Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

ABARES

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 26/2026 9 July 2026

Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 8 July 2026, cold fronts and low-pressure systems brought rainfall to large areas of southern and central Australia. Much of the remainder of Australia was largely dry.
    - Cropping regions in South Australia and southern New South Wales saw 5-50 millimetres of rainfall, with higher rainfall totals observed in Victoria (10-50 millimetres). In northern New South Wales, rainfall of 5-25 millimetres was recorded.
    - Cropping regions of Queensland and Western Australia saw little to no rainfall over the period.
- Over the 8 days to 16 July 2026, cold fronts and low-pressure systems are expected to bring rainfall to parts of south-eastern Australia
    - Across cropping regions, falls of 5-25 millimetres are forecast for Victoria and southern New South Wales, while other regions are expected to remain largely dry.
    - If realised, these expected falls will continue to support the establishment and growth of winter crops in the southeast.
- The national rainfall outlook for August to October 2026 indicates an increased probability of below median rainfall across parts of southern and eastern Australia.
    - The current rainfall outlook for August to October 2026 suggests below average falls across most cropping regions. However, favourable soil moisture levels across most of Australia's southern growing regions means that if forecast August through October rainfall totals are realised, these falls are likely be sufficient to support the growth of winter crops. However, below average expected falls for north-eastern growing regions represents an ongoing downside production risk for the 2026–27 winter cropping season.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 695 gigalitres (GL) between 02 July 2026 and 09 July 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 12,032 GL, equivalent to 54% of total storage capacity. This is 10% or 1,264 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 are $426/ML on 09 July 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

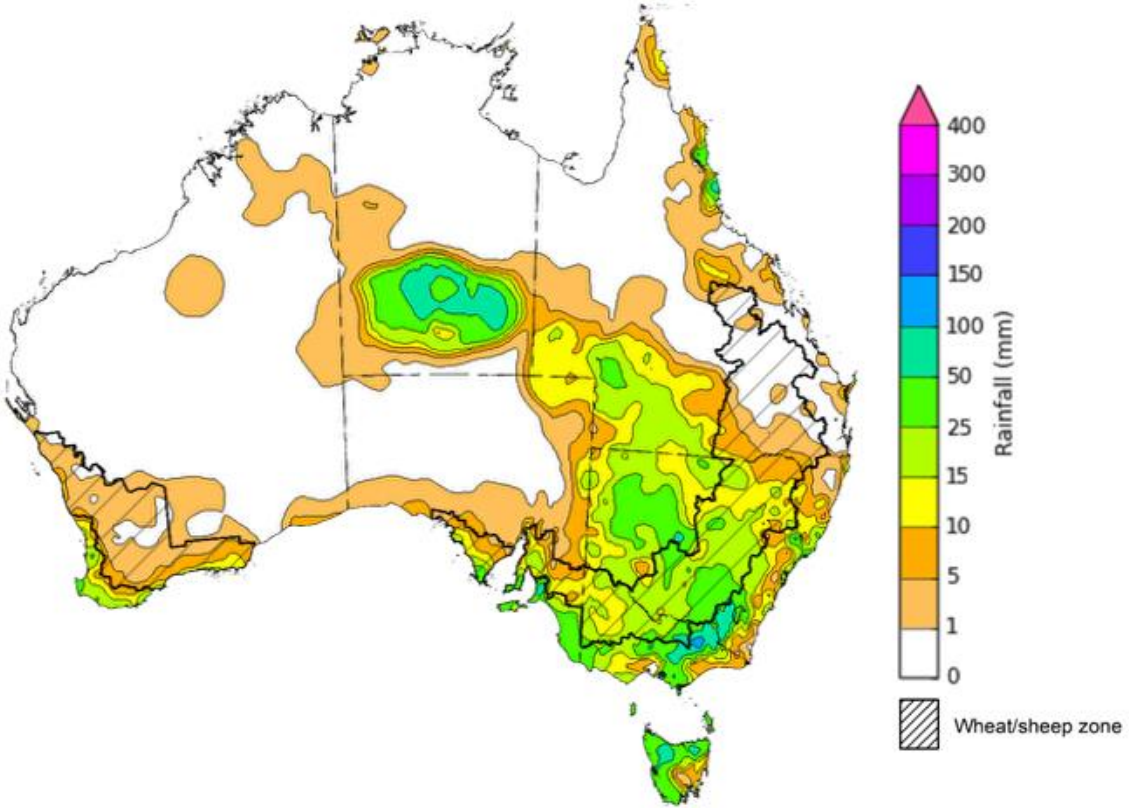
In the week ending 8 July 2026, cold fronts and low-pressure systems brought rainfall to large areas of southern and central Australia. Much of the remainder of Australia was largely dry.

- Falls of 10-100 millimetres were recorded across Tasmania, Victoria, southern New South Wales, and the southern Northern Territory. Isolated areas in the far south saw up to 150 millimetres; while remaining southern regions saw lower falls of 5-50 millimetres, including southern South Australia and isolated areas of southwest Western Australia. Northern New South Wales and southwest Queensland saw 10-50 millimetres.
- Much of northern and western Australia saw little to no rainfall.

