



Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 5/2026

12 February 2026

Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 11 February 2026, weather systems including Tropical Cyclone Mitchell brought rainfall to much of Australia.
 - Tropical Cyclone Mitchell hugged the Western Australian north-western coastline for several days between 6-9 February before making landfall as a tropical low system in the early hours of 10 February near Shark Bay, bringing some destructive winds and widespread falls of between 50 and 150 millimetres.
 - Across northern and central Australia widespread weekly rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres has led to issuing of flood warning across numerous river catchments. At this stage there have been no reports of agricultural losses, with these falls likely to provide significant longer-term benefits to pasture production.
 - Large areas of western and central New South Wales saw falls of between 15-100 millimetres.
- Over the 8-days to 19 February 2026, rainfall is forecast for much of the north and east of Australia.
 - High rainfall totals of 50-150 millimetres are forecast for Queensland, with northern New South Wales expected to 10-100 millimetres.
 - These expected heavier falls across Queensland and northern New South Wales are likely to support soil moisture in summer cropping regions and improve pasture growth.
- The national rainfall outlook for March to May 2026 indicates an increased probability of below median rainfall across much of southern and central Australia.
 - Despite these expected below average falls, rainfall totals across northern Australia are likely to be sufficient to support summer pasture growth and summer crop yield prospects, particularly given recent heavy rainfall and boosted soil moisture levels.
 - In contrast, these expected well below average falls for much of southern and central Australia represents an increased downside production risk for the upcoming 2026–27 winter cropping season and autumn pasture growth.
- Water levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 175 gigalitres (GL) between 5 February 2026 and 12 February 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 11,171 GL, equivalent to 50% of total storage capacity. This is 20% or 2744 GL less than 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 \$426/ML on 5 February to \$466/ML on 12 February 2026. Trade from the Goulburn to the Murray is closed. Trade downstream through the Barmah Choke is closed. Trade from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray is open.

1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

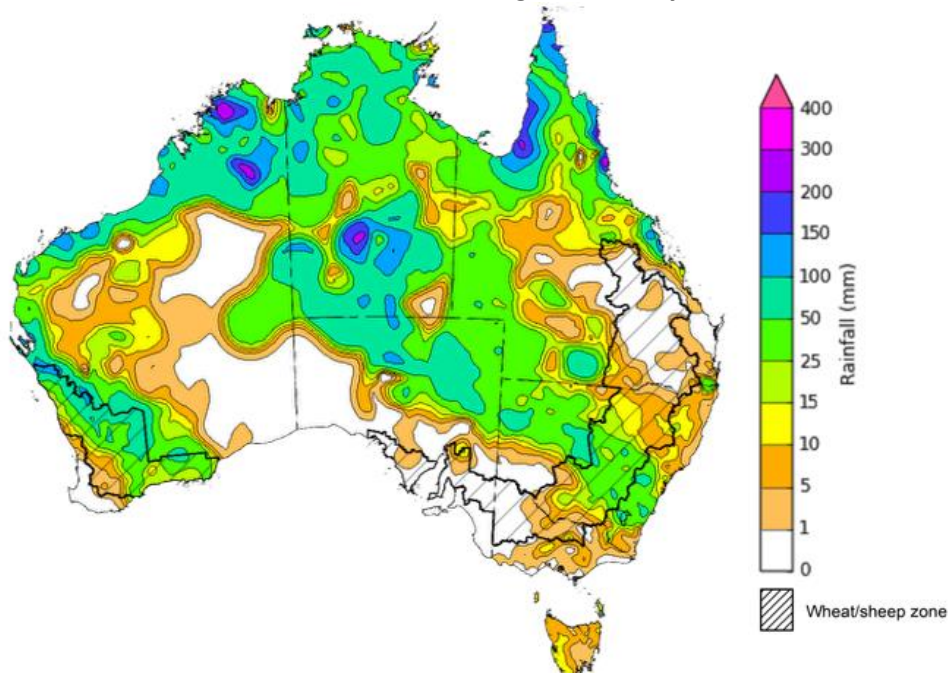
In the week ending 11 February 2026, Tropical cyclone Mitchell, cold fronts and a northwest cloudband brought heavy rainfall to much of Australia, including northern, central, and western Australia. Parts of the south and the east remained largely dry.

- Tropical Cyclone Mitchell hugged the Western Australian north-western coastline for several days between 6-9 February before making landfall as a tropical low system in the early hours of 10 February near Shark Bay, bringing some destructive winds and widespread falls of between 50 and 150 millimetres.
- Across northern and central Australia widespread weekly rainfall totals in excess of 50 millimetres has led to issuing of flood warning across numerous river catchments. At this stage there have been no reports of agricultural losses, with these falls likely to provide significant longer-term benefits to pasture production.
- Large areas of western and central New South Wales saw falls of between 15-100 millimetres.

Across cropping regions, rainfall was low in some southern areas, while high in the west and southeast:

- New South Wales saw falls of between 5-100 millimetres, with rainfall totals being lower in the northern and southern margins. In contrast, Queensland saw little to no rainfall over the period.
 - These falls are expected to support soil moisture storage and benefit summer crop and pasture production across New South Wales.
- In Western Australia, falls of 5-100 millimetres were observed.
 - These falls are expected to support soil moisture storage ahead of the 2026–27 winter cropping season.
- Little to no rainfall was recorded across Victoria and South Australian cropping regions.

Rainfall for the week ending 11 February 2026



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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/>

Issued: 11/2/2026

1.2. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

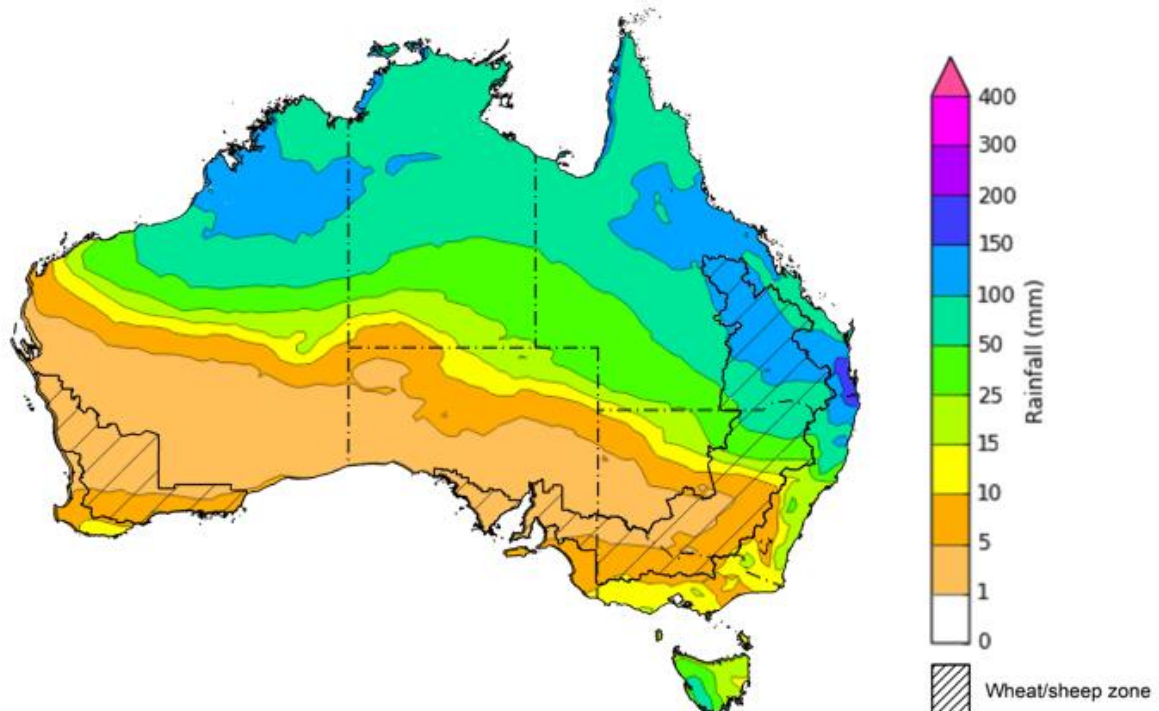
Over the 8 days to 19 February 2026, low pressure systems are expected to bring considerable rainfall to much of the north and east of Australia, while south-western regions of the country are forecast to remain largely dry.

- Forecast falls of between 25-150 millimetres are expected across flood warning areas of northern Australia. If realised these falls are likely to continue to slow recovery efforts.
- Outside of flood affected regions, if realised these substantial falls across northern and eastern Australia are likely to support soil moisture levels, replenish water supplies and boost pasture availability and benefit the growth of summer crops.

