Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 1 May 2019 rainfall was recorded across part of north-eastern Australia and scattered areas of northern, central and southern Australia.

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

- April 2019 mean maximum and minimum temperatures were above average for much of the country. It was the equal-seventh-warmest April on record for Australia in terms of mean temperature. The national mean temperature was 1.35 °C above average.

- Rainfall for April 2019 was very much below average to well below average across much of south-eastern and central mainland Australia. Rainfall was very much below average across much of eastern and parts of western New South Wales, much of Victoria, and parts of south-eastern Queensland and south-eastern South Australia.

- April 2019 rainfall was well above average to extremely high for cropping regions in western Queensland. Very much below average to well below average rainfall was recorded in cropping regions of northern and central New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and south-eastern Queensland, with average rainfall in the remaining cropping regions.

- In cropping regions lower layer soil moisture for April 2019 was generally very much below average to below average across Victoria and South Australia. In contrast, lower layer soil moisture was generally average to above average in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia.

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

- In cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 50 millimetres is expected across much of New South Wales, southern Queensland, isolated areas in South Australia and eastern and central Victoria. Little to no rainfall is expected across cropping regions in Western Australia and northern Queensland.

- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased between 24 April and 29 April 2019 by 102 gigalitres (GL). The current volume of water held in storage is 8,150 GL which represents 32 per cent of total capacity. This is 37 percentage points or 4,750 GL less than at the same time last year.

- Allocation prices in the southern Murray-Darling Basin increased from $553 per ML in the week ending 22 April 2019 to $592 per ML in the week ending 29 April 2019, although the volume traded remains low.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 1 May 2019 rainfall was recorded across parts of north-eastern Australia and scattered areas of northern, central and southern Australia.

Rainfall of between 5 and 25 millimetres were recorded across parts of western New South Wales, southern Victoria, central and eastern Queensland, the far north and south of Western Australia, southern South Australia, western Tasmania and scattered areas of the Northern Territory. Higher rainfall in excess of 50 millimetres were recorded across parts of eastern Queensland and western Tasmania.

In cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 100 millimetres was recorded during the week ending 1 May 2019 across northern Queensland, western South Australia and eastern Western Australia. Lighter falls of between 1 and 10 millimetres were recorded in southern New South Wales, central Victoria, southern Queensland and eastern South Australia. Little to no rainfall was recorded across remaining cropping regions in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia.

Rainfall for the week ending 1 May 2019

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Note: The rainfall analyses and associated maps utilise data contained in the Bureau of Meteorology climate database, the Australian Data Archival 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. Monthly temperatures

April 2019 mean maximum and minimum temperatures were above average for much of the country. It was the equal-seventh-warmest April on record for Australia in terms of mean temperature. The national mean temperature was 1.4 °C above average. Mean maximum temperatures were 1.5 °C above average and mean minimum temperatures were 1.2 °C above average. Monthly mean temperatures in New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory were amongst the ten warmest on record.

**Maximum temperature deciles for April 2019**

![Map showing temperature deciles for April 2019]

**Minimum temperature deciles for April 2019**

![Map showing temperature deciles for April 2019]

1.3. Monthly rainfall

Rainfall for April 2019 was very much below average to well below average across much of south-eastern and central mainland Australia. Rainfall was very much below average across much of eastern and parts of western New South Wales, much of Victoria, and parts of south-eastern Queensland and south-eastern South Australia. Well below average rainfall was experienced across part of western Queensland, northern South Australia and the southern half of the Northern Territory.

April rainfall was well above average to extremely high for north-western New South Wales, parts of central and northern Queensland, the north-west of Western Australia and north of the Northern Territory.

April rainfall was well above average to extremely high for cropping regions in western Queensland. Very much below average to well below average rainfall was recorded in cropping regions of northern and central New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and south-eastern Queensland, with average rainfall in the remaining cropping regions.

Rainfall percentiles for April 2019

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

Note: Rainfall for April 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/jsp/awap/
1.4. Monthly soil moisture

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

In cropping regions, upper layer soil moisture was generally average to above average across parts of southern New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. It was generally very much below average to below average across remaining cropping regions in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

Modelled upper layer soil moisture for April 2019
Lower layer soil moisture for April 2019 was very much below average to below average across north-eastern New South Wales, Victoria, part of eastern Western Australia, much of South Australia and much of the centre and south of the Northern Territory. In contrast, it was average to very much above average across much of New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, parts of eastern South Australia and the east and north of the Northern Territory.