In cropping regions, considerable falls were recorded in southeastern regions, while other areas remained comparatively dry:

- Cropping regions in South Australia and New South Wales saw 5-50 millimetres of rainfall, with higher rainfall totals observed in Victoria (10-50 millimetres).
    - The heavier falls across southeast Australia will have provided a boost to soil moisture levels which will continue to support the establishment and growth of winter crops.
- Cropping regions in Queensland and Western Australia saw little to no rainfall over the period.

Rainfall for the week ending 8 July 2026



 Issued: 8/7/2026

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/du

1.2. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

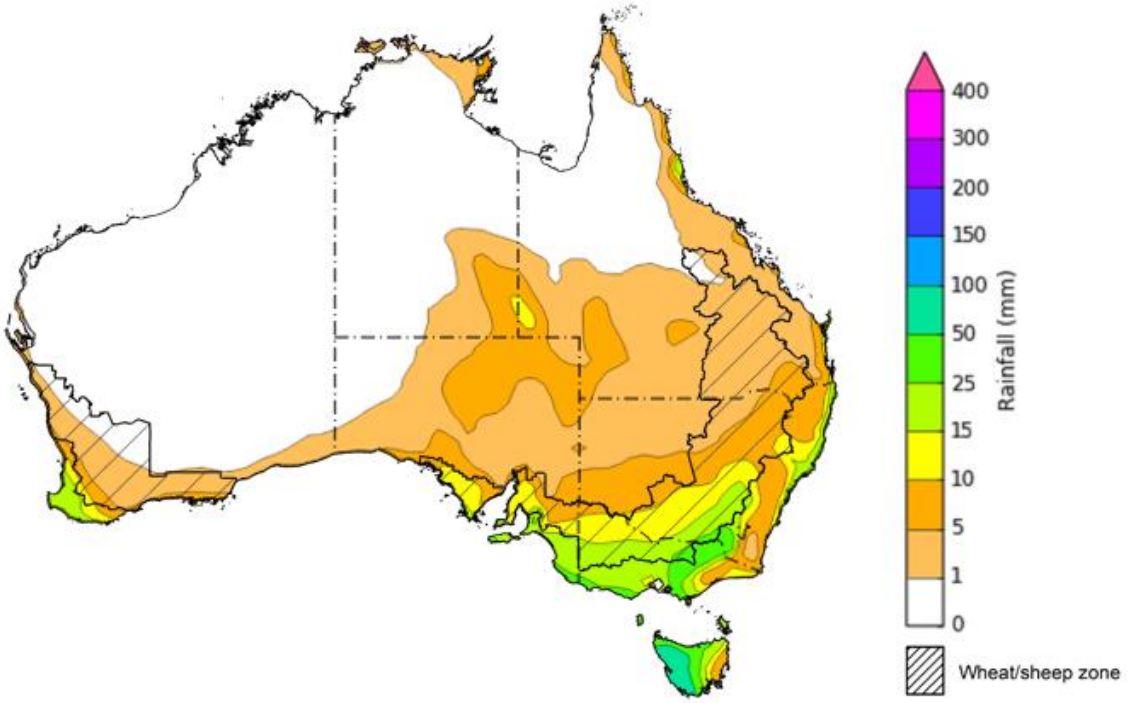
Over the 8 days to 16 July 2026, **cold fronts and low-pressure systems** are expected to bring rainfall to limited areas of southern Australia, while much of the rest of the country is expected to remain largely dry.

- Moderate falls of up to 50 millimetres are forecast for parts of Victoria and southern New South Wales, while southern South Australia and southern Western Australia are forecast to see 5-25 millimetres. Tasmania is forecast to see up to 100 millimetres in its west.
- Remaining areas are expected to see little to no rainfall.

Across cropping regions, falls are expected to be limited, with exceptions in the southeast:

- Falls of 5-25 millimetres are forecast for Victoria and southern New South Wales. South Australia is expected to see lighter falls of 5-15 millimetres.
    - If realised, these expected falls will continue to support the establishment and growth of winter crops.
- In contrast, northern New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia are expected to see lighter falls of between 1-10 millimetres.

