



Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 13/2026

9 April 2026

Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 8 April 2026, fronts brought rainfall to some southern regions, while low-pressure systems brought rainfall to parts of the north.
 - The generally dry conditions across much of northern and central Australia has seen some easing of the flood warnings in place across parts of Queensland, the Northern Territory and South Australia.
 - Rainfall across cropping regions in the south-east of Western Australia and the west of South Australia are expected to support autumn pasture growth and boost soil moisture levels in the lead up to winter crop planting.
- Over the 8 days to 16 April 2026 cold fronts are expected to bring rainfall to parts of the southeast and northeast, while low-pressure systems are expected to bring rainfall to the northeast:
 - Across cropping regions falls of up to 50 millimetres are forecast for south-eastern and northern regions. These falls are likely to contribute to a build-up of soil moisture ahead of the planting of 2026–27 winter crops and benefit the growth of pastures.
 - Low rainfall totals (0-10 millimetres) are forecast for cropping regions across southern Queensland, northern New South Wales, Western Australia, and western South Australia. These mainly dry forecast conditions across southern Queensland and northern New South Wales are expected to support the harvest of late summer crops.
- The national rainfall outlook for May to July 2026 indicates an increased probability of below median rainfall across much of eastern and south-eastern Australia.
 - These expected below average falls for much of eastern and south-eastern Australia represent an increased downside production risk for the upcoming 2026–27 winter cropping season and autumn pasture growth.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 99 gigalitres (GL) between 2 April 2026 and 9 April 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 10,345 GL, equivalent to 46% of total storage capacity. This is 15% or 1,767 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 remains unchanged at \$399/ML between 2 April 2026 to 9 April 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

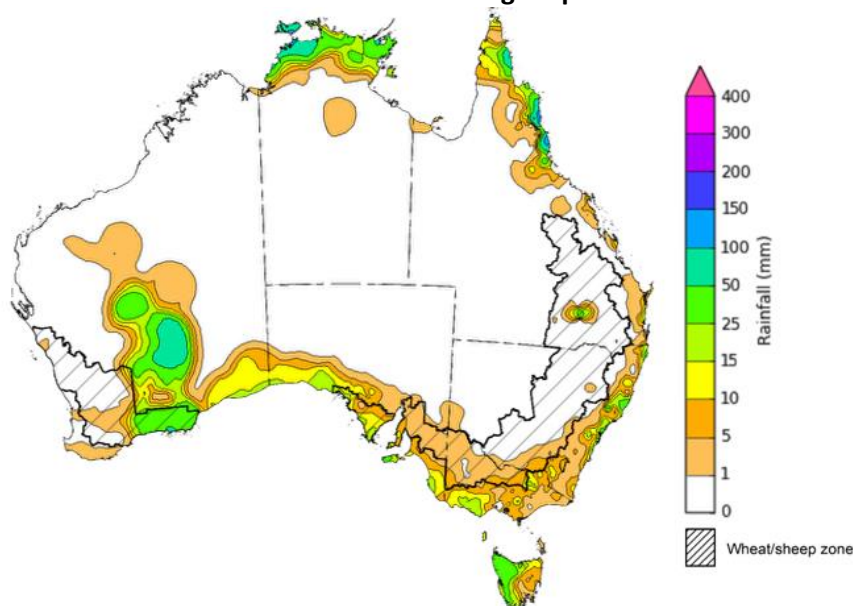
In the week ending 8 April 2026, cold fronts brought rainfall to some southern regions, while low-pressure systems brought rainfall to parts of the north. Central, eastern, and north-western areas remained largely dry.

- In Western Australia, 10-100 millimetres of rainfall were recorded across some south-eastern and inland regions.
- Some far northern regions continue to experience rainfall, with the northern tropics observing falls of 10-100 millimetres.
 - The generally dry conditions across much of northern and central Australia has seen some easing of the flood warnings in place across parts of Queensland, the Northern Territory and South Australia.
- Scattered areas of Victoria, eastern New South Wales and Queensland, southern South Australia saw 1-25 millimetres of rainfall over the period, with Tasmania seeing falls of between 5 and 50 millimetres.
- Much of Queensland, northern South Australia, northern and inland New South Wales, and the remainder of the Northern Territory and Western Australia remained largely dry.

Across cropping regions, rainfall was mixed, with limited rainfall in the east and considerable falls in parts of the west.

- Most cropping regions of South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and the west of Western Australia saw little to no rainfall.
 - Mainly dry conditions across Queensland and New South Wales are expected to support the harvest of late summer crops.
- In contrast, falls of 10-50 millimetres were recorded across the south-east of Western Australia and the west of South Australia recorded 5-25 millimetres.
 - These falls are expected to support autumn pasture growth and boost soil moisture levels in the lead up to winter crop planting.

Rainfall for the week ending 8 April 2026



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Issued: 8/4/2026

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. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

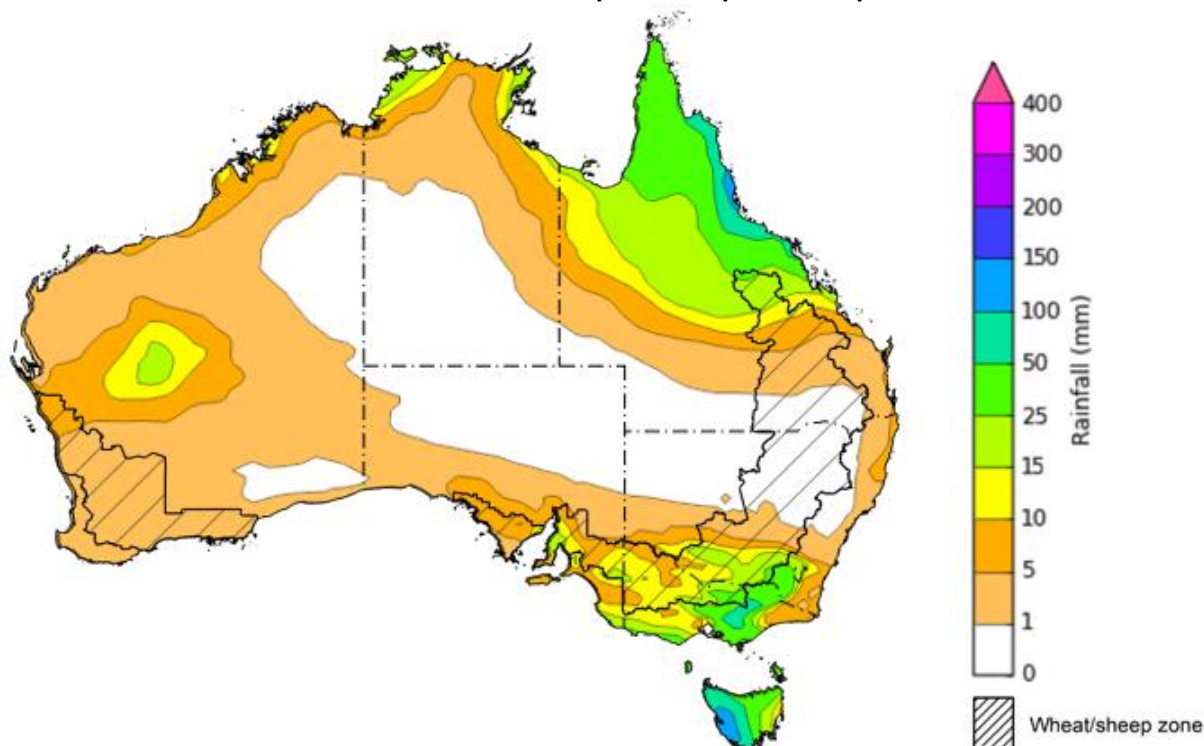
Over the 8 days to 16 April 2026, **cold fronts** are expected to bring rainfall to parts of the southeast and southwest, while low-pressure systems are expected to bring rainfall to the northeast. Most central and western areas are forecast to remain largely dry.

- Falls of between 10-100 millimetres are forecast for much of Victoria, Tasmania, and northern Queensland, with isolated areas to see up to 150 millimetres. Southern New South Wales is forecast to see up to 50 millimetres.
- Scattered areas in southern South Australia, Western Australia, and the north of the Northern Territory are forecast to see 5-25 millimetres over this period.
- Remaining areas are likely to see little to no rainfall.

