Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 29 August 2018 rainfall was recorded across the east, and far south and west of the country. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across north-eastern New South Wales, the far east of Victoria, south-eastern Queensland, the far southwest of South Australia, south-western Western Australia and western Tasmania.

- In cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across northern New South Wales, and central and southern Queensland. For cropping regions in South Australia, weekly rainfall totals of between 1 to 15 millimetres were recorded on the Eyre Peninsula. In Western Australian cropping regions, weekly rainfall totals ranged from 1 to 25 millimetres.

- For the week ending 28 August 2018, maximum temperatures were above average (2°C to 6°C) across parts of eastern and central Australia, with generally average daytime temperatures across the remainder of the country. Minimum temperatures were generally average, with parts of northern and south-eastern Australia recording night-time temperatures of 2°C to 6°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-west having a greater than 80 per cent chance of a drier than average month.

- The climate outlook for Spring 2018 indicates a drier than average three months is more likely for inland New South Wales, Victoria, western and northern Queensland, South Australia, south-west Western Australia, southern Northern Territory 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 across eastern and southern Australia.

- In cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 1 and 10 millimetres are forecast for New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia during the next eight days. Heavier falls of between 10 and 25 millimetres are forecast for cropping regions in eastern New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) increased during the week ending 30 August 2018 by 36 gigalitres (GL) to 12,346GL and are at 55 per cent of total capacity. This is 19 percentage points or 4,264 GL less than at the same time last year.

- Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin declined in the week ending 30 August 2018 to $329 per ML. This is a decrease of $6 from the same time last week.

For more information or to subscribe, email Climate_Update@agriculture.gov.au
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 29 August 2018 little to no rainfall was recorded across much of mainland Australia, with falls restricted to the east, and far south and west of the country. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across north-eastern New South Wales, the far east of Victoria, south-eastern Queensland, the far southwest of South Australia, south-western Western Australia and western Tasmania.

Higher rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres were recorded across isolated areas of southern Queensland. The highest recorded weekly total was 95 millimetres at Warrie Station, in the Maranoa region of Queensland.

In cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across northern New South Wales, and central and southern Queensland. For cropping regions in South Australia, weekly rainfall totals of between 1 to 15 millimetres were recorded on the Eyre Peninsula. In Western Australian cropping regions, weekly rainfall totals ranged from 1 to 25 millimetres. Little to no rainfall was recorded in cropping regions in southern New South Wales, Victoria and eastern South Australia.

Rainfall analysis for the week ending 29 August 2018

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Note: The rainfall analyses and associated maps utilise data contained in the Bureau of Meteorology climate database, the Australian Data Archive for Meteorology (ADAM). The analyses are initially produced automatically from real-time data with limited quality control. They are intended to provide a general overview of rainfall across Australia as quickly as possible after the observations are received. For further information go to http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/rainfall/
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 28 August 2018, maximum temperatures were above average (2°C to 6°C) across parts of eastern and central Australia, with generally average daytime temperatures across the remainder of the country. Minimum temperatures were generally average, with parts of Queensland, northern Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and south-eastern Australia recording night-time temperatures of 2°C to 6°C below average for this time of year.

Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 28 August 2018

Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 28 August 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/temp/index.jsp.
1.3. 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-west 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’, 30 August 2018).

**Chance of exceeding the median rainfall September 2018**

![Map showing the chance of exceeding the median rainfall for September 2018]
The rainfall outlook for spring 2018 indicates that a drier than average three months is more likely for inland New South Wales (west of the Great Dividing Range), Victoria, parts of western and northern Queensland, South Australia, south-west Western Australia, southern Northern Territory 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’, 30 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 central and southern Australia (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 30 August 2018).

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

**Chance of exceeding the median minimum temperature September to November 2018**
1.4. **Rainfall forecast for the next eight days**

During the next eight days, rainfall is expected across eastern and southern Australia. Little to no rainfall is forecast across the remainder of the country.

Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres are forecast for eastern New South Wales, southern and eastern Victoria, the far southeast of Queensland, parts of southern South Australia, the far southwest of Western Australia, and western and northern Tasmania. Heavier falls in excess of 50 millimetres are forecast for isolated areas of north-eastern New South Wales.

In cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 1 and 10 millimetres are forecast for New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia during the next eight days. Heavier falls of between 10 and 25 millimetres are forecast for cropping regions in eastern New South Wales, Victoria and South 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 30 August to 6 September 2018**

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Issued: 30/8/2018
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 30 August 2018 by 36 gigalitres (GL) to 12,346 GL and are at 55 per cent of total capacity. This is 19 percentage points or 4,264 GL less than at the same time last year.

Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin declined in the week ending 30 August 2018 to $329 per ML. This is a decrease of $6 from the same time last week. This contrasts with an average price of $234 in July across the whole southern MDB, and $111 during July 2017.

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-300818

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 30 August 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>29-Aug</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>28-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>29-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>28-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook ‘A’ Index</td>
<td>29-Aug</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>92.5</td>
<td>91.9</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>79.8</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>29-Aug</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>-26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>23-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,068</td>
<td>2,116</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>1,572</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>17-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,279</td>
<td>2,158</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1,680</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>21-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>29-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>29-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic</td>
<td>27-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>29-Aug</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic livestock indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator</td>
<td>23-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>-14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>24-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>23-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>843</td>
<td>813</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>17-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>-11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>27-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>25-Aug</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0%</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>$/head</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>-18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Latest price</td>
<td>Price week prior</td>
<td>Weekly change</td>
<td>Price 12 months prior</td>
<td>Year on year change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>21-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,883</td>
<td>2,958</td>
<td>-3% ↓</td>
<td>3,143</td>
<td>-8% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>21-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>1,951</td>
<td>1,972</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td>1,968</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>21-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,484</td>
<td>3,663</td>
<td>-5% ↓</td>
<td>4,005</td>
<td>-13% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>21-Aug</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>5,321</td>
<td>5,709</td>
<td>-7% ↓</td>
<td>6,199</td>
<td>-14% ↓</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 28 August 2018

**World coarse grains indicator price**  
US corn No. 2, fob Gulf  
Week ended 29 August 2018

**World canola indicator price**  
Europe fob Hamburg  
Week ended 28 August 2018

**World cotton indicator price**  
Cotlook 'A' index  
Week ended 29 August 2018
3.2. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

Whole milk powder price
21 August 2018

Skim milk powder price
21 August 2018

Cheddar cheese price
21 August 2018

Anhydrous milk fat price
21 August 2018
3.3. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

Grain sorghum indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 29 August 2018

Feed barley indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 29 August 2018

Feed wheat indicator price
General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
Week ended 29 August 2018

Milling wheat indicator price
ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
Week ended 21 August 2018
3.4. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

- Eastern Young Cattle Indicator
  Week ended 23 August 2018

- Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator
  Week ended 23 August 2018

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

- Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard
  (60.1–75 kg)
  Week ended 17 August 2018
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 30 August 2018
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
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