



# Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 8/2025

27 February 2025

## Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 27 February 2025, low-pressure systems brought rainfall to the north of Australia.
  - Tropical lows brought 5-100 millimetres of rainfall to northern Australia, with isolated areas seeing above 100 millimetres.
  - Rainfall totals were low in all cropping regions, with between 0-15 millimetres in Queensland and Western Australia, and lower rainfall totals in remaining regions.
  - The lack of rainfall across summer cropping regions has likely seen a drawdown of stored soil moisture but will also likely have supported the uninterrupted harvesting of earlier planted summer crops.
- Over the coming eight days, rainfall totals are expected to be low in the south.
  - Eastern cropping regions are expected to see between 10-50 millimetres of rainfall. If realised, these falls are likely to boost soil moisture for late planted summer crops and ahead of the planting of winter crops, however, this may bring some delays to the harvesting of earlier planted summer crops.
  - Remaining cropping regions are likely to see little to no rainfall over the period.
- Across cropping regions the rainfall outlook for March to May 2025 indicates:
  - There is a 75% chance of rainfall totals between 25-100 millimetres across most cropping regions.
  - If realised, these forecast rainfall totals are likely to be sufficient to support autumn pasture growth in these areas.
  - Additionally, these expected falls are likely to provide a boost to soil moisture profiles ahead of winter crop planting.
- **Water storage levels** in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased between 20 February 2025 and 27 February 2025 by 278 gigalitres (GL). Current volume of water held in storage is 13 384 GL, equivalent to 60% of total storage capacity. This is 26 percent or 4,661 GL less than at the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.
- **Allocation prices** in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from \$162 on 20 February to \$183 on 27 February. Prices are lower in regions above the Barmah choke (except Murrumbidgee) due to the binding of the Barmah choke trade constraint.

# 1. Climate

## 1.1. Rainfall this week

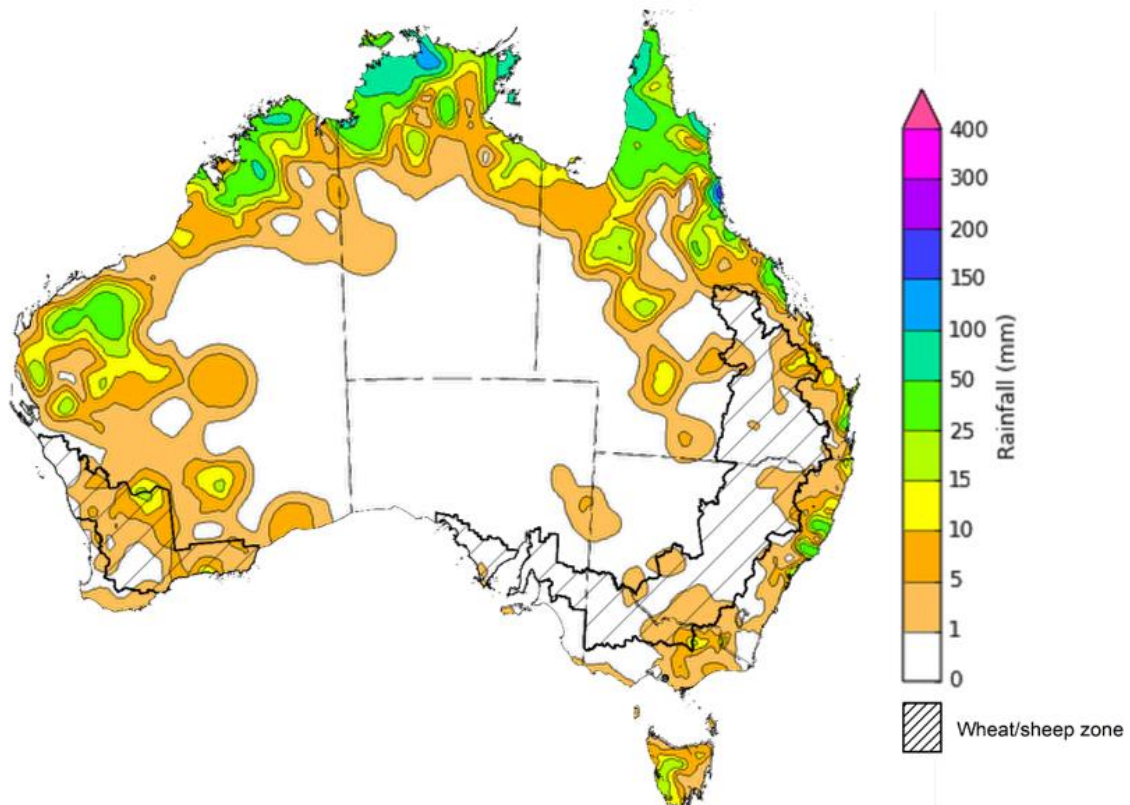
In the week ending 26 February, **low pressure systems brought rainfall to northern Australia.** In the south, high-pressure system kept much of the country largely dry.

- The northern tropics, including the Northern Territory, and northern Western Australia and Queensland recorded falls between 5-100 millimetres, with rainfall totals higher in far-northern regions.
  - In isolated areas of northern Queensland and the Northern Territory, tropical lows brought rainfall totals exceeding 100 millimetres.
- Scattered areas of southern Queensland, eastern New South Wales and Victoria, as well as much of the west of Western Australia, observed rainfall totals of 5-50 millimetres. In Tasmania, a maximum of 25 millimetres of rainfall was recorded.
- Across remaining area of the country, little to no rainfall was recorded.

Rainfall totals were generally low across all cropping regions.

- In Queensland and Western Australia, isolated rainfall totals of between 0-15 millimetres were observed, with remaining cropping regions seeing 0-10 millimetres. The lack of rainfall across summer cropping regions has likely seen a drawdown of stored soil moisture but will also likely have supported the uninterrupted harvesting of earlier planted summer crops.

**Rainfall for the week ending 26 February 2025**



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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/>

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## 1.2. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

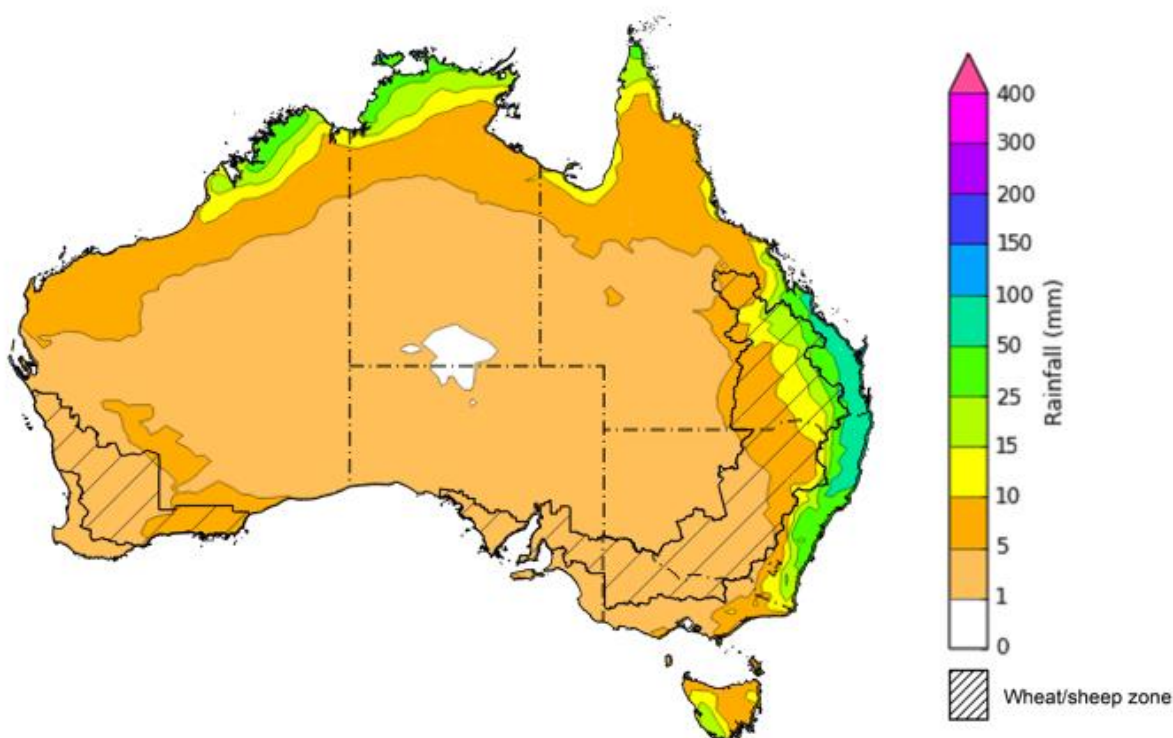
Over the 8 days to 6 March 2025, **Tropical Cyclone (TC) Alfred** and **low-pressure systems** are expected to bring rainfall to parts of the north and east of the country.