Rainfall totals across many cropping regions over the coming week are forecast to be low, with exceptions in parts of the southeast and northeast:

- Low rainfall totals (0-10 millimetres) are forecast for southern Queensland, northern New South Wales, Western Australia, and western South Australia.
- Falls of up to 50 millimetres are forecast for south-eastern regions, including Victoria and southern New South Wales, as well as northern Queensland. In eastern South Australia, up to 25 millimetres is expected.
 - These falls are likely to contribute to a build-up of soil moisture ahead of the planting of 2026–27 winter crops and benefit the growth of pastures.

Total forecast rainfall for the period 9 April to 16 April 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.

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1.3. National Climate Outlook

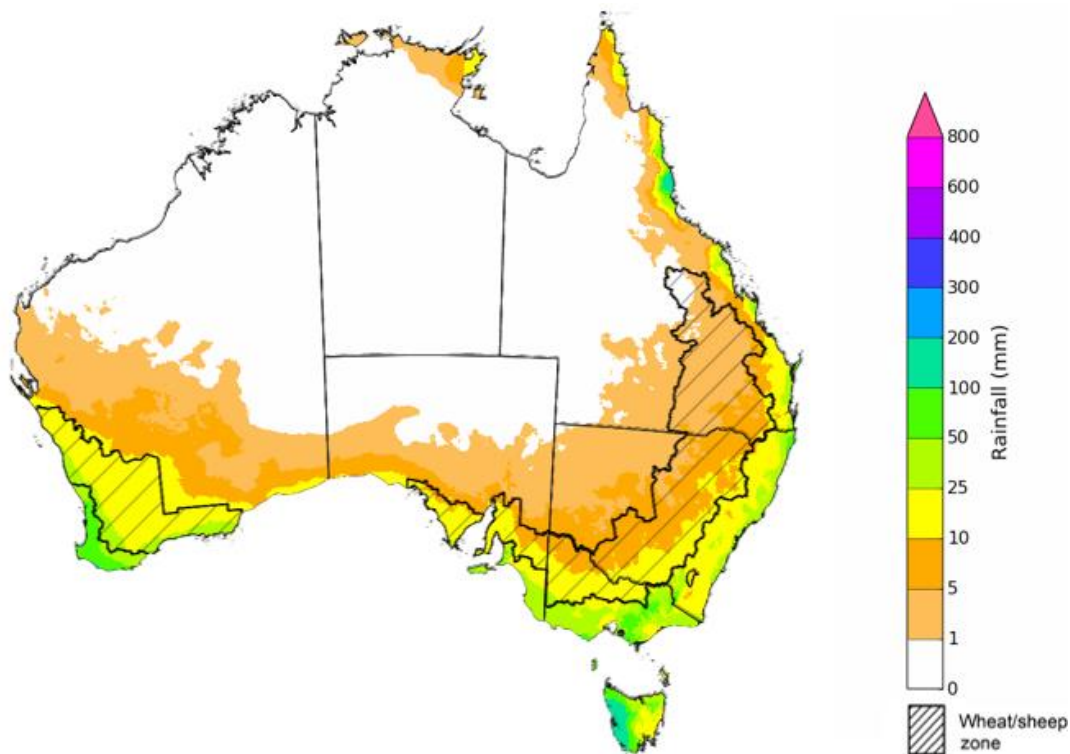
The Bureau of Meteorology has indicated that the 2025–26 La Niña has concluded. All models, including the Bureau of Meteorology's, forecast the tropical Pacific to continue warming in the coming months. Neutral El Niño–Southern Oscillation conditions are expected to persist until at least late autumn, with all models indicating warming to levels consistent with El Niño by the end of winter. There is some variation across models in the rate at which El Niño thresholds may be reached, with some suggesting development as early as May, while others show a slower warming with thresholds not met until late winter. The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is currently neutral and is forecast to remain neutral over the coming weeks. Similarly, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) has returned to neutral conditions following a period of elevated values.

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

The Bureau of Meteorology's climate model indicates a 75% chance of May rainfall totals between 5-100 millimetres across Victoria, Tasmania and much of south-western Western Australia. In the east, including coastal parts of Queensland, and eastern and southern New South Wales, falls of 5-50 millimetres are expected. Similar falls are also expected for southern South Australia. Much of central and northern Western Australia, the Northern Territory, western Queensland, northern South Australia, and western parts of New South Wales are likely to see little to no rainfall.

Across south-eastern cropping regions, there is a 75% chance of receiving rainfall totals of between 5-25 millimetres during May 2026, while Western Australia is likely to see 10-50 millimetres. Across most cropping regions in Queensland and northern New South Wales there is a 75% chance of receiving rainfall totals of between 0-10 millimetres

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



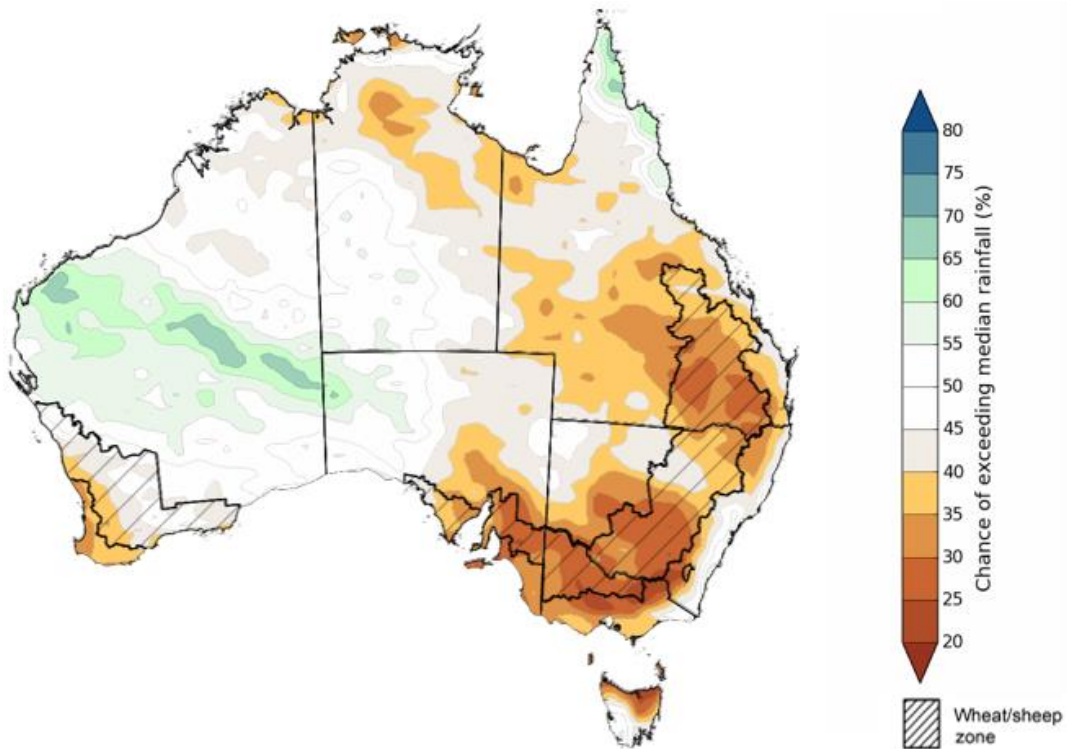
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The rainfall outlook for **May 2026 to July 2026** indicates a strong tendency towards below median rainfall across much of eastern Australia. However, there is an increased probability of median to above median rainfall in parts of the central and western Australia.

Across most cropping regions, the chance of receiving above median rainfall is 20-45%. Meanwhile, parts of northern Western have no strong tendency towards either above or below median rainfall.