Total forecast rainfall for the period 9 July to 16 July 2026



 Issued 9/7/2026
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

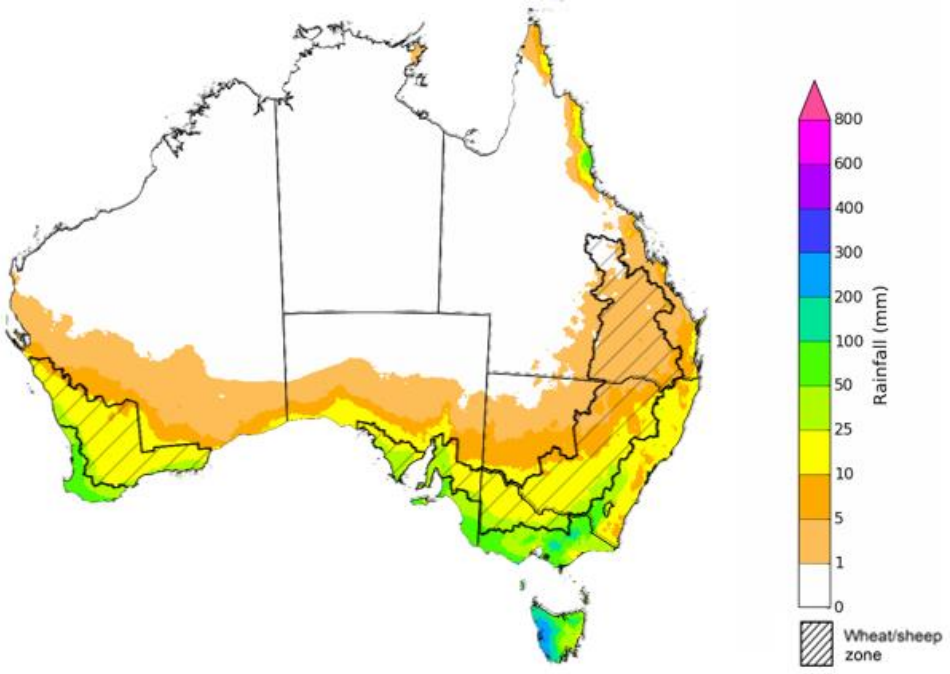
The Bureau of Meteorology has indicated that El Niño is underway in the tropical Pacific. Sea surface temperatures in the central tropical Pacific are above El Niño thresholds, and atmospheric indicators are also aligning with an El Niño state. This suggests the ocean and atmosphere are acting to reinforce the El Niño state, which is likely to strengthen and sustain this event until at least the end of the year. The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is currently positive and strengthening to near-record levels. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral. Models suggest a positive IOD event is likely in the southern hemisphere winter-spring. However, model forecasts show a large variation in both the timing and strength of this potential event.

The recent rainfall outlook for August 2026 provided by the Bureau of Meteorology indicates that much of southwestern and southeastern Australia is likely to see below median rainfall, while scattered areas of northern Australia are more likely to see above median falls.

The Bureau of Meteorology's climate model indicates a 75% chance of August rainfall totals between 10-100 millimetres across Victoria, Tasmania, southern New South Wales, southern South Australia, and much of south-western Western Australia. Isolated regions, including alpine regions of Victoria, western Tasmania , are likely to see higher falls of up to 300 millimetres. In the east, including coastal parts of Queensland, and northern New South Wales, falls of 5- 25 millimetres are expected. Much of central and northern Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and the reminder of Queensland and South Australia, are likely to see little to no rainfall.

Across southern cropping regions, including Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, and southern New South Wales, there is a 75% chance of receiving rainfall totals of between 10-50 millimetres during August 2026. If these forecast falls are realised, they are likely to provide sufficient moisture to support the growth of winter crops. Across most cropping regions in Queensland and northern New South Wales there is a 75% chance of receiving rainfall totals of between 1-10 millimetres.

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

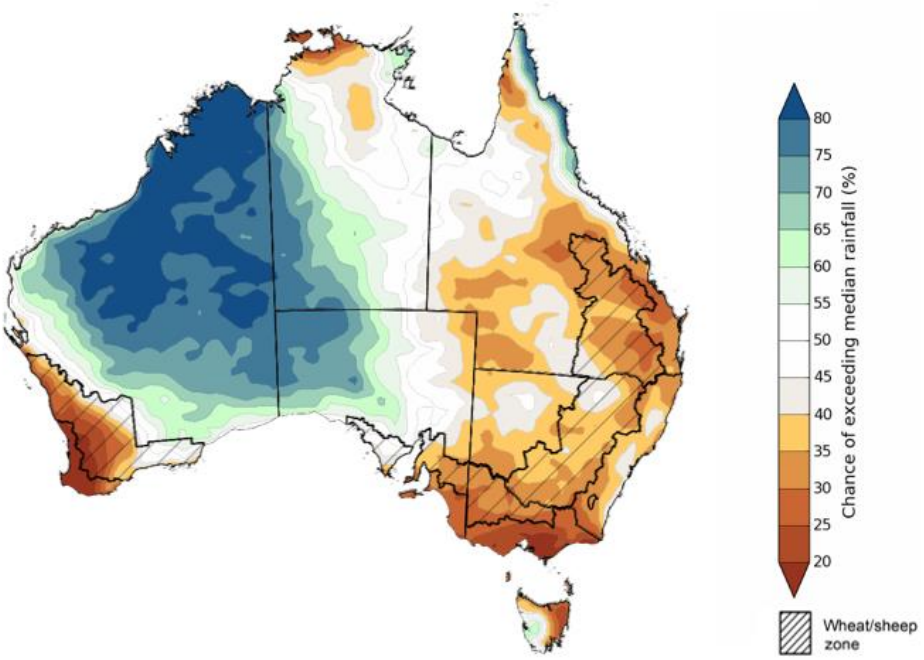


 Issued: 9/7/2026

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

Across cropping regions, the chance of receiving above median rainfall in Western Australia, is 20-50%, while in Victoria, the chance of receiving above median rainfall is slightly lower at 20-35%. In New South Wales, South Australia, and Queensland, the chance of above median rainfall is 35-50%