- Falls of between 10–50 millimetres are likely for parts of northern Western Australia, the north of the Northern Territory and the far north of Queensland.
- Between 5–100 millimetres are forecast for south-eastern Queensland and eastern New South Wales, with higher rainfall totals in coastal regions.
- By contrast, a high-pressure system is expected to keep much of the remainder of Australia largely dry.

Rainfall totals across cropping regions over the coming week are forecast to be low.

- Rainfall totals of between 5-50 millimetres are forecast for cropping regions in Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales. If realised, these falls are likely to boost soil moisture for late planted summer crops and ahead of the planting of winter crops, however, this may bring some delays to the harvesting of earlier planted summer crops.
- In contrast, cropping regions in southern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia are forecast to see little to no rainfall over the period.

### Total forecast rainfall for the period 27 February to 6 March 2025



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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.

### 1.3. Climate Outlook

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), Southern Annular Mode (SAM), and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) climate drivers are currently neutral and having minimal influence on Australian rainfall. The IOD and SAM are likely to remain neutral over the coming weeks, however, indicators suggest that chances of a La Nina event are strengthening.

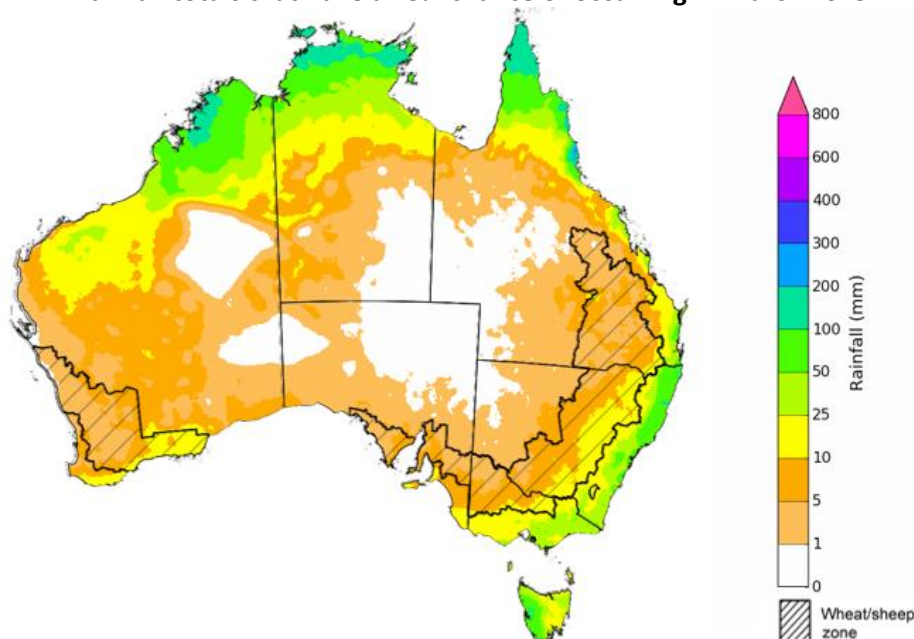
The most recent **rainfall outlook for March 2025** provided by the Bureau of Meteorology indicates that much of north-eastern Australia, including Queensland and the Northern Territory, as well as parts of northern New South Wales and western Tasmania are more likely to see below median rainfall. For the remaining regions, rainfall is expected to be close to average, with no strong tendency towards below or above average rainfall.

- The Bureau of Meteorology’s climate model predicts a 75% chance of March rainfall totals between 25–200 millimetres across much of the northern Australia, with parts of far-north Queensland likely to see rainfall totals of above 300 millimetres.
- Eastern Australia, including the far southeast of Queensland, eastern New South Wales, southern Victoria, parts of southern Western Australia and Tasmania are likely to see between 10-100 millimetres of rainfall.
- Lower rainfall totals are expected across western, central and southern areas, with much of southern Western Australia, southern Northern Territory, South Australia, western and central Queensland and New South Wales, and northern Victoria likely to see between 0–10 millimetres.

Across cropping regions, the March rainfall outlook is highly variable:

- There is a 75% chance of between 5–25 millimetres across much of New South Wales and between 1–10 millimetres in Queensland. If realised, this rainfall with the support of close to average soil moisture levels is likely to support average to above average yield prospects for summer crops and average or better levels of pasture production in affected areas.
- Little to no rainfall is expected across remaining southern cropping regions. This forecast is typical for this time of year, expected to lead to continued low levels of pasture growth and increased livestock turn-off.

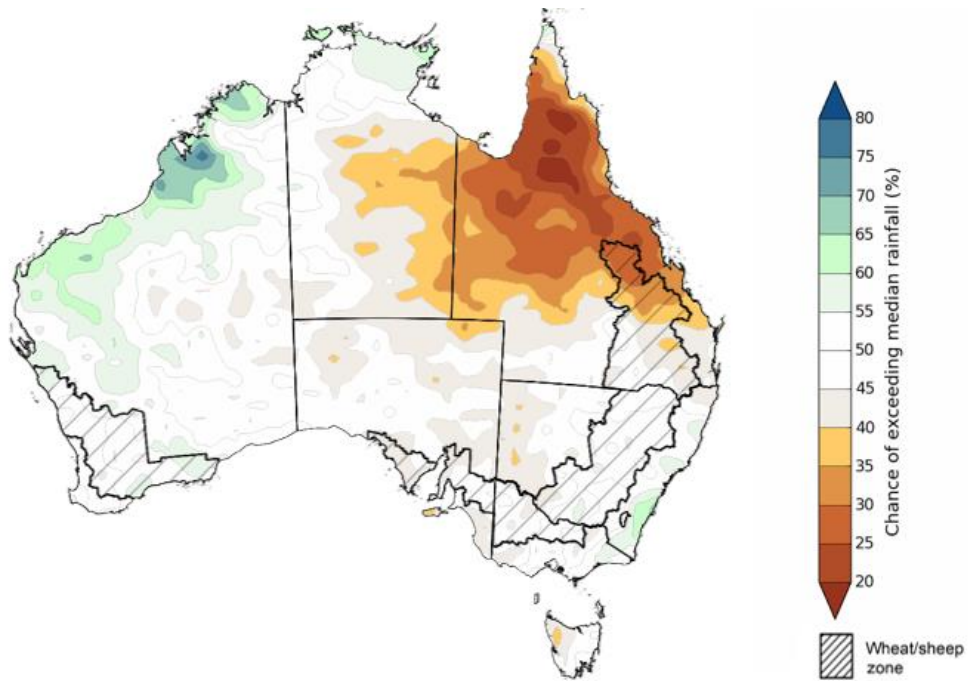
**Rainfall totals that have a 75% chance of occurring in March 2025**



The Bureau of Meteorology's **rainfall outlook for March to May 2025** indicates an increased probability of below average rainfall across much of Queensland and the Northern Territory, with parts of west Western Australia are likely to see above median rainfall. Much of the remainder of the country March to May 2025 rainfall is expected to be close to average, with no strong tendency towards below or above average rainfall.

Across cropping regions, the chance of receiving above median rainfall is between 30-40% across northern Queensland. In the remaining cropping regions, March to May 2025 rainfall is expected to be close to average with no strong tendency towards below or above average rainfall (45-65% chance of exceeding the median).

### Chance of exceeding the median rainfall March to May 2025



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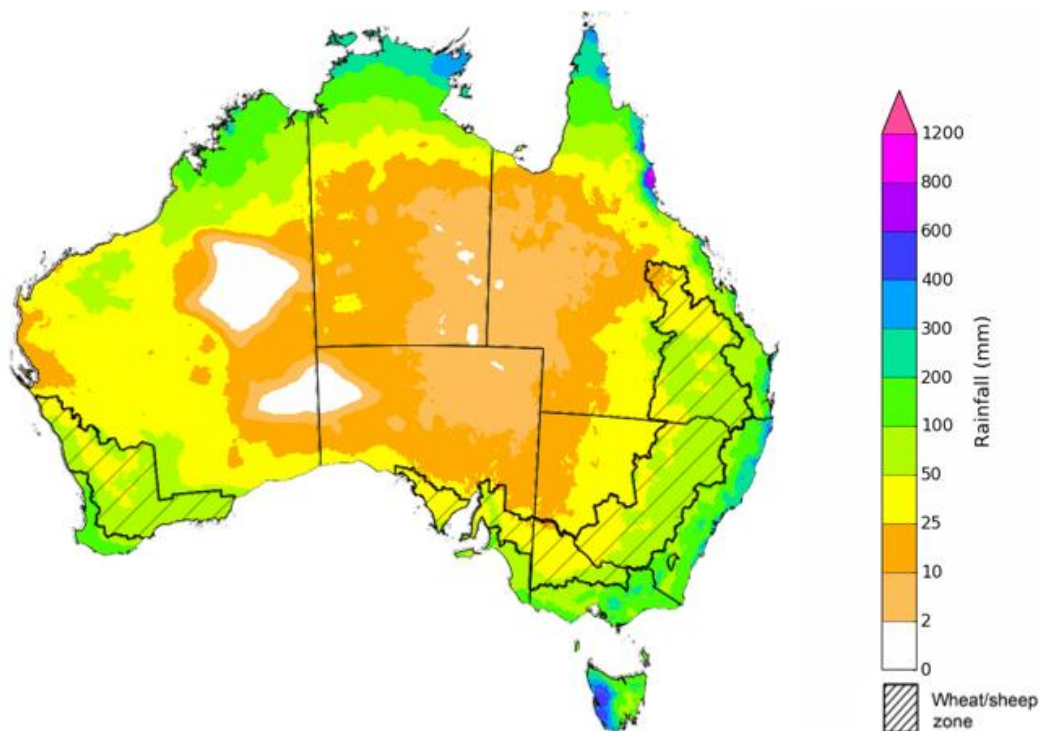
The rainfall outlook for March to May 2025 also includes rainfall totals which have a 75% of occurring:

- Between 200–800 millimetres are expected across much of northern Australia, including northern Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and Queensland. Rainfall totals greater than 800 millimetres are expected in the far-north of Queensland and the Northern Territory.
- Between 25–200 millimetres of rainfall is forecast across much of southern Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, southern South Australia, western and southern Western Australia and Tasmania, with rainfall totals exceeding 200 millimetres likely across coastal and alpine areas.
- Drier conditions are expected across central Australia, with little to no rainfall is forecast over the period.

In cropping regions:

- Rainfall totals between 25–100 millimetres are forecast across most cropping regions, with a 75% likelihood. If realised, these forecast rainfall totals are likely to be sufficient to support autumn pasture growth in these areas. Additionally, these expected falls are likely to provide a boost to soil moisture profiles ahead of winter crop planting and maintain above average yield expectation for summer crops in Queensland and northern New South Wales.

#### Rainfall totals that have a 75% chance of occurring March to May 2025



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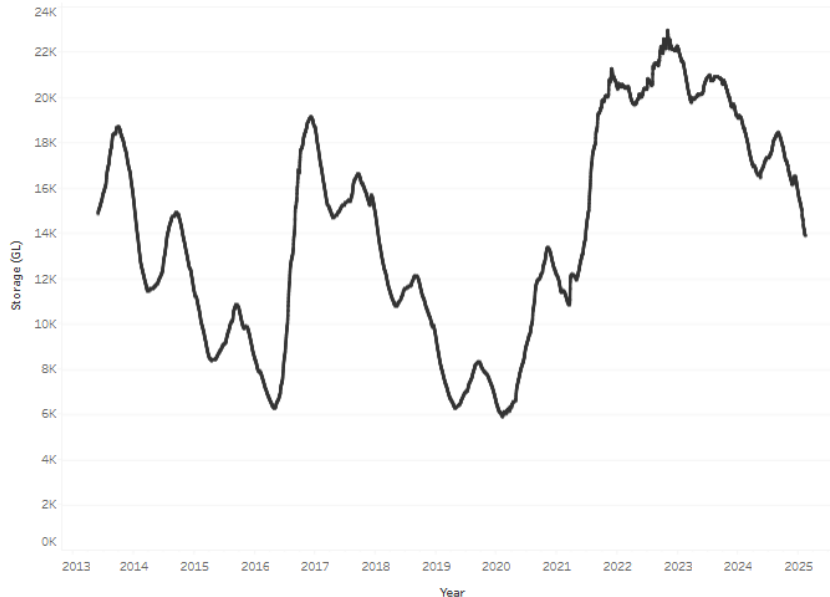
Issued: 25/2/2025

## 2. Water

### 2.1. Water markets – current week

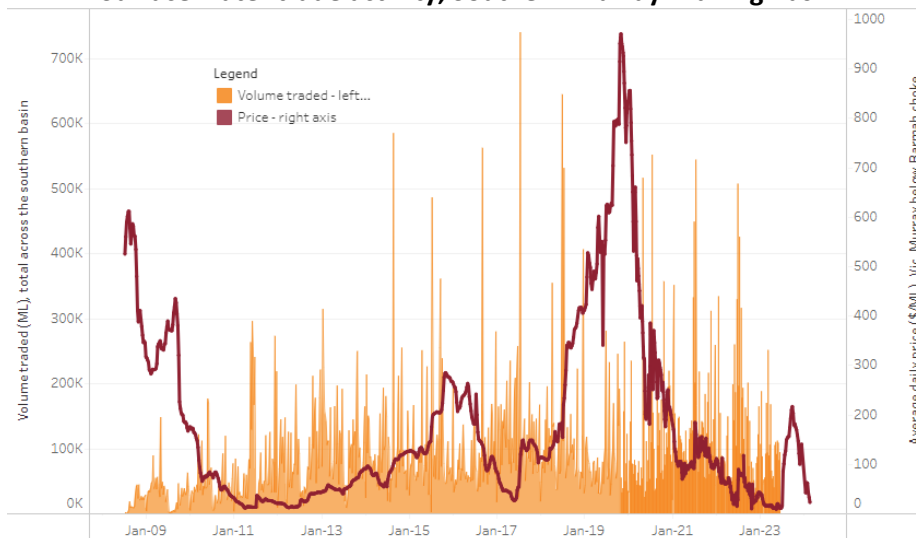
Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased between 20 February 2025 and 27 February 2025 by 278 gigalitres (GL). Current volume of water held in storage is 13 384 GL, equivalent to 60% of total storage capacity. This is 26 percent or 4,661 GL less than at the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the BOM.

**Water storages in the Murray-Darling Basin, 2013–2025**



Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from \$162 on 20 February to \$183 on 27 February. Prices are lower in regions above the Barmah choke (except Murrumbidgee) due to the binding of the Barmah choke trade constraint.

**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. Only the price data shown is current on 17 October 2024.

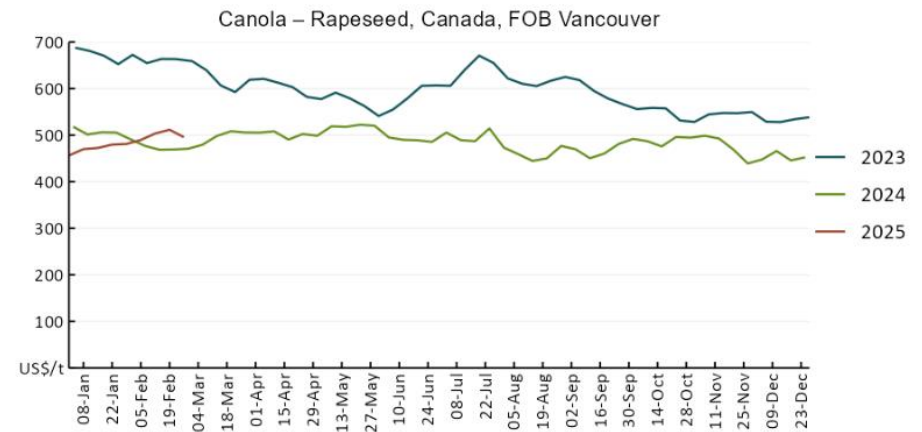
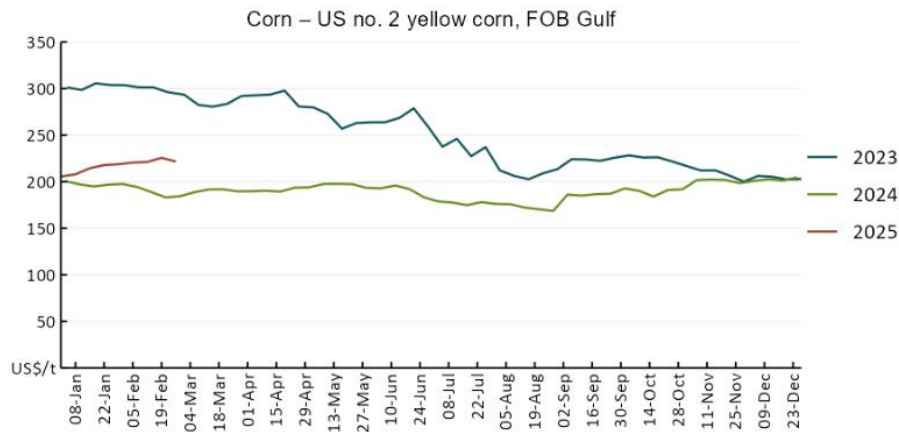
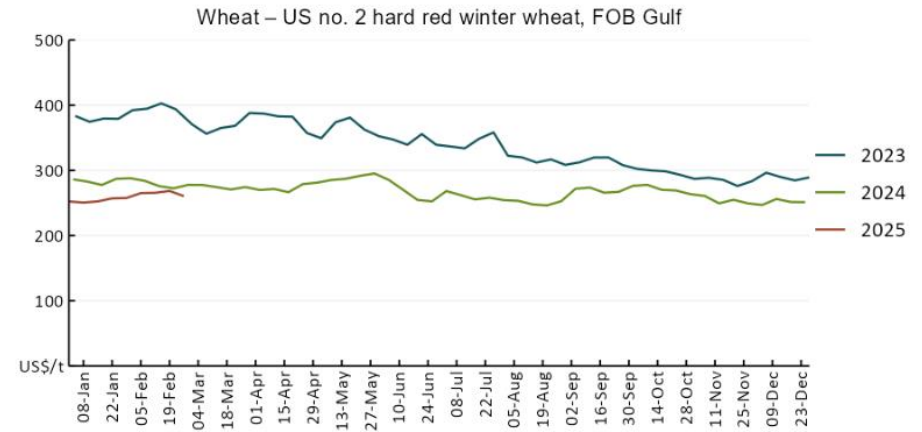
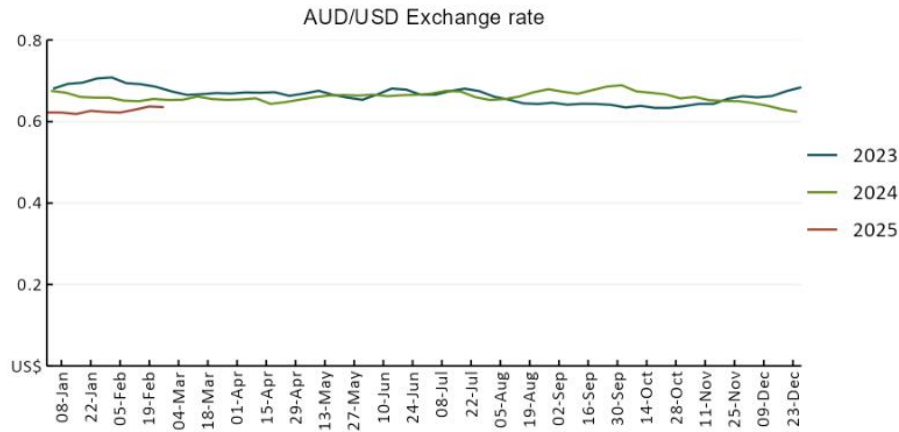
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit [https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly\\_update/weekly-update-270224](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-270224)