Limited rainfall is expected across southern cropping regions this week, with substantial rainfall expected in the northeast.

- High rainfall totals of 50-150 millimetres are forecast for Queensland, with northern New South Wales expected to 10-100 millimetres.
 - These expected heavier falls across Queensland and northern New South Wales are likely to support soil moisture in summer cropping regions and improve pasture growth.
- Remaining cropping regions are forecast to receive little to no rainfall.

Total forecast rainfall for the period 12 February to 19 February 2026



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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.

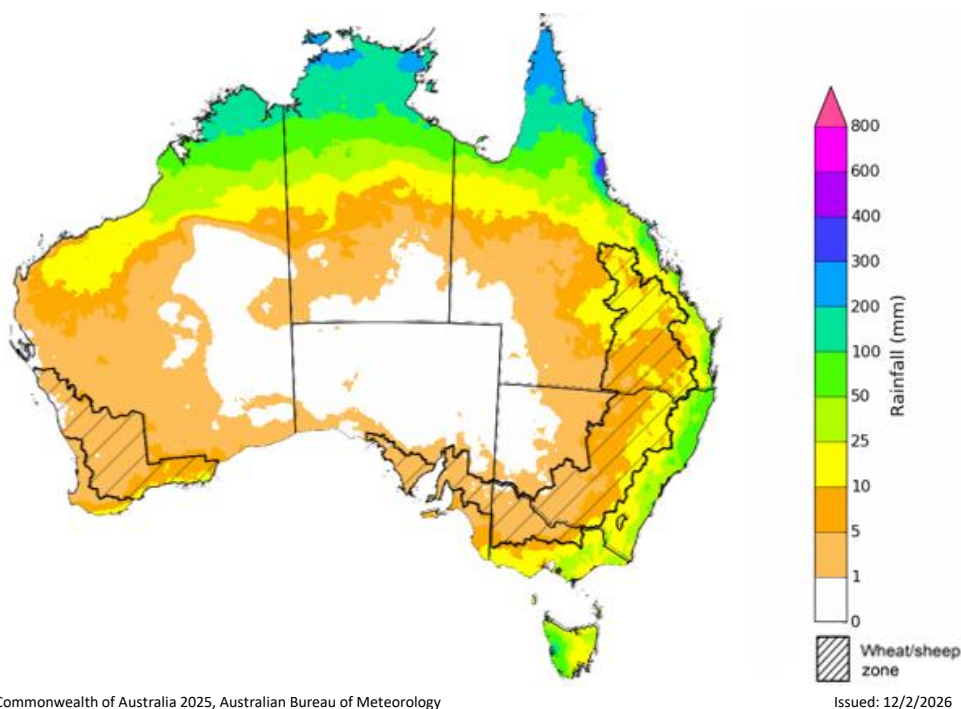
1.3. National Climate Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology has indicated that the 2025–26 La Niña continues to weaken, with sea surface temperatures in the central tropical Pacific are now close to the neutral ENSO range and atmospheric indicators also show a general easing of the La Niña pattern. These recent changes in the tropical Pacific are consistent with model forecasts, which for some months have indicated a general easing of La Niña during the latter part of the 2025–26 summer. All models, including the Bureau's, z indicate a continued warming in the tropical Pacific with a neutral ENSO state favoured through to at least late autumn. Some models suggest the possibility of El Niño development from June. The negative Southern Annular Mode (SAM) event is currently neutral and is forecast to remain neutral until autumn. Similar, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event is currently neutral, and is likely to remain neutral until autumn 2026.

The most recent **rainfall outlook for March 2026** provided by the Bureau of Meteorology indicates that most of **Australia** is more likely to see **below median to median rainfall**, with parts of northern Australia more likely to see above median falls.

- The Bureau of Meteorology's climate model indicates a 75% chance of March rainfall totals between 10-200 millimetres across parts of eastern and northern Australia, with higher rainfall totals of up to 300 millimetres expected in the Northern Tropics. Much of southern Western Australia, South Australia, and western areas of New South Wales, northern Victoria and south-western Queensland are likely to see little to no rainfall which is typical for this time of year.
- Across cropping regions, there is a 75% chance of receiving rainfall totals of between 5- 25 millimetres across Queensland and eastern New South Wales. Meanwhile western New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia are likely to see 1-10 millimetres.
 - If forecast rainfall totals are realised across much of New South Wales and Queensland, these falls are likely to be sufficient to support above average yield prospects for summer crops and average or better levels of pasture production, particularly given the recent boost in soil moisture levels.

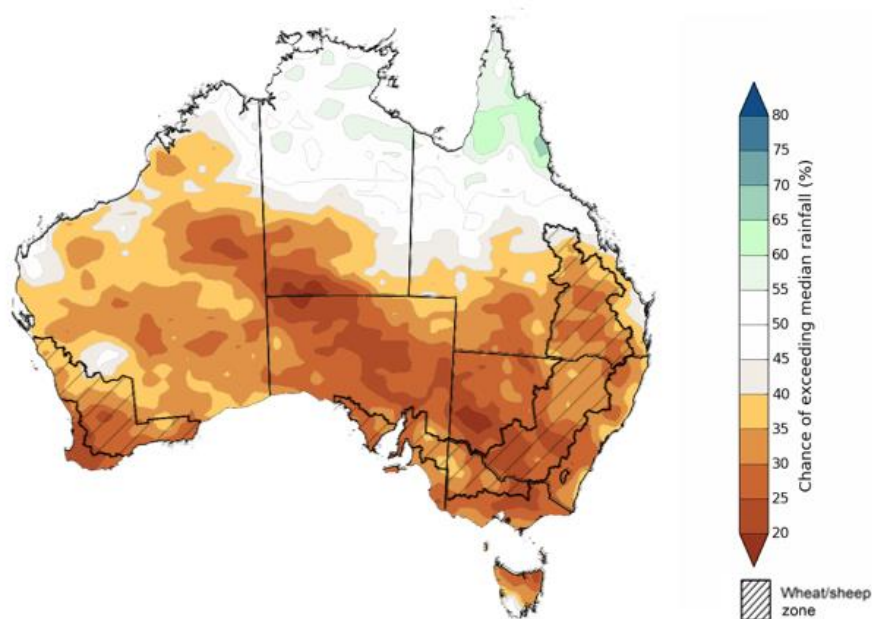
Rainfall totals that have a 75% chance of occurring in March 2026



The rainfall outlook for March 2026 to May 2026 indicates a strong tendency towards below median rainfall across much of southern and central Australia. However, there is an increased probability of above median rainfall in parts of the northern tropics, with remaining areas of northern Australia showing no strong tendency towards above or below median rainfall.

Across cropping regions, the chance of receiving above median rainfall are low with most cropping regions showing a 20-40% chance of receiving above median rainfall.

Chance of exceeding the median rainfall March 2026 to May 2026



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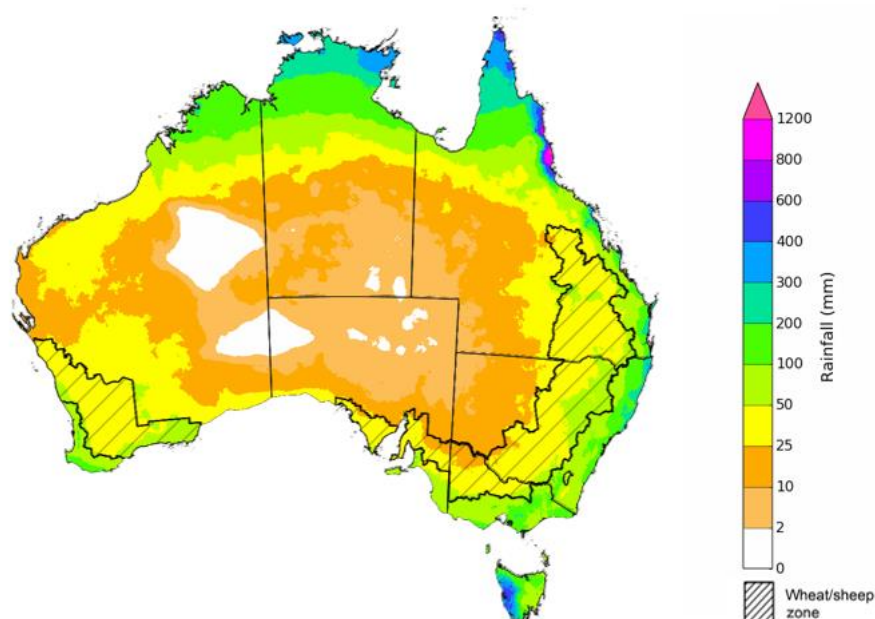
Issued: 15/1/2026

The **rainfall outlook for March 2026 to May 2026** suggests a 75% chance of receiving rainfall totals of between 50-300 millimetres across parts of eastern, southern and northern Australia. Higher falls of up to 600 millimetres are expected across scattered northeast coastal regions and parts of western Tasmania, with higher rainfall totals in isolated areas of the northern tropics. Lower rainfall totals are forecast for central regions, with much of South Australia, central Western Australia, western New South Wales, northern Victoria, and south-western Queensland and southern Northern Territory likely to see 5-50 millimetres.

