Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 19 September 2018 little to no rainfall was recorded across much of mainland Australia, with falls restricted to far south of the country. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 25 millimetres were recorded across parts of southern Victoria, the far south-east of South Australia, the far south of Western Australia and much of Tasmania.

- For cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 1 and 5 millimetres were recorded in Victoria, South Australia and the far south of Western Australia. For remaining cropping regions, little or no rainfall was recorded during the week ending 19 September 2018.

- For the week ending 18 September 2018, maximum temperatures were generally average across much of the country. Minimum temperatures were generally average, with parts northern, central and southern Australia recording night-time temperatures of 2°C to 6°C below average for this time of year.

- Severe frost events over the weekend have left grain farmers in southern Western Australia and western Victoria concerned that crops may have suffered significant frost damage.

- Frost at this time of year can have a significant effect on the yield potential of wheat, barley and canola crops. The nature of frost damage depends upon the plant development stage at which the frost occurs.

- In Western Australia the frost event was widespread across southern growing regions, with barley and to some extend canola being the most affected crops. Wheat crops in general weren’t as advanced and while there is likely to be some damage, it is not expected to be as severe as that seen in barley crops. In western Victoria, farmers are also reportedly concerned that moisture-stressed crops will now be subject to significant frost damage.

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

- In cropping regions, little to no rainfall is forecast during the next eight days, with most regions expected to record between 0 and 5 millimetres.

- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased during the week ending 20 September 2018 by 121 gigalitres (GL) to 12,222GL and are at 54 per cent of total capacity. This is 21 percentage points or 4,683 GL less than at the same time last year.

- Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin declined in the week ending 20 September 2018 to $305 per ML. This is a decrease of $12 from the same time last week.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 19 September 2018 little to no rainfall was recorded across much of mainland Australia, with falls restricted to far south of the country. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 25 millimetres were recorded across parts of southern Victoria, the far south-east of South Australia, the far south of Western Australia and much of Tasmania.

Higher rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres were recorded across areas of western Tasmania. The highest recorded weekly total was 87 millimetres at Mount Read, in Tasmania.

In cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 1 and 5 millimetres were recorded for Victoria, South Australia and the far south of Western Australia. For remaining cropping regions, little or no rainfall was recorded.
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 18 September 2018, maximum temperatures were above average (2°C to 6°C) across parts of eastern and northern Australia, with generally average daytime temperatures across the remainder of the country. Minimum temperatures were generally average, with parts northern, central and southern Australia recording night-time temperatures of 2°C to 6°C below average for this time of year.

Severe frost events over the weekend have left grain farmers in southern Western Australia and western Victoria concerned that crops may have suffered significant frost damage.

Frost at this time of year can have a significant effect on the yield potential of wheat, barley and canola crops. The nature of frost damage depends upon the plant development stage at which the frost occurs. Cereal crops are most susceptible to frost damage during and after flowering but are also susceptible from stem elongation throughout grain filling. Pulses and canola are particularly susceptible during pod filling.

Prior to this event the Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA) had reported that the state was on track for a bumper harvest. GIWA have now stated that the frost was widespread across southern growing regions, with barley and to some extent canola being the most affected crops. Wheat crops in general weren’t as advanced and while there is likely to be some damage, it is not expected to be as severe as that seen in barley crops.

In western Victoria, farmers are also reportedly concerned that moisture-stressed crops will now be subject to significant frost damage. District agronomists report that farmers in the Wimmera region are in the process of identifying the best way to mitigate potential losses with many looking at the potential of cutting grain crops for hay, including cereals and canola in particular.

Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 18 September 2018

[Map showing temperature anomalies with annotations for regions and anomalies indicated by color coding.]
Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 18 September 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. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

During the next eight days, rainfall is expected to be mainly restricted to the far east and south of Australia. Little to no rainfall is forecast across the remainder of the country.

Rainfall totals of between 10 and 25 millimetres are forecast for parts of north-eastern New South Wales, the far south-east of Queensland and most of Tasmania.

In cropping regions, little to no rainfall is forecast during the next eight days, with most regions expected to record between 0 and 5 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 20 to 27 September 2018
2. Water

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

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased during the week ending 20 September 2018 by 121 gigalitres (GL) to 12,222 GL and are at 54 per cent of total capacity. This is 21 percentage points or 4,683 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 20 September 2018 to $305 per ML. This is a decrease of $12 from the same time last week. This contrasts with an average price of $316 in August across the whole southern MDB, and $133 during August 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 20 September 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 http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/publications/weekly_update/weekly-update-200918
### 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>19-Sep</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>-10% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>9% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>19-Sep</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>-6% ↓</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>19-Sep</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>90.7</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td>79.2</td>
<td>15% ↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>19-Sep</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>-23% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>13-Sep</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,094</td>
<td>2,088</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>1,525</td>
<td>37% ↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>14-Sep</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,256</td>
<td>2,255</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>41% ↑</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>11-Sep</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>13% ↑</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>69% ↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>19-Sep</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>58% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>19-Sep</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>60% ↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>17-Sep</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>14% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>19-Sep</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>30% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic livestock indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator</td>
<td>13-Sep</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>-7% ↓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>14-Sep</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>21% ↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>13-Sep</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>792</td>
<td>855</td>
<td>-7% ↓</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>33% ↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>07-Sep</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>-10% ↓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>17-Sep</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>16% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>15-Sep</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>10-Sep</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Latest price</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,768</td>
<td>2,821</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td>3,122</td>
<td>-11% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>1,980</td>
<td>2,005</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td>1,920</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,503</td>
<td>3,631</td>
<td>-4% ↓</td>
<td>4,032</td>
<td>-13% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>5,294</td>
<td>5,316</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>6,764</td>
<td>-22% ↓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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**Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices**

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 18 September 2018

World coarse grains indicator price
US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
Week ended 19 September 2018

World canola indicator price
Europe fob Hamburg
Week ended 18 September 2018

World cotton indicator price
Cotlook ‘A’ index
Week ended 19 September 2018
3.2. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

- Whole milk powder price
  - 18 September 2018

- Skim milk powder price
  - 18 September 2018

- Cheddar cheese price
  - 18 September 2018

- Anhydrous milk fat price
  - 18 September 2018
3.3. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

Grain sorghum indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 19 September 2018

Feed barley indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 19 September 2018

Feed wheat indicator price
General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
Week ended 19 September 2018

Milling wheat indicator price
ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
Week ended 11 September 2018
Canola indicator price
Portland, Victoria
Week ended 17 September 2018

A$/t

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

2016 2017 2018
3.4. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

Eastern Young Cattle Indicator
Week ended 13 September 2018

Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator
Week ended 13 September 2018

Mutton indicator price in Victoria
(18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
Week ended 14 September 2018

Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard
(60.1–75 kg)
Week ended 7 September 2018
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 20 September 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

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