Chance of exceeding the median rainfall May 2026 to July 2026



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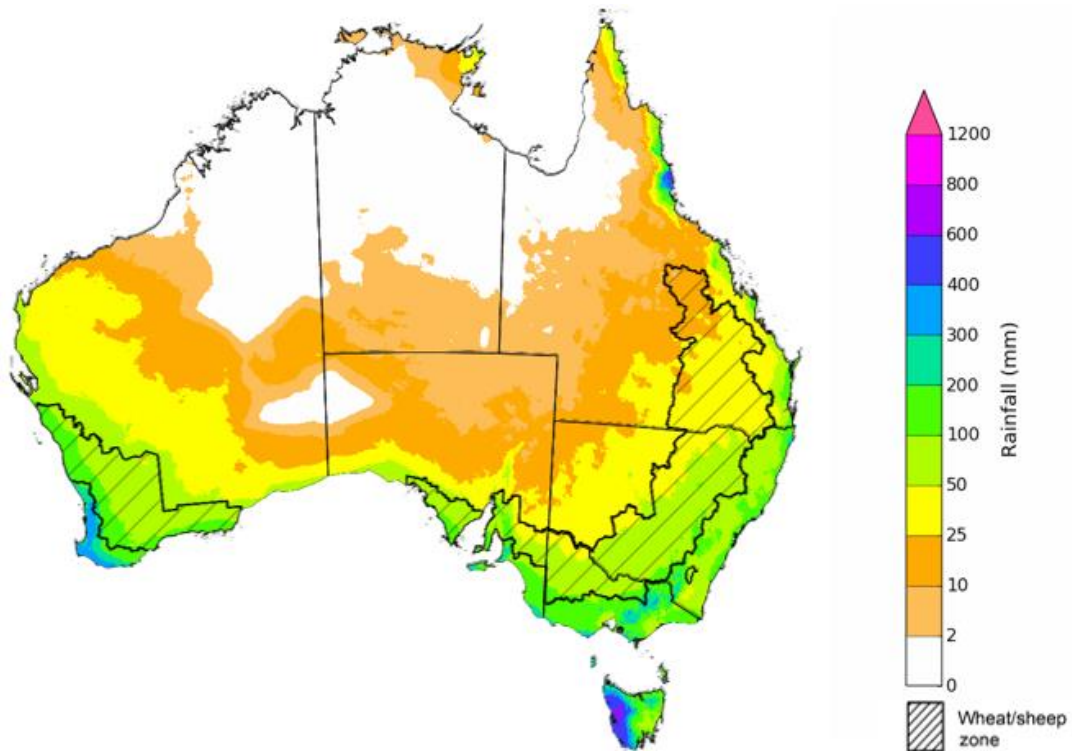
Issued: 9/4/2026

The rainfall outlook for May 2026 to July 2026 suggests a 75% chance of receiving rainfall totals of between 25-200 millimetres across parts of eastern and southern Australia. Higher falls in excess of 200 millimetres are expected across scattered areas of north-eastern Queensland, southwest Western Australia, western Tasmania, as well as alpine regions of Victoria and New South Wales. Lower rainfall totals are forecast for central and northern regions, with much of northern South Australia, central and northern Western Australia, the Northern Territory and western Queensland likely to see 0-25 millimetres.

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

If these forecast May through July rainfall totals are realised, these expected well below average falls for much of south-eastern and eastern Australia represents an increased downside production risk for the upcoming 2026–27 winter cropping season and late autumn pasture growth.

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

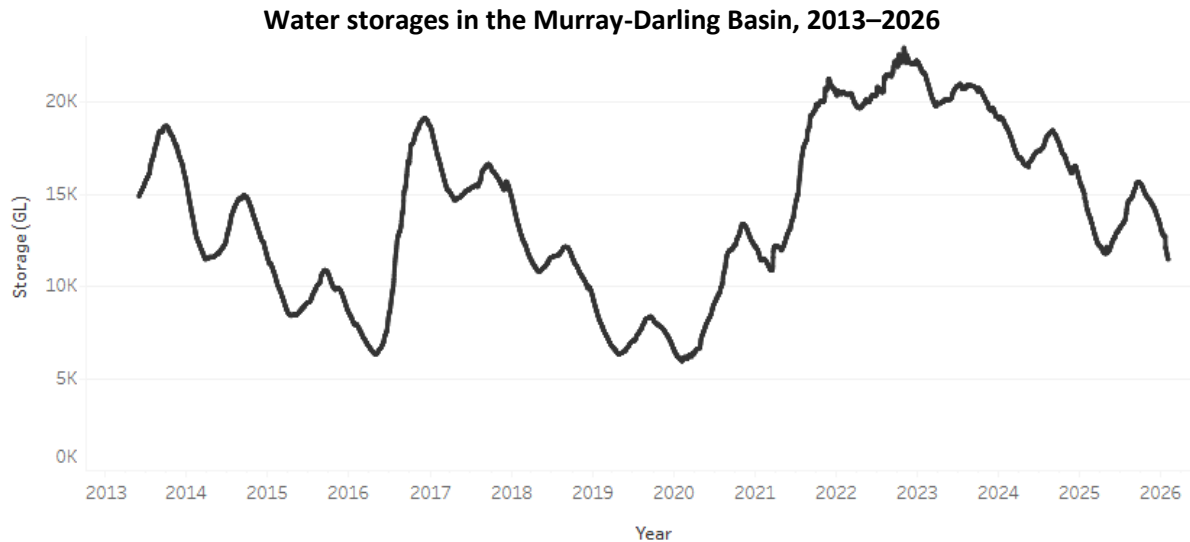


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1.4. Water markets – current week

Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 99 gigalitres (GL) between 2 April 2026 and 9 April 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 10,345 GL, equivalent to 46% of total storage capacity. This is 15% or 1,767 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.



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Water market prices, Southern Murray–Darling Basin

Region	\$/ML
NSW Murray Above	290
NSW Murrumbidgee	431
Vic Greater Goulburn	332
Vic Murray Below	399

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.

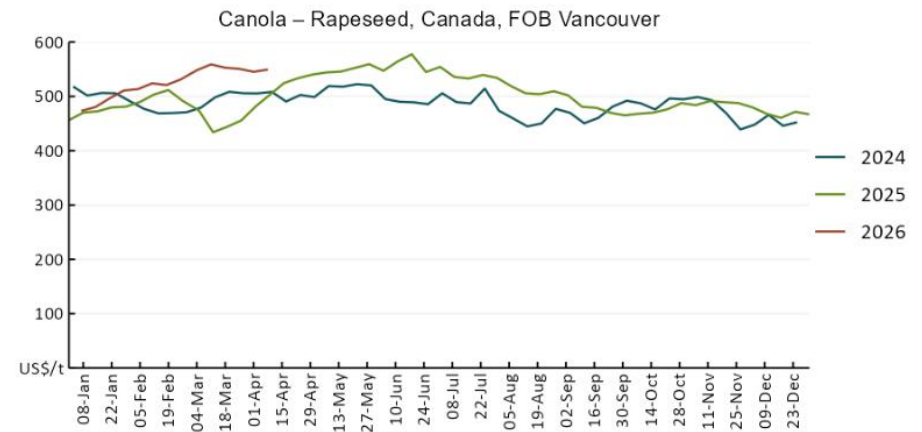
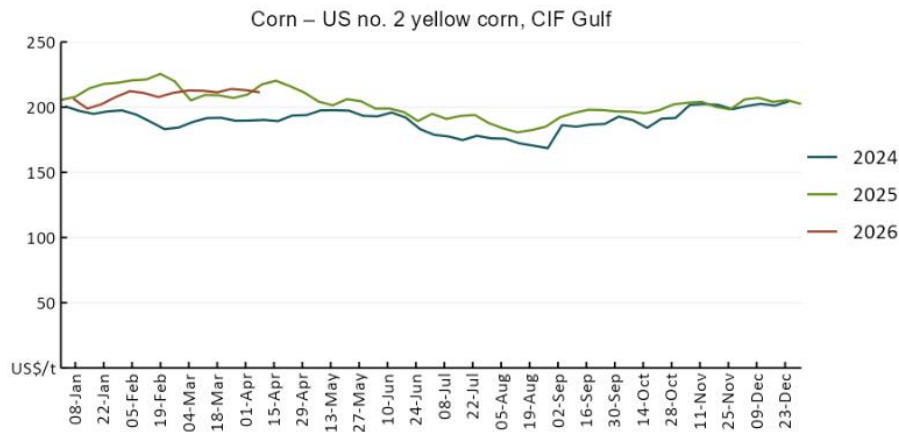
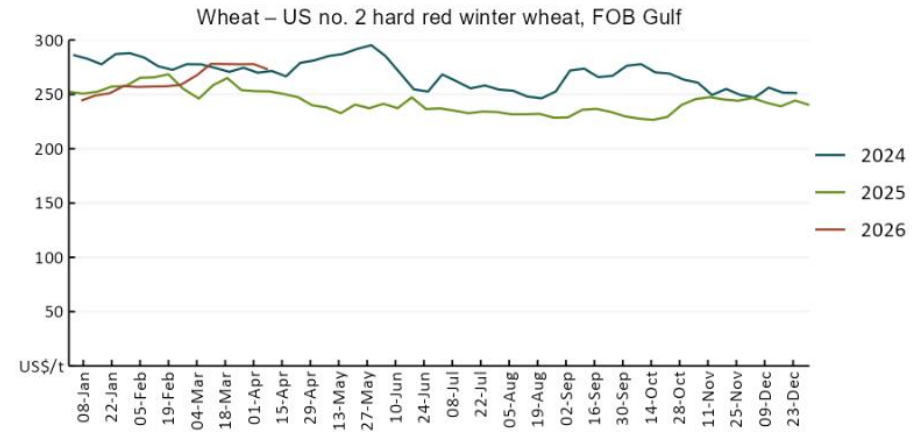
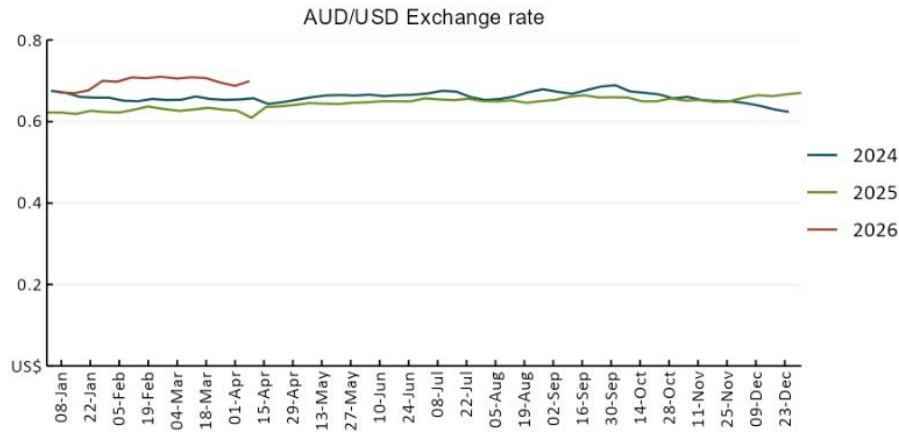
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit

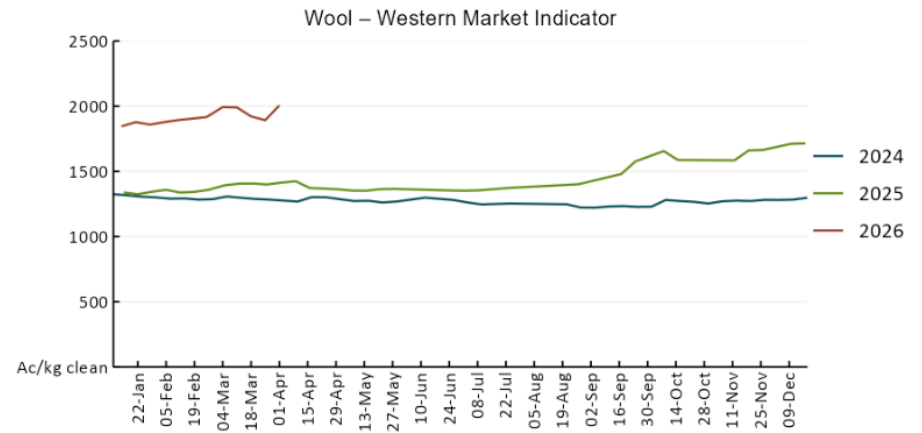
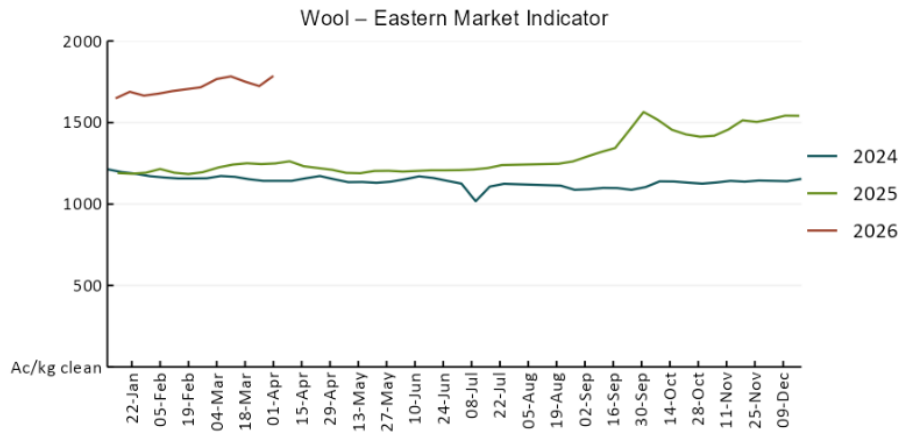
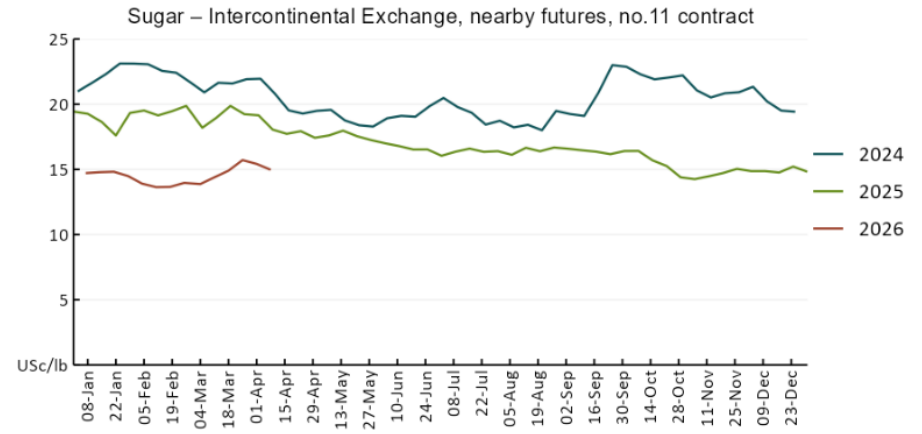
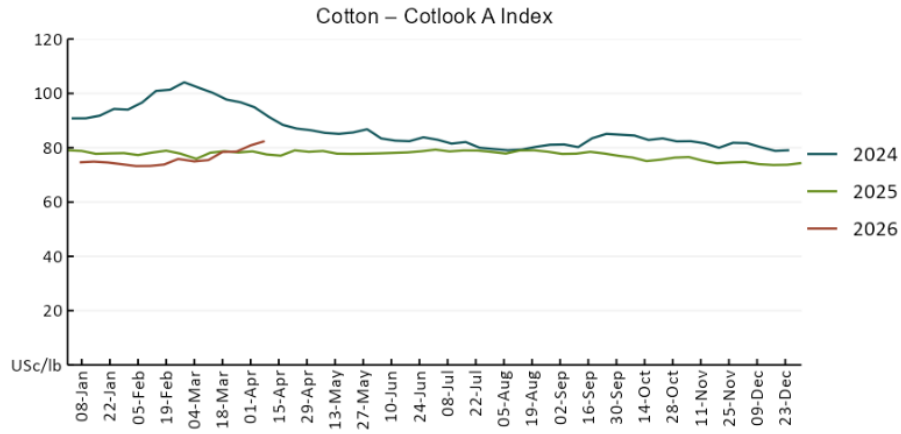
https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-260402

