Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 10 October 2018 little to no rainfall was recorded across much of mainland Australia, with falls mainly restricted to centre, east, far south and south west of the country. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across large areas of New South Wales, western and eastern Victoria, much of south-eastern Queensland, and south-western Western Australia. Similar totals were recorded across scattered areas in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

- In cropping regions, rainfall totals were highly variable. Falls of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded in central and northern New South Wales, western Victoria, southern and eastern areas in Queensland and southern and eastern parts of Western Australia. For remaining cropping regions, little or no rainfall was recorded.

- For the week ending 9 October 2018, maximum temperatures were above average (2°C to 4°C) across parts of northern and south-eastern Australia. Maximum temperatures were below average (-2°C to -6°C) in the south of Western Australia and the west of South Australia. Minimum temperatures were generally average across much of the country.

- A drier than average November is more likely across large areas of northern, eastern and southern Australia.

- The mid-month climate outlook for November 2018 to January 2019 indicates that a drier than average three months is more likely for southern and western New South Wales, Victoria, most of Queensland, eastern South Australia, south-west Western Australia, Tasmania and isolates areas of Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

- During the next eight days, rainfall is expected to be restricted mainly central and coastal New South Wales, Victoria, much of south-eastern Queensland, eastern and southern Victoria, the far south-east of South Australia, south-western Western Australia, Tasmania and the far north of the Northern Territory.

- In cropping regions, rainfall of between 15 and 100 millimetres is expected in Queensland. Rainfall of between 10 and 50 millimetres are forecast for New South Wales cropping regions. For Victoria and Western Australia, falls of between 5 and 25 millimetres are expected. Lower totals of between 1 and 10 millimetres are forecast in South Australia.

- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased during the week ending 11 October 2018 by 204 gigalitres (GL) to 11,585 GL and are at 51 per cent of total capacity. This is a 22 percentage points or 4,918 GL less than at the same time last year.

- Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin increased in the week ending 11 October 2018 to $354 per ML. This is an increase of $3 from the same time last week.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 10 October 2018 little to no rainfall was recorded across much of mainland Australia, where falls did occur, these were mainly restricted to the centre, east, far south and south west of the country. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across large areas of New South Wales, western and eastern Victoria, much of south-eastern Queensland, and south-western Western Australia. Similar totals were recorded across scattered areas in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Higher rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres were recorded in isolated parts of south-eastern Queensland and the central coast of New South Wales. The highest recorded weekly total was 297 millimetres at Careys Peak, in the Barrington Tops region of New South Wales.

In cropping regions, rainfall totals were highly variable. Falls of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded in central and northern New South Wales, western Victoria, southern and eastern areas in Queensland and southern and eastern parts of Western Australia. For remaining cropping regions, little or no rainfall was recorded.
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 9 October 2018, maximum temperatures were above average (2°C to 4°C) across parts of northern and south-eastern Australia. Maximum temperatures were below average (-2°C to -6°C) in the south of Western Australia and the west of South Australia. Minimum temperatures were generally average across much of the country. Minimum temperatures were above average (2°C to 6°C) in parts of western New South Wales and Victoria, north-western South Australia, southern Northern Territory and Western Australia.

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. 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/

Signs of an emerging El Niño are increasing. Likewise, in the Indian Ocean, a positive Indian Ocean dipole (IOD) event is likely underway. The Bureau of Meteorology’s ENSO Outlook has been raised to El Niño ALERT. A positive IOD and El Niño in spring increases the likelihood of a dry and warm end to the southern wet season, and a drier than usual start to the northern wet season. It also raises the risk of heatwaves and bushfire weather in the south but lowers the risk of Tropical Cyclones in the north.

The increased potential for El Niño and a positive IOD is influencing the Bureau of Meteorology’s November–January climate outlook, with model outputs indicating parts of eastern and southern Australia are likely to be drier than average, and nation-wide days and nights are very likely to be warmer than average.

A drier than average November is more likely across much of western and central New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, central and eastern South Australia, parts of southern and northern Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory. For the remainder of the country there are roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier than average November (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 11 October 2018).

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

![Map showing chance of exceeding the median rainfall November 2018](image_url)
The rainfall outlook for November 2018 to January 2019 indicates that a drier than average three months is more likely for southern and western New South Wales, Victoria, most of Queensland, eastern South Australia, south-west Western Australia, Tasmania and isolates areas of Western Australia and 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’, 11 October 2018).