In cropping regions, there is a 75% chance of receiving between 25-100 millimetres across much of Queensland, northern New South Wales and Western Australia. The remaining cropping regions of southern New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia are likely to see 10-50 millimetres.

If these forecast March through May rainfall totals are realised, they are likely to be sufficient to support summer pasture growth and summer crop yield prospects across northern Australia, particularly given recent heavy rainfall and boosted soil moisture levels. In contrast, these expected well below average falls for much of southern and central Australia represents an increased downside production risk for the upcoming 2026–27 winter cropping season and autumn pasture growth.

Rainfall totals that have a 75% chance of occurring March 2026 to May 2026

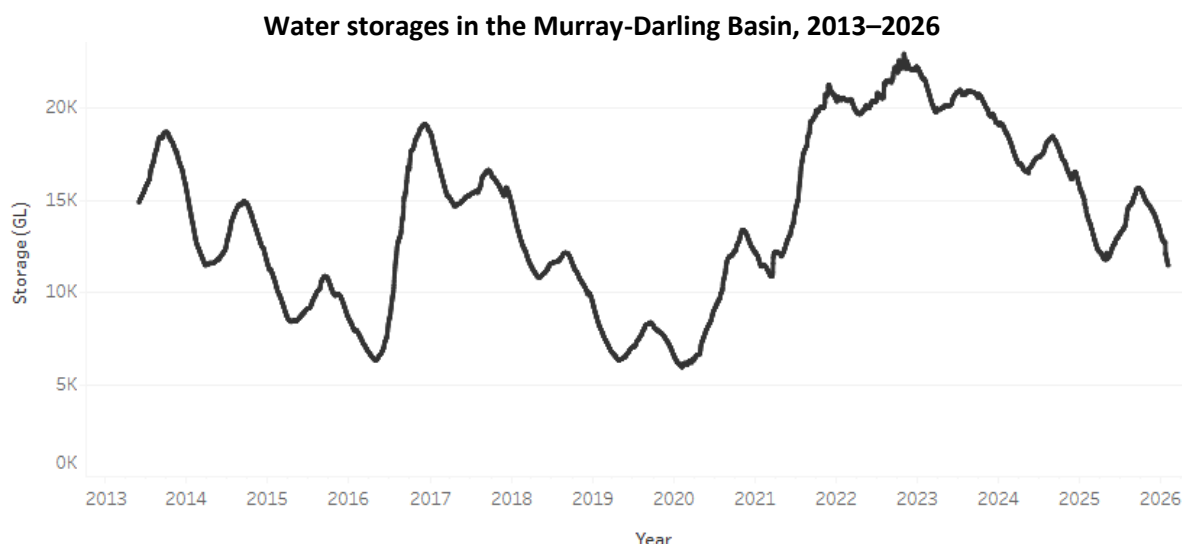


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1.4. Water markets – current week

Water levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 175 gigalitres (GL) between 5 February 2026 and 12 February 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 11,171 GL, equivalent to 50% of total storage capacity. This is 20% or 2744 GL less than 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 \$426/ML on 5 February to \$466/ML on 12 February 2026. Trade from the Goulburn to the Murray is closed. Trade downstream through the Barmah Choke is closed. Trade from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray is open.

Water market prices, Southern Murray–Darling Basin

Region	\$/ML
NSW Murray Above	338
NSW Murrumbidgee	471
Vic Greater Goulburn	383
Vic Murray Below	466

Note: The water allocation prices shown are volume weighted average prices based on the last 10 trades. Price data is sourced from Waterflow and current as at 22 January 2026.

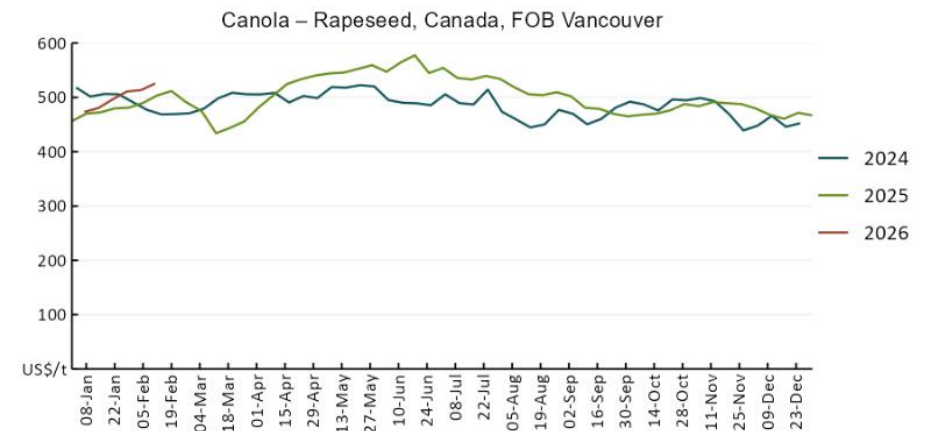
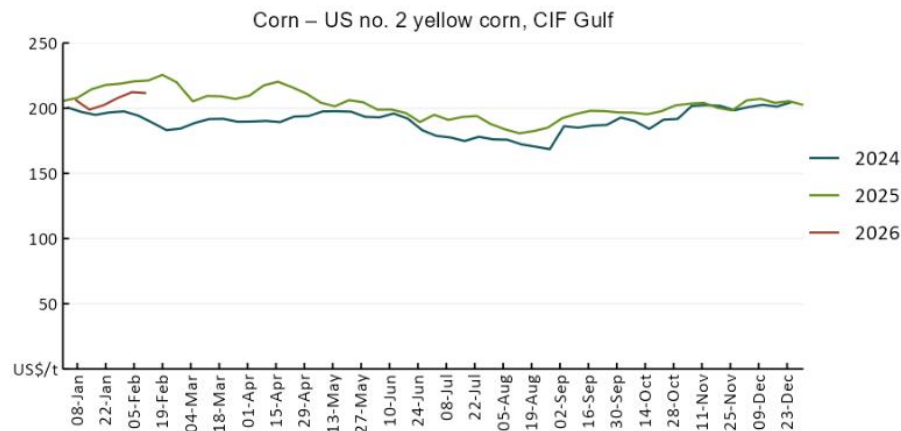
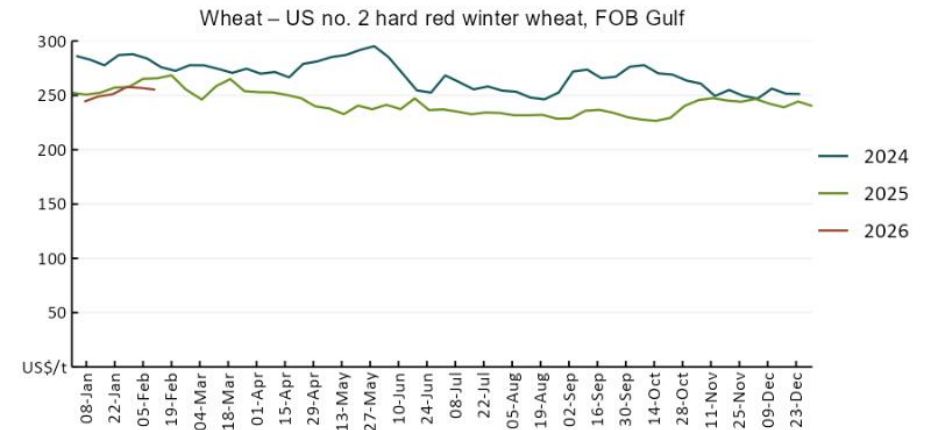
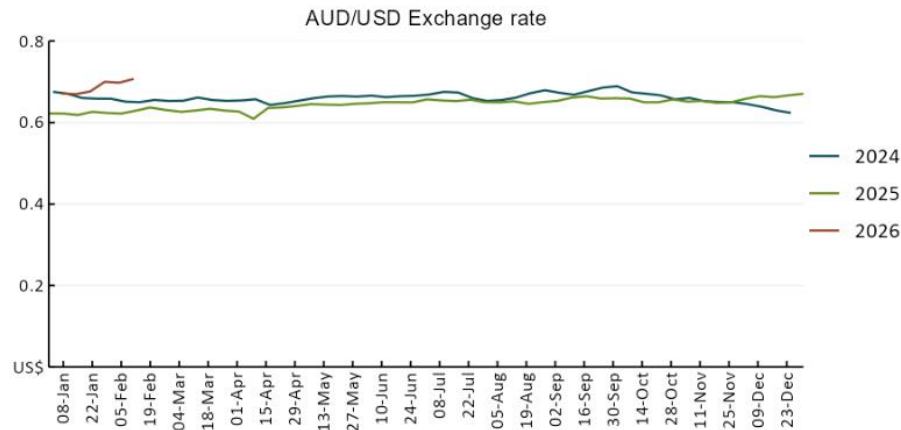
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit

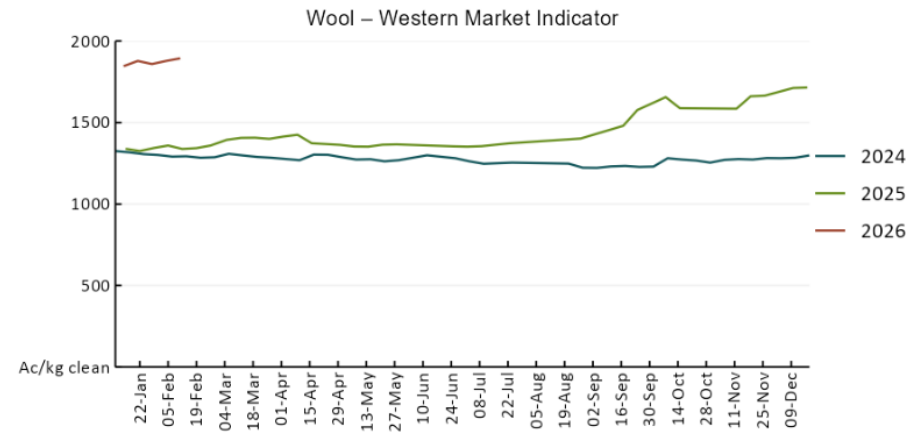
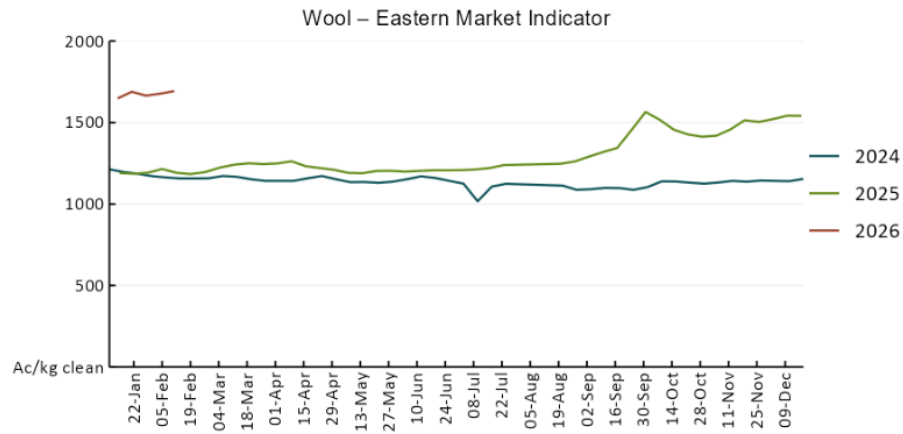
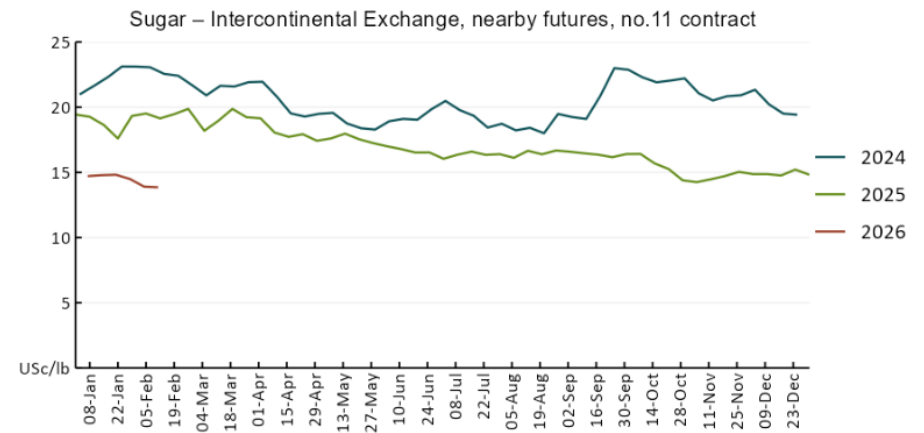
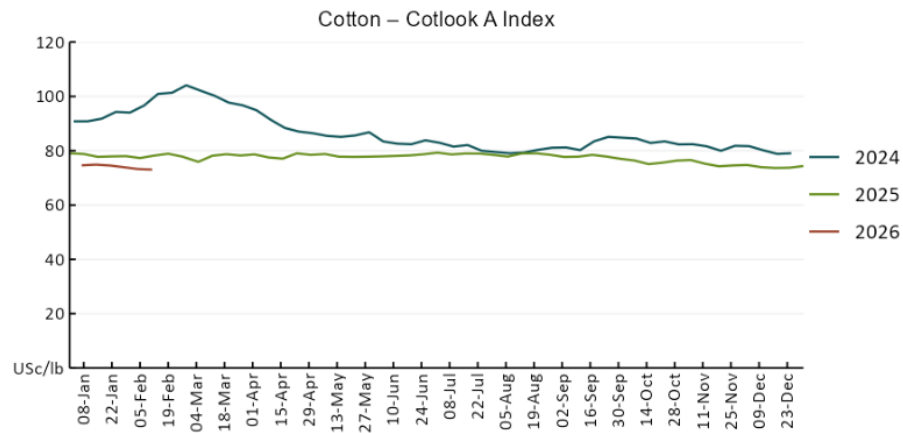
https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-260212

