Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 16 January 2019 rainfall was recorded across isolated areas of eastern New South Wales and large areas of northern Australia.

- In summer cropping regions, rainfall of between 5 and 25 millimetres was recorded across parts of the southern growing region in New South Wales and northern and central growing regions in Queensland during the week ending 16 January 2019. Little to no rainfall was recorded in other summer cropping regions.

- For the week ending 15 January 2019, maximum and minimum temperatures were generally well above average across much of the country. Areas of 4°C to 10°C above average maximum and minimum temperatures were recorded across vast areas of central, western and south-eastern Australia.

- A drier than average February is more likely for parts of eastern, central and western Australia. For the remainder of the country there are roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier than average February.

- The mid-month climate outlook for February 2019 to April 2019 indicates a drier than average three months is more likely for large parts of eastern and southern New South Wales, eastern Queensland, Victoria, western South Australia, Western Australia, and scattered parts of southern Northern Territory. For much of the remainder of the country, there is no strong tendency towards either wetter or drier than average conditions.

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

- In summer cropping regions, rainfall of between 1 and 10 millimetres is expected across parts of northern and eastern Queensland and southern regions of New South Wales. Little to no rainfall is expected across remaining summer cropping regions of Queensland and New South Wales.

- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased between 10 January 2019 and 17 January 2019 by 140 gigalitres (GL). Current volume of water held in storage is 11,032 GL which represents 44 per cent of total capacity.

- Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin increased from $356 per ML in the week ending 31 December 2018 to $397 per ML in the week ending 7 January 2019.

For more information or to subscribe, email Climate_Update@agriculture.gov.au
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 16 January 2019 rainfall was recorded across isolated areas of eastern New South Wales and large areas of northern Australia. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across south-eastern New South Wales, parts of eastern and northern Queensland, scattered areas of northern Western Australia, and the north of the Northern Territory. Higher rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres were recorded across scattered areas of tropical northern Australia.

In summer cropping regions, rainfall of between 5 and 25 millimetres was recorded across parts of the southern growing region in New South Wales and northern and central growing regions in Queensland during the week ending 16 January 2019. Little to no rainfall was recorded in other summer cropping regions.

Rainfall analysis for the week ending 16 January 2019
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 15 January 2019, maximum and minimum temperatures were generally well above average across much of the country. Areas of 4°C to 10°C above average maximum and minimum temperatures were recorded across vast areas of central, western and south-eastern Australia. Below average (-2°C to -4°C) minimum and maximum temperatures were recorded across parts of eastern Queensland and the far west of Western Australia.

Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 15 January 2019

Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 15 January 2019

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/

The Bureau of Meteorology’s mid-month national climate outlook suggests little signal from any of the typical Australian climate drivers, with most in a neutral phase. Therefore, local effects, such as the ocean temperatures around Australia, are likely to be the main influence on climatic conditions in Australia over the next three months.

Sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific cooled to neutral levels during December 2018. The atmospheric component of the El Niño–Southern Oscillation did not respond to the warmer waters during spring 2018, meaning an El Niño event did not become established. The Bureau’s ACCESS–S model suggests that tropical Pacific sea surface temperatures are likely to warm again and are likely to reach El Niño levels during early autumn before returning to neutral levels.

A drier than average February is more likely for parts of eastern New South Wales and Queensland, parts of south-western Victoria, north-western South Australia, large areas of southern and northern Western Australia and parts of southern Northern Territory. For the remainder of the country there are roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier than average February (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 17 January 2019).

![Chance of exceeding the median rainfall February 2019](image-url)
The rainfall outlook for February 2019 to April 2019 indicates that a drier than average three months is more likely for large parts of eastern and southern New South Wales, eastern Queensland, Victoria, western South Australia, Western Australia, and scattered parts of southern Northern Territory. For the remainder of the country, there is no strong tendency towards either wetter or drier than average conditions (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 17 January 2019).

**Chance of exceeding the median rainfall February 2019 to April 2019**
The temperature outlook for February 2019 to April 2019 indicates that daytime temperatures are more likely to be warmer than average across Australia. Night-time temperatures are also likely to be warmer than average for much of the country, with the exception of parts of central Australia, where the chances of warmer or cooler nights are roughly equal (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 17 January 2019).

