Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 15 August 2018 little to no rainfall was recorded across much of mainland Australia, with falls restricted to the far south and west of the country. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across isolated areas of southern New South Wales, south-western and central Victoria, southern South Australia, south-western Western Australia and much of Tasmania.

- In cropping regions, weekly rainfall totals of between 1 and 10 millimetres were recorded in parts of southern New South Wales. For cropping regions in Victoria weekly rainfall totals were variable, ranging from 1 millimetres in the north to 25 millimetres in the south-west and south-east. In South Australian and Western Australian cropping regions, weekly rainfall totals ranged from 10 to 50 millimetres.

- For the week ending 14 August 2018, maximum temperatures were generally average across most of the country. Minimum temperatures were generally below average, with parts of northern Australia recording night-time temperatures of 4°C to 8°C below average for this time of year.

- A drier than average September is more likely across much of the eastern half of mainland Australia, the south-west of Western Australia and the Northern Territory, with parts of the south-east having a greater than 80 per cent chance of a drier than average month.

- The mid-month climate outlook for Spring 2018 indicates a drier than average three months is more likely for southern inland New South Wales, Victoria, parts of central Queensland, southern South Australia, south-west Western Australia and Tasmania. There is no strong tendency towards either wetter or drier than average conditions for the remainder of Australia.

- During the next eight days, rainfall is expected to be restricted to the far south of the country.

- In cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 1 and 10 millimetres are forecast for southern New South Wales, much of Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia during the next eight days. Little or no rainfall is expected in cropping regions of central and northern New South Wales and Queensland.

- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) increased during the week ending 16 August 2018 by 165 gigalitres (GL) to 12,142GL and are at 54 per cent of total capacity. This is 17 percentage points or 3,931 GL less than at the same time last year.

- Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin increased in the week ending 16 August 2018 to $336 per ML. This is an increase of $26 from the same time last week.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 15 August 2018 little to no rainfall was recorded across much of mainland Australia, with falls restricted to the far south and west of the country. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across isolated areas of southern New South Wales, much of south-western and central Victoria, the far southeast and central and western agricultural regions of South Australia, south-western Western Australia and much of Tasmania.

Higher rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres were recorded across alpine regions of Victoria, the far west of Western Australia and western Tasmania. The highest recorded weekly total was 174 millimetres at Mount Read, in western Tasmania.

In cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 1 and 10 millimetres were recorded across southern New South Wales, with falls of between 10 to 25 millimetres being recorded in the far east. For cropping regions in Victoria, weekly rainfall totals were variable, ranging from 1 to 10 millimetres in northern and central areas to 10 to 25 millimetres in the far west and east. In South Australian and Western Australian cropping regions, weekly rainfall totals ranged from 10 to 50 millimetres. Little to no rainfall was recorded in cropping regions in northern New South Wales and Queensland.

Rainfall analysis for the week ending 15 August 2018
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 14 August 2018, maximum temperatures were generally average across most of the country. Minimum temperatures were generally below average, with parts of Queensland, northern Western Australia and the Northern Territory recording night-time temperatures of 4°C to 8°C below average for this time of year.

**Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 14 August 2018**

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**Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 14 August 2018**

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1.3. Mid-month National Climate Outlook

The rainfall and temperature outlooks presented here 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. These climate outlooks are generated by ACCESS–S (Australian Community Climate Earth-System Simulator–Seasonal). ACCESS–S is the Bureau of Meteorology’s dynamical (physics-based) weather and climate model used for monthly, seasonal and longer-lead climate outlooks. Prior to August 2018, climate outlooks were produced by the Bureau’s earlier model, POAMA.

For further information, go to http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/about/

The current outlook reflects the neutral state of broad-scale climate drivers, such as El Niño, La Niña and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), meaning they are currently having little influence on Australia’s climate. However, current observations and model outlooks indicate El Niño and a positive IOD could develop in spring. The latest model run from the Bureau of Meteorology’s operational climate model also suggests that sea surface temperatures will continue to be cooler than average to Australia’s northwest which is likely acting to suppress rainfall over southern and central Australia.

