Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 15 May 2019 rainfall was mainly restricted to parts of south-eastern mainland Australia, scattered areas of eastern Queensland and Tasmania. Little to no rainfall was recorded across the remainder of Australia.

- In cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 50 millimetres was recorded during the week ending 15 May 2019 across Victoria and South Australia. Lighter falls of between 1 and 10 millimetres were recorded in southern New South Wales cropping regions. Little to no rainfall was recorded across remaining cropping regions in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia.

- The latest rainfall outlook released by the Bureau of Meteorology suggests that a drier than average June is more likely for much of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, northern and far south-west Western Australia, parts of South Australia, northern Tasmania and the south of the Northern Territory. There is no strong shift towards a wetter or drier than average June for the remainder of the country.

- The rainfall outlook for June to August 2019 indicates that a drier than average winter is more likely across most of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, northern Tasmania, northern Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Across the remainder of the country, there is no strong shift towards a wetter or drier than average three months.

- In cropping regions, rainfall outlook scenarios with a 75% chance of occurring indicate that totals of between 25 and 100 millimetres is expected across New South Wales and Victoria between June and August 2019. Meanwhile, falls of between 50 and 200 millimetres are expected for cropping regions in South Australia and Western Australia.

- The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is forecast to become positive from early winter. A positive IOD event typically brings drier conditions to much of southern and central Australia during winter-spring, meaning much of the winter dry signal is likely influenced by the forecast positive IOD.

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

- In cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 50 millimetres is expected across much of western South Australia and southern Western Australia. Lighter falls of between 1 and 10 millimetres are expected in southern New South Wales, Victoria and remaining cropping regions in South Australia and Western Australia. Little to no rainfall is expected for remaining cropping regions in New South Wales and Queensland.

- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased between 9 May and 15 May 2019 by 27 gigalitres (GL). The 8,260 GL in storage is 33 per cent of total capacity. This is 36 percentage points or 4,660 GL less than at the same time last year.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 15 May 2019 rainfall was mostly restricted to parts of south-eastern mainland Australia, scattered areas of eastern Queensland and Tasmania. Little to no rainfall was recorded across the rest of Australia.

Rainfall of between 10 and 50 millimetres was recorded across parts of southern New South Wales, much of Victoria, scattered areas of eastern Queensland, southern South Australia and much of Tasmania. Higher rainfall in excess of 50 millimetres was recorded across isolated parts of central Victoria and north-western Tasmania.

In cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 50 millimetres was recorded during the week ending 15 May 2019 across Victoria and South Australia. Lighter falls of between 1 and 10 millimetres were recorded in southern New South Wales cropping regions. Little to no rainfall was recorded across remaining cropping regions in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia.

Rainfall for the week ending 15 May 2019
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending Error! Reference source not found. May 2019, maximum temperatures were -2°C to -4°C below average across parts of central and eastern Australia. Minimum temperatures were -2°C to -6°C below average across large areas of western, central and north-eastern Australia. In contrast, maximum temperatures were 2°C to 4°C above average across parts of southern 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 14 May 2019

Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 14 May 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/

The current El Niño–like warmth in the central tropical Pacific Ocean is forecast to cool towards more ENSO-neutral levels in the coming months. As a result, the drying influence on Australian climate from a warm tropical Pacific will reduce over the next three months. However, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is forecast to become positive from early winter. A positive IOD event typically brings drier conditions to much of southern and central Australia during winter-spring, meaning much of the winter dry signal is likely influenced by the forecast positive IOD.

The Bureau's climate model also indicates that atmospheric pressures over much of southern and eastern Australia is likely to be higher than normal, with this signal strongest in June. This increases the chance of drier and warmer than average weather over much of southern and eastern Australia, and may keep cold fronts further to the south than normal.

The latest rainfall outlook released by the Bureau of Meteorology suggests that a drier than average June is more likely for much of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, northern and far south-west Western Australia, parts of South Australia, northern Tasmania and the south of the Northern Territory. There is no strong shift towards a wetter or drier than average June for the remainder of the country (Bureau of Meteorology ‘National Climate Outlook’, 16 May 2019).

Chance of exceeding the median rainfall June 2019
The Bureau of Meteorology’s climate outlooks are given as a probability (or chance) of exceeding a specified threshold. In the case of the Bureau’s rainfall outlook, it is provided as the chance of rainfall being above median, expressed as a percentage. While this probabilistic rainfall outlook indicates that the chance of exceeding median rainfall is quite low, it does not mean that large areas of eastern Australia will receive no rainfall during the 2019 winter.

The rainfall outlook for June to August 2019 indicates that a drier than average winter is more likely across most of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, northern Tasmania, northern Western Australia and the Northern Territory. 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’, 16 May 2019).

**Chance of exceeding the median rainfall June to August 2019**

![Image of Australia showing the chance of exceeding the median rainfall June to August 2019](image-url)
There is still a significant chance that areas unlikely to exceed median rainfall will receive rainfall sufficient to sustain crop and pasture production. In cropping regions, for example, there is a 75% chance of receiving between 25 and 100 millimetres across much of New South Wales and Victoria between June and August 2019. There is a similar probability of receiving between 50 and 200 millimetres for cropping regions in South Australia and Western Australia.