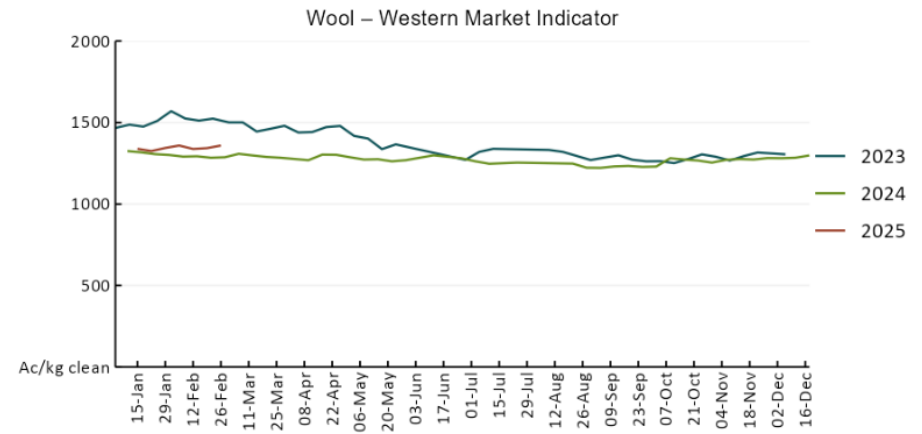
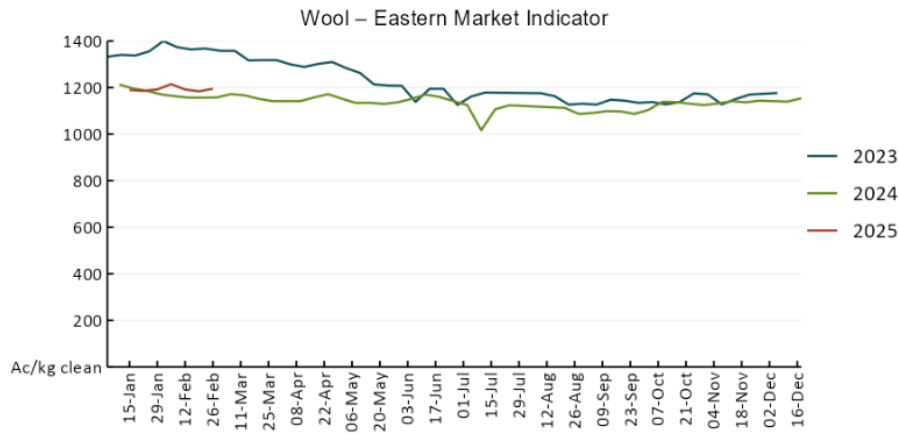
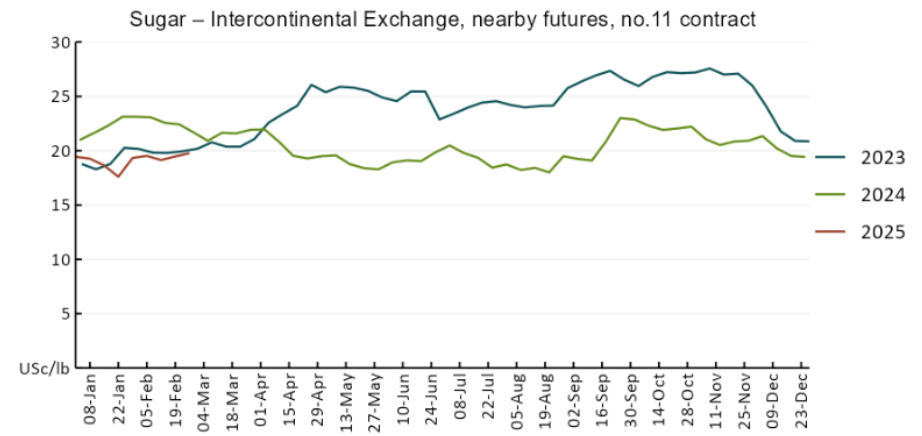
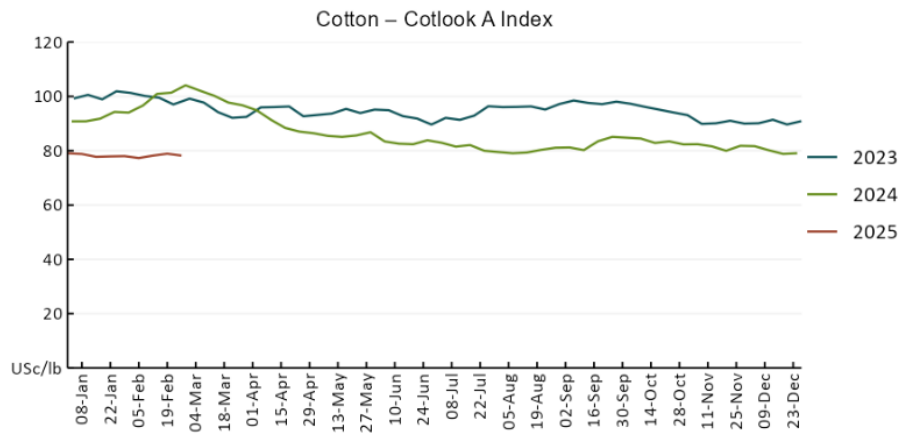