Much of eastern and southern mainland Australia have been very dry and warm since the start of the year. The Bureau of Meteorology’s rainfall outlook for November 2018 to January 2019 indicates that many areas that are current experiencing drought conditions are unlikely to see above average rainfall in the coming three months.

**Chance of exceeding the median rainfall November 2018 to January 2019**
The temperature outlook for November 2018 to January 2019 indicates that daytime temperatures are more likely to be warmer than average for Australia. Night-time temperatures are also likely to be warmer than average for much of the country, with the exception of south-east Western Australia, southern South Australia and western Victoria, where the chances of warmer or cooler nights are roughly equal (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 11 October 2018).

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

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

During the next eight days, rainfall is expected to be restricted mainly to the east, south and far north of Australia. The forecast suggests there will be little to no rainfall across the remainder of the country.

Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres are forecast for central and coastal New South Wales, Victoria, much of south-eastern Queensland, eastern and southern Victoria, the far south-east of South Australia, south-western Western Australia, Tasmania and the far north of the Northern Territory. Heavier falls in excess of 50 millimetres are expected across parts of north-eastern New South Wales and eastern Queensland.

In cropping regions, rainfall of between 15 and 100 millimetres is expected in Queensland. Rainfall of between 10 and 50 millimetres are forecast for New South Wales cropping regions. For Victoria and Western Australia, falls of between 5 and 25 millimetres are expected. Lower totals of between 1 and 10 millimetres are forecast in 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 11 to 18 October 2018

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Issued: 11/10/2018
2. Water

2.1. Water markets - current week

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased during the week ending 11 October 2018 by 204 gigalitres (GL) to 11,585 GL and are at 51 per cent of total capacity. This is a 22 percentage points or 4,918 GL less than at the same time last year.

![Water storages in the Murray-Darling Basin, 2001–2018](image)

Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin increased in the week ending 11 October 2018 to $354 per ML. This is an increase of $3 from the same time last week. This contrasts with an average price of $317 in September across the whole southern MDB, and $122 during the same month last year.

![Allocation trade activity, All](image)

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 11 October 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>10-Oct</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>09-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>10-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>09-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>10-Oct</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>85.8</td>
<td>86.6</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>10-Oct</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>-11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>04-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,992</td>
<td>2,013</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>1,550</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>05-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,132</td>
<td>2,141</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1,608</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>02-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>10-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>10-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>01-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>10-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic livestock indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator</td>
<td>04-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>05-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>-13%</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>04-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>-4%</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>28-Sep</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>08-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>06-Oct</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>08-Oct</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>na</td>
<td></td>
<td>108</td>
<td>-14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Latest price</td>
<td>Price week prior</td>
<td>Weekly change</td>
<td>Price 12 months prior</td>
<td>Year on year change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>02-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,753</td>
<td>2,768</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>3,037</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>02-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>1,982</td>
<td>1,980</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1,895</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>02-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,468</td>
<td>3,503</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>4,109</td>
<td>-16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>02-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>5,069</td>
<td>5,294</td>
<td>-4%</td>
<td>6,504</td>
<td>-22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\* 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 9 October 2018

- **World coarse grains indicator price**
  US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
  Week ended 10 October 2018

- **World canola indicator price**
  Europe fob Hamburg
  Week ended 9 October 2018

- **World cotton indicator price**
  Cotlook ‘A’ index
  Week ended 10 October 2018
3.2. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

- Whole milk powder price 2 October 2018
- Skim milk powder price 2 October 2018
- Cheddar cheese price 2 October 2018
- Anhydrous milk fat price 2 October 2018
3.3. **Selected domestic crop indicator prices**

Grain sorghum indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 10 October 2018

Feed barley indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 10 October 2018

Feed wheat indicator price
General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
Week ended 10 October 2018

Milling wheat indicator price
ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
Week ended 2 October 2018
3.4. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

- Eastern Young Cattle Indicator
  Week ended 4 October 2018

- Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator
  Week ended 4 October 2018

- Mutton indicator price in Victoria
  (18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
  Week ended 5 October 2018

- Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard
  (60.1–75 kg)
  Week ended 28 September 2018
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 11 October 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

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