Chance of exceeding the median rainfall July 2026 to September 2026



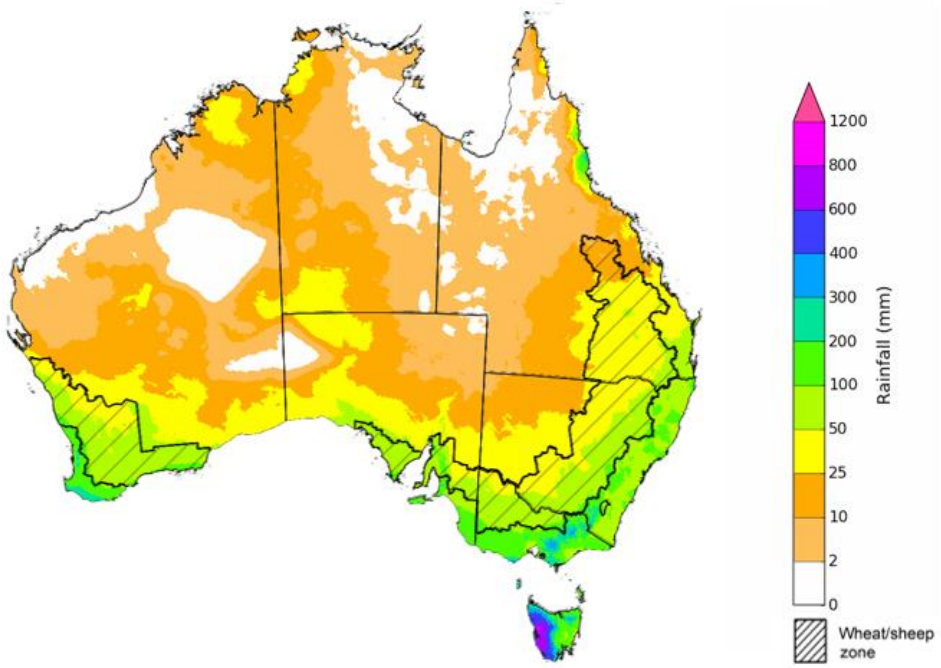
Issued: 9/7/2026

The rainfall outlook for August 2026 to October 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 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 Queensland likely to see 0-25 millimetres.

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

Favourable soil moisture levels across most of Australia's southern growing regions means that if these forecast August through October rainfall totals are realised, they are likely to be sufficient to continue to support the growth and yield potential of winter crops. However, below average expected falls continue to represent an ongoing downside production risk for the 2026–27 winter cropping season.

Rainfall totals that have a 75% chance of occurring August 2026 to October 2026

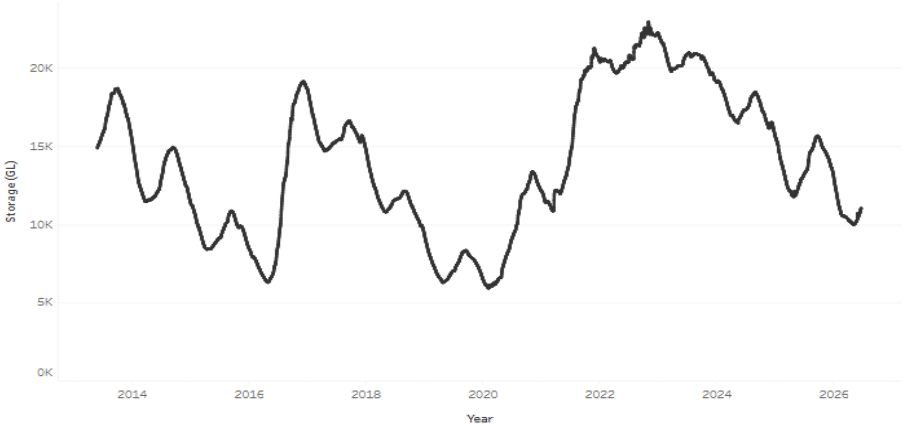


Issued: 9/7/2026

1.4. Water markets – current week

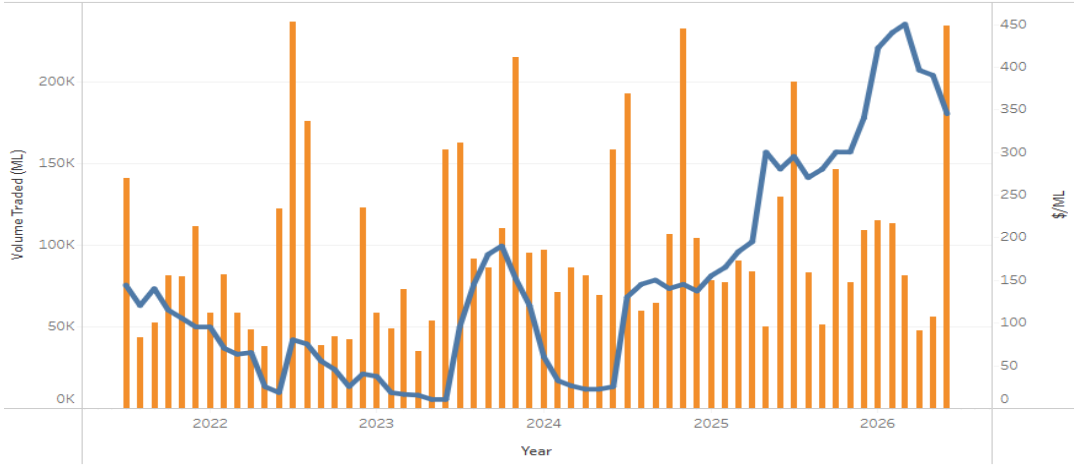
Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 695 gigalitres (GL) between 02 July 2026 and 09 July 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 12,032 GL, equivalent to 54% of total storage capacity. This is 10% or 1,264 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM).

