

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update



No. 42/2022

27 October 2022

Summary of key issues

- For the week ending 26 October 2022, a low-pressure system and associated cold front over inland Australia brought extensive rainfall to eastern Australia and southern parts of Western Australia. Weekly rainfall totals exceeding 50 millimetres were observed in much of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania as well as parts of South Australia and the Northern Territory. Heavy rain across New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania has led to major flooding events across several river catchments. The flooding in low-lying areas has caused damage to agricultural and transport infrastructure and is expected to cause significant crop losses for some growers (see Section 1.1).
- Atmospheric and oceanic indicators underpin the recent establishment of a third consecutive
 La Niña event in the tropical Pacific Ocean. Cool sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies have
 strengthened in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean in recent weeks, while warmer
 temperatures persist across the Maritime Continent and to the north-east of Australia (see
 Section 1.2).
- For November 2022, the outlook across cropping regions indicates a 75% chance of rainfall totals of between 25 and 100 millimetres across much of New South Wales, Queensland, south-eastern Victoria and isolated parts of South Australia. There is a 75% chance of less than 25 millimetres of rainfall for remaining parts of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, as well as the cropping regions of Western Australia. Given above average soil moisture levels across most growing regions in eastern Australia, this forecast rainfall is unlikely to further benefit winter crop yields but will promote better pasture growth potential (see Section 1.3).
- Over the 8-days to 3 November 2022, low-pressure systems, associated troughs and cold fronts are
 forecast to bring significant rainfall to eastern, central and southern Australia. Meanwhile, little to
 no rainfall is expected across much of Western Australia. Continued rainfall across south-eastern
 Australia is likely to exacerbate waterlogging and fungal disease pressure and maintain flooding in
 some low-lying areas. If this forecast rainfall is realised it is expected to cause further delays to the
 harvesting of winter crops and delay the planting of summer crop across Queensland and New South
 Wales. The outlook for winter crops across South Australia and Western Australia remains very
 promising (see Section 1.4).
- Water storage in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 156 gigalitres (GL) between 17 October 2022 and 24 October 2022. The current volume of water held in storage is 23,995 GL, which represents 95% of total capacity. This is 8% or 1,716 GL more than at the same time last year.
- Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from \$35 per ML on 14 October to \$59 per ML on 21 October 2022. Prices are lower in the Murrumbidgee and regions above the Barmah choke due to the binding of the Murrumbidgee export limit and the Barmah choke trade constraint.
 - 1 | ABARES Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update 27 October 2022

1. Climate

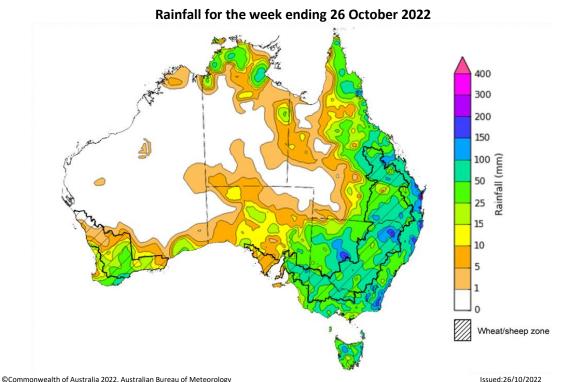
1.1. Rainfall this week

For the week ending 26 October 2022, a low-pressure system and associated cold front over inland Australia brought extensive rainfall to eastern Australia and southern parts of Western Australia. Weekly rainfall totals exceeding 50 millimetres were observed in much of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania as well as parts of South Australia and the Northern Territory. High-pressure systems over western and northern parts of the country resulted in mostly dry conditions in much of Western Australia, the Northern Territory and western regions of Queensland.

In Australian cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 25 and 150 millimetres were recorded across New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, as well as the south-east of South Australia and the southern half of the Western Australian wheatbelt. Little to no rainfall was recorded in remaining cropping regions of South Australia and Western Australia for the week ending 26 October 2022.

Heavy rain across New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania has led to major flooding events across several river catchments. The flooding in low-lying areas has caused damage to agricultural and transport infrastructure and is expected to cause significant crop losses for some growers. However, the full extent of damage is yet unknown. The wet conditions have also increased susceptibility to fungal diseases, especially for pulse crops across southern New South Wales and western Victoria, which is likely to negatively impact yields and crop quality. For winter crops not impacted by prolonged waterlogging and fungal diseases, yield potentials remain very favourable.

Moderate to heavy rainfall across cropping regions in eastern Australia has interrupted the harvesting of winter crops and the sowing of summer crops. Meanwhile, yield prospects remain very favourable for parts of Western Australia and South Australia, where recent rainfall will have supported strong yield development in later maturing crops.



Note: The rainfall analyses and associated maps utilise data contained in the Bureau of Meteorology climate database, the Australian Data Archive 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/

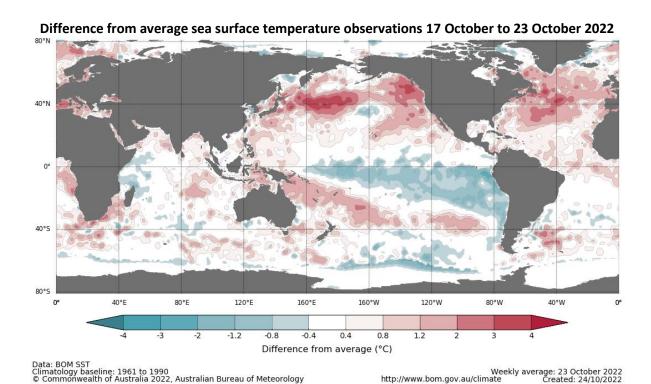
1.2. Climate Drivers

Throughout Australia's late spring/early summer period the climate drivers with the largest potential impact on Australia's climate patterns are the El Niño—Southern Oscillation (ENSO), the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), the Southern Annular Mode (SAM), and the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO). These climate drivers are likely to influence pasture growth across southern Australia, grain quality prospects and harvest conditions for winter crops, as well as the planting and establishment of summer crops across northern cropping regions.

