Due to Anzac Day public holiday next week, the next Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update will be published on Friday 26 April 2019 and not Thursday 25 April 2019.

Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 17 April 2019 rainfall was recorded across large areas of Western Australia and isolated areas of northern and eastern Australia.

- In cropping regions, rainfall of between 5 and 15 millimetres was recorded during the week ending 17 April 2019 across scattered parts of northern Queensland and most of Western Australia. Little to no rainfall was recorded across cropping regions in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and remaining cropping regions in Queensland.

- For the week ending 16 April 2019, maximum and minimum temperatures were generally above average across much of western and central Australia.

- During the next eight days, little to no rainfall is expected across much of mainland Australia. Rainfall is likely to be restricted to the east, and the far north and south of mainland Australia, and Tasmania.

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

- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased between 9 April and 17 April 2019 by 82 gigalitres (GL). Current volume of water held in storage is 8,440 GL which represents 33 per cent of total capacity. This is 36 percentage points or 4,700 GL less than at the same time last year.

- Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin increased from $443 per ML in the week ending 1 April 2019 to $497 per ML in the week ending 8 April 2019.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 17 April 2019 rainfall was recorded across large areas of Western Australia and isolated areas of northern and eastern Australia.

Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres were recorded across parts of north-eastern New South Wales, isolated parts of northern and eastern Queensland, large areas of north-west and central Western Australia, parts of southern Western Australia and the far north-east of the Northern Territory. Higher rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres were also recorded in north-western Western Australia.

In cropping regions, rainfall of between 1 and 15 millimetres was recorded during the week ending 17 April 2019 across scattered parts of northern Queensland and most of Western Australia. Little to no rainfall was recorded across cropping regions in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and remaining cropping regions in Queensland.
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 16 April 2019, maximum and minimum temperatures were generally above average across much of the western and central Australia. Temperatures of 2°C to 10°C above average maximum were recorded across large parts of southern, central and western Australia. Minimum temperatures were 2°C to 8°C above average across vast areas of western Australia and parts of central Australia. Minimum temperatures were -2°C to -4°C below average in isolated parts of south-eastern 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 16 April 2019

Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 16 April 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. **Rainfall forecast for the next eight days**

During the next eight days, little to no rainfall is expected across much of mainland Australia. Rainfall is likely to be restricted to the east, and the far north and south of mainland Australia, and Tasmania. Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres are forecast for parts of coastal northern New South Wales, northern and southern Queensland, the far south-west of Western Australia, western Tasmania and the north-east of the Northern Territory. Heavier falls in excess of 50 millimetres are forecast for parts of south-eastern Queensland.

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

**Total forecast rainfall (mm) for the period 18 April to 25 April 2019**
2. Water

2.1. Water markets – current week

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 82 gigalitres (GL) between 9 April and 17 April 2019. The current volume of water held in storage is 8,440 GL, which represents 33 per cent of total capacity. This is 36 percent or 4,700 GL less than at the same time last year.

Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin increased from $443 per ML in the week ending 1 April 2019 to $497 per ML in the week ending 8 April 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-180419

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 18 April 2019, and encompasses water activity until 8 April 2019. ABARES has changed the data source for this output. Data is now sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology water dashboard.
### 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>Price 12 months prior</th>
<th>Year-on-year change</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected World Indicator Prices</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Dollar – AUD/USD Exchange Rate</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>-8% ↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>16-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>-9% ↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>-8% ↓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>16-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>-3% ↓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>87.1</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>-6% ↓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>7% ↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>11-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg</td>
<td>1,936</td>
<td>1,943</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>1,776</td>
<td>9% ↑</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>12-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg</td>
<td>2,064</td>
<td>2,095</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td>1,884</td>
<td>10% ↑</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>16-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>25% ↑</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>31% ↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>4% ↑</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>34% ↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>29-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>11% ↑</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>-7% ↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic livestock indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator</td>
<td>11-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>-5% ↓</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>-8% ↓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>12-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>11% ↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>11-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>713</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>2% ↑</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>25% ↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>05-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↑</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>27% ↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>15-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>34% ↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>13-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep – Live wether (Muchea WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>04-Mar</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>-15% ↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Latest price</td>
<td>Price week prior</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,269</td>
<td>3,287</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>3,311</td>
<td>-1%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,462</td>
<td>2,468</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1,913</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>4,319</td>
<td>4,248</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3,855</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>6,126</td>
<td>5,867</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6,120</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices a

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 16 April 2019

- **World coarse grains indicator price**
  - US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
  - Week ended 17 April 2019

- **World canola indicator price**
  - Europe fob Hamburg
  - Week ended 16 April 2019

- **World cotton indicator price**
  - Cotlook ‘A’ index
  - Week ended 17 April 2019
3.2. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

**Whole milk powder price**
17 April 2019

**Skim milk powder price**
17 April 2019

**Cheddar cheese price**
17 April 2019

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

Grain sorghum indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 17 April 2019

Feed barley indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 17 April 2019

Feed wheat indicator price
General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
Week ended 17 April 2019

Milling wheat indicator price
ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
Week ended 16 April 2019
Canola indicator price
Portland, Victoria
Week ended 29 October 2018

[Graph showing canola indicator price trends from January to December 2018, comparison of years 2016, 2017, and 2018.]
3.4. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

Eastern Young Cattle Indicator
Week ended 11 April 2019

Mutton indicator price in Victoria
(18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
Week ended 12 April 2019

Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator
Week ended 11 April 2019

Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard
(60.1–75 kg)
Week ended 5 April 2019
Goat indicator price Eastern States
(12.1–16 kg)
Week ended 15 April 2019

Live cattle indicator price
light steers ex Darwin
Week ended 13 April 2019

Live sheep indicator price
wether ex Western Australia
Week ended 4 March 2019
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 18 April 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-mmwater.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