2. Commodities

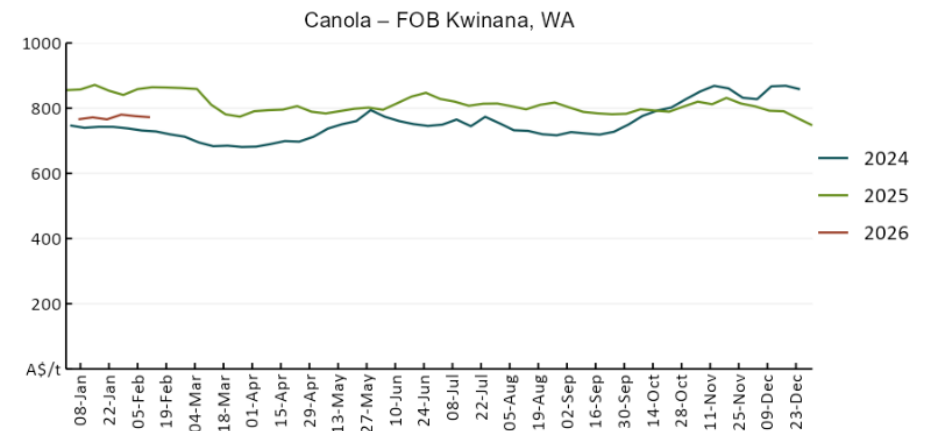
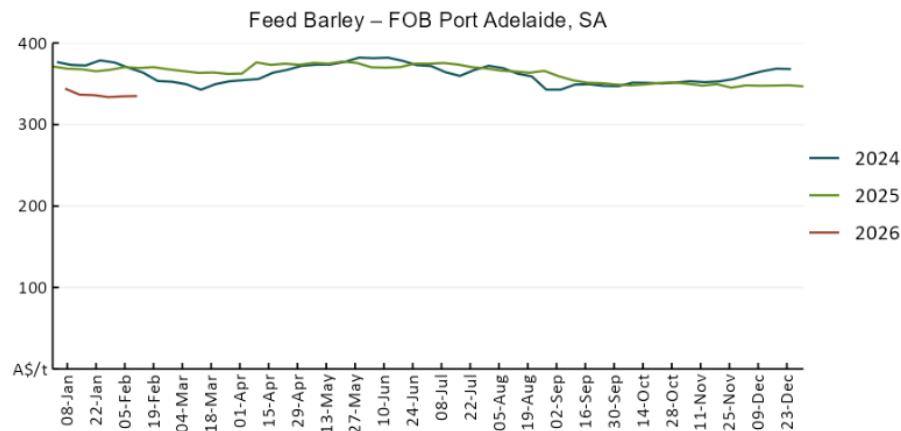
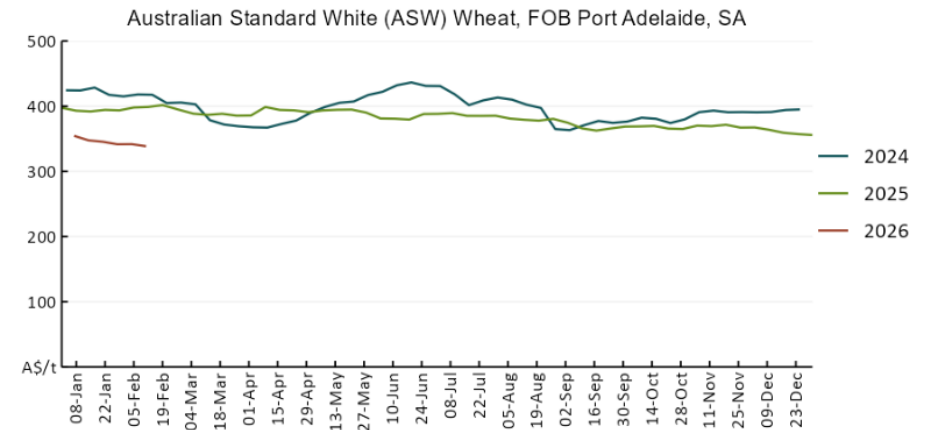
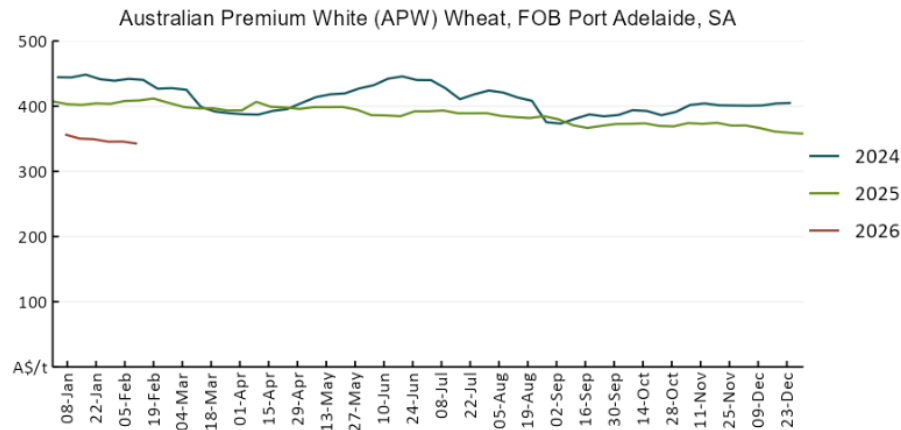
Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
Selected world indicator prices							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	11-Feb	A\$/US\$	0.71	0.70	1%	0.63	12%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	11-Feb	US\$/t	255	257	-1%	264	-3%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	11-Feb	US\$/t	212	212	0%	222	-5%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	11-Feb	US\$/t	526	513	2%	499	5%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	11-Feb	USc/lb	73.1	73.3	0%	78.1	-6%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	11-Feb	USc/lb	13.9	13.9	0%	19.5	-29%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	11-Feb	Ac/kg clean	1,693	1,677	1%	1,197	41%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	11-Feb	Ac/kg clean	1,894	1,878	1%	1,350	40%
Selected Australian grain export prices							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	11-Feb	A\$/t	343	346	-1%	409	-16%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	11-Feb	A\$/t	339	342	-1%	399	-15%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	11-Feb	A\$/t	335	335	0%	370	-9%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	11-Feb	A\$/t	772	776	0%	862	-10%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	11-Feb	A\$/t	426	428	-1%	412	3%
Selected domestic livestock indicator prices							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	11-Feb	Ac/kg cwt	847	842	1%	652	30%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	11-Feb	Ac/kg cwt	757	759	0%	362	109%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	11-Feb	Ac/kg cwt	1,110	1,122	-1%	773	43%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	28-Jan	Ac/kg cwt	469	468	0%	452	4%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	11-Feb	Ac/kg lwt	480	480	0%	356	35%
Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	4-Feb	US\$/t	3,614	3,449	5%	4,161	-13%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	4-Feb	US\$/t	2,874	2,615	10%	2,795	3%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	4-Feb	US\$/t	4,772	4,594	4%	4,944	-3%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	4-Feb	US\$/t	6,524	6,191	5%	6,745	-3%