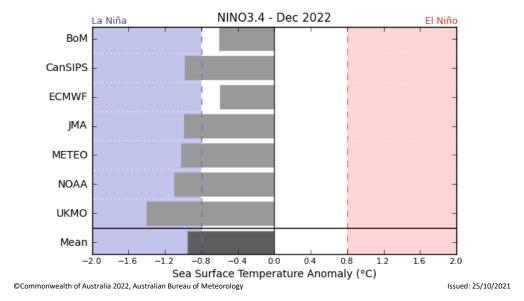
Atmospheric and oceanic indicators underpin the recent establishment of a third consecutive La Niña event in the tropical Pacific Ocean. Cool sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies have strengthened in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean in recent weeks, while warmer temperatures persist across the Maritime Continent and to the north-east of Australia. Trade winds have been stronger than average in the western Pacific and cloudiness has also remained below average around the Date Line, which reflect the ongoing La Niña event.

A negative IOD event continues in the tropical Indian Ocean, with above average SSTs continuing in the east and below average SSTs observed in the north-west of the basin. The temperature gradient established across the tropical Indian Ocean reflects the ongoing negative IOD event.

The SAM is currently neutral but is expected to return to positive values throughout spring and early summer. In recent weeks, an MJO of moderate strength developed over the Pacific Ocean and is expected to continue moving eastwards over the coming fortnight. Given current and expected conditions, including the La Niña event, the negative IOD event, and the return to a positive SAM, above average rainfall is expected to persist across eastern Australia over the coming weeks.

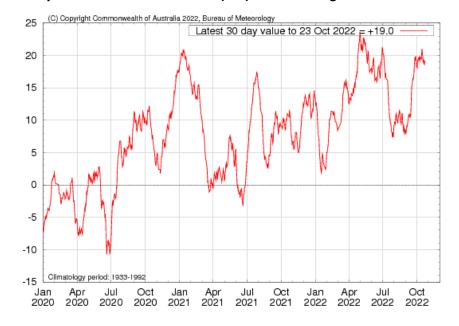


International climate model outlooks for the NINO 3.4 region in December 2022



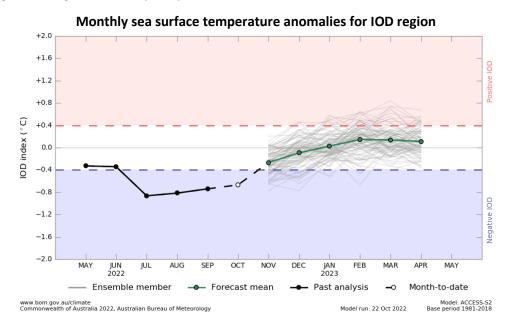
The La Niña event currently underway in the Pacific Ocean is expected to persist through the end of 2022 but rapidly decay in early 2023. Five of the seven international models surveyed predict the La Niña event to remain active in December, but all models expect the La Niña event to dissipate by February 2023. For the period ending 23 October, the 30-day Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) value was +19.0 and the 90-day value for the period ending 23 October was +15.7, both of which are above the La Niña threshold of +7. La Niña events are associated with above average rainfall across eastern and northern Australia through spring and summer.

30-day Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) values ending 23 October 2021

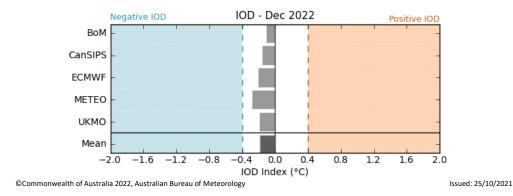


A negative IOD event persists in the Indian Ocean, with values exceeding the negative IOD threshold (-0.4 °C) since mid-June. Below average sea surface temperatures in western parts of the Indian Ocean, near the Horn of Africa, and warmer than average temperatures to the north-west of Australia tends to result in above average rainfall across southern Australia and the far north throughout spring. It is also associated with the early onset of northern Australia rainfall.

As at 25 October 2022, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) weekly value was -0.73°C. All international climate models surveyed by the Bureau of Meteorology predict the negative IOD event to persist throughout spring. However, the negative IOD event is expected to decline rapidly towards the end of spring, returning to neutral by early summer.

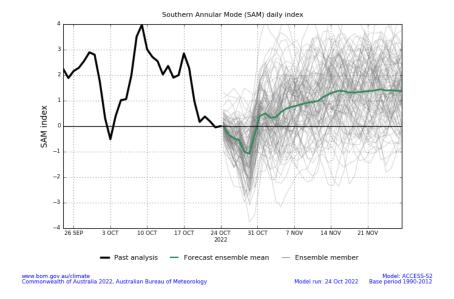


International climate model outlooks for the IOD in December 2022

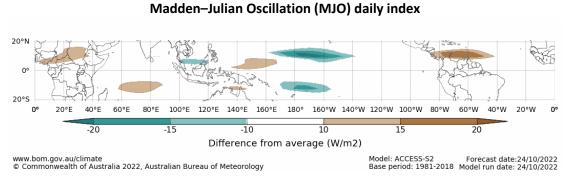


The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is currently neutral but is expected to return to positive values during November and remain positive during early summer. The SAM refers to the north-south shift of the band of rain-bearing westerly winds and weather systems in the Southern Ocean compared to the usual position. A positive SAM in spring is associated with increased rainfall for parts of eastern New South Wales and Victoria as well as southern Queensland. It is also associated with decreased rainfall for parts of south-western and south-eastern Australia.

Southern Annular Mode (SAM) daily index



As at 23 October 2022 the Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO) is at moderate strength over the western Pacific Ocean and is expected to move eastwards across the western Pacific region over the coming fortnight. The MJO is a pulse of cloud and rainfall that moves eastward along the equator. An active MJO in the Pacific at this time of year increases the chance of above average rainfall over the eastern half of Australia.



Note: This map displays the forecast outgoing longwave radiation (OLR) difference from expected cloudiness to identify convective rain clouds and the position of the Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO). The blue shading indicates higher than normal, active or enhanced tropical weather and the brown shading indicates lower than normal clouds or suppressed conditions.

1.3. National Climate Outlook

These climate outlooks are generated by ACCESS—S (Australian Community Climate Earth-System Simulator—Seasonal). ACCESS—S is the Bureau of Meteorology's dynamic (physics-based) weather and climate model used for monthly, seasonal and longer-lead climate outlooks.