2. Commodities

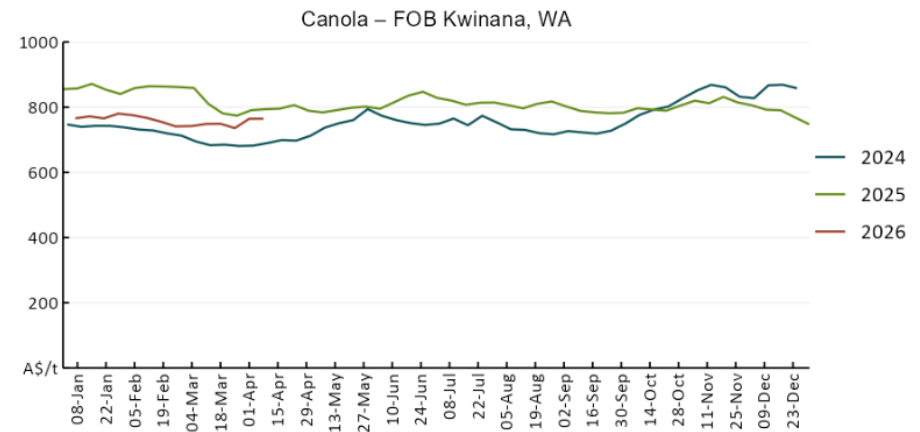
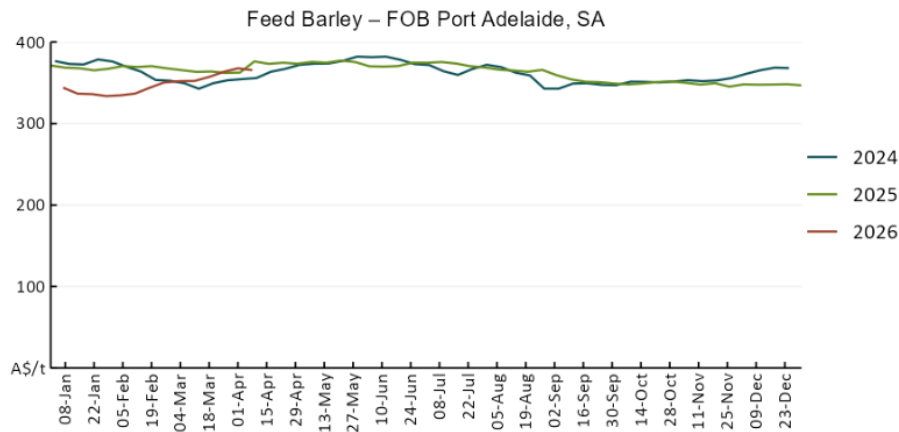
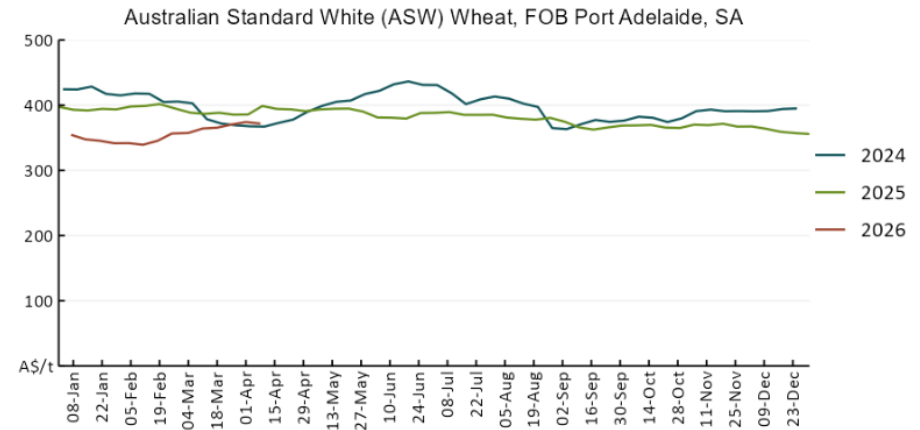
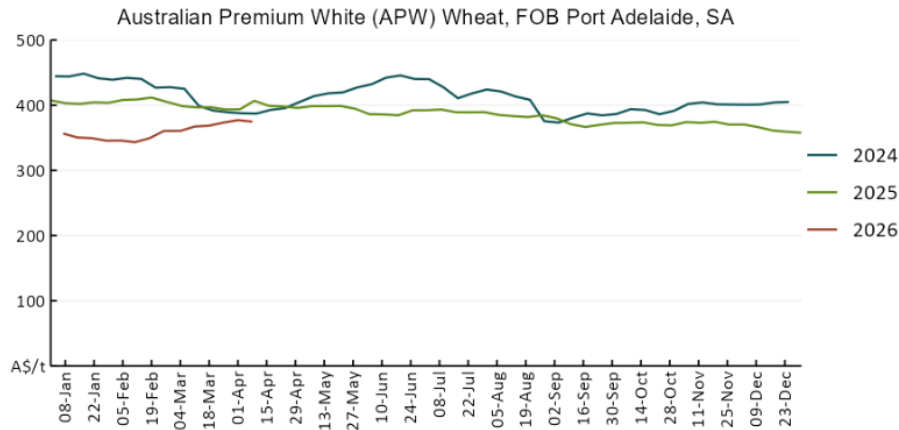
Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
Selected world indicator prices							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	8-Apr	A\$/US\$	0.70	0.69	2%	0.63	11%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	8-Apr	US\$/t	273	278	-2%	249	10%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	8-Apr	US\$/t	211	213	-1%	215	-2%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	8-Apr	US\$/t	549	545	1%	517	6%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	8-Apr	USc/lb	82.4	80.9	2%	78.1	5%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	8-Apr	USc/lb	15.0	15.4	-3%	18.1	-17%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	1-Apr	Ac/kg clean	1,786	1,724	4%	1,238	44%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	1-Apr	Ac/kg clean	2,007	1,893	6%	1,394	44%
Selected Australian grain export prices							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	8-Apr	A\$/t	375	377	-1%	399	-6%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	8-Apr	A\$/t	372	374	-1%	393	-5%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	8-Apr	A\$/t	366	368	-1%	372	-2%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	8-Apr	A\$/t	765	765	0%	795	-4%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	8-Apr	A\$/t	442	448	-1%	438	1%
Selected domestic livestock indicator prices							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	8-Apr	Ac/kg cwt	811	841	-4%	700	16%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	8-Apr	Ac/kg cwt	806	800	1%	506	59%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	8-Apr	Ac/kg cwt	1,197	1,183	1%	812	47%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	18-Mar	Ac/kg cwt	465	467	0%	448	4%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	8-Apr	Ac/kg lwt	450	460	-2%	358	26%
Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	8-Apr	US\$/t	3,687	3,709	-1%	4,117	-10%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	8-Apr	US\$/t	3,381	3,409	-1%	2,836	19%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	8-Apr	US\$/t	4,766	4,925	-3%	4,971	-4%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	8-Apr	US\$/t	7,027	7,602	-8%	6,772	4%