### 3. Commodities

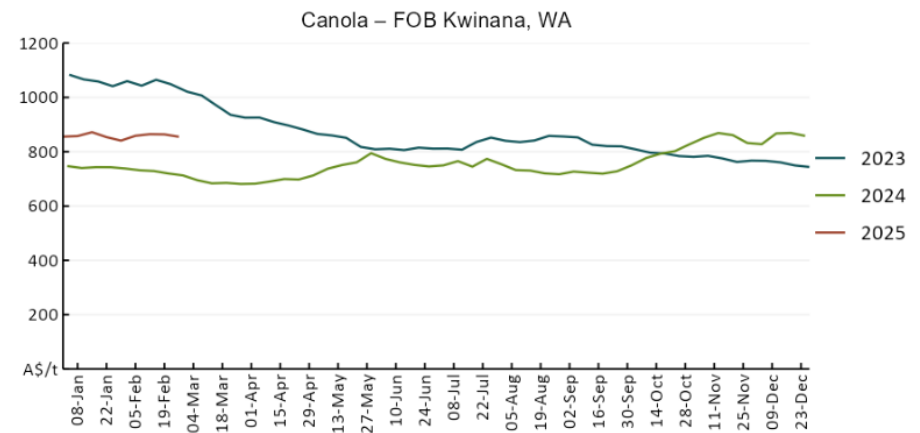
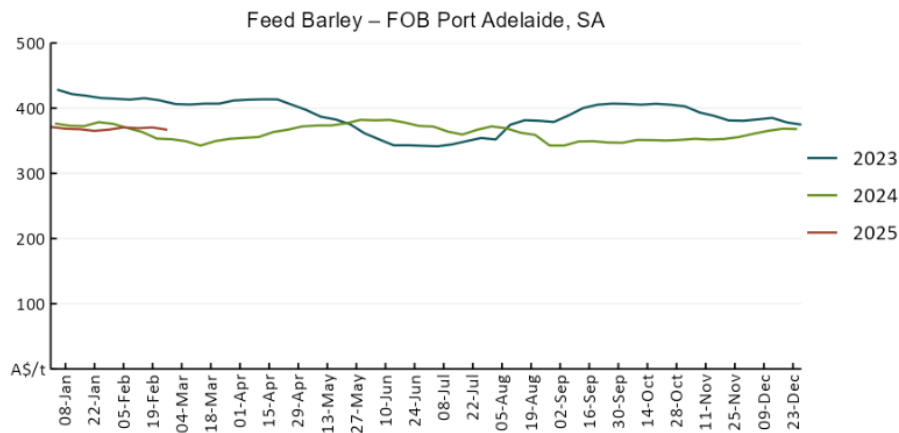
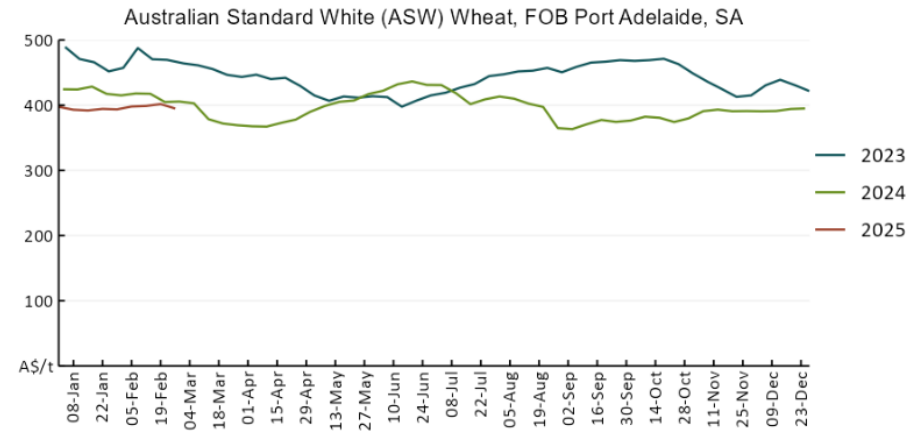
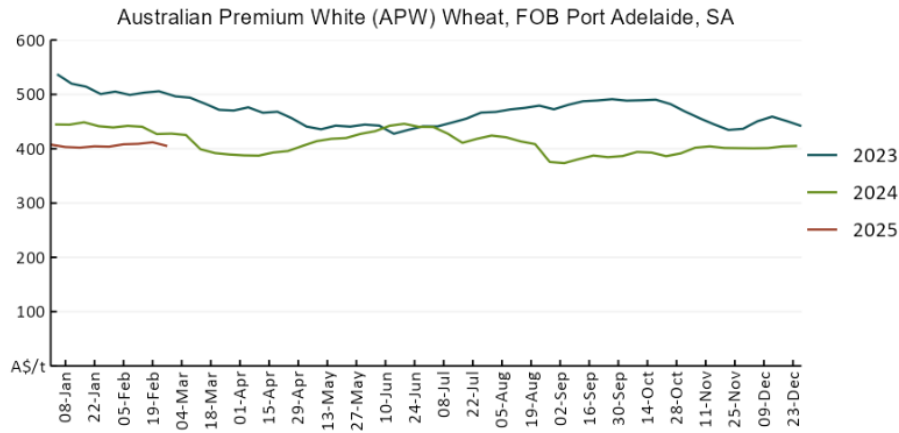
Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
<b>Selected world indicator prices</b>							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	26-Feb	A\$/US\$	0.64	0.64	0%	0.65	-3%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	26-Feb	US\$/t	261	269	-3%	278	-6%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	26-Feb	US\$/t	222	226	-2%	188	18%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	26-Feb	US\$/t	496	512	-3%	472	5%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	26-Feb	USc/lb	78	79	-1%	101	-22%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	26-Feb	USc/lb	20	19	2%	22	-12%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	26-Feb	Ac/kg clean	1,195	1,184	1%	1,159	3%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	26-Feb	Ac/kg clean	1,359	1,343	1%	1,289	5%
<b>Selected Australian grain export prices</b>							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	26-Feb	A\$/t	405	412	-2%	434	-7%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	26-Feb	A\$/t	395	402	-2%	412	-4%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	26-Feb	A\$/t	367	370	-1%	360	2%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	26-Feb	A\$/t	855	864	-1%	723	18%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	26-Feb	A\$/t	409	412	-1%	461	-11%
<b>Selected domestic livestock indicator prices</b>							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	26-Feb	Ac/kg cwt	664	663	0%	644	3%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	26-Feb	Ac/kg cwt	376	355	6%	265	42%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	26-Feb	Ac/kg cwt	788	771	2%	650	21%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	05-Feb	Ac/kg cwt	451	453	0%	419	8%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	26-Feb	Ac/kg lwt	355	355	0%	329	8%
<b>Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices</b>							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	19-Feb	US\$/t	4,153	4,169	0%	3,426	21%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	19-Feb	US\$/t	2,754	2,835	-3%	2,773	-1%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	19-Feb	US\$/t	4,862	5,025	-3%	4,306	13%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	19-Feb	US\$/t	6,723	6,766	-1%	6,293	7%

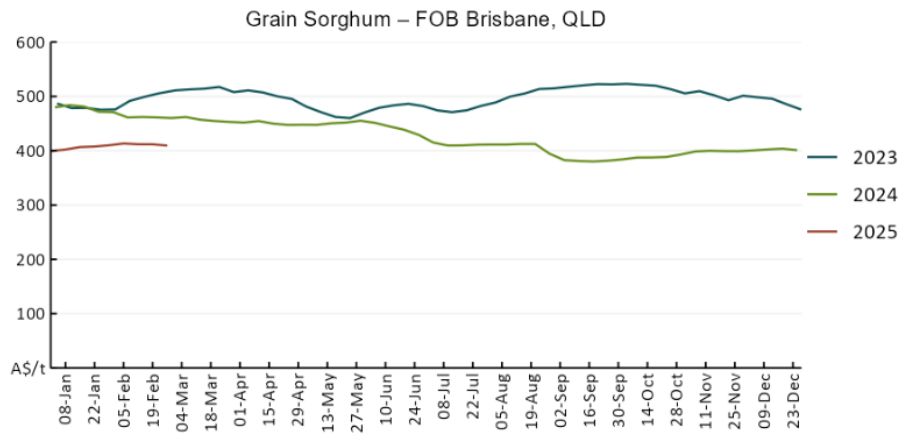
### 3.1. Selected world indicator prices