Rainfall totals that have a 75% chance of occurring June to August 2019
The temperature outlook for June to August 2019 indicates that daytime temperatures are more likely to be warmer than average for much of the country, except for the far north-east coast. Night-time temperatures are also likely to be warmer than average for Western Australia, parts of the north, much of the eastern coast and Tasmania. 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’, 16 May 2019).

**Chance of exceeding the median maximum temperature June to August 2019**

**Chance of exceeding the median minimum temperature June to August 2019**
1.4. **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 central, far north, far south-west and the eastern coast of mainland Australia, and Tasmania.

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

In cropping regions, rainfall of between 10 and 50 millimetres is expected across much of western South Australia and southern Western Australia. Lighter falls of between 1 and 10 millimetres are expected in southern New South Wales, Victoria and remaining cropping regions in South Australia and Western Australia. Little to no rainfall is expected for remaining cropping regions in New South Wales and Queensland.

**Total forecast rainfall (mm) for the period 16 May to 23 May 2019**
2. Water

2.1. Water markets – current week

Water storage in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 27 gigalitres (GL) between 9 May and 16 May 2019. The current volume of water held in storage is 8,260 GL, which represents 33 per cent of total capacity. This is 36 percent or 4,660 GL less than at the same time last year.

Allocation prices in the southern Murray–Darling Basin increased from $550 per ML in the week ending 29 April 2019 to $595 per ML in the week ending 6 May 2019, although the volume traded remains low.

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-160519

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 16 May 2019, and encompasses water activity until 6 May 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>Year-on-year change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Dollar – AUD/USD Exchange Rate</td>
<td>15-May</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>-7% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>14-May</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>-18% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>08-May</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>2% ↑</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>-9% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>14-May</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index</td>
<td>15-May</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>79.0</td>
<td>84.3</td>
<td>-6% ↓</td>
<td>93.0</td>
<td>-15% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>15-May</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>4% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>09-May</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,952</td>
<td>1,960</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>1,891</td>
<td>3% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>10-May</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>2,062</td>
<td>2,093</td>
<td>-1% ↓</td>
<td>2,018</td>
<td>2% ↑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Selected domestic crop indicator 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>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>14-May</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>-11% ↓</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>-10% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>15-May</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>-3% ↓</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>16% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>15-May</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>15% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Portland, Vic.</td>
<td>29-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>11% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>15-May</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>-12% ↓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Selected domestic livestock indicator 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>Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator</td>
<td>09-May</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>2% ↑</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>10-May</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>23% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>09-May</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>28% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>03-May</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>30% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>13-May</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>40% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>11-May</td>
<td>Ac/kg lwt</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep – Live wether (Muchea WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>13-May</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>23% ↑</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>42% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Dollar – AUD/USD Exchange Rate</td>
<td>15-May</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0% ●</td>
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<tr>
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<td>---------------------------------</td>
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<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Whole milk powder</td>
<td>07-May</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,249</td>
<td>3,269</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>3,231</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>07-May</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,521</td>
<td>2,462</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1,999</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>07-May</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>4,217</td>
<td>4,319</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>4,024</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>07-May</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>6,217</td>
<td>6,126</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>6,032</td>
<td>3%</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 14 May 2019*

### World coarse grains indicator price

*US corn No. 2, fob Gulf*  
*Week ended 8 May 2019*

### World canola indicator price

*Europe fob Hamburg*  
*Week ended 14 May 2019*

### World cotton indicator price

*Cotlook ‘A’ index*  
*Week ended 15 May 2019*
3.2. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

- Whole milk powder price
  - 7 May 2019

- Skim milk powder price
  - 7 May 2019

- Cheddar cheese price
  - 7 May 2019

- Anhydrous milk fat price
  - 7 May 2019
3.3. **Selected domestic crop indicator prices**

**Grain sorghum indicator price**  
Sydney, NSW  
Week ended 15 May 2018

**Feed barley indicator price**  
Sydney, NSW  
Week ended 15 May 2019

**Feed wheat indicator price**  
General Purpose, Sydney, NSW  
Week ended 15 May 2018

**Milling wheat indicator price**  
ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA  
Week ended 14 May 2019
3.4. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

**Eastern Young Cattle Indicator**
Week ended 9 May 2019

**Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator**
Week ended 9 May 2019

**Mutton indicator price in Victoria**
(18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
Week ended 10 May 2019

**Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard**
(60.1–75 kg)
Week ended 3 May 2019
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 16 May 2019

Weekly wholesale prices for:
- **Blueberry**
- **Pineapple (smoothleaf)**
- **Watermelon (seedless)**
- **Banana (cavendish)**

Index Dec-13=100

Weekly wholesale prices for:
- **Kiwifruit (hayward)**
- **Strawberry**
- **Apple (royal gala)**
- **Avocado (hass)**

Index Dec-13=100

Weekly wholesale prices for:
- **Onion (brown)**
- **Cauliflower**
- **Tomato (gourmet)**
- **Potato (white, brushed)**

Index Dec-13=100

Weekly wholesale prices for:
- **Broccoli**
- **Lettuce (iceberg)**
- **Pumpkin (grey bulk)**
- **Bean (round, stringless)**

Index Dec-13=100
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