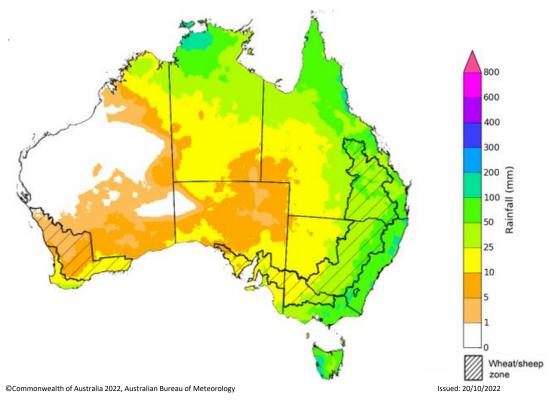
For further information, go to http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/about/

The Bureau of Meteorology's latest rainfall outlook for November indicates wetter than average conditions are expected across parts of Australia. The ACCESS-S climate model suggests there is a 60% to 80% chance of exceeding median rainfall for parts of eastern and northern Australia, with a 40% chance of below median rainfall for northern and central parts of Western Australia.

The outlook for November 2022 indicates that there is a 75% chance of rainfall totals between 10 and 100 millimetres across much of New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, the northern tip of Western Australia, Tasmania, as well as much of the Northern Territory. For most areas in South Australia and Western Australia rainfall totals are not expected to exceed 25 millimetres. Rainfall totals in excess of 100 millimetres are expected across isolated areas of alpine New South Wales and Victoria, north-eastern New South Wales and Queensland, the north of the Northern Territory, as well as western Tasmania.

Across cropping regions there is a 75% chance of rainfall totals of between 25 and 100 millimetres across much of New South Wales, Queensland, south-eastern Victoria and isolated parts of South Australia. There is a 75% chance of less than 25 millimetres of rainfall for remaining parts of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, as well as the cropping regions of Western Australia. Given above average to well above average soil moisture level across most growing regions in eastern Australia this forecast rainfall is unlikely to further benefit winter crop yields but will allow for average or better pasture growth potential. Given the current wet conditions and an expectation for above average rainfall for the coming months, we are likely to see a drawn-out 2022 winter crop harvest and a late start to summer crop planting in many regions.

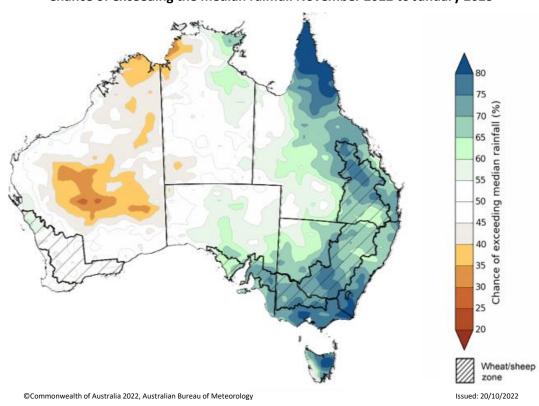
Rainfall totals that have a 75% chance of occurring November 2022



The rainfall outlook for November 2022 to January 2023 suggests there is a greater than 65% chance of exceeding median rainfall across most of Victoria, New South Wales, eastern Queensland, Tasmania, and parts of the south-east of South Australia, and north-east of the Northern Territory. For remaining regions of Australia, there is no strong tendency towards above or below median rainfall, except for parts of north-eastern and central Western Australia where below median rainfall is likely between November to January (Bureau of Meteorology 'National Climate Outlook', 20 October 2022).

Bureau of Meteorology rainfall outlooks for November to January have greater than 55% past accuracy across most of Australia. Outlook accuracy is greater than 65% across most of New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania, as well as parts of Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Past accuracy is low (less than 50%) for isolated parts of Western Australia, Queensland, and South Australia.

Chance of exceeding the median rainfall November 2022 to January 2023



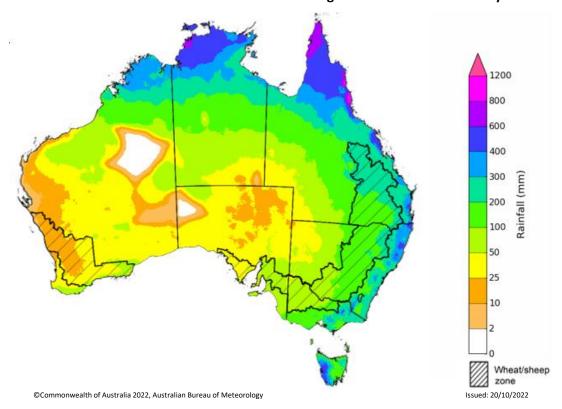
The outlook for November 2022 to January 2023 suggests there is a 75% chance of rainfall totals between 50 and 200 millimetres across Victoria, most of New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory, south-eastern parts of South Australia, the north of Western Australia, and Tasmania. Rainfall totals in excess of 200 millimetres are forecast for large parts of coastal and alpine New South Wales and Victoria, as well as parts of eastern and northern Queensland, the north of Western Australia and the Northern Territory, and parts of western and north-eastern Tasmania.

Across cropping regions, there is a 75% chance of receiving between 25 and 100 millimetres across much of south-western New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and isolated pockets of south-eastern Western Australia. Totals of between 100 and 300 millimetres are expected across much of the New South Wales and Queensland cropping regions. Rainfall totals are not expected to exceed 25 millimetres for the north-western parts of Western Australian cropping regions.

Through late spring and early summer, winter crop grain quality, crop abandonment and the inability to plant summer crops are major risk factors associated with excessive moisture. Above average rainfall through late spring also increases the risk of waterlogging, negatively impacting crop development.

