Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 13 February 2019 rainfall was recorded across large areas of northern Australia, as well as parts of south-eastern and south-western Australia.
- In summer cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 25 millimetres was recorded across some northern growing regions in Queensland during the week ending 13 February 2019.
- For the week ending 12 February 2019, maximum and minimum temperatures were generally 2°C to 8°C above average across large areas of northern and eastern Australia. In contrast, maximum and minimum temperatures were -2°C to -6°C below average across large areas of north-west Queensland and parts of the far south of Australia.
- For the 10-month period ending January 2019, rainfall deficiencies have increased in severity across large areas of eastern Australia. They have also increased in extent across northern Australia as a result of a delayed onset of the Australian monsoon during the summer of 2018–19 in a number of regions.
- A drier than average March is more likely for parts of north-eastern Queensland, large areas of southern and northern Western Australia and parts of central Northern Territory. For the remainder of the country there are roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier than average March.
- The mid-month climate outlook for autumn 2019 indicates a drier than average three months is more likely for parts of northern and southern New South Wales, large areas of eastern and far-western Queensland, northern Western Australia, and 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 eastern and northern Australia.
- In summer cropping regions, rainfall of between 1 and 5 millimetres is expected across northern cropping areas of Queensland.
- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 112 gigalitres (GL) between 7 February 2019 and 14 February 2019. The current volume of water held in storage is 9,889 GL, which represents 39 per cent of total capacity.
- Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin increased from $487 per ML in the week ending 28 January 2019 to $491 per ML in the week ending 4 February 2019.

ABARES Outlook 2019 - Tough choices to boost agricultural productivity and resilience
The agriculture sector’s premier information and networking event – ABARES Outlook 2019 conference on 5-6 March - is fast approaching. Find out more at www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/outlook

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

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 13 February 2019 rainfall was recorded across large areas of northern Australia, as well as parts of south-eastern and south-western Australia. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across scattered areas of eastern and central New South Wales, Victoria, large areas of Queensland, northern and south-western Western Australia, Tasmania and the north of the Northern Territory. Higher rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres were recorded across large areas of tropical northern Australia and Tasmania.

In summer cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 25 millimetres was recorded across some northern growing regions in Queensland during the week ending 13 February 2019. Lighter fall of between 1 and 10 millimetres was recorded across remaining summer cropping regions in Queensland and New South Wales.

Rainfall analysis for the week ending 13 February 2019

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Note: The rainfall analyses and associated maps utilise data contained in the Bureau of Meteorology climate database, the Australian Data Archive for Meteorology (ADAM). The analyses are initially produced automatically from real-time data with limited quality control. They are intended to provide a general overview of rainfall across Australia as quickly as possible after the observations are received. For further information go to http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/rainfall/
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 12 February 2019, maximum and minimum temperatures were generally 2°C to 8°C above average across large areas of northern and eastern Australia. In contrast, maximum and minimum temperatures were -2°C to -6°C below average across large areas of north-west Queensland and parts of the far south of Australia. Average (-2°C to 2°C) minimum and maximum temperatures were recorded across the remainder of the country.

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 deficiencies

The rainfall deficiencies presented below are sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology’s monthly ‘Drought Statement’. The Bureau of Meteorology monitors short to longer-term deficiencies through their lifecycle—from emergence through to their dissipation—with the time period of analysis increasing each month from a fixed starting point to the when the deficiencies ease.


For the 10-month period ending January 2019, rainfall deficiencies have increased in severity across large areas of eastern Australia and in extent across northern Australia, as a result of the delayed onset of the Australian monsoon during the summer of 2018–19 in a number of regions. Serious to severe rainfall deficiencies persist across large areas of northern New South Wales, parts of eastern Victoria, much of southern and parts of western Queensland, large areas of eastern South Australia, parts of southern and northern Western Australia and central part of the Northern Territory.

Serious to severe rainfall deficiencies continue to persist at longer timescales. For the 22 months starting April 2017, serious to severe rainfall deficiencies remain evident across large areas of eastern and northern New South Wales, parts of eastern Victoria, large areas of eastern South Australia, southern and western Queensland, parts of western and southern Western Australia and central part of the Northern Territory (Bureau of Meteorology ‘Drought Statement’, 5 February 2019).

Rainfall deficiencies for the 10-month period 1 April 2018 to 31 January 2019
Rainfall deficiencies for the 22-month period 1 April 2017 to 31 January 2019

Rainfall Percentile Ranking

- Serious Deficiency
- Severe Deficiency
- Lowest on Record

Rainfall Deficiencies: 22 months
1 April 2017 to 31 January 2019
Distribution based on Gridded Data
Australian Bureau of Meteorology

http://www.bom.gov.au

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Issued: 05/02/2019
1.4. 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.