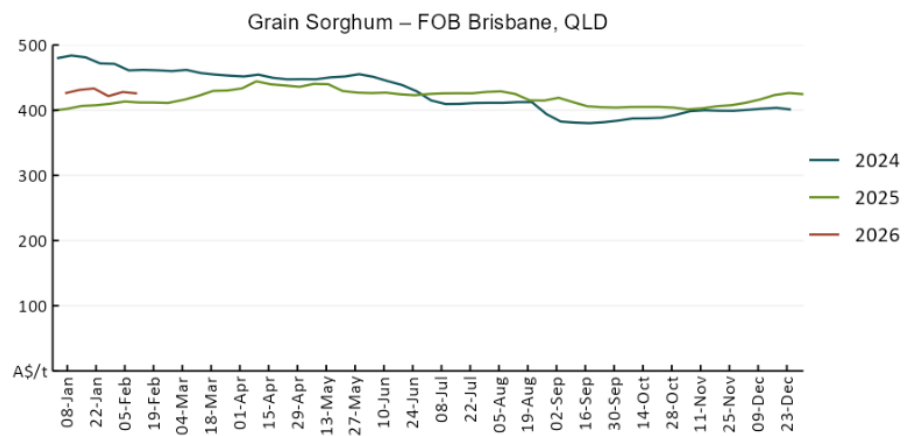
2.1. Selected world indicator prices



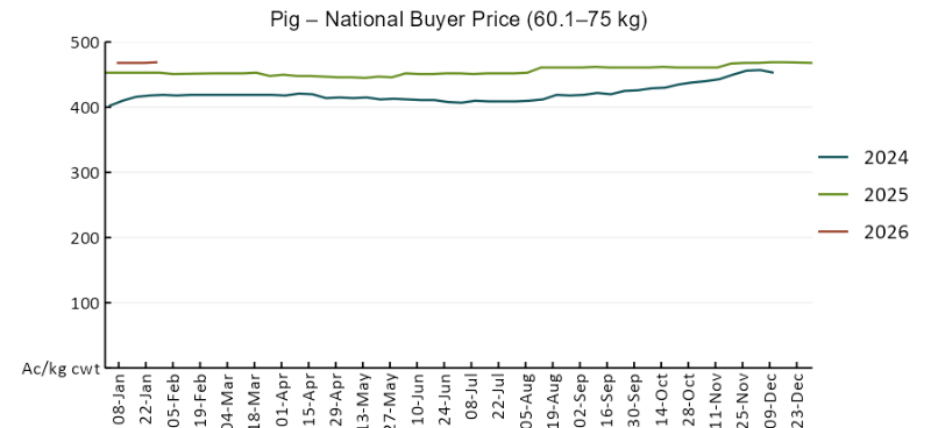
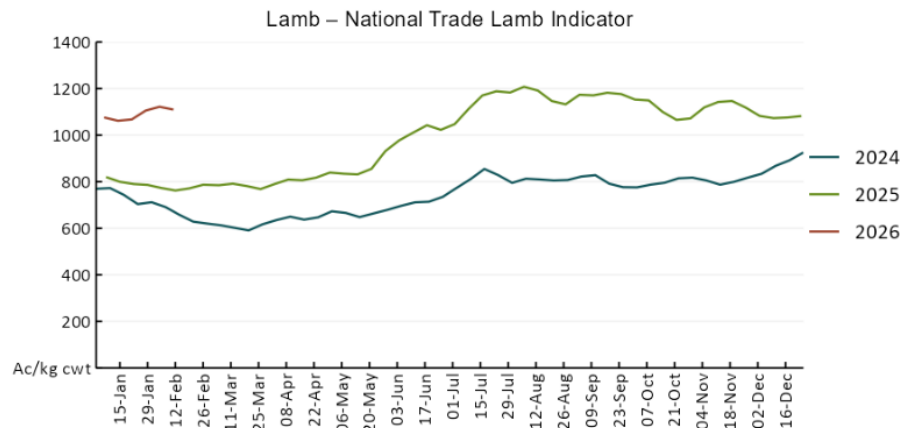
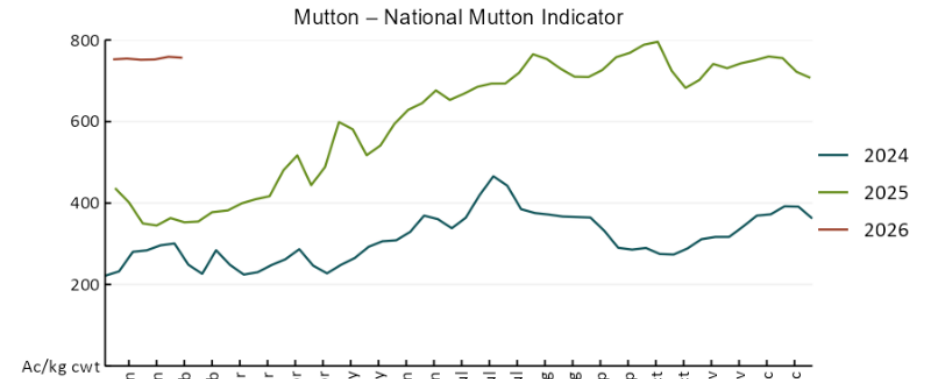
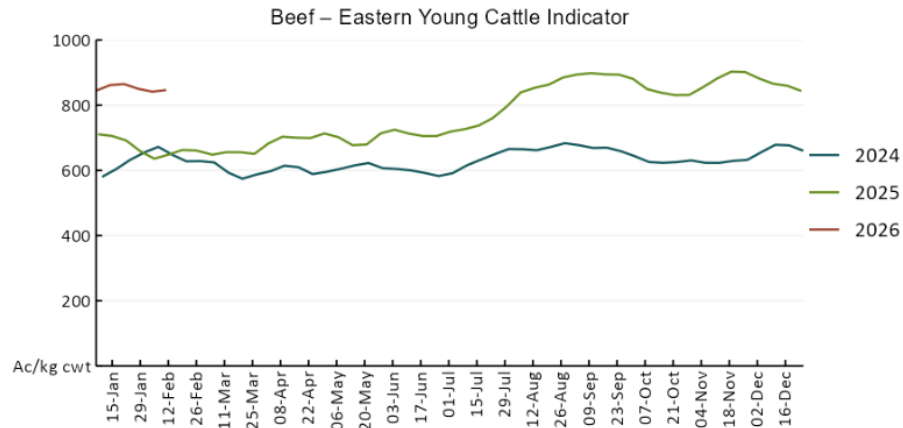


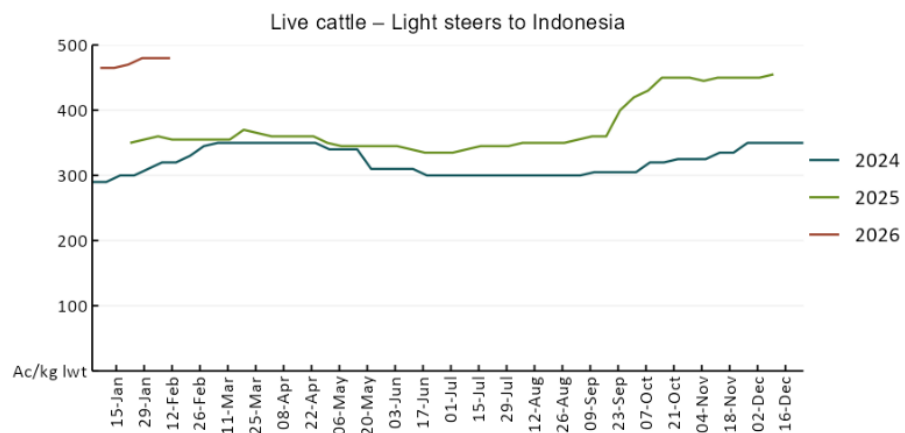
3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices



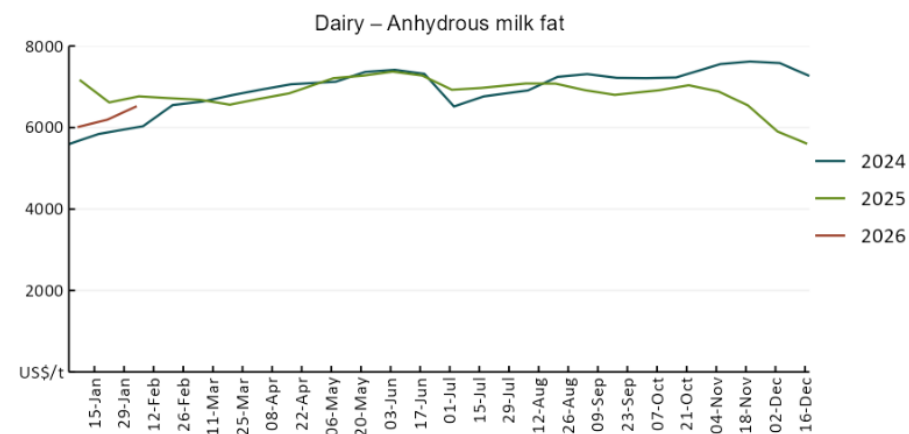
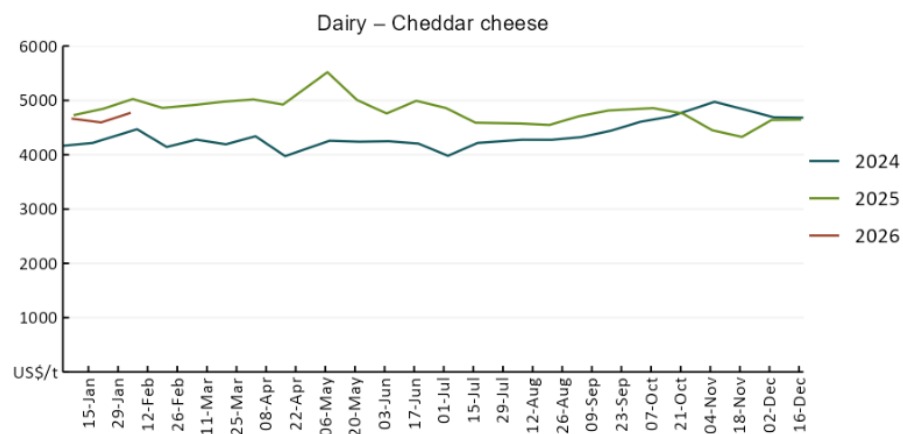
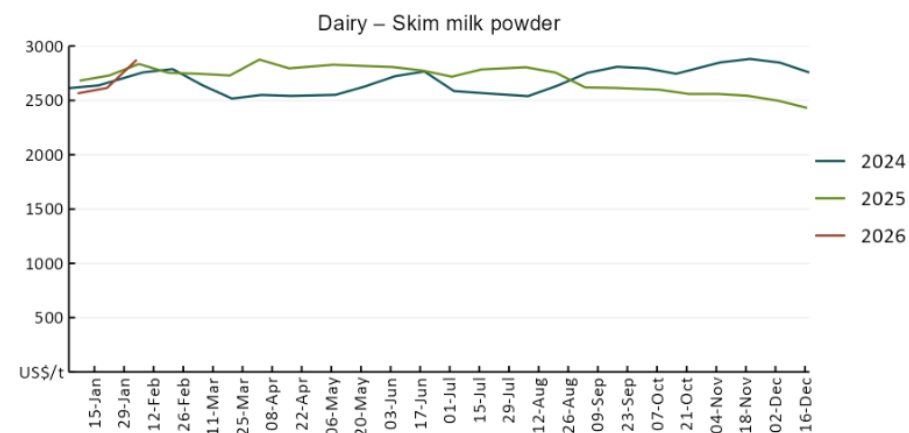
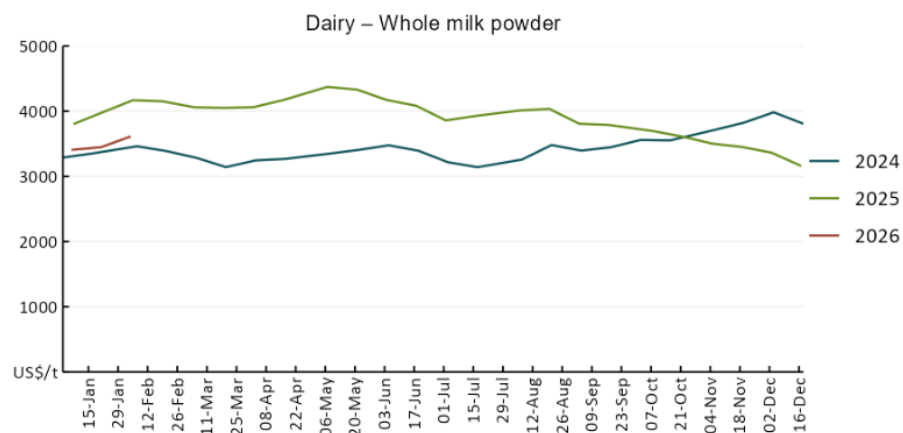