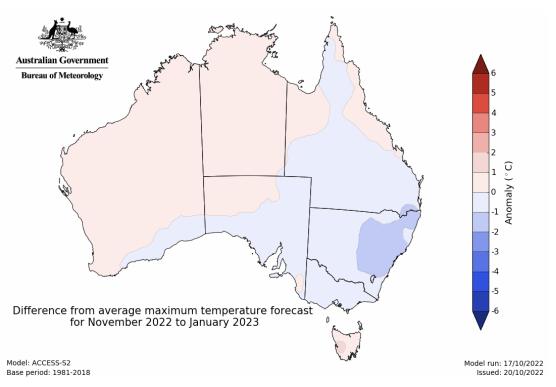
In central and northern New South Wales and southern Queensland, winter cropping has already been heavily impacted by excessive moisture. As crops in these regions mature, a continuation of wet conditions may cause quality downgrades and delay harvesting. Moreover, the wet conditions are likely to continue to interrupt the planting of summer crops. While parts of southern New South Wales and Victoria are currently waterlogged and recovering from recent flooding, a return to average rainfall over the coming months will likely give soils a chance to drain and allow for improved field access as we approach the winter crop harvest. In Western Australia, below average rainfall is likely to allow the harvesting of winter crops to progress with minimal interruption.

Rainfall totals that have a 75% chance of occurring November 2022 to January 2023

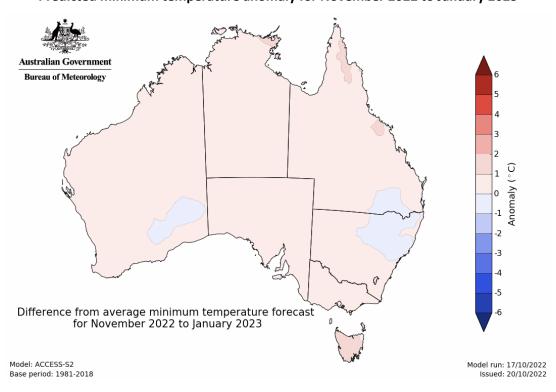


The temperature outlook for November 2022 to January 2023 indicates that maximum temperatures across most of Australia are likely to be close to the 1990-2012 average (the difference in the range of - 1°C to +1°C), with slightly lower than average maximum temperatures across eastern New South Wales and south-eastern Queensland. Minimum temperatures are expected to be slightly above average for isolated areas of north-eastern Australia and Tasmania, and close to average for the rest of Australia (Bureau of Meteorology 'National Climate Outlook', 20 October 2022).

Predicted maximum temperature anomaly for November 2022 to January 2023



Predicted minimum temperature anomaly for November 2022 to January 2023



1.4. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

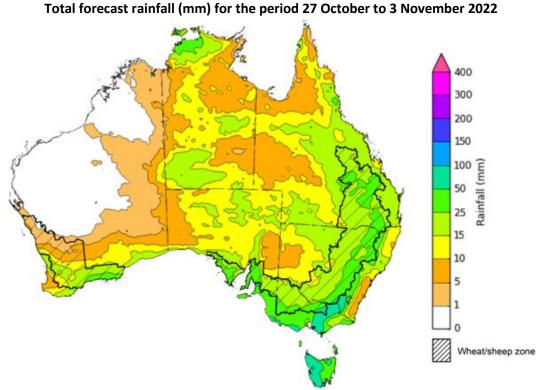
Over the 8-days to 3 November 2022, low-pressure systems, associated troughs and cold fronts are forecast to bring significant rainfall to eastern, central and southern Australia. Meanwhile, little to no rainfall is expected across much of Western Australia.

In Australian cropping regions, rainfall totals of between 10 and 50 millimetres are expected across New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, and much of the southern half of the Western Australian wheatbelt. Little to no rainfall is forecast for remaining cropping regions in Western Australia during the next 8-days.

Continued rainfall across south-eastern Australia is likely to exacerbate waterlogging and fungal disease pressure and maintain flooding in some low-lying areas. Prolonged inundation will increase the risk of winter crop abandonment as well as quality downgrades. Yield potentials for crops not impacted by flooding in south-eastern Australia remain very favourable. However, soil moisture levels are well above average, and the forecast rainfall is unlikely to benefit yields further. In contrast, the forecast wet conditions will further increase disease pressure for winter crops while limiting field access for disease management.

If this forecast rainfall is realised it is expected to cause further delays to the harvesting of winter crops and delay the planting of summer crop across Queensland and New South Wales. The wet conditions and associated cooler than normal temperatures will also delay the maturation of winter crops and the start of harvesting activities for remaining regions of eastern Australia.

The outlook for winter crops across South Australia and Western Australia remains very promising. Light to moderate rainfall across parts of South Australia may increase disease pressure slightly, but ideal conditions for the season to-date have established strong yield potentials. Likewise, another large winter crop is expected in Western Australia as conditions remain favourable for crop maturation.



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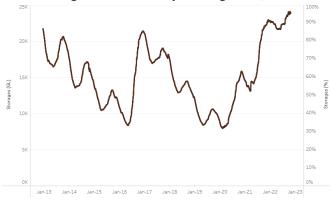
Note: This rainfall forecast is produced from computer models. As the model outputs are not altered by weather forecasters, it is important to check local forecasts and warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology.

2. Water

2.1. Water markets – current week

Water storage in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 156 gigalitres (GL) between 17 October 2022 and 24 October 2022. The current volume of water held in storage is 23,995 GL, which represents 95% of total capacity. This is 8% or 1,716 GL more than at the same time last year.

Water storages in the Murray-Darling Basin, 2013-2022

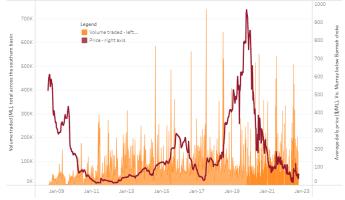


Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.

Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from \$35 per ML on 14 October to \$59 per ML on 21 October 2022. Prices are lower in the Murrumbidgee and regions above the Barmah choke due to the binding of the Murrumbidgee export limit and the Barmah choke trade constraint.

Region	\$/ML
NSW Murray Above	11
NSW Murrumbidgee	35
VIC Goulburn-Broken	108
VIC Murray Below	59

Surface water trade activity, Southern Murray-Darling Basin



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 27 October 2022.