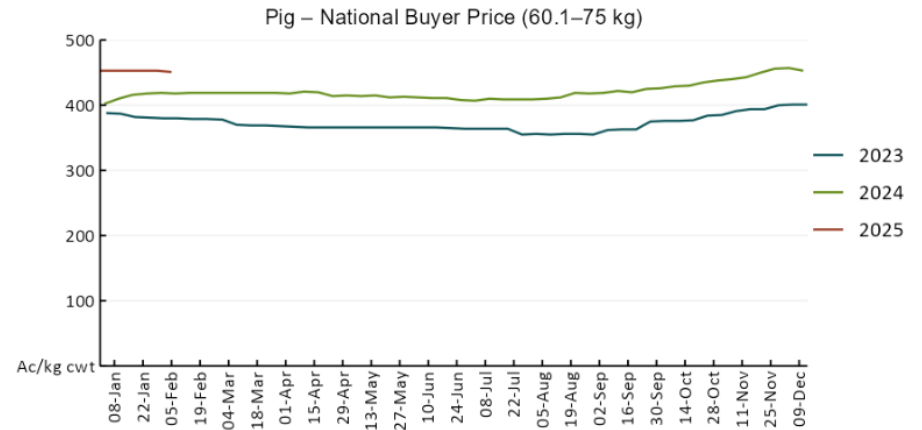
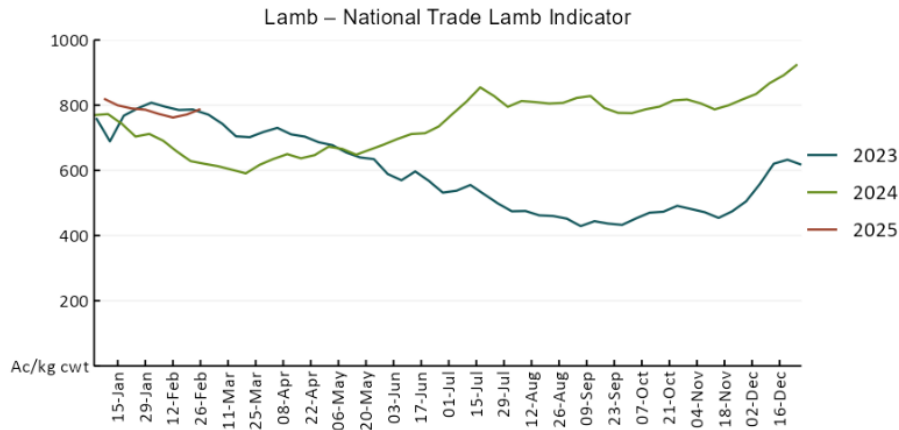
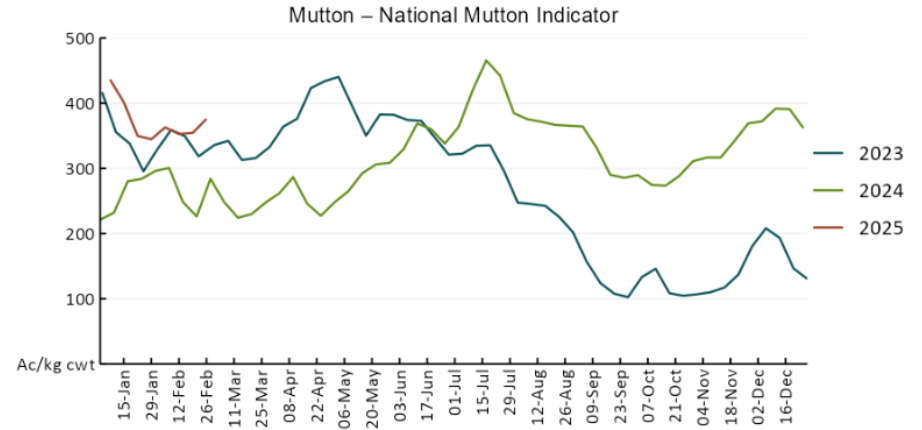
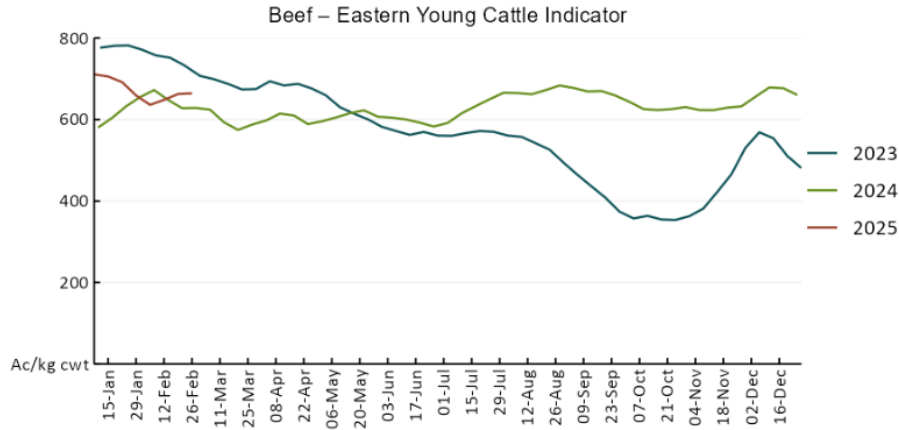


### 3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices

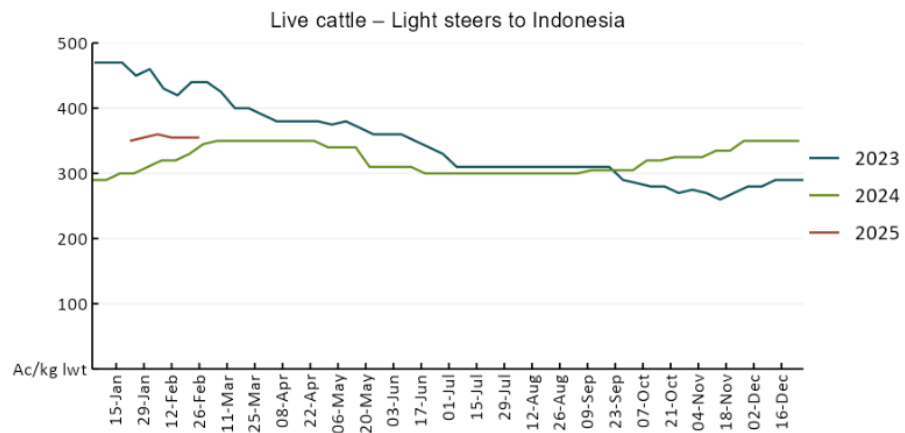




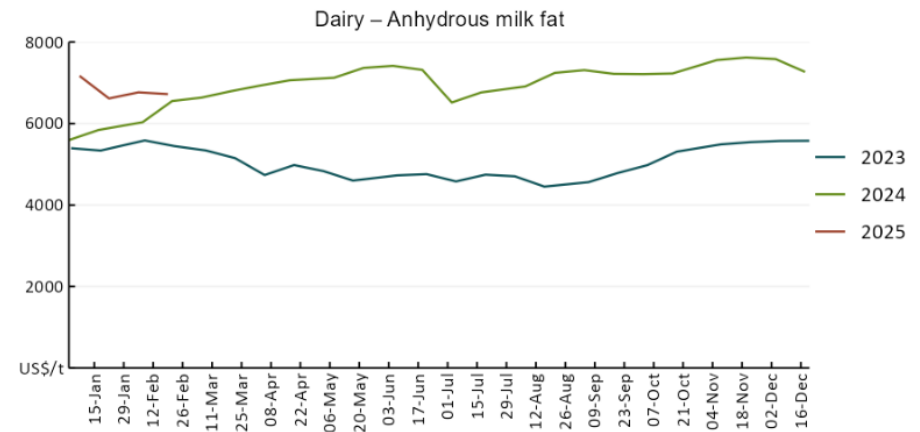
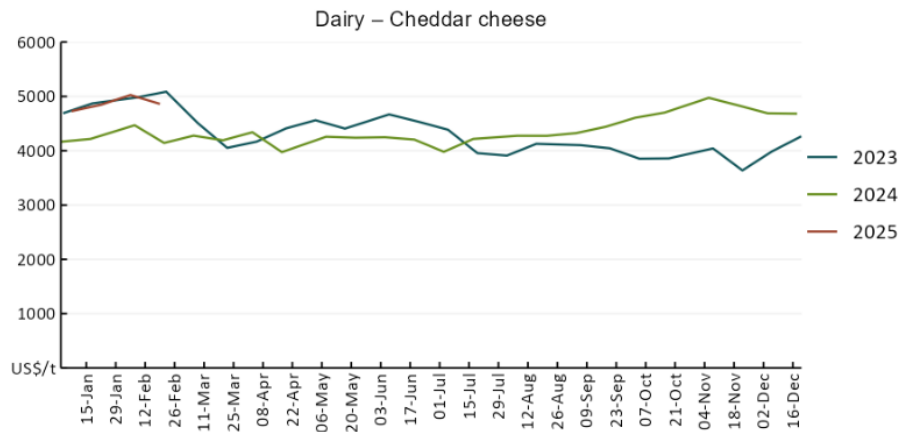
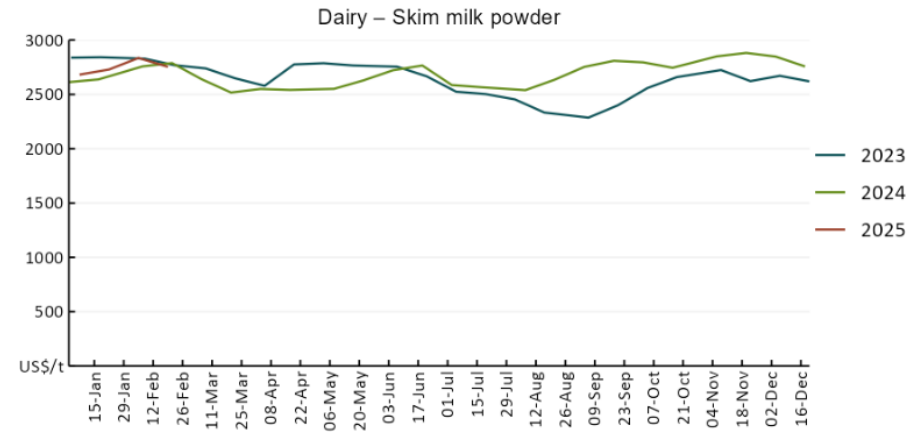
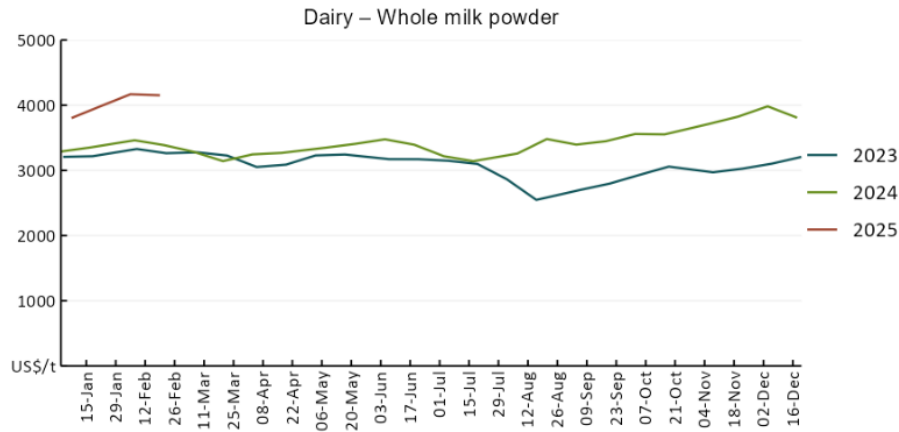
### 3.3. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices



