Summary of key issues

- During the week ending 30 October 2019 rainfall was restricted to parts of northern, eastern and southern Australia.
- Across cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 5 to 25 millimetres were recorded across isolated areas of western Queensland, south-western Victoria and eastern Western Australia. Little to no rainfall was recorded across cropping regions New South Wales, South Australia, and remaining cropping regions in Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia.
- While the harvesting of winter crop is well underway in some winter cropping regions, rainfall during October would still benefit crops that are yet to ripen in southern growing regions.
- Over the next eight days, rainfall is expected over parts of northern, south-eastern and far south-western Australia.
- Across Australia’s cropping regions, the 8-day rainfall forecast indicates that falls of between 5 and 25 millimetres are expected across northern and central New South Wales, much of Queensland and Victoria, and parts of Western Australia and eastern South Australia. Heavier falls of between 25 and 50 millimetres are forecast for cropping regions in southern New South Wales and eastern Victoria.
- Given soil moisture profiles in most of the summer cropping regions of Australia remain at, or near, record low levels, it is unlikely that this forecast rainfall event would deliver sufficient rainfall to initiate sowing of dryland summer crops.
- While the substantial rainfall forecast for southern New South Wales may benefit summer active pasture species and improve soil moisture, areas reliant on temperate winter active pastures are likely to see little improvement in pasture production. If these heavier falls eventuate, it may also disrupt crop and fodder harvest activities in southern and central New South Wales and northern Victoria.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased between 22 October and 30 October 2019 by 82 gigalitres (GL). Current volume of water held in storage is 9,949 GL which represents 39 per cent of total capacity. This is 25 percentage points or 3,303 GL less than at the same time last year.
- Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from $950 per ML on 23 October 2019 to $970 per ML on 31 October 2019.
- Due to content management system updates, next week on 7 November 2019 the Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update will be released as a PDF via email to subscribers. Online publishing will resume on 14 November 2019.
1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

During the week ending 30 October 2019 rainfall was restricted to parts of northern, eastern and southern Australia.

Across cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 5 to 25 millimetres were recorded across isolated areas of western Queensland, south-western Victoria and eastern Western Australia. Little to no rainfall was recorded across cropping regions New South Wales, South Australia, and remaining cropping regions in Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia.

While the harvesting of winter crop is well underway in some areas, rainfall during October would still benefit crops that are yet to ripen in southern growing regions. The planting of dryland summer crops in New South Wales and Queensland has been limited during September and early October due to persistent hot and dry conditions and subsequent low soil moisture.

Rainfall for the week ending 30 October 2019
1.2. Temperature anomalies this week

For the week ending 29 October 2019, maximum temperatures were 2°C to 8°C above average across southern Australia. Similarly, minimum temperatures were 2°C to 8°C above average across large areas of eastern and 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 29 October 2019**

![Maximum temperature anomalies map](http://www.bom.gov.au)

**Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 29 October 2019**

![Minimum temperature anomalies map](http://www.bom.gov.au)

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/isp/swsp/temp/index.jsp](http://www.bom.gov.au/isp/swsp/temp/index.jsp).
1.3. **Rainfall forecast for the next eight days**

Over the next eight days, rainfall is expected over parts of northern, south-eastern and far south-western Australia.

Rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres are forecast for much of New South Wales, Victoria, southern Queensland, the far south-west of Western Australia, Tasmania and north of the Northern Territory. Higher rainfall totals up to 100 millimetres are forecast for parts of eastern Victoria, western Tasmania and the far north of the Northern Territory.

In cropping regions, rainfall of between 5 and 25 millimetres is expected across northern and central New South Wales, much of Queensland and Victoria, and parts of Western Australia and eastern South Australia. Heavier falls of between 25 and 50 millimetres are forecast for cropping regions in southern New South Wales and eastern Victoria. Little to no rainfall is expected across remaining cropping regions in western South Australia and Western Australia.

Given soil moisture profiles in most of the summer cropping regions of Australia remain at, or near, record low levels, most cropping regions will require widespread heavy rainfall of between 100 and 150 millimetres to replenish soil moisture levels to a point where producers would be confident to commence sowing. It is unlikely that this forecast rainfall event would deliver sufficient rainfall to initiate sowing. Traditionally, summer crops can be planted in either the early planting window that closes at the end of October or the late planting window, which runs from early December to early or mid-January, depending on the location.

While the substantial rainfall forecast for southern New South Wales may benefit summer active pasture species and improve soil moisture, areas reliant on temperate winter active pastures are likely to see little improvement in pasture production. If these heavier falls eventuate, it may also disrupt crop and fodder harvest activities in southern and central New South Wales and northern Victoria.