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/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-271022

12 | ABARES Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update • 27 October 2022

3. Commodities

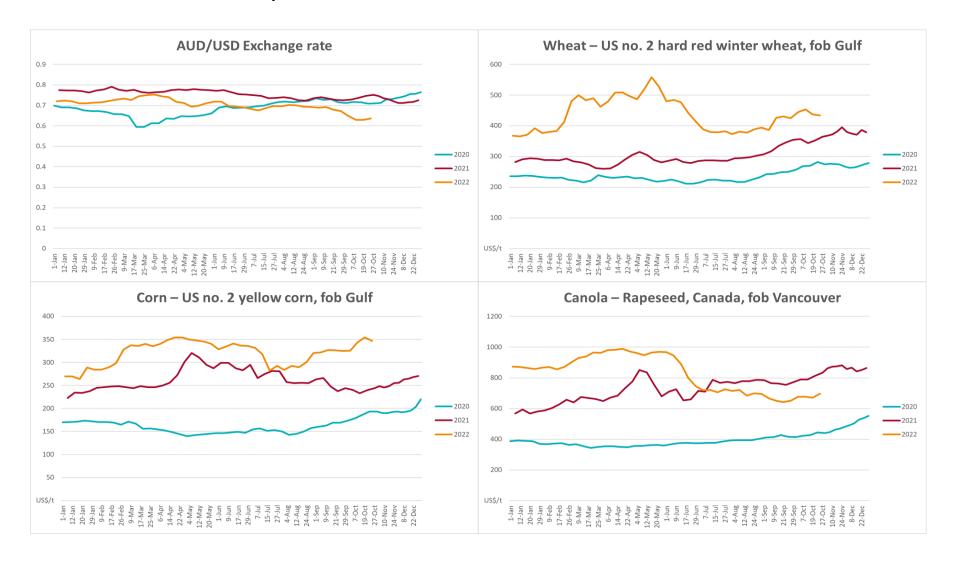
Indicator	Week ended	Unit	Latest price	Previous week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
Selected world indicator prices							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	26-Oct	A\$/US\$	0.64	0.63	1%	0.75	-15%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, fob Gulf	26-Oct	US\$/t	433	437	-1%	368	18%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, fob Gulf	26-Oct	US\$/t	347	354	-2%	248	40%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, fob Vancouver	26-Oct	US\$/t	696	672	4%	862	-19%
Cotton – Cotlook 'A' Index	26-Oct	USc/lb	95	101	-5%	126	-24%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	26-Oct	USc/lb	17.7	17.8	-1%	19	-9%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	19-Oct	Ac/kg clean	1,300	1,323	-2%	1,332	-2%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	19-Oct	Ac/kg clean	1,427	1,469	-3%	1,385	3%
Selected Australian grain export prices							
Milling Wheat – APW, Port Adelaide, SA	26-Oct	A\$/t	612	608	1%	445	38%
Feed Wheat – ASW, Port Adelaide, SA	26-Oct	A\$/t	562	558	1%	448	26%
Feed Barley – Port Adelaide, SA	26-Oct	A\$/t	478	468	2%	372	28%
Canola – Kwinana, WA	26-Oct	A\$/t	1,067	1,049	2%	1,047	2%
Grain Sorghum – Brisbane, QLD	26-Oct	A\$/t	473	468	1%	365	30%
Selected domestic livestock indicator prices							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	26-Oct	Ac/kg cwt	1,031	1,035	0%	1,039	-1%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), Vic	12-Oct	Ac/kg cwt	510	515	-1%	626	-19%
Lamb – Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator	26-Oct	Ac/kg cwt	786	766	3%	942	-17%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), average of buyers & sellers	28-Sep	Ac/kg cwt	376	376	0%	318	18%
Goats – Eastern States (12.1–16 kg)	29-Jun	Ac/kg cwt	1,030	879	17%	818	26%
Live cattle – Light steers ex Darwin to Indonesia	17-Aug	Ac/kg lwt	420	480	-13%	320	31%
Live sheep – Live wethers (Muchea WA saleyard) to Middle East	14-Sep	\$/head	93	113	-18%	114	-18%

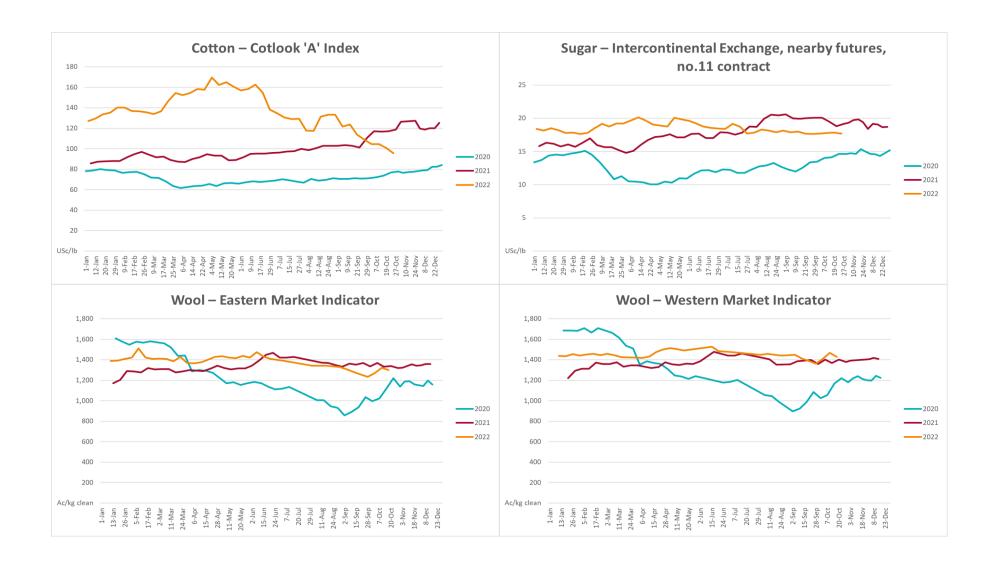
^{13 |} ABARES Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update • 27 October 2022

Indicator	Week ended	Unit	Latest	Previous	Weekly	Price 12	Annual
			price	week	change	months ago	change
Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices ^a							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	19-Oct	US\$/t	3,421	3,573	-4%	2,985	15%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	19-Oct	US\$/t	3,250	3,497	-7%	2,889	12%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	19-Oct	US\$/t	4,769	4,966	-4%	3,674	30%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	19-Oct	US\$/t	5,661	5,811	-3%	3,910	45%

