’s agricultural production depends on the intensity of the event and the timing of rainfall.
2. Water

2.1. Water storages, water markets and water allocations - current week

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) increased during the week ending 21 June 2018 by 206 gigalitres (GL) to 11,628 GL and are at 51 per cent of total capacity. This is 17 percentage points or 3,936 GL less than at the same time last year.

Water storages in the Murray-Darling Basin, 2001–2018

Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin declined in the week ending 21 June 2018 to $172 per ML. This is a decrease of $11 from the same time last week. This contrasts with an average price of $160 in May across the whole southern MDB, and $23 during the same month last year.

Allocation trade activity, All

To access the full interactive weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/publications/weekly_update/weekly-update-210618

Note: The trades shown reflect estimated 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 21 June 2018. Trade activity is shown as colour density.
### 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>20-Jun</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>19-Jun</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>-4% ↓</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>20-Jun</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>-4% ↓</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>19-Jun</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>-3% ↓</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>-3% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>20-Jun</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>98.3</td>
<td>101.0</td>
<td>-3% ↓</td>
<td>83.5</td>
<td>18% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>20-Jun</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>-10% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>14-Jun</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,021</td>
<td>2,011</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>1,506</td>
<td>34% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>15-Jun</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,188</td>
<td>2,167</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>1,567</td>
<td>40% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>19-Jun</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>27% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>20-Jun</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>47% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>20-Jun</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>48% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>18-Jun</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>20-Jun</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>25% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic livestock indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator</td>
<td>14-Jun</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>-26% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>01-Jun</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>-13% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>14-Jun</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
<td>666</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>01-Jun</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>-12% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>18-Jun</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>-23% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>16-Jun</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep – Live wether (Muchea WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>14-May</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>-18% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Latest price</td>
<td>Price week prior</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>19-Jun</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,189</td>
<td>3,205</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>3,022</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>19-Jun</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,003</td>
<td>2,051</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>2,218</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>19-Jun</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,847</td>
<td>3,998</td>
<td>-4%</td>
<td>4,121</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>19-Jun</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>6,060</td>
<td>6,222</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>6,885</td>
<td>-12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a 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 19 June 2018

- World coarse grains indicator price
  US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
  Week ended 20 June 2018

- World canola indicator price
  Europe fob Hamburg
  Week ended 19 June 2018

- World cotton indicator price
  Cotlook ‘A’ index
  Week ended 20 June 2018
3.2. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

- Whole milk powder price
  - 19 June 2018

- Skim milk powder price
  - 19 June 2018

- Cheddar cheese price
  - 19 June 2018

- Anhydrous milk fat price
  - 19 June 2018
3.3. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

- Grain sorghum indicator price
  Sydney, NSW
  Week ended 20 June 2018

- Feed barley indicator price
  Sydney, NSW
  Week ended 20 June 2018

- Feed wheat indicator price
  General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
  Week ended 20 June 2018

- Milling wheat indicator price
  ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
  Week ended 19 June 2018
3.4. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

- Eastern Young Cattle Indicator:
  Week ended 14 June 2018

- Mutton indicator price in Victoria:
  (18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
  Week ended 1 June 2018

- Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator:
  Week ended 14 June 2018

- Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard:
  (60.1–75 kg)
  Week ended 1 June 2018
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 21 June 2018
4. Data attribution

Climate
Bureau of Meteorology

Water
New South Wales

Queensland

South Australia

Victoria

Commodities
Fruit and vegetables

Pigs

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/](http://www.cotlook.com/)

World sugar
- New York Stock Exchange - Intercontinental Exchange

Wool

Milling wheat
- ProFarmer
- Domestic wheat, barley, sorghum

Domestic canola
- The Weekly Times: hardcopy
- Cattle, beef, mutton, lamb, goat and live export