3.3 Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

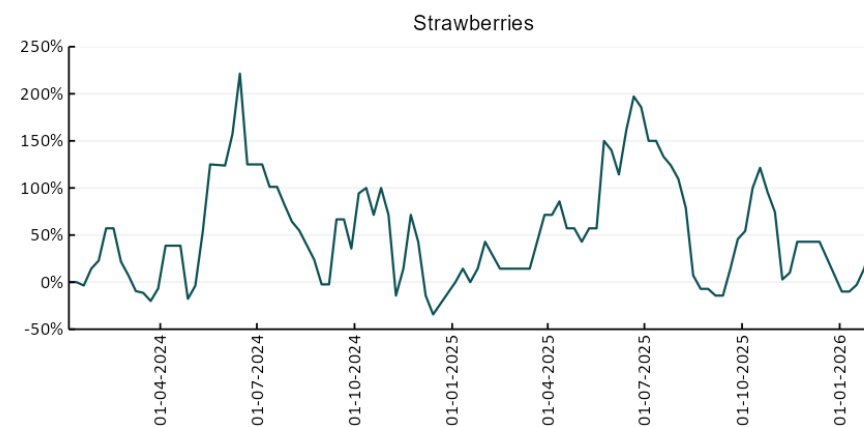
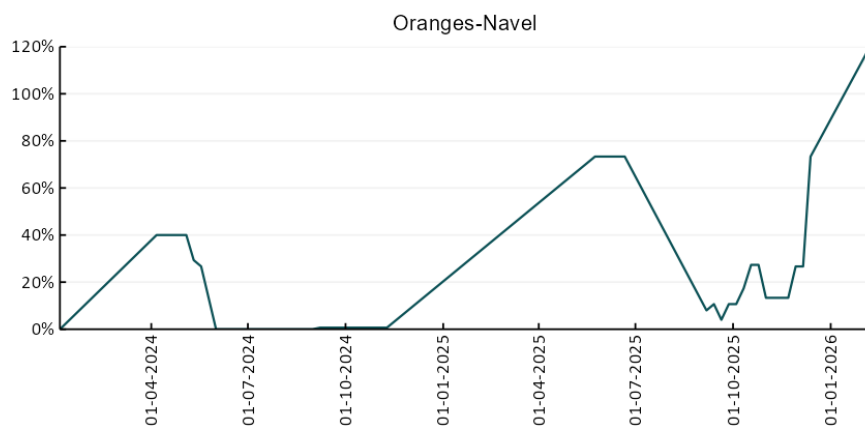
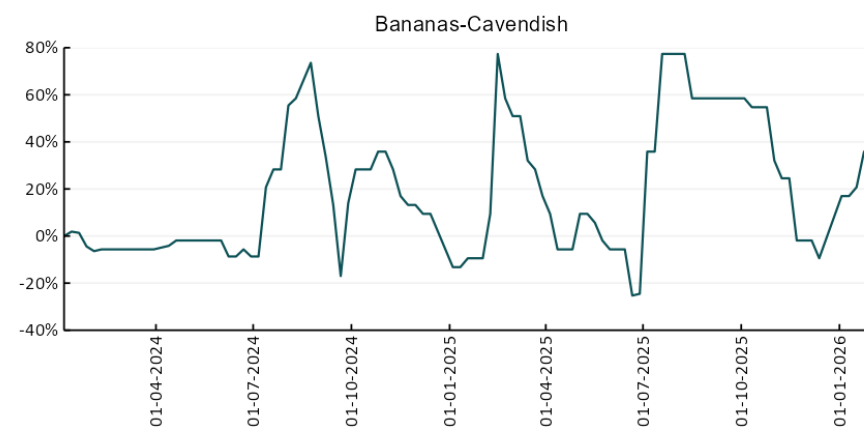
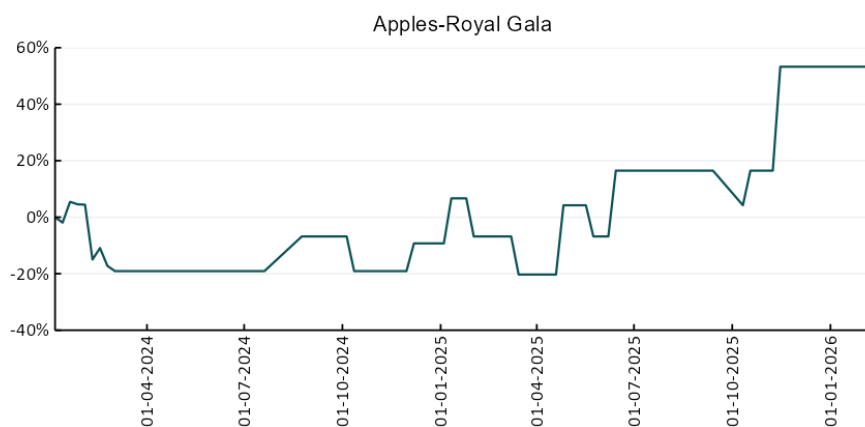


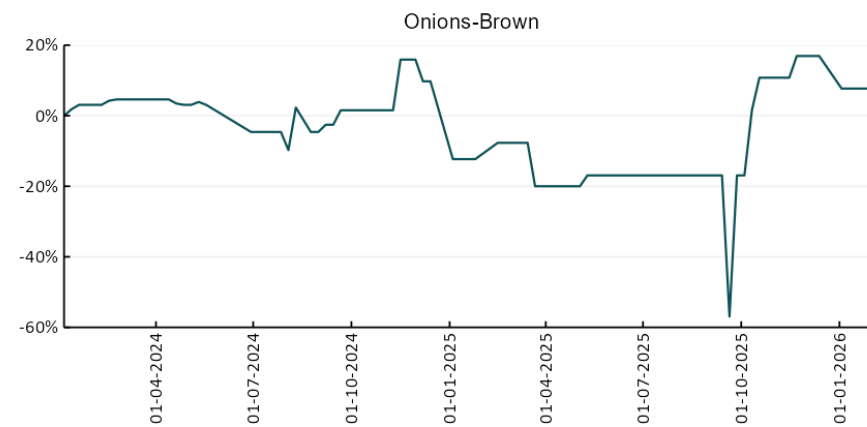
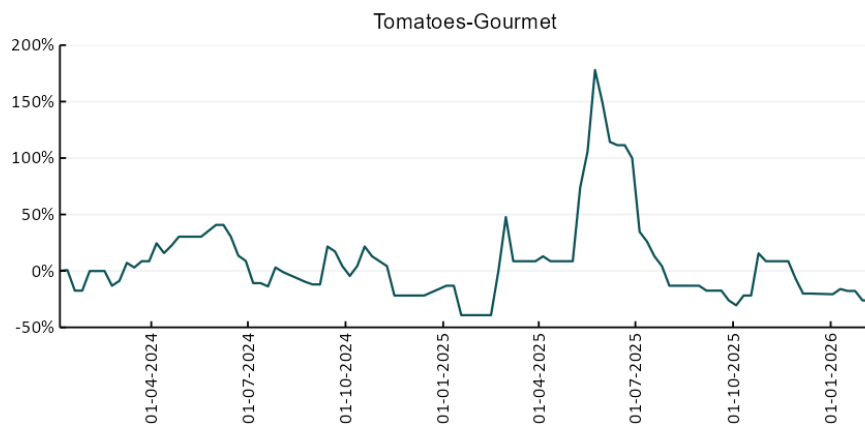
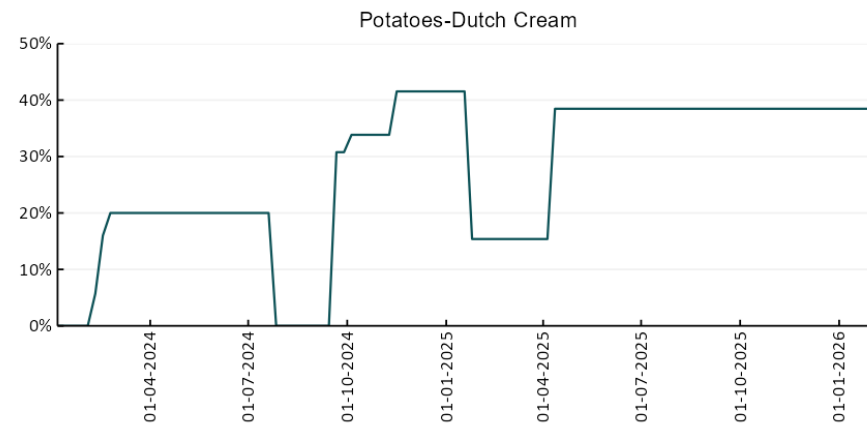
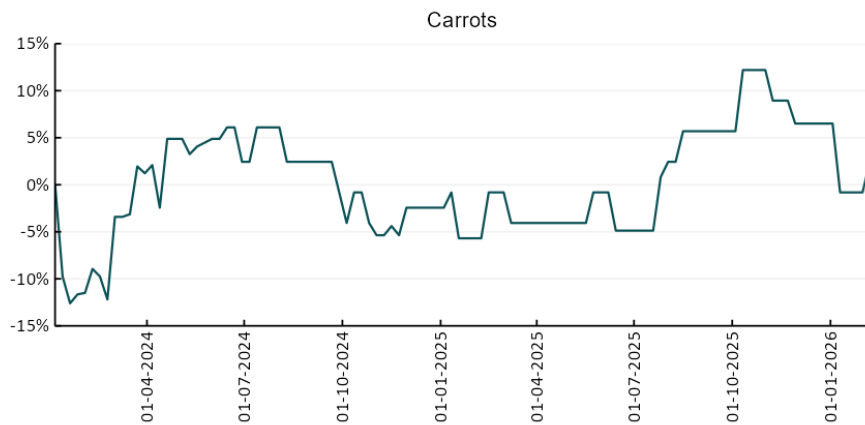


