Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 20 February 2019 rainfall was recorded across large areas of northern Australia, as well as isolated parts of south-eastern and south-western Australia.

- In summer cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 25 millimetres was recorded across a small part of far northern growing regions in Queensland during the week ending 20 February 2019.

- For the week ending 19 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, minimum temperatures were -2°C to -6°C below average across central Australia and parts of the far south of Australia.

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

- In summer cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 25 millimetres is expected across northern and eastern cropping areas of Queensland.

- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 149 gigalitres (GL) between 14 February 2019 and 20 February 2019. The current volume of water held in storage is 9,740 GL, which represents 39 per cent of total capacity.

- Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin increased from $490 per ML in the week ending 4 January 2019 to $526 per ML in the week ending 11 February 2019.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 20 February 2019 rainfall was recorded across large areas of northern Australia, as well as isolated parts of south-eastern and south-western Australia. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across western Tasmania, areas of central and northern Queensland, the north of the Northern Territory and northern Western Australia. Higher rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres were recorded across scattered areas of tropical northern Australia.

In summer cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 25 millimetres was recorded across a small part of far northern growing regions in Queensland during the week ending 20 February 2019. Little to no rainfall was recorded across remaining summer cropping regions in Queensland and northern New South Wales.

Rainfall analysis for the week ending 20 February 2019
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 19 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, minimum temperatures were -2°C to -6°C below average across central Australia 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.

**Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 19 February 2019**

![Image of maximum temperature anomalies map]

**Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 19 February 2019**

![Image of minimum temperature anomalies map]

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 mainly restricted to the far east and north of Australia.

Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres are forecast for the east coast of New South Wales, the east and far north of Queensland, far northeast of Western Australia and the north of the Northern Territory. Heavier falls in excess of 50 millimetres are forecast for scattered areas of northeastern New South Wales, the east coast of Queensland, and isolated parts of northern Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

In summer cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 25 millimetres is expected across northern and eastern 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 21 to 28 February 2019
2. Water

2.1. Water markets – current week

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 149 gigalitres (GL) between 14 February 2019 and 20 February 2019. The current volume of water held in storage is 9,740 GL, which represents 39 per cent of total capacity. This is 34 percentage points or 5,011 GL less than at the same time last year.

Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin increased from $490 per ML in the week ending 4 February 2019 to $526 per ML in the week ending 11 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-210219

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 21 February 2019, and encompasses water activity until 11 February 2019. ABARES has changed the data source for this output. Data is now sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology water dashboard.
### 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>Weekly change</th>
<th>Price 12 months prior</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>20-Feb</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>-10% ↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>19-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td></td>
<td>239</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td></td>
<td>163</td>
<td>6% ↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>19-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td></td>
<td>434</td>
<td>-4% ↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>81.2</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td></td>
<td>86.8</td>
<td>-8% ↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>2% ↑</td>
<td></td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>-3% ↓</td>
<td></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></td>
<td>1,818</td>
<td>7% ↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>08-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,101</td>
<td>2,094</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,921</td>
<td>9% ↑</td>
<td></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>Weekly change</th>
<th>Price 12 months prior</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>19-Feb</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>-9% ↓</td>
<td></td>
<td>239</td>
<td>36% ↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td></td>
<td>270</td>
<td>61% ↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td></td>
<td>274</td>
<td>35% ↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>29-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td></td>
<td>536</td>
<td>11% ↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
<td></td>
<td>410</td>
<td>-9% ↓</td>
<td></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>Weekly change</th>
<th>Price 12 months prior</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>14-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>-3% ↓</td>
<td></td>
<td>525</td>
<td>-12% ↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>15-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>12% ↑</td>
<td></td>
<td>368</td>
<td>7% ↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>14-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>2% ↑</td>
<td></td>
<td>601</td>
<td>7% ↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>08-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
<td></td>
<td>277</td>
<td>18% ↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>18-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td></td>
<td>466</td>
<td>26% ↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>16-Feb</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>5% ↑</td>
<td></td>
<td>320</td>
<td>6% ↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep – Live wether (Muchea WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>18-Feb</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td></td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Latest price</td>
<td>Price week prior</td>
<td>Weekly change</td>
<td>Price 12 months prior</td>
<td>Year on year change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices (^a)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,022</td>
<td>3,027</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>3,246</td>
<td>-7% ↓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,580</td>
<td>2,534</td>
<td>2% ↑</td>
<td>1,832</td>
<td>41% ↑</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,667</td>
<td>3,565</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
<td>3,686</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>5,620</td>
<td>5,579</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>6,458</td>
<td>-13% ↓</td>
<td></td>
<td></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 19 February 2019

World coarse grains indicator price
US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
Week ended 20 February 2019

World canola indicator price
Europe fob Hamburg
Week ended 19 February 2019

World cotton indicator price
Cotlook ‘A’ index
Week ended 20 February 2019
3.2. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

Whole milk powder price 20 February 2019

Skim milk powder price 20 February 2019

Cheddar cheese price 20 February 2019

Anhydrous milk fat price 20 February 2019
3.3. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

Grain sorghum indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 20 February 2019

Feed barley indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 20 February 2019

Feed wheat indicator price
General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
Week ended 20 February 2019

Milling wheat indicator price
ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
Week ended 19 February 2019
3.4. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

Eastern Young Cattle Indicator
Week ended 14 February 2019

Mutton indicator price in Victoria
(18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
Week ended 15 February 2019

Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator
Week ended 14 February 2019

Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard
(60.1–75 kg)
Week ended 8 February 2019
Goat indicator price Eastern States
(12.1–16 kg)
Week ended 18 February 2019

Live cattle indicator price
light steers ex Darwin
Week ended 16 February 2019

Live sheep indicator price
wether ex Western Australia
Week ended 18 February 2019
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 21 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
- 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
- United States Department of Agriculture

World coarse grains

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