**Total forecast rainfall (mm) for the period 31 October to 7 November 2019**

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Issued: 31/10/2019

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 82 gigalitres (GL) between 22 October and 20 October 2019. The current volume of water held in storage is 9,949 GL, which represents 39% of total capacity. This is 25% or 3,303 GL less than at the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the BOM.

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

Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from $950 per ML on 23 October 2019 to $970 per ML on 31 October 2019. Binding trade limits, maturing almond trees and dry seasonal conditions, have left the catchments below the Barmah Choke exposed to high water prices. Prices in other catchments in the southern Murray-Darling Basin remain lower (see table).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>$/ML</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW Murray Above</td>
<td>610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Murrumbidgee</td>
<td>705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIC Goulburn-Broken</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIC Murray Below</td>
<td>970</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Surface water trade activity, Southern Murray–Darling Basin

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

The trades shown reflect estimated market activity and do not encompass all register trades. The price is shown for the VIC Murray below the Barmah choke. Historical prices (before 1 July 2019) are ABARES estimates after removing outliers from BOM water register data. Prices after 1 July 2019 and prior to the 30 October 2019 reflect recorded transaction prices as sourced from Ruralco. Prices after the 30 October 2019 are sourced from Waterflow. Data for volume traded is sourced from the BOM water register. Data shown is current at 31 October 2019.

### 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><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>30-Oct</td>
<td>US$/A$</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>-4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf</td>
<td>29-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Grains – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf</td>
<td>30-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola – Rapeseed, Europe, fob Hamburg</td>
<td>29-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton – Cotlook ‘A’ Index</td>
<td>30-Oct</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td>75.1</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>86.8</td>
<td>-13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract</td>
<td>30-Oct</td>
<td>USc/lb</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Eastern Market Indicator</td>
<td>24-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,545</td>
<td>1,517</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1,874</td>
<td>-18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool – Western Market Indicator</td>
<td>25-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg clean</td>
<td>1,672</td>
<td>1,621</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2,033</td>
<td>-18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic crop indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling Wheat – ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA</td>
<td>29-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Wheat – General purpose, Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>30-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>-16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Barley – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>30-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>-6%</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>-17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum – Sydney, NSW</td>
<td>30-Oct</td>
<td>A$/t</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>-16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selected domestic livestock indicator prices</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator</td>
<td>24-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic</td>
<td>25-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator</td>
<td>24-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>772</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers &amp; sellers</td>
<td>18-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)</td>
<td>28-Oct</td>
<td>Ac/kg cwt</td>
<td>874</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia</td>
<td>26-Oct</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live sheep – Live wether (Muchea WA saleyard) to Middle East</td>
<td>21-Oct</td>
<td>$/head</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>-20%</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>15-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,133</td>
<td>3,141</td>
<td>&lt;1% ↓</td>
<td>2,729</td>
<td>15% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Skim milk powder</td>
<td>15-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>2,743</td>
<td>2,674</td>
<td>3% ↑</td>
<td>1,977</td>
<td>39% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Cheddar cheese</td>
<td>15-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>3,636</td>
<td>3,717</td>
<td>-2% ↓</td>
<td>3,404</td>
<td>7% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat</td>
<td>15-Oct</td>
<td>US$/t</td>
<td>5,065</td>
<td>4,997</td>
<td>1% ↑</td>
<td>5,106</td>
<td>&lt;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 29 October 2019

**World coarse grains indicator price**
US corn No. 2, fob Gulf
Week ended 30 October 2019

**World canola indicator price**
Europe fob Hamburg
Week ended 29 October 2019

**World cotton indicator price**
Cotlook 'A' index
Week ended 30 October 2019
3.2. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

- Whole milk powder price (15 October 2019)
- Skim milk powder price (15 October 2019)
- Cheddar cheese price (15 October 2019)
- Anhydrous milk fat price (15 October 2019)
3.3. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

- **Grain sorghum indicator price**
  - Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 30 October 2019

- **Feed barley indicator price**
  - Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 30 October 2019

- **Feed wheat indicator price**
  - General Purpose, Sydney, NSW
  - Week ended 30 October 2019

- **Milling wheat indicator price**
  - ASW1, track quote, Port Adelaide, SA
  - Week ended 29 October 2019
3.4. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

**Eastern Young Cattle Indicator**
Week ended 24 October 2019

**Mutton indicator price in Victoria**
(18–24 kg fat score 2–3)
Week ended 25 October 2019

**Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator**
Week ended 24 October 2019

**Pig indicator price Eastern Seaboard**
(60.1–75 kg)
Week ended 18 October 2019
3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices – week ended 31 October 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

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