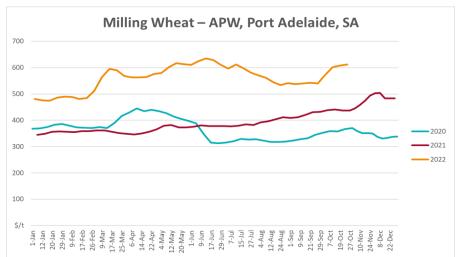
a Global Dairy Trade prices are updated twice monthly on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

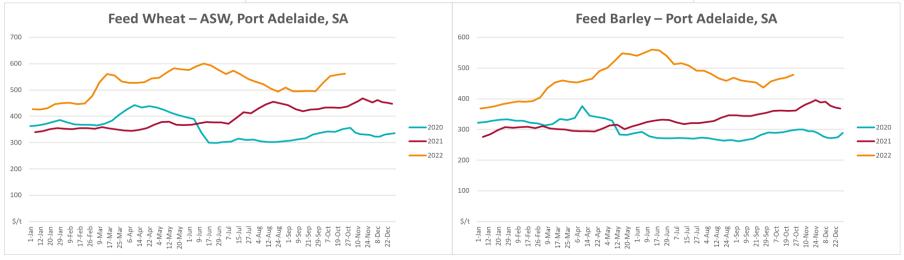
3.1. Selected world indicator prices

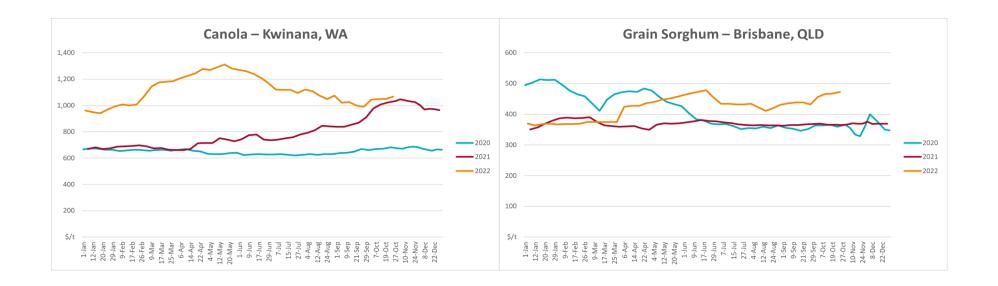




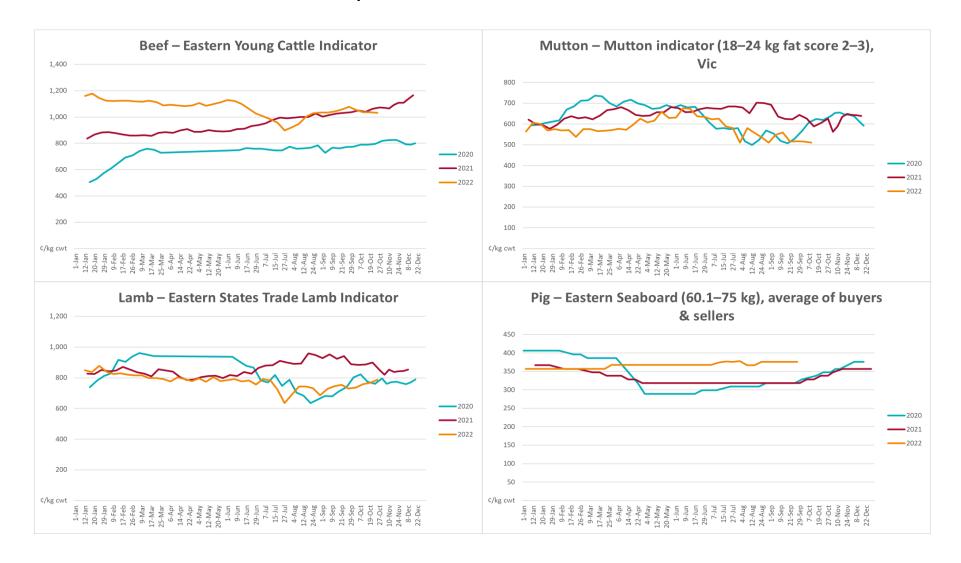
3.2. Selected domestic crop indicator prices