In cropping regions, lower layer soil moisture was very much below average to below average across Victoria, South Australia and isolated parts of New South Wales and southern Western Australia. Lower layer soil moisture in cropping regions was average to above average across much of New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australian.

*Modelled lower layer soil moisture for April 2019*

Source: Bureau of Meteorology ([Australian Water Resources Assessment Landscape model](https://www.bom.gov.au/products/14208/10593/))

Note: This map shows the levels of modelled lower layer soil moisture (10 to 100 centimetres) during April 2019. This map shows how modelled soil conditions during April 2019 compare with conditions modelled over the reference period (1911 to 2015). Dark blue areas on the maps were much wetter in April 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 forecast for the next eight days

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

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

In cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 50 millimetres is expected across much of New South Wales, southern Queensland, isolated areas in South Australia and eastern and central Victoria. Little to no rainfall is expected across cropping regions in Western Australia and northern Queensland.

The rainfall that is forecast for the south-eastern quarter of mainland Australia is very timely following a particularly dry April across large areas of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and south-eastern Queensland. If the widespread rainfall eventuates as forecast over the coming 8 days it is likely to provide sufficient soil moisture to allow the germination and establishment of the dry-sown winter crop across New South Wales and Victoria. It may also initiate additional plantings and provide a welcome boost for crops that germinated on earlier falls.

Total forecast rainfall (mm) for the period 2 May to 9 May 2019

©Commonwealth of Australia 2019, Australian Bureau of Meteorology
Issued: 2/05/2019
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 in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 102 gigalitres (GL) between 24 April and 29 April 2019. The current volume of water held in storage is 8,150 GL, which represents 32 per cent of total capacity. This is 37 percent or 4,750 GL less than at the same time last year.

![Water storages in the Murray-Darling Basin, 2013–2019](image)

Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin increased from $553 per ML in the week ending 22 April 2019 to $592 per ML in the week ending 29 April 2019, although the volume traded remains low.

![Surface water trade activity, Southern Murray-Darling Basin](image)

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 2 May 2019, and encompasses water activity until 29 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>01-May</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>-8%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>30-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>-17%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>01-May</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>-12%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>30-Apr</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>01-May</td>
<td>USC/lb</td>
<td>86.8</td>
<td>87.7</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>93.2</td>
<td>-7%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>01-May</td>
<td>USC/lb</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>18-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,943</td>
<td>1,936</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1,825</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>19-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,065</td>
<td>2,064</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1,934</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>30-Apr</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>01-May</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>01-May</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>29-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>01-May</td>
<td>A$/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>26-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>13%</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>29-Apr</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>27-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>29-Apr</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>-8%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Latest price</td>
<td>Price week prior</td>
<td>Weekly change</td>
<td>Price 12 months prior</td>
<td>Year on year change</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>US$/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$/t</td>
<td>2,468</td>
<td>2,462</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>1,913</td>
<td>29% ↑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>US$/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 30 April 2019

- World coarse grains indicator price
  US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
  Week ended 1 May 2019

- World canola indicator price
  Europe fob Hamburg
  Week ended 30 April 2019

- World cotton indicator price
  Cotlook ’A’ index
  Week ended 1 May 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 1 May 2019

Feed barley indicator price
Sydney, NSW
Week ended 1 May 2019

Feed wheat indicator price
General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
Week ended 1 May 2019

Milling wheat indicator price
ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
Week ended 30 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 11 April 2019

Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator
Week ended 11 April 2019

Mutton indicator price in Victoria
(18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
Week ended 26 April 2019

Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard
(60.1–75 kg)
Week ended 19 April 2019

Ac/kg cwt
Jan  Feb  Mar  Apr  May  Jun  Jul  Aug  Sep  Oct  Nov  Dec

2017  2018  2019

Ac/kg cwt
Jan  Feb  Mar  Apr  May  Jun  Jul  Aug  Sep  Oct  Nov  Dec

2017  2018  2019
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 2 May 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

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