3.4 Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

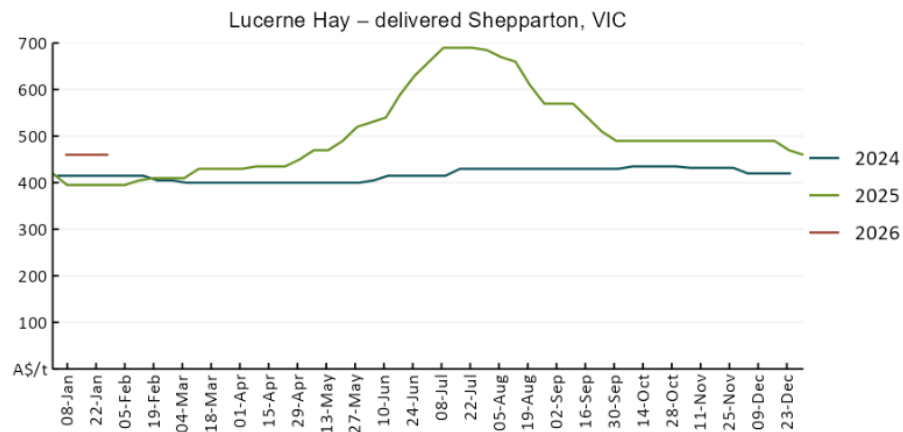
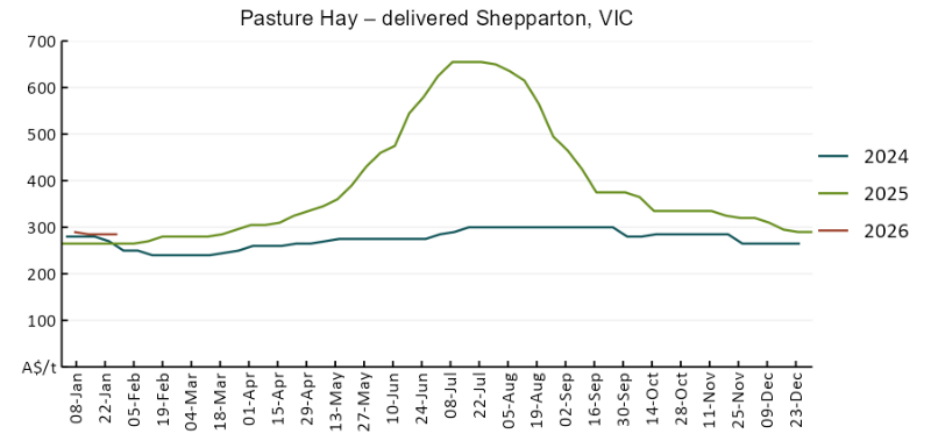
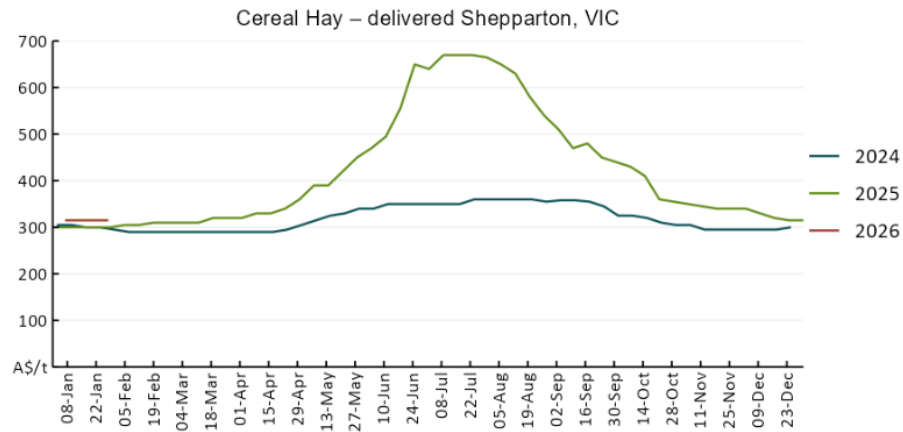


3.5 Selected fruit and vegetable prices





3.6 Selected domestic fodder indicator prices



4. Data attribution

Climate

Bureau of Meteorology

- Weekly rainfall totals: www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/
- Monthly and last 3-month rainfall percentiles: <https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/#moreMaps>
- Rainfall forecast: www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp
- Seasonal outlook: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary/
- Climate drivers: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>
- Soil moisture: <https://awo.bom.gov.au/products/historical/soilMoisture-rootZone/>

Other

- Pasture growth: www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/aussiegrass/
- 3-month global outlooks: [Environment and Climate Change Canada](#), [NOAA Climate Prediction Center](#), [EUROBRISA](#), [CPTC/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://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.watarnsw.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

Pigs

- Australian Pork Limited: www.australianpork.com.au

Dairy

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

World wheat, canola

- International Grains Council
- <https://www.igc.int/en/default.aspx>
- United States Department of Agriculture

World cotton

- Cotlook: www.cotlook.com/

World sugar

- New York Stock Exchange - Intercontinental Exchange

Wool

- Australian Wool Exchange: www.awex.com.au/

Domestic wheat, barley, sorghum, canola and fodder

- Jumbuk Consulting Pty Ltd: [Jumbuk AG | Agriculture Consulting](#)

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

- Meat and Livestock Australia: <https://www.mla.com.au/prices-markets/>

Australian Agricultural Drought Indicators

About [Australian Agricultural Drought Indicators](#)

The Australian Agricultural Drought Indicators (AADI) links weather and agricultural data with a range of scientific and economic models to measure and forecast the effects of climate variability and drought on agricultural outcomes.

On AADI, projected broadacre farm profits are presented as percentile outcomes relative to simulated historical outcomes using the groupings:

Highest	95-100th percentile
Very much above average	85-95th percentile
Above average	65-85th percentile
Average	35-65th percentile
Below average	15-35th percentile
Very much below average	5-15th percentile
Lowest 5%	0-5th percentile

There are two AADI farm profit indicators:

- The AADI farm profit climate and price indicator shows the effect of climate and prices on broadacre farm business profits of current farms compared to the last 33 years.
- The AADI farm profit climate only indicator isolates the effect of climate on profits by holding prices fixed.

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Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

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