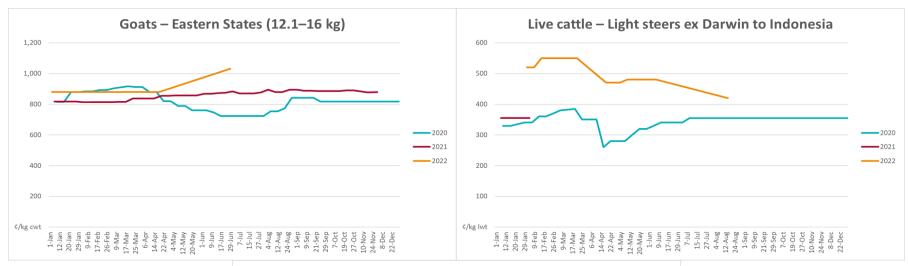


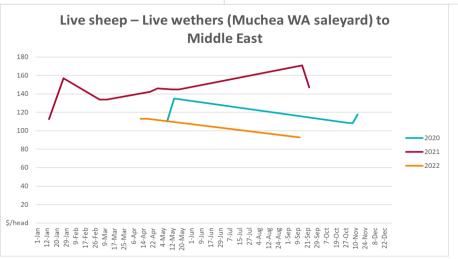




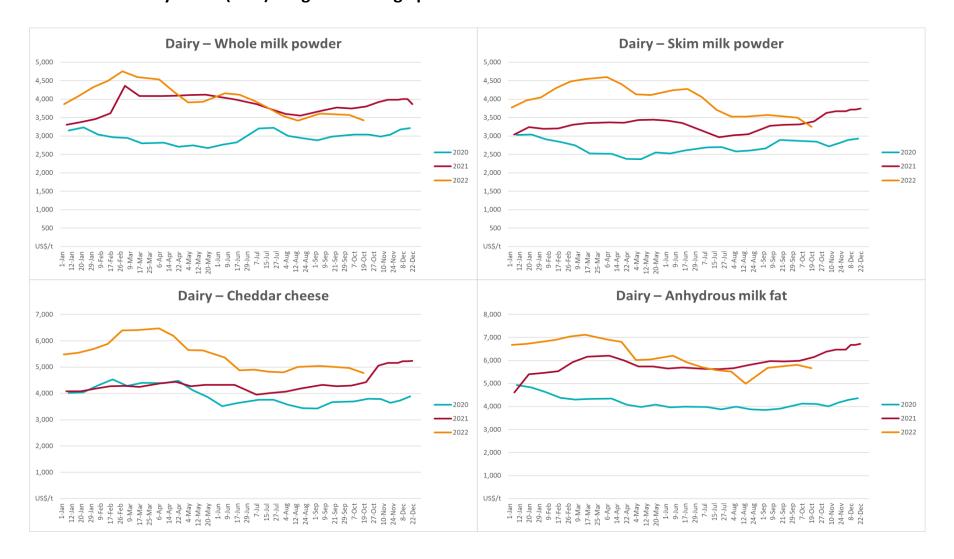
3.3. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices



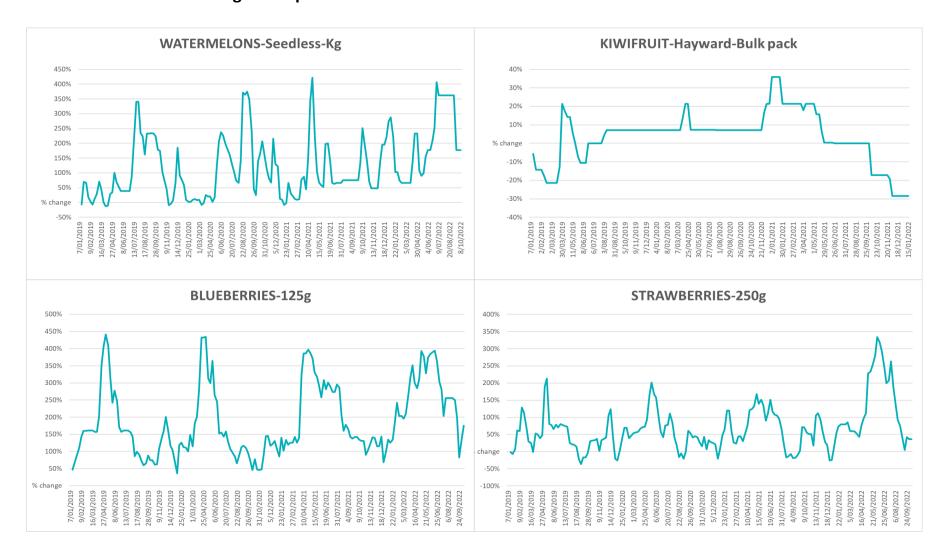


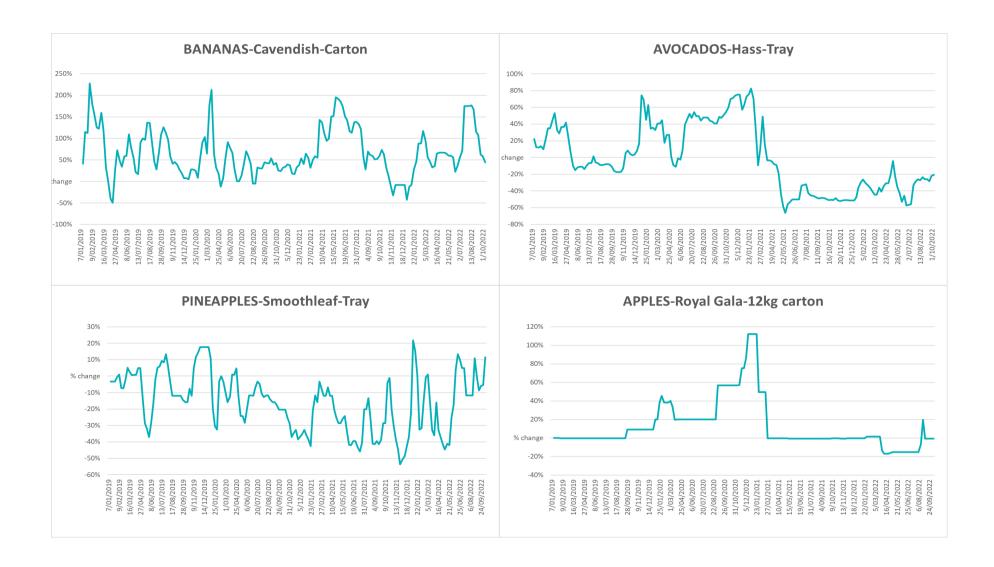


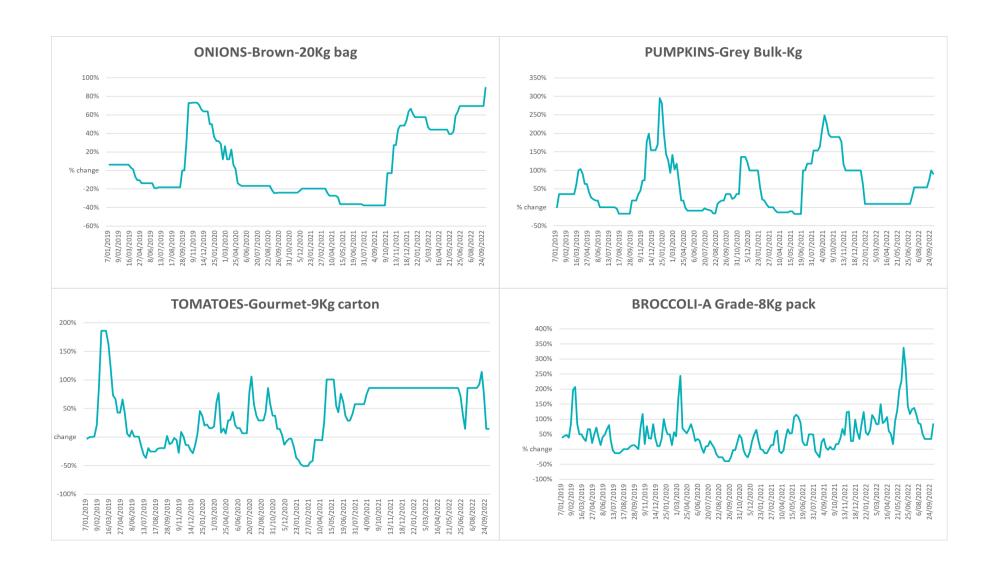
3.4. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