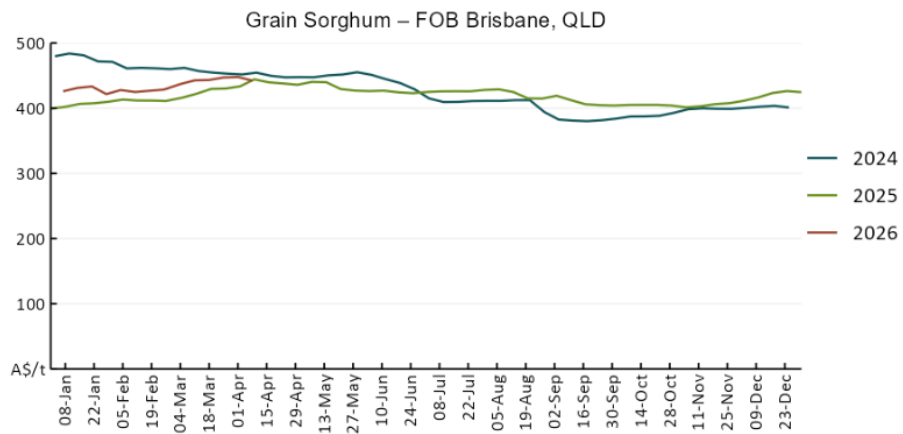
2.1. Selected world indicator prices



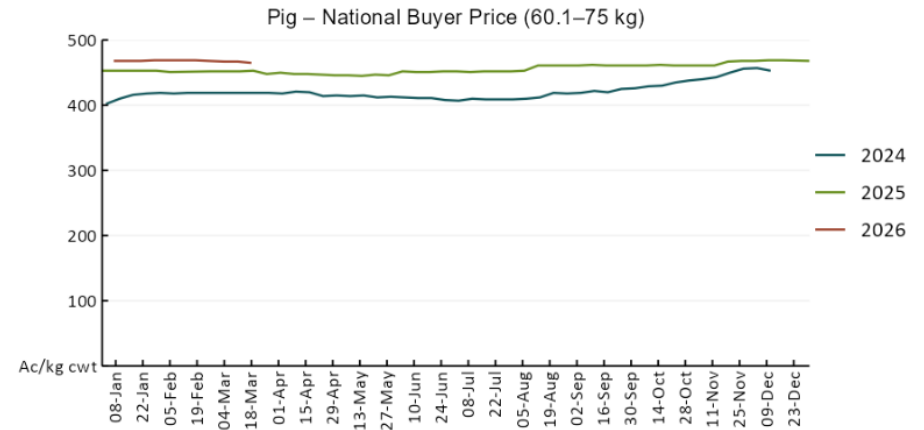
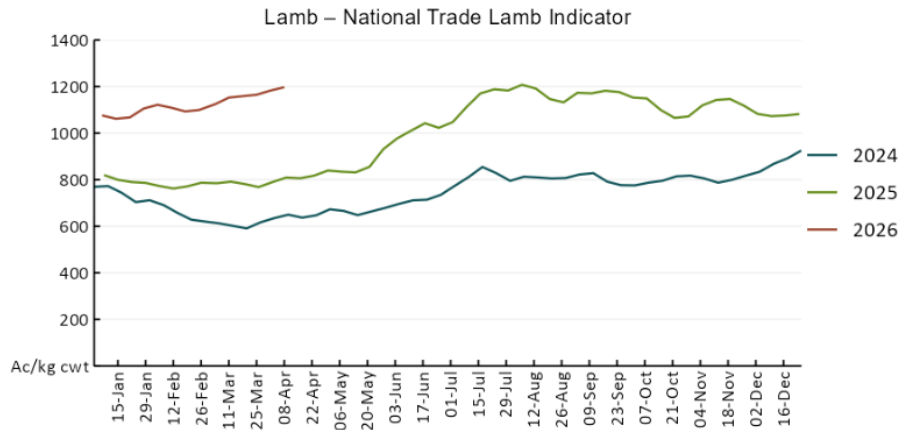
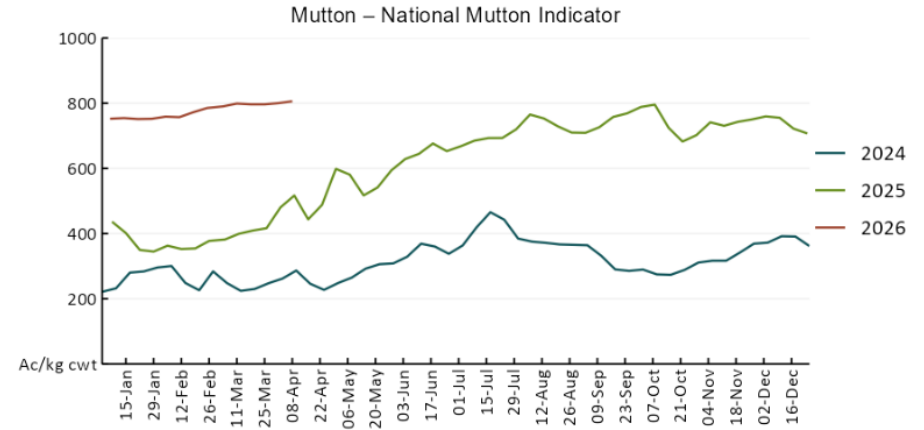
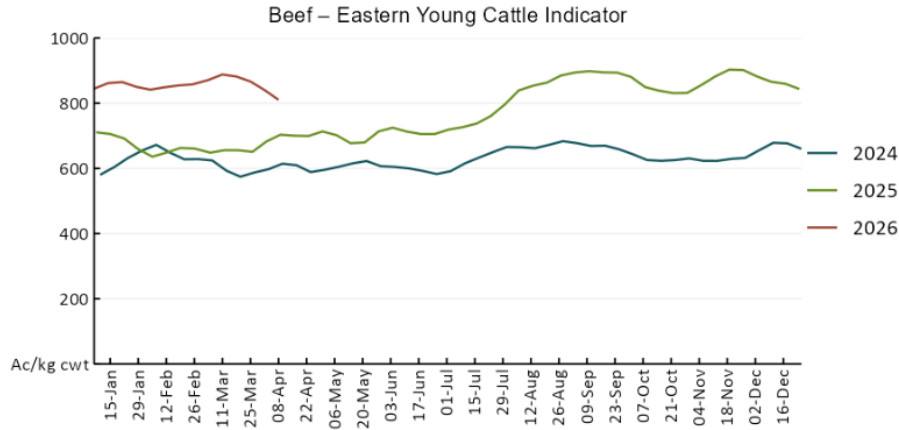


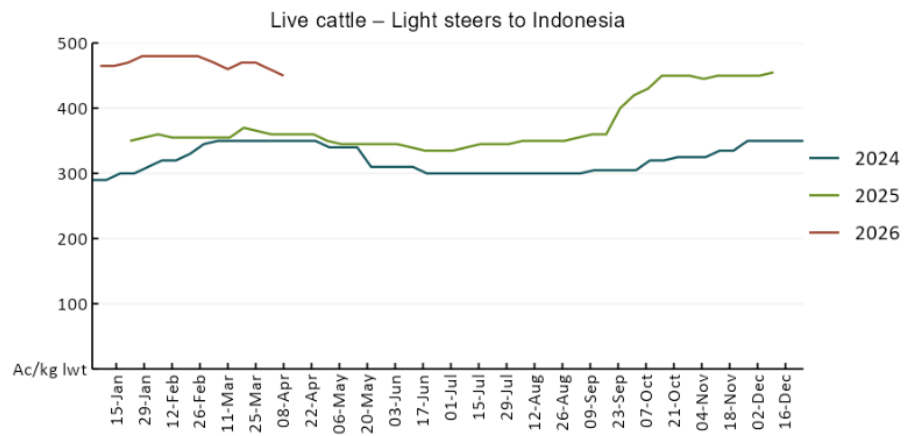
3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices



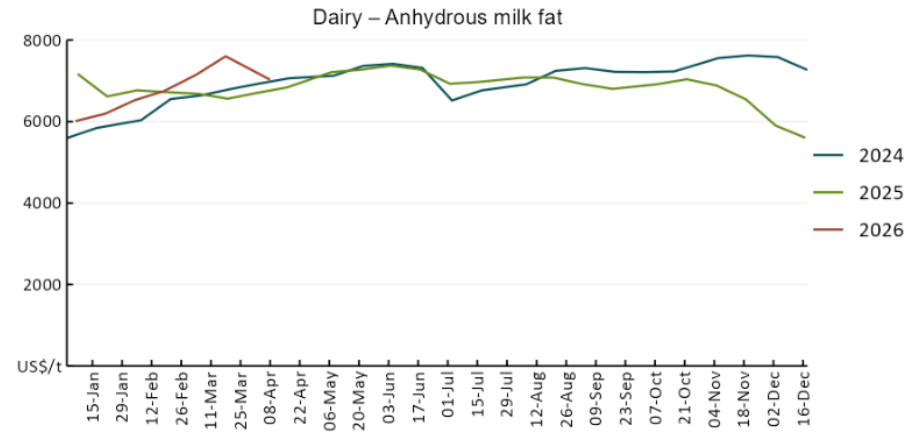
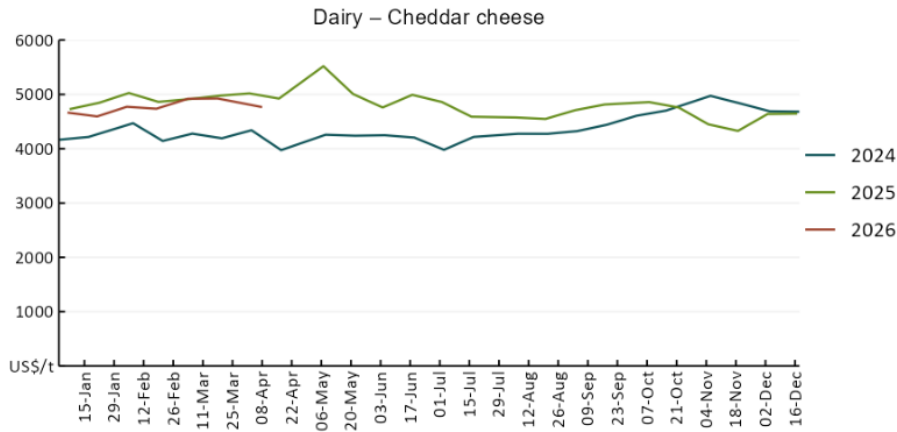
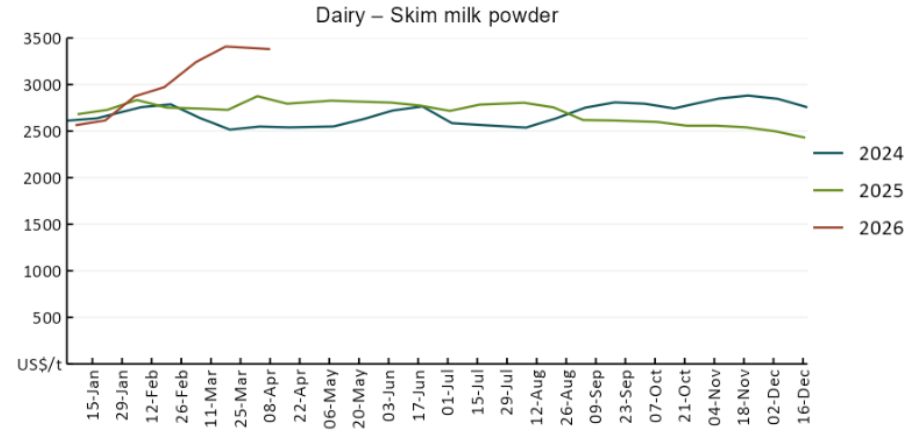
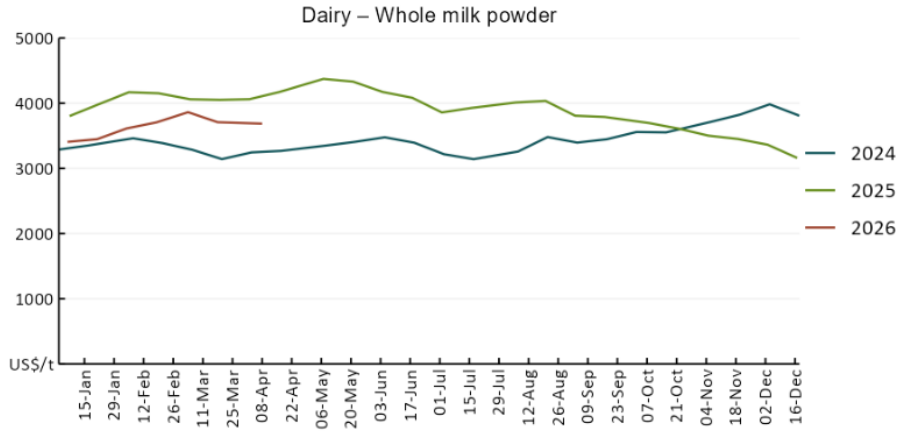


