Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 3 April 2019 rainfall was recorded across vast areas eastern Australia, and isolated parts of northern and western Australia.

- In cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 100 millimetres was recorded across Queensland, northern and south-eastern New South Wales, and central Western Australia during the week ending 3 April 2019. Lighter falls of between 1 and 10 millimetres were recorded across remaining cropping regions in New South Wales and Western Australia.

- March 2019 mean, maximum and minimum temperatures were above average for much of the country. It was the warmest March on record for Australia in terms of mean temperature. The national mean temperature was 2.1°C above average.

- Rainfall for March 2019 was variable across Australia. March rainfall was severely deficient to well below average across western Victoria, eastern Western Australia, western and southern South Australia, eastern Tasmania and western Northern Territory.

- March 2019 rainfall was well above average to extremely high for cropping regions in northern and eastern Queensland, and parts of eastern New South Wales. Below average rainfall occurred in cropping regions of Victoria, South Australia and parts Western Australia, with generally average rainfall in the remaining cropping regions.

- In cropping regions, lower layer soil moisture was generally very much below average to below average across northern New South Wales, Victoria, most of Queensland, the west and east of Western Australia and South Australia. Lower layer soil moisture was average in isolated parts of southern New South Wales, northern Queensland and central Western Australian cropping regions.

- During the next eight days, rainfall is expected across all states and territories, with the heaviest falls likely to be restricted to northern and the far east of mainland Australia, and western Tasmania.

- In cropping regions, rainfall of between 1 and 5 millimetres is expected across much of Western Australia. Little to no rainfall is expected across the cropping regions in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria.

- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased between 27 March and 4 April 2019 by 140 gigalitres (GL). Current volume of water held in storage is 8,600 GL which represents 34 per cent of total capacity. This is 36 percent or 4,840 GL less than at the same time last year.

- Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin increased from $469 per ML in the week ending 18 March 2019 to $486 per ML in the week ending 25 March 2019.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 3 April 2019 rainfall was recorded across vast areas of eastern Australia, and isolated parts of northern and western Australia. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across parts of eastern and central New South Wales, eastern and southern Victoria, much of Queensland, scattered parts of the west and north of Western Australia, western Tasmania and the far north of the Northern Territory. Higher rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres were also recorded in parts of eastern New South Wales, much of northern and central Queensland and the far north-east of the Northern Territory.

In cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 100 millimetres was recorded across Queensland, northern and south-eastern New South Wales, and central Western Australia during the week ending 3 April 2019. Lighter falls of between 1 and 10 millimetres were recorded across remaining cropping regions in New South Wales and Western Australia. Little to no rainfall was recorded across cropping regions in Victoria and South Australia.
1.2. Monthly temperatures

March 2019 mean, maximum and minimum temperatures were above average for much of the country. It was the warmest March on record for Australia in terms of mean temperature. The national mean temperature was 2.1 °C above average. Maximum temperatures were 2.4 °C above average and minimum temperatures were 1.9 °C above average. The Northern Territory and Western Australia both experienced their warmest mean monthly temperature on record for March.

Maximum temperature deciles for March 2019

Note: Maximum and minimum temperatures for March 2019 compared with temperature recorded for that period during the historical record (1900 to present). For further information go to: http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/temp/index.jsp.

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Minimum temperature deciles for March 2019

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Issued: 1/04/2019
1.3. Monthly rainfall

Rainfall for March 2019 was variable across Australia. March rainfall was severely deficient to well below average across western Victoria, eastern Western Australia, western and southern South Australia, eastern Tasmania and western Northern Territory.

At the end of March two severe tropical cyclones, Trevor and Veronica, brought extremely high rainfall to large areas of eastern Australia and parts of Western Australia. March rainfall was well above average to extremely high for parts of eastern New South Wales, north-eastern Victoria, large areas of Queensland, parts of northern and south-west Western Australia, north-eastern South Australia and eastern Northern Territory.

March 2019 rainfall was well above average to extremely high for cropping regions in northern and eastern Queensland, and parts of eastern New South Wales. Below average rainfall occurred in cropping regions of Victoria, South Australia and parts Western Australia, with generally average rainfall in the remaining cropping regions.

Rainfall percentiles for March 2019

Source: Bureau of Meteorology
Note: Rainfall for March 2019 is compared with rainfall recorded for that period during the historical record (1900 to present). For further information, go to http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/monthly/
1.4. Monthly soil moisture

Upper layer soil moisture in March 2019 was generally average to above average across New South Wales, eastern Victoria, Queensland, much of Western Australia, Tasmania, north-eastern and central South Australia, and much of the Northern Territory. In contrast, it was very much below average to below average across western Victoria, parts of north-eastern and south-eastern Western Australia, western and southern South Australia, and parts of the far north and south of the Northern Territory.

In cropping regions, upper layer soil moisture was generally average to above average across New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. It was generally below average across cropping regions in Victoria, South Australia and the far west of Western Australia.

Modelled upper layer soil moisture for March 2019

Source: Bureau of Meteorology (Australian Water Resources Assessment Landscape model)

Note: This map shows the levels of modelled upper layer soil moisture (0 to 10 centimetres) during March 2019. This map shows how modelled soil conditions during March 2019 compare with March conditions modelled over the reference period (1911 to 2015). Dark blue areas on the maps were much wetter in March 2019 than during the reference period. The dark red areas were much drier than during the reference period. The bulk of plant roots occur in the top 20 centimetres of the soil profile. Soil moisture in the upper layer of the soil profile is therefore useful indicator of the availability of water, particularly for germinating seed.
Lower layer soil moisture for March 2019 was below average across much of Australia. In contrast, it was average to above average across central and western Queensland, parts of Western Australia and the Northern Territory, and isolated areas of southern New South Wales and eastern South Australia.

