Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 20 March 2019 rainfall was recorded across northern, eastern and western Australia.
- In cropping regions, rainfall of between 25 and 100 millimetres was recorded across northern and south-eastern growing regions in Queensland and some northern growing regions of New South Wales during the week ending 20 March 2019. Lighter falls of between 1 and 25 millimetres were recorded across the remaining cropping regions in northern New South Wales and Queensland, as well as much of Western Australia.
- For the week ending 19 March 2019, maximum and minimum temperatures were generally above average across much of the country.
- During the next eight days, rainfall is expected across all states and territories, with the heaviest falls likely to be restricted to northern, central and eastern Australia.
- In cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 25 millimetres is expected across much of Queensland, and parts of the northern and eastern regions of New South Wales. Lower rainfall totals of are expected across remaining cropping regions of Queensland and New South Wales.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased between 13 March and 20 March 2019 by 192 gigalitres (GL). Current volume of water held in storage is 8,884 GL which represents 35 per cent of total capacity. This is 36 percentage points or 4,899 GL less than at the same time last year.
- Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin decreased from $473 per ML in the week ending 4 March 2019 to $455 per ML in the week ending 11 March 2019.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 20 March 2019 rainfall was recorded across northern, eastern and western Australia. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across eastern New South Wales, northern and eastern Queensland, northern and inland Western Australia, and the north of the Northern Territory. Higher rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres were recorded across south-eastern and north-eastern New South Wales, south-eastern and northern Queensland, parts of northern Western Australia and an isolated area of the north of the Northern Territory.

In cropping regions, rainfall of between 25 and 100 millimetres was recorded across northern and south-eastern growing regions in Queensland and some northern growing regions of New South Wales during the week ending 20 March 2019. Lighter falls of between 1 and 25 millimetres were recorded across the remaining cropping regions in northern New South Wales and Queensland, as well as much of Western Australia.

Rainfall analysis for the week ending 20 March 2019

©Commonwealth of Australia 2019, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

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 19 March 2019, maximum and minimum temperatures were generally above average across much of the country. Areas of 2°C to 8°C above average maximum temperatures were recorded across large areas of south-western, central and eastern Australia. Minimum temperatures were 2°C to 6°C above average across Western Australia, and parts of central and eastern Australia. Minimum temperatures were -2°C to -4°C below average in isolated parts of southern South Australia, western Victoria and eastern Tasmania. 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 March 2019**

[Map showing maximum temperature anomalies]

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

[Map showing minimum temperature anomalies]

*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 across all states and territories, with the heaviest falls likely to be restricted to northern, central and eastern Australia.

Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres are forecast for northern and eastern New South Wales, parts of north-eastern Victoria, much of Queensland, parts of northern Western Australia, north-eastern South Australia, western Tasmania and much of the east and north of the Northern Territory. Heavier falls in excess of 50 millimetres are forecast for the Cape York Peninsula and south-western Queensland, the north and east of the Northern Territory and part of the north-west of Western Australia.

In cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 25 millimetres is expected across much of Queensland, and parts of the northern and eastern regions of New South Wales. Lower rainfall totals of between 5 and 10 millimetres are expected across remaining cropping regions of Queensland and New South Wales and southern Western Australia.

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.

©Commonwealth of Australia 2019, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 21/03/2019
2. Water

2.1. Water markets – current week

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 192 gigalitres (GL) between 13 March and 20 March 2019. The current volume of water held in storage is 8,884 GL, which represents 35 per cent of total capacity. This is 36 percentage points or 4,899 GL less than at the same time last year.

Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin increased from $473 per ML in the week ending 4 March 2019 to $455 per ML in the week ending 11 March 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-210319
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>20-Mar</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.7</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>19-Mar</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>20-Mar</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>19-Mar</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>-4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>20-Mar</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>84.1</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>92.2</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>20-Mar</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>14-Mar</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,979</td>
<td>2,008</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>1,751</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>15-Mar</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,127</td>
<td>2,157</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>1,834</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>19-Mar</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>20-Mar</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>-7%</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>20-Mar</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>29-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>20-Mar</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>-7%</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>14-Mar</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>-30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>15-Mar</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>14-Mar</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>08-Mar</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>18-Mar</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>16-Mar</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>-12%</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep – Live wether (Muchea WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>04-Mar</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>-15%</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>20-Mar</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,317</td>
<td>3,186</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3,226</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>20-Mar</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,405</td>
<td>2,462</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>1,887</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>20-Mar</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>4,036</td>
<td>3,888</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3,609</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>20-Mar</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>5,662</td>
<td>5,837</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>6,249</td>
<td>-9%</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 March 2019

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

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

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

- Whole milk powder price
  - 20 March 2019

- Skim milk powder price
  - 20 March 2019

- Cheddar cheese price
  - 20 March 2019

- Anhydrous milk fat price
  - 20 March 2019
3.3. **Selected domestic crop indicator prices**

- **Grain sorghum indicator price**
  - Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 20 March 2019

- **Feed barley indicator price**
  - Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 20 March 2019

- **Feed wheat indicator price**
  - General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 20 March 2019

- **Milling wheat indicator price**
  - ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
  - Week ended 19 March 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 14 March 2019

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

**Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator**
- Week ended 14 March 2019

**Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard**
- (60.1–75 kg)
- Week ended 8 March 2019
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 21 March 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
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