Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 25 April 2019 rainfall was recorded across large areas of eastern Australia and isolated areas of northern and southern Australia.

- In cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 150 millimetres was recorded during the week ending 25 April 2019 across southern New South Wales and western Queensland. Lighter falls of between 1 and 10 millimetres were recorded in eastern Victoria, much of the remainder of Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. Little to no rainfall was recorded across remaining cropping regions in New South Wales and Victoria.

- For the week ending 23 April 2019, maximum and minimum temperatures were generally 2°C to 6°C above average across large parts of south-eastern Australia, and parts of north-western and central Australia. In contrast, maximum and minimum temperatures were -2°C to -6°C below average across the south-western quarter of western Australia.

- The latest rainfall outlook released by the Bureau of Meteorology suggests that a drier than average end to autumn is more likely for much of eastern Australia. In contrast, a wetter than average May is likely for the far north-eastern coast of Queensland and Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. Elsewhere across the country, there is no strong shift towards a wetter or drier than average May.

- The rainfall outlook for May to July 2019 indicates that a wetter than average three months is more likely across most of Western Australia, the Northern Territory and central Australia. Across the remainder of the country, there is no strong shift towards a wetter or drier than average three months.

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

- In cropping regions, rainfall of between 5 and 25 millimetres is expected across much of New South Wales, northern Queensland, South Australia and Victoria. Little to no rainfall is expected across the cropping regions in Western Australia and southern Queensland.

- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased between 17 April and 24 April 2019 by 187 gigalitres (GL). Current volume of water held in storage is 8,250 GL which represents 33 per cent of total capacity. This is 36 percentage points or 4,740 GL less than at the same time last year.

- Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin increased marginally from $497 per ML in the week ending 8 April 2019 to $501 per ML in the week ending 15 April 2019, although the volume traded remains low.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 25 April 2019 rainfall was recorded across large areas of eastern Australia and isolated areas of northern and southern Australia.

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

In cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 150 millimetres was recorded during the week ending 25 April 2019 across southern New South Wales and western Queensland. Lighter falls of between 1 and 10 millimetres were recorded in eastern Victoria, much of the remainder of Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. Little to no rainfall was recorded across remaining cropping regions in New South Wales and Victoria.
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 23 April 2019, maximum and minimum temperatures were generally 2°C to 6°C above average across large parts of south-eastern Australia, and parts of north-western and central Australia. In contrast, maximum and minimum temperatures were -2°C to -6°C below average across the south-western quarter of western 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 23 April 2019

Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 23 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. 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.

For further information, go to http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/about/

Sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean have been hovering around the El Niño threshold for approximately two months, however the atmosphere has yet to show a consistent El Niño-like response. The majority of international climate models indicate that sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific are likely to remain at or above El Niño thresholds heading into the Australian winter before returning to neutral values as spring approaches.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is forecast to remain neutral throughout the outlook period. This means the IOD has little influence on this outlook.

With Australia’s major climate drivers remaining neutral, secondary influences are likely to be influencing this outlook. The Bureau’s climate model indicates higher than average pressure is likely over eastern Australia, particularly during May. This increases the chance of warmer and drier than average weather. It is also likely to be directing stronger onshore flow over the far north coast of Queensland, contributing to the wetter than average outlook for this region.

The latest rainfall outlook released by the Bureau of Meteorology suggests that a drier than average end to autumn is more likely for much of eastern Australia. In contrast, a wetter than average May is likely for the far north-eastern coast of Queensland and Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. Elsewhere across the country, there is no strong shift towards a wetter or drier than average May (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 26 April 2019).

Chance of exceeding the median rainfall May 2019
The rainfall outlook for May to July 2019 indicates that a wetter than average three months is more likely across most of Western Australia, the Northern Territory and central Australia. However, it is a seasonally dry time of year for much of this region, meaning only a small amount of rainfall is needed during this period to exceed the median. Across the remainder of the country, there is no strong shift towards a wetter or drier than average three months (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 26 April 2019).

Chance of exceeding the median rainfall May to July 2019
The temperature outlook for May to July 2019 indicates that daytime temperatures are more likely to be warmer than average for much of the country, except the far southwest coast, with a very high chance (greater than 80%) across large parts of eastern and northern Australia. Night-time temperatures are also likely to be warmer than average for May to July, however, the forecast drier than average conditions could bring more cloud-free nights, increasing the risk of frost in susceptible areas (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 26 April 2019).

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

![Temperature Map](image1)

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

![Temperature Map](image2)
1.4. 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 eastern Queensland, and the far north and south-east of mainland Australia, and Tasmania.

Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres are forecast for parts of southern New South Wales, northern and eastern Queensland, Victoria, the far south-east of South Australia, Tasmania and the north of the Northern Territory. Heavier falls in excess of 50 millimetres are forecast for parts of eastern and northern Queensland and western Tasmania.

In cropping regions, rainfall of between 5 and 25 millimetres is expected across much of New South Wales, northern Queensland, South Australia and Victoria. Little to no rainfall is expected across the cropping regions in Western Australia and southern Queensland.

Total forecast rainfall (mm) for the period 26 April to 3 May 2019

©Commonwealth of Australia 2019, Australian Bureau of Meteorology
Issued: 26/04/2019
Note: 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.
2. Water

2.1. Water markets – current week

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 187 gigalitres (GL) between 17 April and 24 April 2019. The current volume of water held in storage is 8,250 GL, which represents 33 per cent of total capacity. This is 36 percent or 4,740 GL less than at the same time last year.


Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin increased marginally from $497 per ML in the week ending 8 April 2019 to $501 per ML in the week ending 15 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-260419

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 Friday 26 April 2019, and encompasses water activity until 15 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>
</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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Dollar – AUD/USD Exchange Rate</td>
<td>24-Apr</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>-8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>23-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>-11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>24-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>-9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>23-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>24-Apr</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>87.7</td>
<td>87.1</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>24-Apr</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>18-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,943</td>
<td>1,936</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1,825</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>19-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,065</td>
<td>2,064</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1,934</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>23-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>24-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>24-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>-4%</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>29-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>24-Apr</td>
<td>A$/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>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>19-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>19-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>342</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>20-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep – Live wether (Muchea WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>04-Mar</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>-15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Latest price</td>
<td>Price week prior</td>
<td>Weekly change</td>
<td>Price 12 months prior</td>
<td>Year on year change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,269</td>
<td>3,287</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>3,311</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td></td>
</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>

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 23 April 2019

- World coarse grains indicator price
  US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
  Week ended 24 April 2019

- World canola indicator price
  Europe fob Hamburg
  Week ended 23 April 2019

- World cotton indicator price
  Cotlook 'A' index
  Week ended 24 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 24 April 2019

- Feed barley indicator price
  - Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 24 April 2019

- Feed wheat indicator price
  - General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 24 April 2019

- Milling wheat indicator price
  - ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
  - Week ended 23 April 2019
Canola indicator price
Portland, Victoria
Week ended 29 October 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 19 April 2019

- Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator
  Week ended 11 April 2019

- Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard
  (60.1–75 kg)
  Week ended 19 April 2019
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 26 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
- 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