3.3 Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

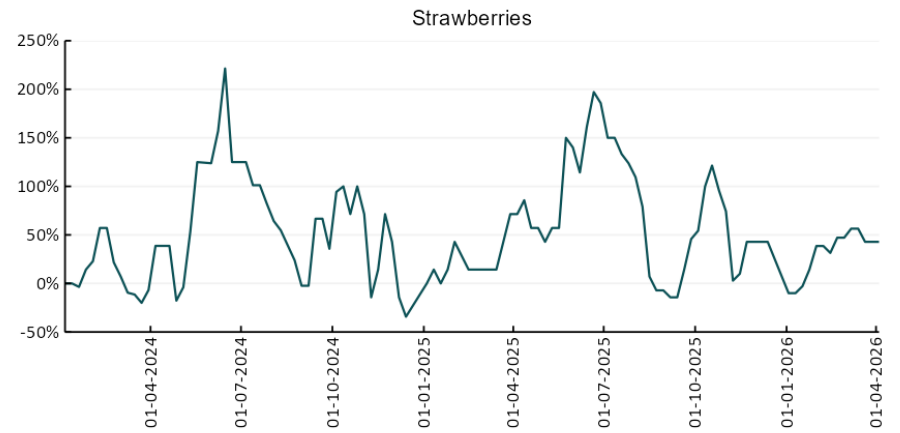
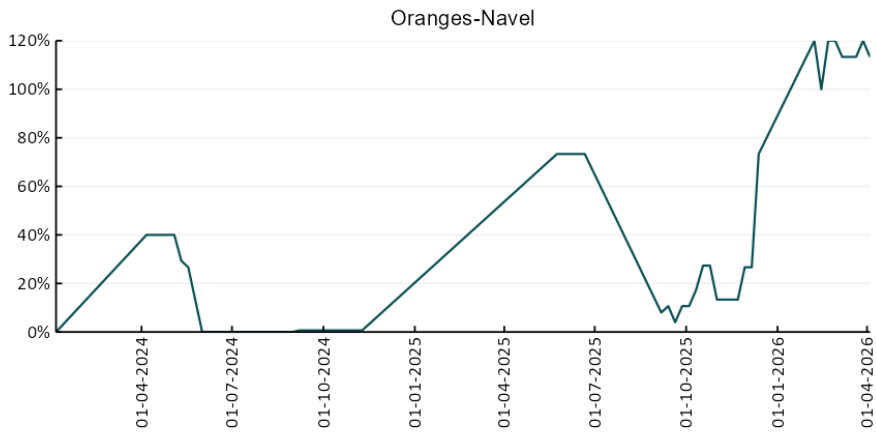
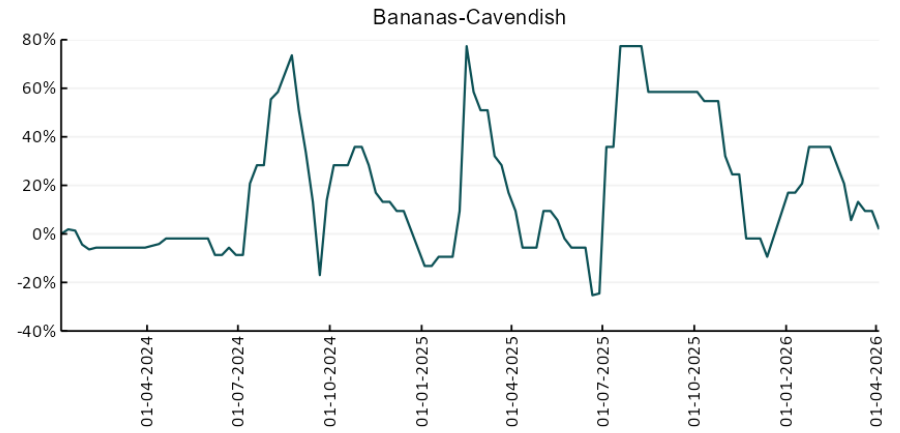
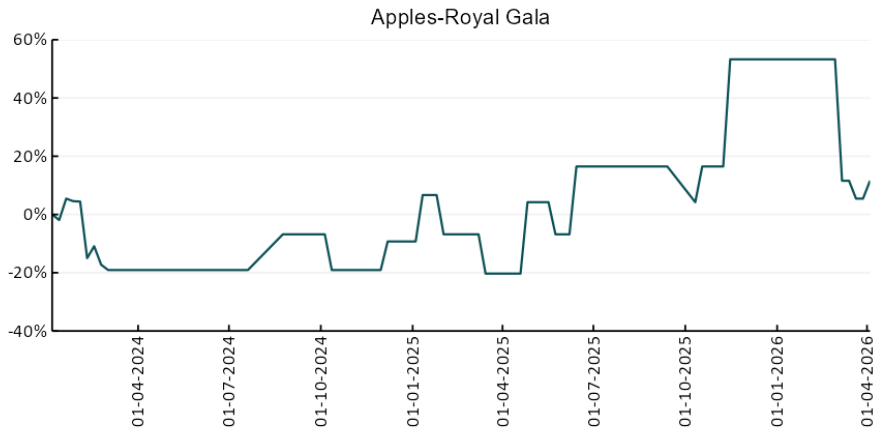