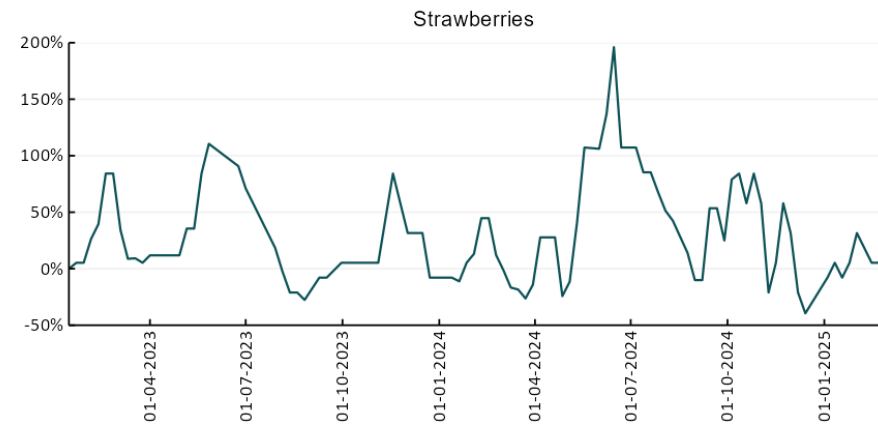
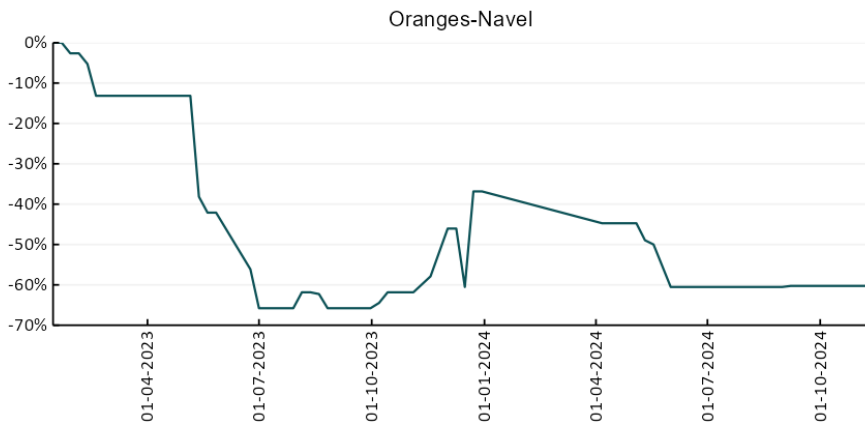
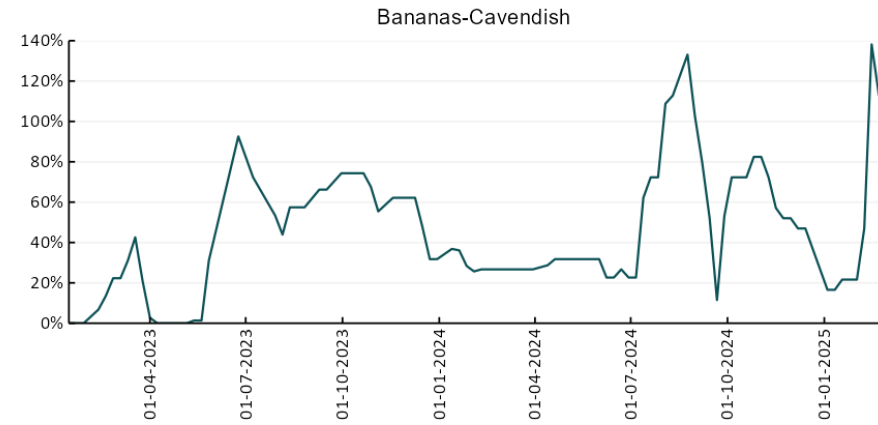
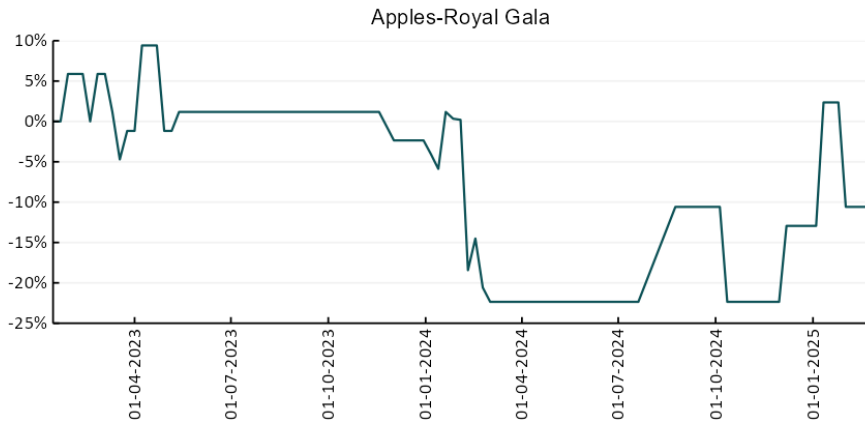