**Chance of exceeding the median maximum temperature February 2019 to April 2019**

![Temperature outlook map for February 2019 to April 2019.](image1)

**Chance of exceeding the median minimum temperature February 2019 to April 2019**

![Temperature outlook map for February 2019 to April 2019.](image2)
1.4. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

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

Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres are forecast for much of south-eastern New South Wales, northern Queensland, northern Western Australia and the north of the Northern Territory. Heavier falls in excess of 50 millimetres are forecast for tropical northern Australia.

In summer cropping regions, rainfall of between 1 and 10 millimetres is expected across parts of northern and eastern Queensland and southern regions of New South Wales. Little to no rainfall is expected across other summer cropping regions of Queensland and New South Wales.

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

Total forecast rainfall (mm) for the period 17 to 24 January 2019
2. Water

2.1. Water markets - current week

Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased between 10 January 2019 and 17 January 2019 by 140 gigalitres (GL). Current volume of water held in storage is 11,032 GL which represents 44 per cent of total capacity. This is 33 percentage points or 5,406 GL less than at the same time last year.

Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin increased from $356 per ML in the week ending 31 December 2018 to $397 per ML in the week ending 7 January 2019.

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 17 January 2019, and encompasses water activity until 10 January 2019. ABARES has changed the data source for this output.

Data is now sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology water dashboard.

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-170119
## 3. Commodities

### Selected World Indicator 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>Australian Dollar – AUD/USD Exchange Rate</td>
<td>16-Jan</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>1% ⇧</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>-9% ⇩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>15-Jan</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>&lt;1% ⇧</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>5% ⇧</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>16-Jan</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>-1% ⇩</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>7% ⇧</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>15-Jan</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>-2% ⇩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>16-Jan</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>82.3</td>
<td>80.8</td>
<td>2% ⇧</td>
<td>92.1</td>
<td>-11% ⇩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>16-Jan</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>7% ⇧</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>-7% ⇩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>10-Jan</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,910</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>1,818</td>
<td>5% ⇧</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>11-Jan</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,948</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>1,888</td>
<td>3% ⇧</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Selected domestic crop indicator 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>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>15-Jan</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>-1% ⇩</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>65% ⇧</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>16-Jan</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>-1% ⇩</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>77% ⇧</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>16-Jan</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>41% ⇧</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>29-Oct</td>
<td>A$/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>16-Jan</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>-10% ⇩</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Selected domestic livestock indicator 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>Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator</td>
<td>10-Jan</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>-9% ⇩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>18-Jan</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>8% ⇧</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>8% ⇧</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>10-Jan</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>669</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>1% ⇧</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>11-Jan</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>17% ⇧</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>14-Jan</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>18% ⇧</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>15-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 (Muchea WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>03-Dec</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>-11% ⇩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>Unit</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices ¹</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>16-Jan</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,777</td>
<td>2,705</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3,010</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>16-Jan</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,405</td>
<td>1,970</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>1,818</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>16-Jan</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,504</td>
<td>3,371</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3,486</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>16-Jan</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>5,294</td>
<td>5,137</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6,547</td>
<td>-19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ 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 15 January 2019

World coarse grains indicator price
US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
Week ended 16 January 2019

World canola indicator price
Europe fob Hamburg
Week ended 15 January 2019

World cotton indicator price
Cotlook 'A' index
Week ended 16 January 2019
3.2. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

- Whole milk powder price
  - 16 January 2019

- Skim milk powder price
  - 16 January 2019

- Cheddar cheese price
  - 16 January 2019

- Anhydrous milk fat price
  - 16 January 2019
3.3. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

Grain sorghum indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 16 January 2019

Feed barley indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 16 January 2019

Feed wheat indicator price
General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
Week ended 16 January 2019

Milling wheat indicator price
ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
Week ended 15 January 2019
Canola indicator price
Portland, Victoria
Week ended 29 October 2018
3.4. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

- **Eastern Young Cattle Indicator**: Week ended 10 January 2019
  
- **Mutton indicator price in Victoria**: (18–24 kg fat score 2–3) Week ended 18 January 2019
  
- **Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator**: Week ended 10 January 2019
  
- **Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard**: (60.1–75 kg) Week ended 11 January 2019
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 17 January 2019
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

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