Summary of key issues

• During the week ending 12 December 2018 rainfall was recorded across parts of northern, western and south-eastern Australia.

• In cropping regions, little or no rainfall was recorded during the week ending 12 December 2018. Falls of between 1 and 15 millimetres were recorded across scattered areas in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and parts of northern Queensland.

• For the week ending 11 December 2018, maximum and minimum temperatures were 2°C to 8°C above average across a broad band extending from tropical northern Australia through to Tasmania.

• During the next eight days, rainfall is expected across all states and territories, with the heaviest falls forecast for eastern and northern Australia.

• Two weather systems are currently coming together to create a significant weather event for eastern Australia, with the Bureau of Meteorology issuing severe weather warnings in several states.

• During the next eight days, rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres are forecast for parts of eastern New South Wales, southern Victoria, large areas of eastern and northern Queensland and parts of the far north of the Northern Territory.

• In summer cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 50 millimetres is expected across most of northern New South Wales and western areas in Queensland, with heavier falls of between 50 and 100 millimetres expected across the remainder of Queensland and the far north-east on New South Wales.

• Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased during the week ending 13 December 2018 by 202 gigalitres (GL) to 11,998 GL and are at 47 per cent of total capacity.

• Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin increased in the week ending 3 December 2018 to $381 per ML.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 12 December 2018 rainfall was recorded across parts of northern, western and south-eastern Australia. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across scattered areas of eastern New South Wales, northern and eastern Victoria, parts of northern Queensland, parts of western South Australia, parts of northern and central Western Australia, and the north of the Northern Territory.

Higher rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres were recorded across northern Queensland and the north of the Northern Territory.

In cropping regions, little or no rainfall was recorded during the week ending 12 December 2018. Falls of between 1 and 15 millimetres were recorded across scattered areas in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and parts of northern Queensland.

Rainfall analysis for the week ending 12 December 2018
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 11 December 2018, maximum and minimum temperatures were 2°C to 8°C above average across a broad band extending from tropical northern Australia through to Tasmania. For the remainder of the country maximum and minimum temperatures were generally average for the week ending 11 December 2018.

Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 11 December 2018

Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 11 December 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 across all states and territories, with the heaviest falls forecast for eastern and northern Australia.

Two weather systems are currently coming together to create a significant weather event for eastern Australia, with the Bureau of Meteorology issuing severe weather warnings in several states. A low-pressure system has formed across the southeast of the country, which has the potential to bring a month’s worth of rain over the next few days. Meanwhile, Tropical Cyclone Owen is intensifying in the Gulf of Carpentaria and is expected to strengthen and cross the Queensland coast on Friday.

An upper level trough is linking these two systems, which is likely to influence the movement of Tropical Cyclone Owen towards the east and possible the south-east of Queensland over the weekend. The trough is also expected to draw moisture in from the Tropics and Cyclone Owen, which is likely to cause heavy rainfall over a large part of eastern Australia.

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

In summer cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 50 millimetres is expected across most of northern New South Wales and western areas in Queensland, with heavier falls of between 50 and 100 millimetres expected across the remainder of Queensland and the far north-east on New South Wales.

This rainfall forecast is produced from computer models. As the model output are not altered weather forecasters, it is important to check local forecasts and warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology.

Total forecast rainfall (mm) for the period 13 to 20 December 2018
2. Water

2.1. Water markets - current week

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased during the week ending 13 December 2018 by 202 gigalitres (GL) to 11,998 GL and are at 47 per cent of total capacity. This is 34 percentage points or 6,096 GL less than at the same time last year.

Water storages in the Murray-Darling Basin, 2013–2018

Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin increased in the week ending 3 December 2018 to $381 per ML.

Surface water trade activity, Southern Murray-Darling Basin

Note: The trades shown reflect estimated market activity and do not encompass all register trades. The price line reflects value weighted average prices for the entire southern Murray-Darling Basin. Data shown is current as at Thursday 13 December 2018. ABARES has changes the data source for this output. Data is now sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology water dashboard.

## 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>12-Dec</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>-4% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>11-Dec</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>2% ↑</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>11% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>12-Dec</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>13% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>11-Dec</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>05-Dec</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>87.2</td>
<td>86.2</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
<td>83.3</td>
<td>5% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>12-Dec</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>-9% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>06-Dec</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,849</td>
<td>1,860</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>1,699</td>
<td>9% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>07-Dec</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,009</td>
<td>2,009</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>1,762</td>
<td>14% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>11-Dec</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>63% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>12-Dec</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>70% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>05-Dec</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>67% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>29-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>11% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>12-Dec</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>9% ↑</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>46% ↑</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>29-Nov</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>-10% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>07-Dec</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>-13% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>06-Dec</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>-3% ↓</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>4% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>30-Nov</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>10% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>03-Dec</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>12% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>08-Dec</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>-4% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep – Live wether (Mucheia WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>03-Dec</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>-11% ↓</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>04-Dec</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,667</td>
<td>2,599</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2,830</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>04-Dec</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>1,970</td>
<td>1,965</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1,774</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>04-Dec</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,184</td>
<td>3,252</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>3,696</td>
<td>-14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>04-Dec</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>4,755</td>
<td>4,577</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6,836</td>
<td>-30%</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 11 December 2018

World coarse grains indicator price
US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
Week ended 12 December 2018

World canola indicator price
Europe fob Hamburg
Week ended 11 December 2018

World cotton indicator price
Cotlook ‘A’ index
Week ended 5 December 2018
3.2. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

![Graphs showing the weighted average prices of whole milk powder, skim milk powder, Cheddar cheese, and Anhydrous milk fat from January to December 2018.](image-url)
3.3. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

- Grain sorghum indicator price
  Sydney, NSW
  Week ended 12 December 2018

- Feed barley indicator price
  Sydney, NSW
  Week ended 5 December 2018

- Feed wheat indicator price
  General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
  Week ended 12 December 2018

- Milling wheat indicator price
  ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
  Week ended 11 December 2018
3.4. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

- Eastern Young Cattle Indicator
  Week ended 29 November 2018

- Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator
  Week ended 6 December 2018

- Mutton indicator price in Victoria
  (18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
  Week ended 7 December 2018

- Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard
  (60.1–75 kg)
  Week ended 30 November 2018
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 13 December 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