Water storages in the Murray-Darling Basin, 2013–2026



Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke are $426/ML on 09 July 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..

Surface water trade activity 2022-2026, Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke



Water market prices, Southern Murray–Darling Basin

Region	$/ML
NSW Murray Above	NA
NSW Murrumbidgee	424
Vic Greater Goulburn	425
Vic Murray Below	426

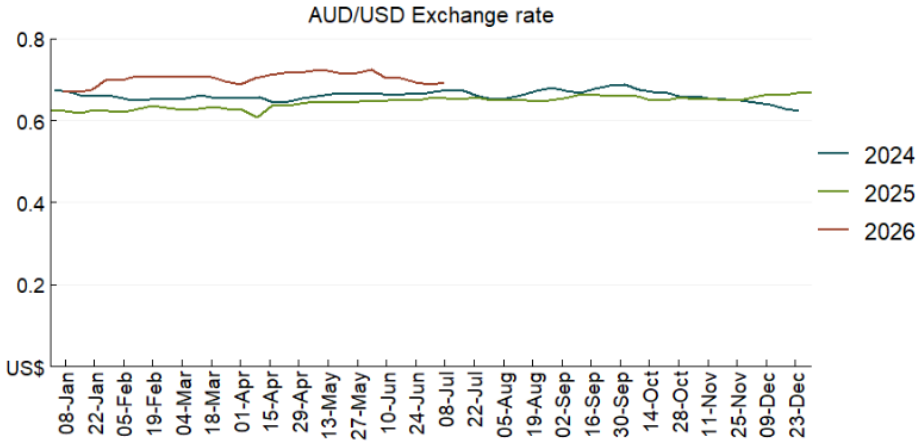
Note: The water allocation prices shown are volume weighted average prices based on the last 10 trades. Price data is sourced from Waterflow and current as at 25 June 2026.

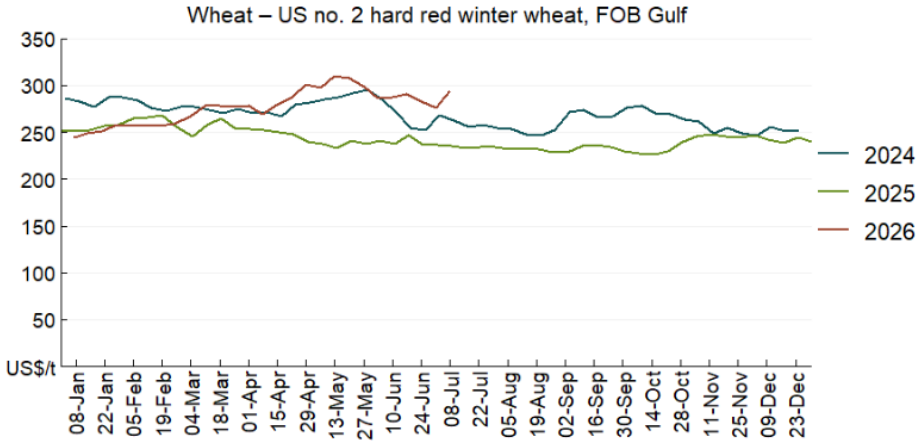
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-260625