In cropping regions, lower layer soil moisture was generally very much below average to below average across northern New South Wales, Victoria, most of Queensland, the west and east of Western Australia and South Australia. Lower layer soil moisture was average in isolated parts of southern New South Wales, northern Queensland and central Western Australian cropping regions.

Modelled lower layer soil moisture for March 2019

Source: Bureau of Meteorology (Australian Water Resources Assessment Landscape model)
Note: This map shows the levels of modelled lower layer soil moisture (10 to 100 centimetres) during March 2019. This map shows how modelled soil conditions during March 2019 compare with November conditions modelled over the reference period (1911 to 2015). Dark blue areas on the maps were much wetter in March 2019 than during the reference period. The dark red areas were much drier than during the reference period. The bulk of plant roots occur in the top 20 centimetres of the soil profile. The lower layer soil moisture is a larger, deeper store that is slower to respond to rainfall and tends to reflect accumulated rainfall events over longer time periods.
1.5. Rainfall deficiencies

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


For the 12-month period ending March 2019, rainfall deficiencies have decreased in central Queensland, eastern South Australia and south-eastern Northern Territory. In contrast, rainfall deficiencies generally increased in severity across southern New South Wales, parts of central Western Australia, and the central and western Northern Territory. Serious to severe rainfall deficiencies persist across much of northern and western New South Wales, parts of eastern Victoria, parts of southern Queensland, large areas of eastern South Australia, parts of southern and northern Western Australia and much of the Northern Territory.

Serious to severe rainfall deficiencies continue to persist at longer timescales. For the 24-months starting in April 2017, serious to severe rainfall deficiencies are evident across large areas of northern and central New South Wales, parts of eastern Victoria, large areas of eastern South Australia, southern and central Queensland, parts of western and southern Western Australia, and central Northern Territory (Bureau of Meteorology ‘Drought Statement’, 3 April 2019).

Rainfall deficiencies for the 12-month period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

![Rainfall Deficiencies Map](http://www.bom.gov.au)

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Issued: 03/04/2019
Rainfall deficiencies for the 24-month period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2019
1.6. 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 and the far east of mainland Australia, and western Tasmania.

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

In cropping regions, rainfall of between 1 and 5 millimetres is expected across much of Western Australia. Little to no rainfall is expected across the cropping regions in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria.

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 4 April to 11 April 2019

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Issued: 4/04/2019
2. Water

2.1. Water markets – current week

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 140 gigalitres (GL) between 27 March and 4 April 2019. The current volume of water held in storage is 8,600 GL, which represents 34 per cent of total capacity. This is 36 percent or 4,840 GL less than at the same time last year.


Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin increased from $469 per ML in the week ending 18 March 2019 to $486 per ML in the week ending 25 March 2019.

Surface water trade activity, Southern Murray–Darling Basin

Note: The trades shown reflect estimated market activity and do not encompass all registered trades. The price line reflects value weighted average prices for the entire southern Murray-Darling Basin. Data shown is current as at Thursday 4 April 2019, and encompasses water activity until 27 March 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-040419
## 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>03-Apr</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>02-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>03-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>-4%</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>02-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>03-Apr</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>86.5</td>
<td>86.2</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>90.8</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>03-Apr</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>28-Mar</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,947</td>
<td>1,963</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1,772</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>29-Mar</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,099</td>
<td>2,104</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1,871</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>02-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>03-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>03-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>29-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>03-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>0%</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>28-Mar</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>29-Mar</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>28-Mar</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>22-Mar</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>01-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>30-Mar</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwjt</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>-7%</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>-10%</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>03-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,287</td>
<td>3,317</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>3,278</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>03-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,468</td>
<td>2,405</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1,849</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>03-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>4,248</td>
<td>4,036</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3,679</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>03-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>5,867</td>
<td>5,662</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5,806</td>
<td>1%</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 2 April 2019

- World coarse grains indicator price
  - US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
  - Week ended 3 April 2019

- World canola indicator price
  - Europe fob Hamburg
  - Week ended 2 April 2019

- World cotton indicator price
  - Cotlook 'A' index
  - Week ended 3 April 2019
3.2. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

Whole milk powder price
3 April 2019

Skim milk powder price
3 April 2019

Cheddar cheese price
3 April 2019

Anhydrous milk fat price
3 April 2019
3.3. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

- **Grain sorghum indicator price**
  - Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 3 April 2019

- **Feed barley indicator price**
  - Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 3 April 2019

- **Feed wheat indicator price**
  - General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 3 April 2019

- **Milling wheat indicator price**
  - ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
  - Week ended 2 April 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 28 March 2019

**Mutton indicator price in Victoria**
(18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
Week ended 29 March 2019

**Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator**
Week ended 28 March 2019

**Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard**
(60.1–75 kg)
Week ended 22 March 2019
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 4 April 2019

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

South Australia

Victoria

Commodities

Fruit and vegetables

Pigs

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/](http://www.cotlook.com/)

World sugar
- New York Stock Exchange - Intercontinental Exchange

Wool

Milling wheat
- ProFarmer

Domestic wheat, barley, sorghum

Domestic canola
- The Weekly Times: hardcopy

Cattle, beef, mutton, lamb, goat and live export