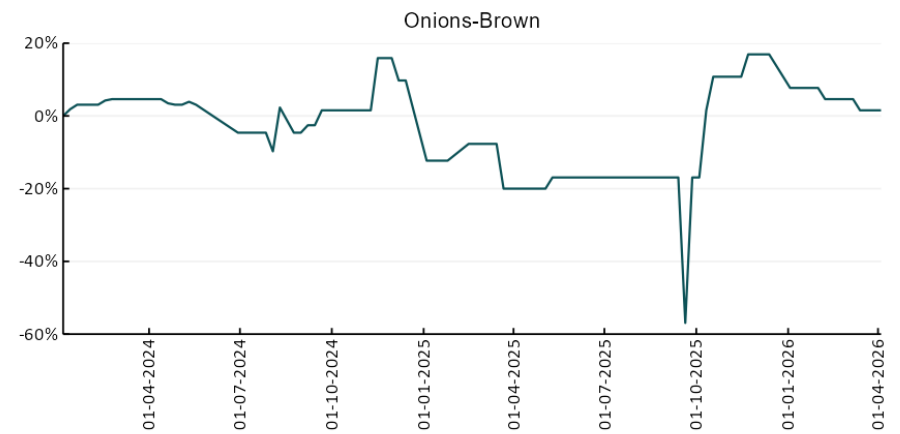
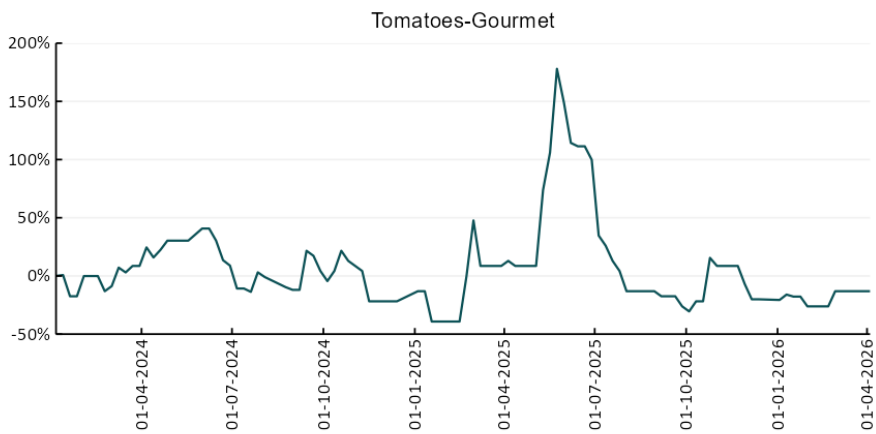
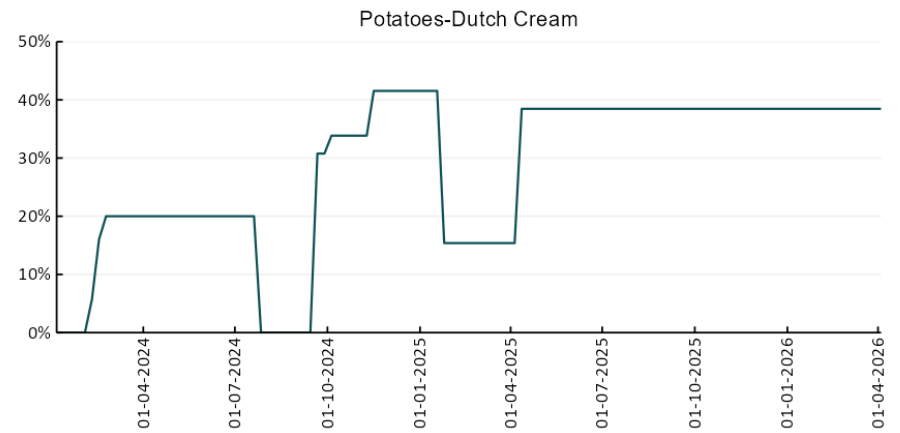
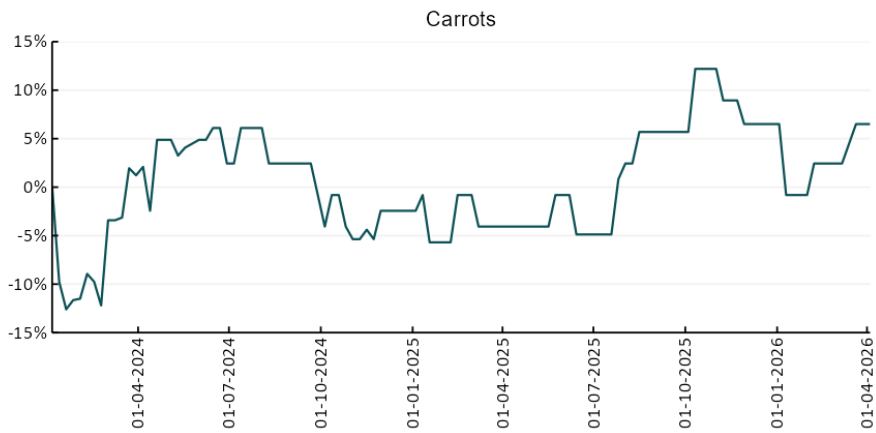


3.4 Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

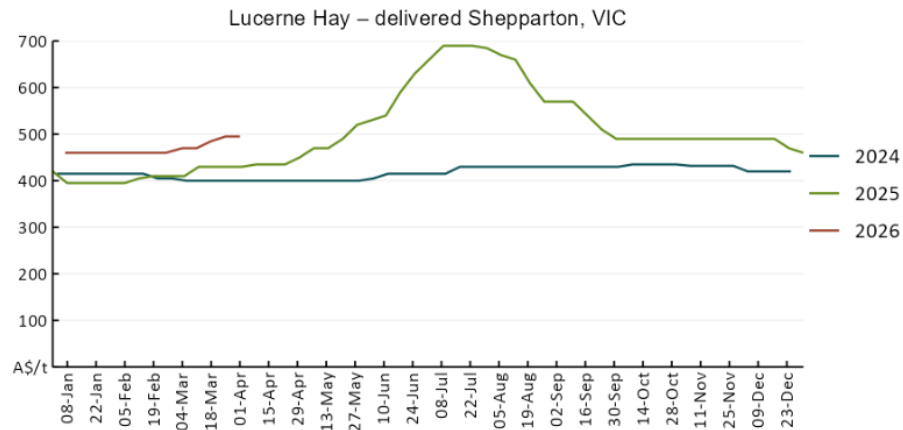
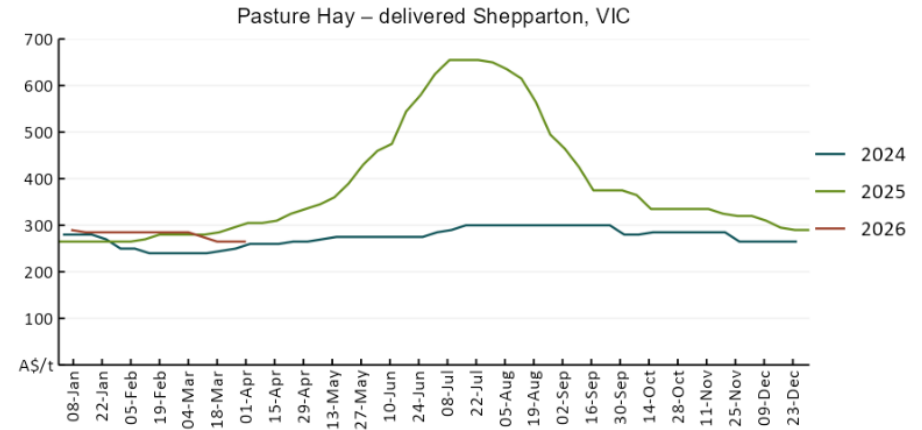
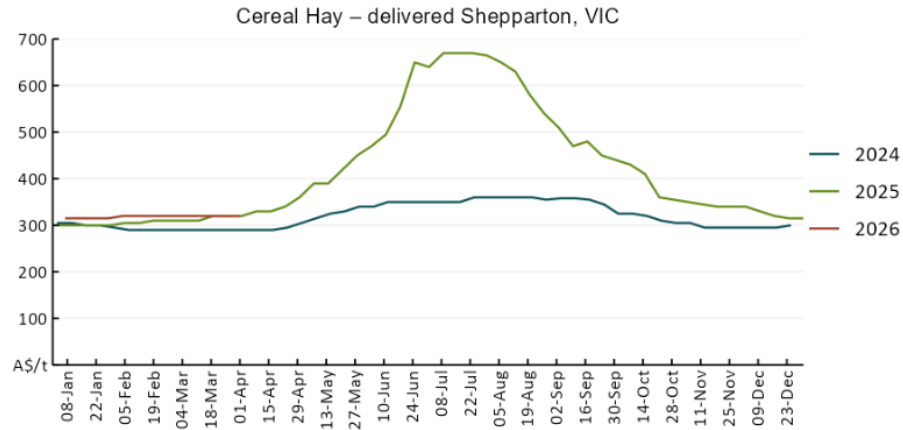


3.5 Selected fruit and vegetable prices





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/isp/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](#), [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://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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Cataloguing data

This publication (and any material sourced from it) should be attributed as:

ABARES 2026, Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra, 9 April 2026. CC BY 4.0 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25814/5f3e04e7d2503>

ISSN 2652-7561

This publication is available at https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone 1800 900 090

Web agriculture.gov.au/abares

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Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Holly Beale and Matthew Miller.