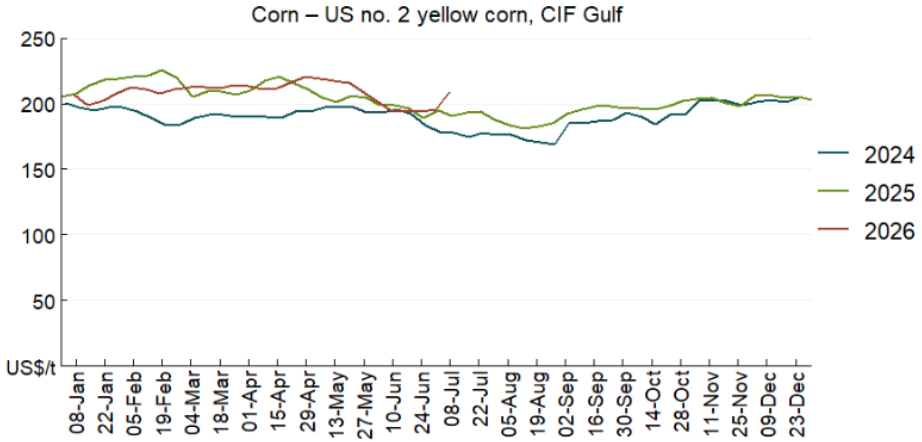
2. Commodities

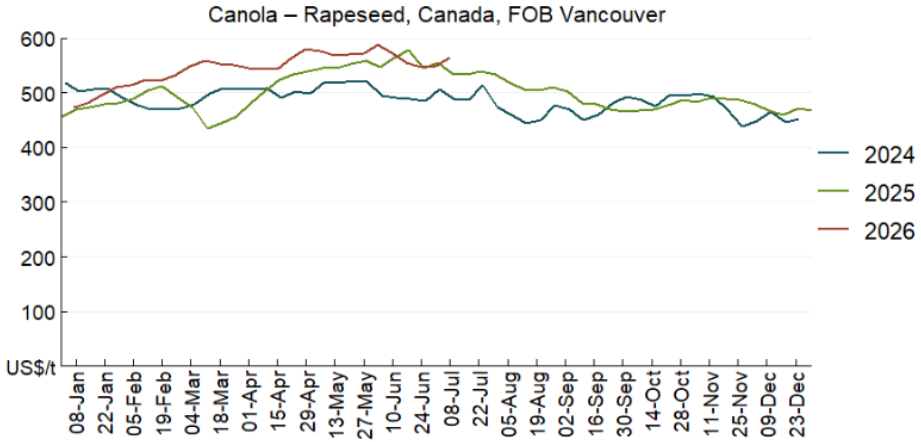
Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
Selected world indicator prices							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	8-Jul	A$/US$	0.69	0.69	1%	0.65	6%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	8-Jul	US$/t	294	276	7%	235	26%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	8-Jul	US$/t	209	196	7%	192	9%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	8-Jul	US$/t	565	550	3%	539	5%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	8-Jul	USc/lb	87.8	85.3	3%	78.9	11%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	8-Jul	USc/lb	15.2	14.9	2%	16.4	-7%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	8-Jul	Ac/kg clean	1,909	1,904	0%	1,220	56%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	8-Jul	Ac/kg clean	2,094	2,072	1%	1,360	54%
Selected Australian grain export prices							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	8-Jul	A$/t	392	392	0%	391	0%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	8-Jul	A$/t	381	380	0%	387	-1%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	8-Jul	A$/t	382	385	-1%	373	2%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	8-Jul	A$/t	829	821	1%	817	1%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	8-Jul	A$/t	432	438	-1%	426	1%
Selected domestic livestock indicator prices							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	8-Jul	Ac/kg cwt	1,017	1,017	0%	748	36%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	8-Jul	Ac/kg cwt	918	916	0%	692	33%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	8-Jul	Ac/kg cwt	1,242	1,231	1%	1,141	9%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	10-Jun	Ac/kg cwt	421	425	-1%	452	-7%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	17-Jun	Ac/kg lwt	400	400	0%	342	17%
Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	17-Jun	US$/t	3,589	3,706	-3%	3,894	-8%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	17-Jun	US$/t	3,368	3,457	-3%	2,752	22%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	17-Jun	US$/t	4,471	4,621	-3%	4,725	-5%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	17-Jun	US$/t	6,601	6,668	-1%	6,951	-5%

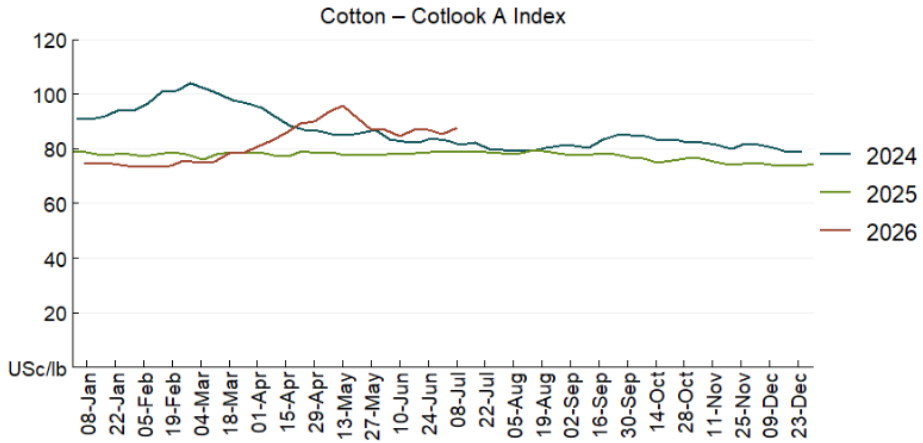
2.1. Selected world indicator prices

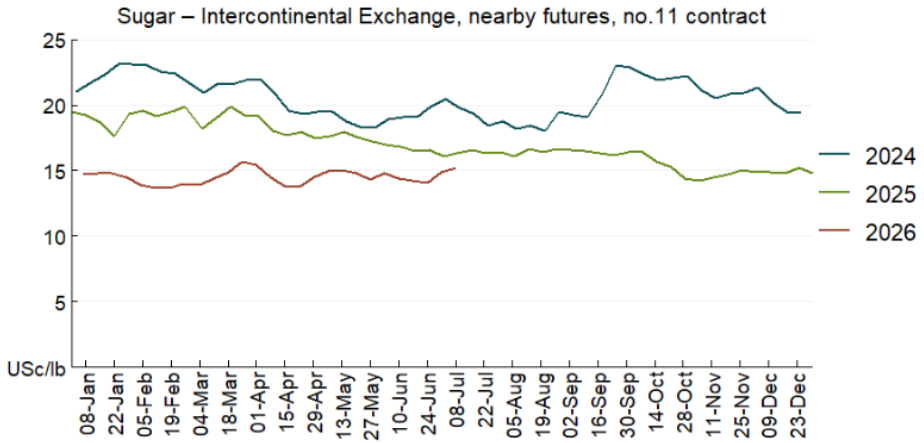









Cotton – Cotlook A Index
120
100
80
60
40
20
USc/lb
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
30-Sep
14-Oct
28-Oct
11-Nov
25-Nov
09-Dec
23-Dec
2024
2025
2026


Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract
25
20
15
10
5
USc/lb
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
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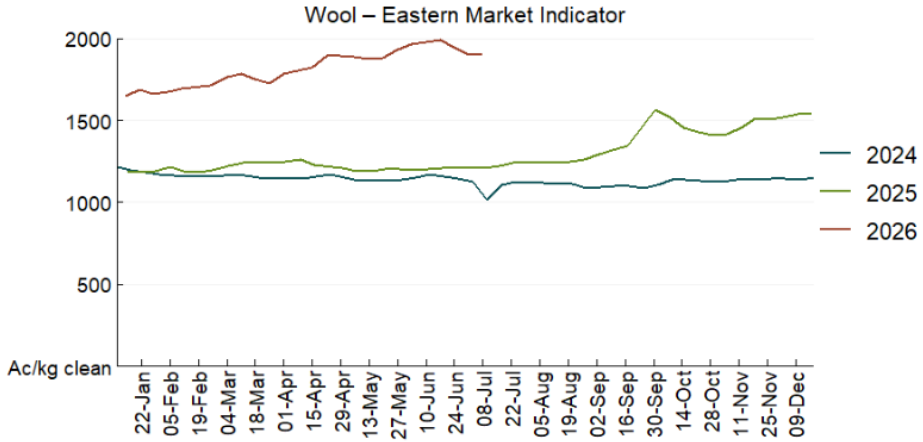
2026


Wool – Eastern Market Indicator
2000
1500
1000
500
Ac/kg clean
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
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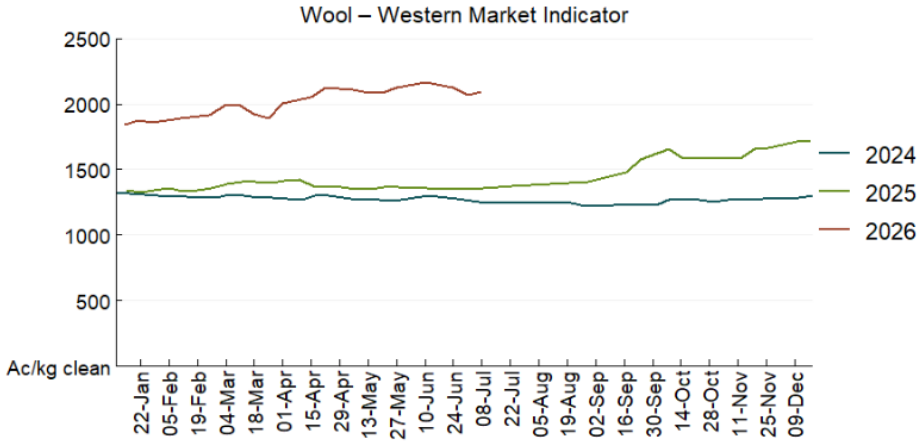
25-Nov
09-Dec
2024
2025
2026