A drier than average March is more likely for parts of north-eastern Queensland, large areas of southern and northern Western Australia and parts of central Northern Territory. For the remainder of the country there are roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier than average March (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 14 February 2019).

**Chance of exceeding the median rainfall March 2019**

![Map showing chance of exceeding the median rainfall for March 2019](image-url)
The rainfall outlook for autumn (March to May 2019) indicates that a drier than average three months is more likely for parts of northern and southern New South Wales, large areas of eastern and far western Queensland, northern Western Australia, and 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’, 14 February 2019).

**Chance of exceeding the median rainfall March 2019 to May 2019**
The temperature outlook for March 2019 to May 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 southern South Australia, where the chances of warmer or cooler nights are roughly equal (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 14 February 2019).

**Chance of exceeding the median maximum temperature March 2019 to May 2019**

![Map showing the chance of exceeding the median maximum temperature from March to May 2019.](image)

**Chance of exceeding the median minimum temperature March 2019 to May 2019**

![Map showing the chance of exceeding the median minimum temperature from March to May 2019.](image)
1.5. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

During the next eight days, rainfall is expected to be mainly restricted to eastern and northern Australia.

Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres are forecast for scattered of Australia’s east coast, far north Queensland, the far north of Western Australia, western Tasmania and the far north of Northern Territory. Heavier falls in excess of 50 millimetres are forecast for parts of the tropical north of Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

In summer cropping regions, rainfall of between 1 and 5 millimetres is expected across northern cropping areas of Queensland. 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 14 February to 21 February 2019
2. Water

2.1. Water markets – current week

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 112 gigalitres (GL) between 7 February 2019 and 14 February 2019. The current volume of water held in storage is 9,889 GL, which represents 39 per cent of total capacity. This is 34 percentage points or 5,103 GL less than at the same time last year.


Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin decreased from $487 per ML in the week ending 28 January 2019 to $491 per ML in the week ending 4 February 2019.

Surface water trade activity, Southern Murray–Darling Basin

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-140219
## 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>13-Feb</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>12-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>2% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>13-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>6% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>12-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>13-Feb</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>81.2</td>
<td>83.1</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td>87.3</td>
<td>-7% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>13-Feb</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>-6% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>07-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,944</td>
<td>1,934</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>1,818</td>
<td>7% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>01-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,094</td>
<td>2,092</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>1,819</td>
<td>15% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>12-Feb</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>52% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>13-Feb</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>61% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>13-Feb</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>41% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>29-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>11% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>13-Feb</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>-10% ↓</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>07-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>-12% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>08-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>-10% ↓</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>-7% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>07-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>-4% ↓</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>01-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>17% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>11-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>23% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>02-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>2% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep – Live wether (Muchea WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>03-Dec</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>na</td>
<td></td>
<td>121</td>
<td>-11% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Latest price</td>
<td>Price week prior</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>06-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,027</td>
<td>2,777</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3,226</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>06-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,534</td>
<td>2,405</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1,932</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>06-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,565</td>
<td>3,504</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3,739</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>06-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>5,579</td>
<td>5,294</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6,581</td>
<td>-15%</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 12 February 2019

- **World coarse grains indicator price**
  US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
  Week ended 13 February 2019

- **World canola indicator price**
  Europe fob Hamburg
  Week ended 12 February 2019

- **World cotton indicator price**
  Cotlook ‘A’ index
  Week ended 13 February 2019
3.2. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

- **Whole milk powder price** (6 February 2019)
- **Skim milk powder price** (6 February 2019)
- **Cheddar cheese price** (6 February 2019)
- **Anhydrous milk fat price** (6 February 2019)
3.3. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

Grain sorghum indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 13 February 2019

Feed barley indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 13 February 2019

Feed wheat indicator price
General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
Week ended 13 February 2019

Milling wheat indicator price
ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
Week ended 12 February 2019
Canola indicator price
Portland, Victoria
Week ended 29 October 2018

A$/t

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

2016  2017  2018
3.4. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

Eastern Young Cattle Indicator
Week ended 7 February 2019

Mutton indicator price in Victoria
(18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
Week ended 8 February 2019

Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator
Week ended 7 February 2019

Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard
(60.1–75 kg)
Week ended 1 February 2019
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 14 February 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