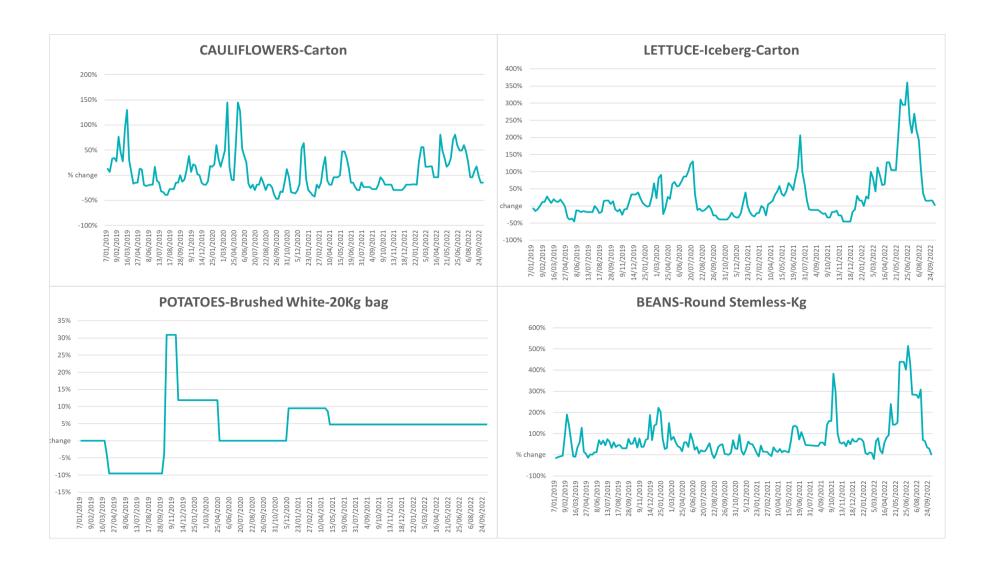


3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices

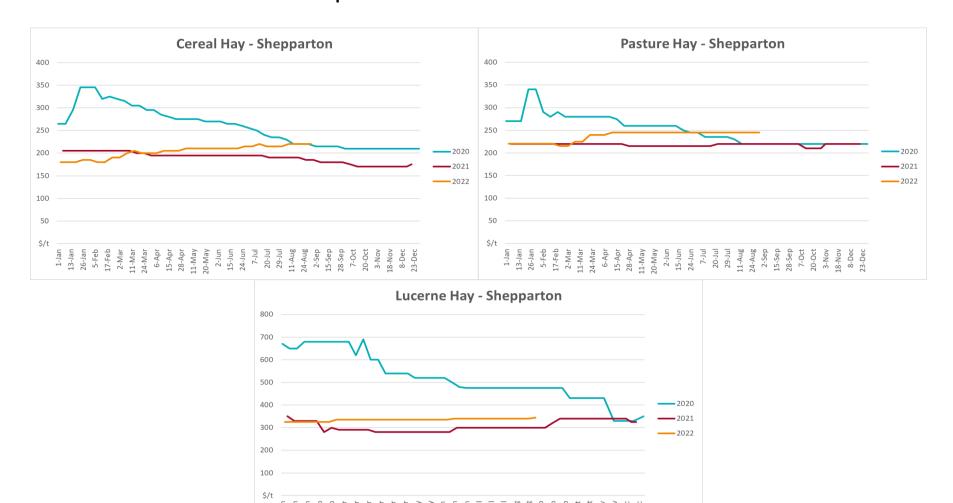








3.6. Selected domestic fodder indicator prices



4. Data attribution

Climate

Bureau of Meteorology

- Weekly rainfall totals: <u>www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/</u>
- Monthly and last 3-month rainfall percentiles: www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/
- Temperature anomalies: www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/temp/index.jsp
- Rainfall forecast: www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp
- Seasonal outlook: <u>www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary/</u>
- Climate drivers: http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/
- Soil moisture: www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/

Other

- Pasture growth: <u>www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/aussiegrass/</u>
- 3-month global outlooks: <u>Environment and Climate Change Canada</u>, <u>NOAA Climate Prediction Center</u>, <u>EUROBRISA CPTEC/INPE</u>, <u>European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts</u>, <u>Hydrometcenter of Russia</u>, <u>National Climate Center Climate System Diagnosis and Prediction Room (NCC)</u>, <u>International Research Institute for Climate and Society</u>
- Global production: https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/ogamaps/cropmapsandcalendars.aspx
- Autumn break: Pook et al., 2009, https://rmets-onlinelibrary-wiley-com.virtual.anu.edu.au/doi/epdf/10.1002/joc.1833

Water

Prices

- Waterflow: https://www.waterflow.io/
- Ruralco: https://www.ruralcowater.com.au/

Bureau of Meteorology:

- Allocation trade: http://www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-markets/mdb/at
- Storage volumes: http://www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-storages/summary/drainage

Trade constraints:

- Water NSW: https://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/ordering-trading-and-pricing/trading/murrumbidgee
- Victorian Water Register: https://www.waterregister.vic.gov.au/TradingRules2019/

Commodities

Fruit and vegetables

Datafresh: <u>www.freshstate.com.au</u>

Pigs

Australian Pork Limited: <u>www.australianpork.com.au</u>

Dairy

Global Dairy Trade: <u>www.globaldairytrade.info/en/product-results/</u>

World wheat, canola

• International Grains Council

World coarse grains

United States Department of Agriculture

World cotton

• Cotlook: <u>www.cotlook.com/</u>

World sugar

New York Stock Exchange - Intercontinental Exchange

Wool

Australian Wool Exchange: <u>www.awex.com.au/</u>

Domestic wheat, barley, sorghum, canola and fodder

• Jumbuk Consulting Pty Ltd: http://www.jumbukag.com.au/

Cattle, beef, mutton, lamb, goat and live export

• Meat and Livestock Australia: <u>www.mla.com.au/Prices-and-market</u>

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