Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 26 September 2018 little to no rainfall was recorded across much of mainland Australia, with falls restricted to the east of the country. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 25 millimetres were recorded across scattered areas of eastern New South Wales, eastern Victoria, eastern Queensland and western Tasmania.

- For cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 1 and 5 millimetres were recorded in north-eastern New South Wales, western Victoria, south-eastern Queensland and eastern South Australia. For remaining cropping regions, little or no rainfall was recorded during the week ending 26 September 2018.

- For the week ending 25 September 2018, maximum temperatures were generally average across much of the country, the main exception being the south-western of Western Australia which recording maximum temperatures of between 4°C and 10°C above average for this time of year. Minimum temperatures were generally average, with parts south-eastern Australia recording night-time temperatures of 2°C to 6°C below average for this time of year.

- A drier than average October is more likely across much of the central and eastern Australia, and parts of the south-west of Western Australia. Parts of the south-east and far north of the country having a greater than 80 per cent chance of a drier than average month.

- The climate outlook for October to December 2018 indicates a drier than average three months is more likely for parts of southern and western New South Wales, Victoria, parts of Queensland, eastern and northern South Australia, south-western Western Australia, Tasmania, and parts of the Northern Territory. 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 southern half of the country.

- In cropping regions, rainfall of between 1 and 10 millimetres is expected in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. In Queensland, little to no rainfall is forecast in the north, with falls of between 1 and 15 millimetres forecast for central and southern cropping region. In Western Australia falls of between 5 millimetres in the north to 25 millimetres in the south are forecast for the next eight days.

- Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin increased in the week ending 27 September 2018 to $320 per ML. This is an increase of $9 from the same time last week.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 26 September 2018 little to no rainfall was recorded across much of mainland Australia, with falls mainly restricted to the east of the country. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 25 millimetres were recorded across scattered areas of eastern New South Wales, eastern Victoria, eastern Queensland and western Tasmania.

Higher rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres were recorded across parts of south-eastern Queensland and western Tasmania. The highest recorded weekly total was 78 millimetres at Caloundra Airport, in the Sunshine Coast region of Queensland.

In cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 1 and 5 millimetres were recorded for north-eastern New South Wales, western Victoria, south-eastern Queensland and eastern South Australia. For remaining cropping regions, little or no rainfall was recorded.

Rainfall analysis for the week ending 26 September 2018
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 25 September 2018, maximum temperatures were above average (2°C to 4°C) across parts of eastern, western and northern Australia, with much of south-western Western Australia recording maximum temperatures of between 4°C and 10°C above average for this time of year. Generally, average daytime temperatures were recorded across the remainder of the country. Minimum temperatures were generally average, with parts 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 25 September 2018

Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 25 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. 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 by late spring. Sea surface temperatures to Australia’s northwest are average to cooler than average; a pattern which can suppress rainfall over southern and central Australia.

A drier than average October is more likely across much of central and eastern Australia, and parts of the south-west of Western Australia, with parts of the south-east and far north of Australia 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 October (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 27 September 2018).

Chance of exceeding the median rainfall October 2018
The rainfall outlook for October to December 2018 indicates that a drier than average three months is more likely for parts of southern and western New South Wales, Victoria, parts of Queensland, eastern and northern South Australia, south-western Western Australia, Tasmania, and parts of the Northern Territory. 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’, 27 September 2018).

**Chance of exceeding the median rainfall October to December 2018**

![Chance of exceeding the median rainfall October to December 2018](image-url)
The temperature outlook for October to December 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 north-eastern and southern Australia where there is no strong tendency towards either warmer or cooler than average night-time temperatures (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 27 September 2018).

**Chance of exceeding the median maximum temperature October to December 2018**

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

During the next eight days, rainfall is expected to be mainly restricted to the southern half of the country. 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 and south-eastern New South Wales, eastern Victoria the far south-east of Queensland, south-western Western Australia and western Tasmania.

In cropping regions, rainfall of between 1 and 10 millimetres is expected in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. In Queensland, little to no rainfall is forecast in the north, with falls of between 1 and 15 millimetres forecast for central and southern cropping region. In Western Australia falls of between 5 millimetres in the north to 25 millimetres in the south are forecast for the next eight days.

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 27 September to 4 October 2018**
2. Water

2.1. Water markets - current week

Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin increased in the week ending 27 September 2018 to $320 per ML. This is an increase of $9 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 27 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-270918
## 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>26-Sep</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.72</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>25-Sep</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>11% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>26-Sep</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>4% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>25-Sep</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>26-Sep</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>88.5</td>
<td>90.7</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td>79.0</td>
<td>12% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>26-Sep</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>-5% ↓</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>-24% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>20-Sep</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,067</td>
<td>2,094</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td>1,525</td>
<td>36% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>21-Sep</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,222</td>
<td>2,256</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td>1,572</td>
<td>41% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>25-Sep</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>60% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>26-Sep</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>58% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>26-Sep</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>60% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>24-Sep</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>18% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>26-Sep</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>27% ↑</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>20-Sep</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>-3% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>21-Sep</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>23% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>20-Sep</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>792</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>29% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>14-Sep</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>-12% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>24-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>22-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 (Mucheia WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>10-Sep</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Latest price</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>19-Sep</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>-6%</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices. 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 25 September 2018

World coarse grains indicator price
US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
Week ended 26 September 2018

World canola indicator price
Europe fob Hamburg
Week ended 25 September 2018

World cotton indicator price
Cotlook ‘A’ index
Week ended 26 September 2018

US$t/tonne
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
2016 2017 2018

US$t/tonne
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
2016 2017 2018

US$c/lb
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
2016 2017 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 26 September 2018

Feed barley indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 26 September 2018

Feed wheat indicator price
General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
Week ended 26 September 2018

Milling wheat indicator price
ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
Week ended 25 September 2018
3.4. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

- Eastern Young Cattle Indicator
  Week ended 20 September 2018

- Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator
  Week ended 20 September 2018

- Mutton indicator price in Victoria
  (18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
  Week ended 21 September 2018

- Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard
  (60.1–75 kg)
  Week ended 14 September 2018
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 27 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

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