Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 17 October 2018 rainfall was recorded across all states and territories, with the heaviest falls recorded in 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 and northern and eastern Queensland, central Victoria and south-western Western Australia. Similar totals were recorded across large areas of the Northern Territory and scattered areas in South Australia.

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

- For the week ending 16 October 2018, maximum temperatures were generally average, with scattered areas above average (2°C to 4°C) across the country. Minimum temperatures were above average (2°C to 6°C) across large areas of western New South Wales and Victoria, eastern South Australia, Queensland and southern Northern Territory.

- During the next eight days, rainfall is excess of 10 millimetres is expected to be restricted to eastern New South Wales, eastern Victoria, south-eastern Queensland, the far south-west and north-west of Western Australia, western Tasmania and the far north of the Northern Territory.

- In cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 50 millimetres is expected in northern and central New South Wales and central and southern Queensland during the next eight days. Lower totals of between 1 and 10 millimetres are forecast in southern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased during the week ending 18 October 2018 by 153 gigalitres (GL) to 11,432 GL and are at 51 per cent of total capacity. This is 22 percentage points or 4,987 GL less than at the same time last year.

- Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin increased in the week ending 18 October 2018 to $359 per ML. This is an increase of $8 from the same time last week.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 17 October 2018 rainfall was recorded across all states and territories, with the heaviest falls recorded in 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, central Victoria, large areas of northern and eastern Queensland, and south-western Western Australia. Similar totals were recorded across large areas of the Northern Territory and scattered areas in South Australia.

Higher rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres were recorded in isolated parts of eastern and northern Queensland and the central coast and north-east of New South Wales. The highest recorded weekly total was 465 millimetres at Lower Springbrook Alert, in the Gold Coast hinterland of South East Queensland.

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

Rainfall analysis for the week ending 17 October 2018
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 16 October 2018, maximum temperatures were generally average, with scattered areas above average (2°C to 4°C) across the country. Maximum temperatures were below average (-2°C to -6°C) in most coastal areas of New South Wales and the south-east of Queensland. Minimum temperatures were above average (2°C to 6°C) in large areas of western New South Wales and Victoria, eastern South Australia, Queensland and southern Northern Territory.

**Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 16 October 2018**

![Maximum Temperature Anomaly Map](http://www.bom.gov.au)

**Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 16 October 2018**

![Minimum Temperature Anomaly Map](http://www.bom.gov.au)

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](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 restricted mainly to the south-east, far south-west 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 much of eastern New South Wales, eastern Victoria, much of south-eastern Queensland, the far south-west and north-west of Western Australia, western Tasmania and the far north of the Northern Territory. Heaver falls in excess of 50 millimetres are expected across parts of eastern New South Wales and the far north of the Northern Territory.

In cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 50 millimetres is expected in northern and central New South Wales and central and southern Queensland. Lower totals of between 1 and 10 millimetres are forecast in southern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western 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.
2. Water

2.1. Water markets - current week

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased during the week ending 18 October 2018 by 153 gigalitres (GL) to 11,432 GL and are at 51 per cent of total capacity. This is 22 percentage points or 4,987 GL less than at the same time last year.

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

Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin increased in the week ending 18 October 2018 to $359 per ML. This is an increase of $8 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](chart)

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 18 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>17-Oct</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>87.2</td>
<td>85.8</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>78.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>11-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,023</td>
<td>1,992</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>1,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>12-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,132</td>
<td>2,132</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>1,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>09-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>01-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>314</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>11-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>12-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>11-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>05-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>15-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>13-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep – Live wether (Muchea WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>15-Oct</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

<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>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,729</td>
<td>2,753</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>3,014</td>
<td>-9% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>1,977</td>
<td>1,982</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>1,797</td>
<td>10% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,404</td>
<td>3,468</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td>4,107</td>
<td>-17% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>5,106</td>
<td>5,069</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>6,841</td>
<td>-25% ↓</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 16 October 2018

**World coarse grains indicator price**
US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
Week ended 17 October 2018

**World canola indicator price**
Europe fob Hamburg
Week ended 16 October 2018

**World cotton indicator price**
Cotlook ‘A’ index
Week ended 17 October 2018
3.2. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

**Whole milk powder price**
16 October 2018

**Skim milk powder price**
16 October 2018

**Cheddar cheese price**
16 October 2018

**Anhydrous milk fat price**
16 October 2018

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3.3. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

- **Grain sorghum indicator price**
  - Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 17 October 2018

- **Feed barley indicator price**
  - Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 17 October 2018

- **Feed wheat indicator price**
  - General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 17 October 2018

- **Milling wheat indicator price**
  - ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
  - Week ended 9 October 2018
3.4. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

Eastern Young Cattle Indicator
Week ended 11 October 2018

Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator
Week ended 11 October 2018

Mutton indicator price in Victoria
(18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
Week ended 12 October 2018

Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard
(60.1–75 kg)
Week ended 5 October 2018

Ac/kg cwt

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

2016  2017  2018
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 18 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

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