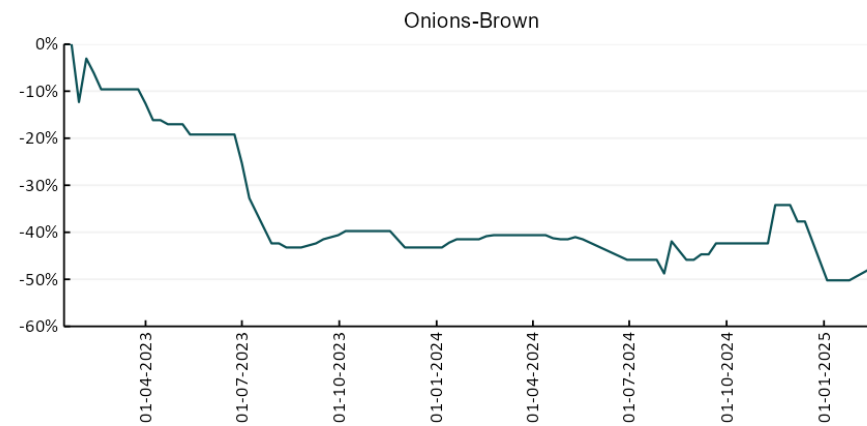
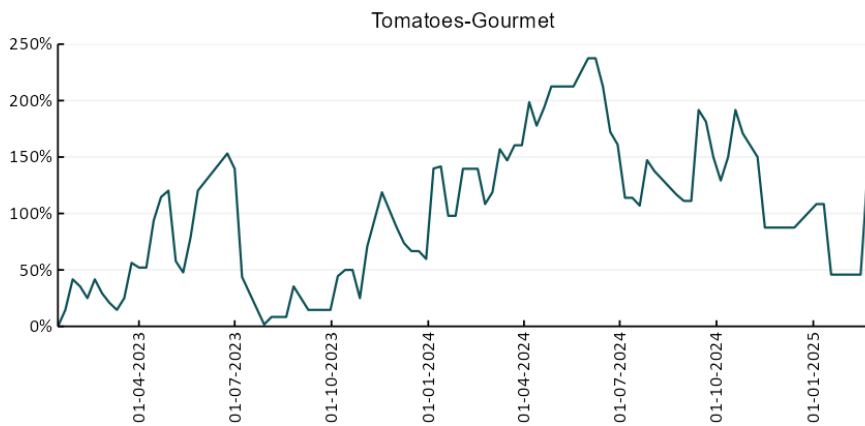
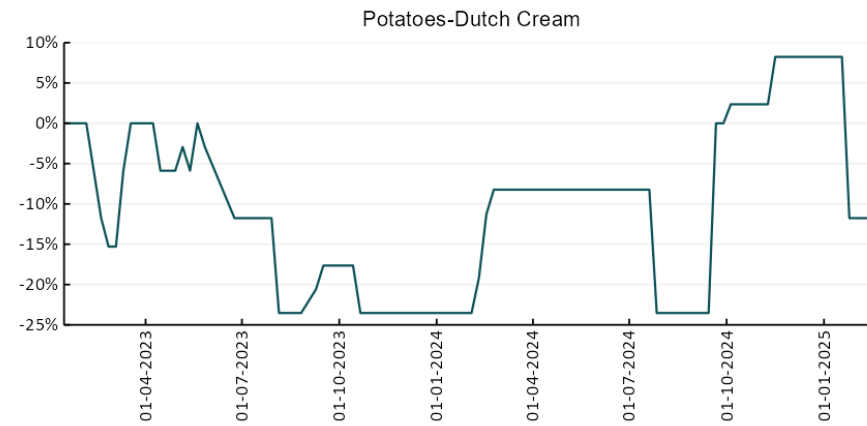
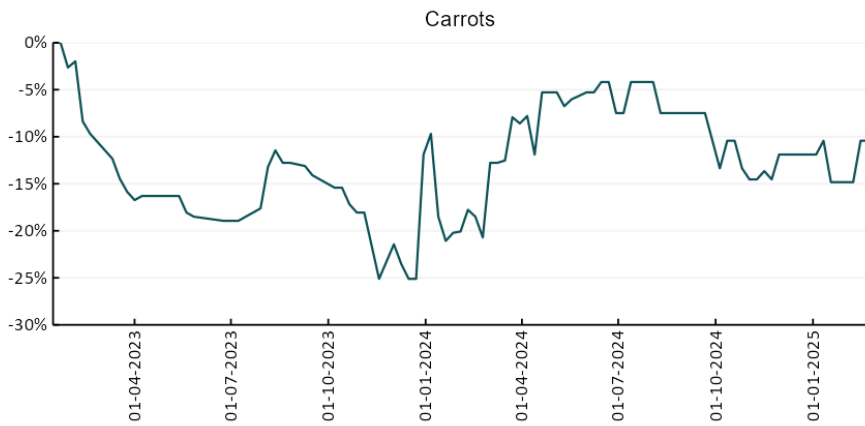


### 3.4. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

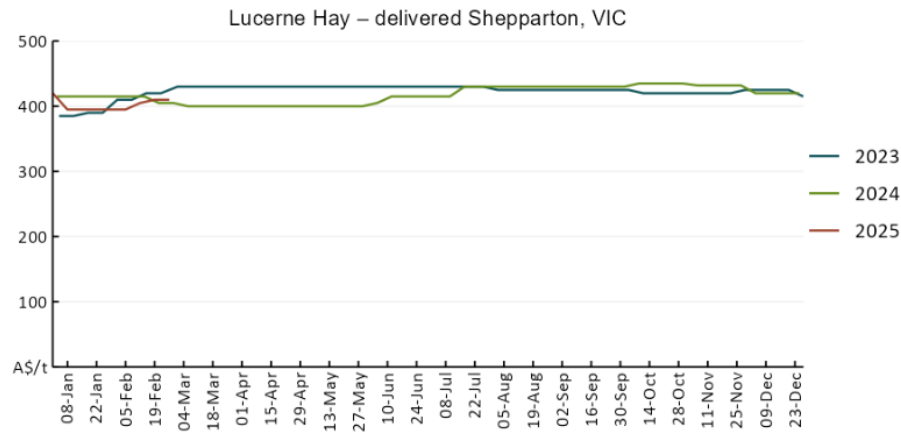
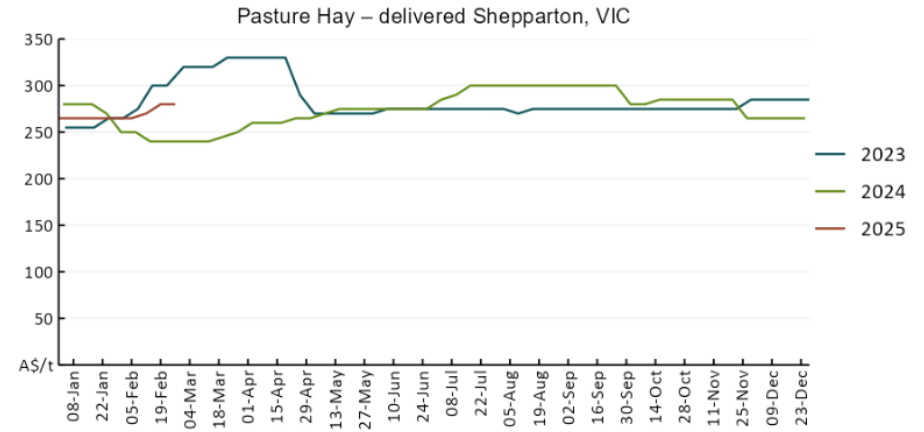
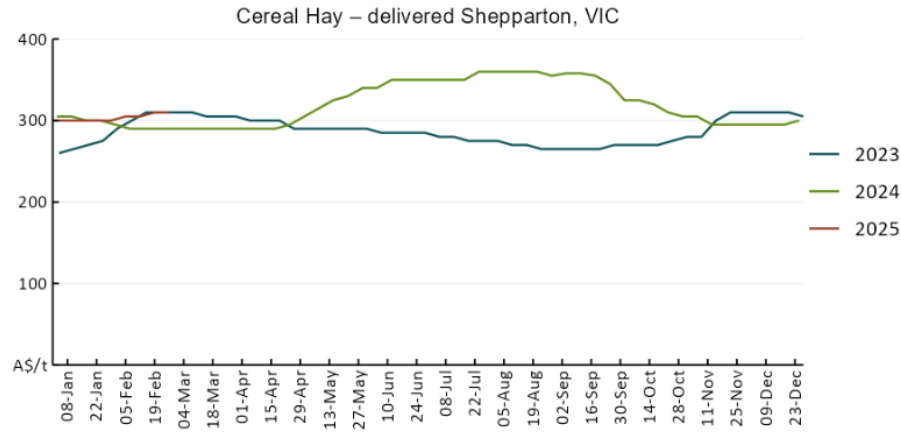


### 3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices





### 3.6 Selected domestic fodder indicator prices



## 4. Data attribution

### Climate

- Bureau of Meteorology
- Weekly rainfall totals: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/)
- Monthly and last 3-month rainfall percentiles: [www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/)
- Temperature anomalies: [www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/temp/index.jsp](http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/temp/index.jsp)
- Rainfall forecast: [www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp](http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp)
- Seasonal outlook: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary/)
- Climate drivers: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>
- Soil moisture: [www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/)
  - Other
- Pasture growth: [www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/aussiegrass/](http://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/aussiegrass/)
- 3-month global outlooks: [Environment and Climate Change Canada](#), [NOAA Climate Prediction Center](#), [EUROBRISA CPTec/INPE](#), [European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts](#), [Hydrometcenter of Russia](#), [National Climate Center Climate System Diagnosis and Prediction Room \(NCC\)](#), [International Research Institute for Climate and Society](#)
- Global production: <https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/ogamaps/cropmapsandcalendars.aspx>
- Autumn break: Pook et al., 2009, <https://rmetsonline.wiley.com/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/mbd/at>
- Storage volumes: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-storages/summary/drainage>
  - Trade constraints:
- Water NSW: <https://www.watnsw.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: [www.freshstate.com.au](http://www.freshstate.com.au)
  - Pigs
- Australian Pork Limited: [www.australianpork.com.au](http://www.australianpork.com.au)
  - Dairy
- Global Dairy Trade: [www.globaldairytrade.info/en/product-results/](http://www.globaldairytrade.info/en/product-results/)
  - World wheat, canola
- International Grains Council
  - World coarse grains
- United States Department of Agriculture
  - World cotton
  - Cotlook: [www.cotlook.com/](http://www.cotlook.com/)
  - World sugar
- New York Stock Exchange - Intercontinental Exchange
  - Wool
- Australian Wool Exchange: [www.awex.com.au/](http://www.awex.com.au/)
  - 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: [www.mla.com.au/Prices-and-market](http://www.mla.com.au/Prices-and-market)



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