A drier than average September is more likely across much of the eastern half of mainland Australia, the south-west of Western Australia and the Northern Territory, with parts of the south-east having a greater than 80 per cent chance of a drier than average month. For the remainder of the country there are roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier than average September (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 16 August 2018).

Chance of exceeding the median rainfall September 2018
The rainfall outlook for spring 2018 indicates that a drier than average three months is more likely for southern inland New South Wales, Victoria, parts of central Queensland, southern South Australia, south-west Western Australia and Tasmania. There is no strong tendency towards either wetter or drier than average conditions for much of remainder of the country (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 16 August 2018).

**Chance of exceeding the median rainfall September to November 2018**
The temperature outlook for September to November 2018 indicates that daytime temperatures are more likely to be warmer than average for Australia. Similarly, night-time temperatures are also likely to be warmer than average for most areas, except for parts of northern Australia and the southeast of the mainland (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 16 August 2018).

**Chance of exceeding the median maximum temperature September to November 2018**

![Map of Australia showing the chance of exceeding the median maximum temperature](image1)

**Chance of exceeding the median minimum temperature September to November 2018**

![Map of Australia showing the chance of exceeding the median minimum temperature](image2)
1.4. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

During the next eight days, rainfall is expected to be restricted to the far south of the country. Little to no rainfall is forecast across the remainder of the country. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres are forecast for south-western Western Australia, isolated areas of south-eastern New South Wales, southern and alpine areas of Victoria, parts of southern South Australia, and Tasmania. Heavier falls in excess of 50 millimetres are forecast for western Tasmania.

In cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 1 and 10 millimetres are forecast for southern New South Wales, much of Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia during the next eight days. Little to no rainfall is expected in cropping regions in central and northern New South Wales and Queensland.

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 16 to 23 August 2018**
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 16 August 2018 by 165 gigalitres (GL) to 12,142 GL and are at 54 per cent of total capacity. This is 17 percentage points or 3,931 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 increased in the week ending 16 August 2018 to $336 per ML. This is an increase of $26 from the same time last week. This contrasts with an average price of $242 in July across the whole southern MDB, and $111 during July 2017.

Allocation trade activity, All

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 16 August 2018. Trade activity is shown as colour density.

To access the full interactive weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit

## 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>15-Aug</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>14-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>14-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>98.2</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>78.9</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>09-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,990</td>
<td>1,981</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1,550</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>10-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,158</td>
<td>2,129</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1,606</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>14-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>13-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>15-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic livestock indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator</td>
<td>09-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>-17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>10-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>-8%</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>09-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>761</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>27-Jul</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>13-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>04-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep – Live wether (Muchea WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>14-May</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>-18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Latest price</td>
<td>Price week prior</td>
<td>Weekly change</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices</strong>&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>07-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,958</td>
<td>2,973</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>3,155</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>07-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>1,972</td>
<td>1,959</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1,966</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>07-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,663</td>
<td>3,596</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3,932</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>07-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>5,709</td>
<td>5,629</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>6,289</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> 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 14 August 2018

World coarse grains indicator price
US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
Week ended 15 August 2018

World canola indicator price
Europe fob Hamburg
Week ended 14 August 2018

World cotton indicator price
Cotlook 'A' index
Week ended 15 August 2018
3.2. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

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

- Grain sorghum indicator price
  - Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 15 August 2018

- Feed barley indicator price
  - Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 15 August 2018

- Feed wheat indicator price
  - General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 15 August 2018

- Milling wheat indicator price
  - ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
  - Week ended 14 August 2018
3.4. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

Eastern Young Cattle Indicator
Week ended 9 August 2018

Mutton indicator price in Victoria
(18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
Week ended 10 August 2018

Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator
Week ended 9 August 2018

Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard
(60.1–75 kg)
Week ended 27 July 2018
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 16 August 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)
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
- International Grains Council
- United States Department of Agriculture
- Cotlook: www.cotlook.com/

World wheat, barley, sorghum
- ProFarmer
- The Land: hardcopy or online at www.theland.farmonline.com.au/markets

World sugar
- New York Stock Exchange - Intercontinental Exchange

World coarse grains
- The Weekly Times: hardcopy

World cotton