Wool – Western Market Indicator
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
Ac/kg clean
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
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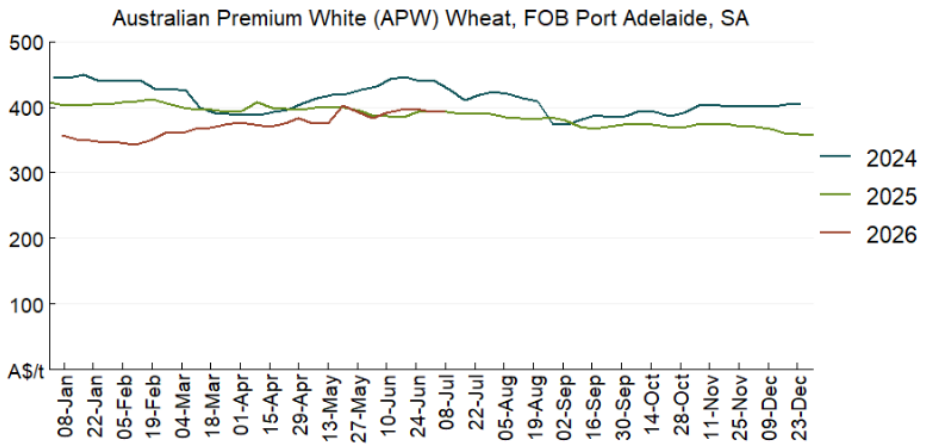
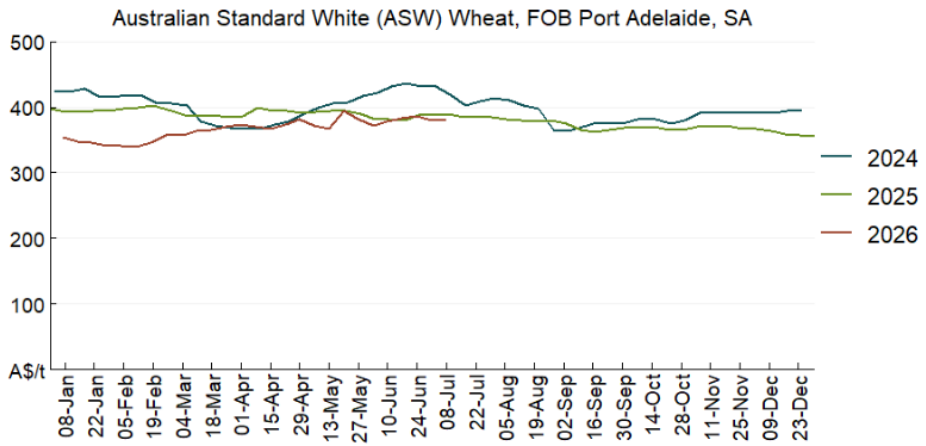
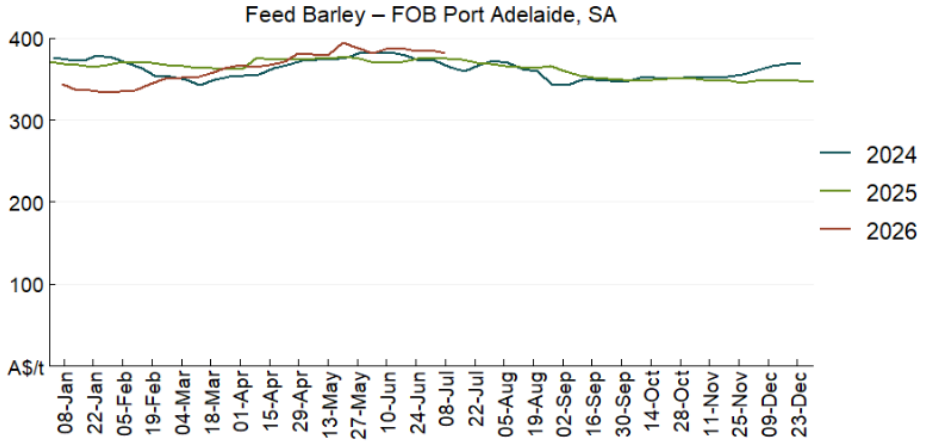
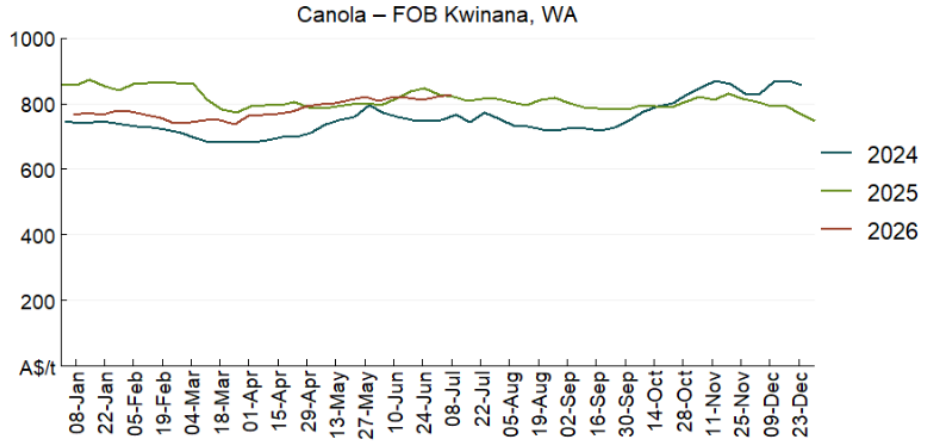
09-Dec
2024
2025
2026

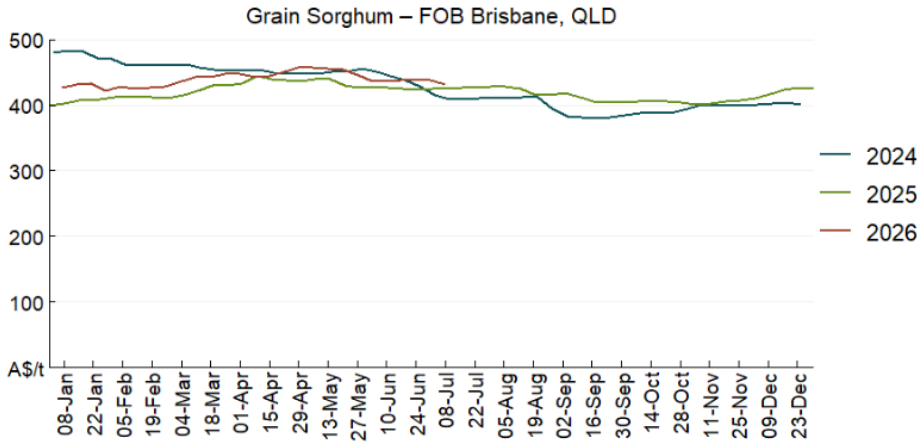
3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices



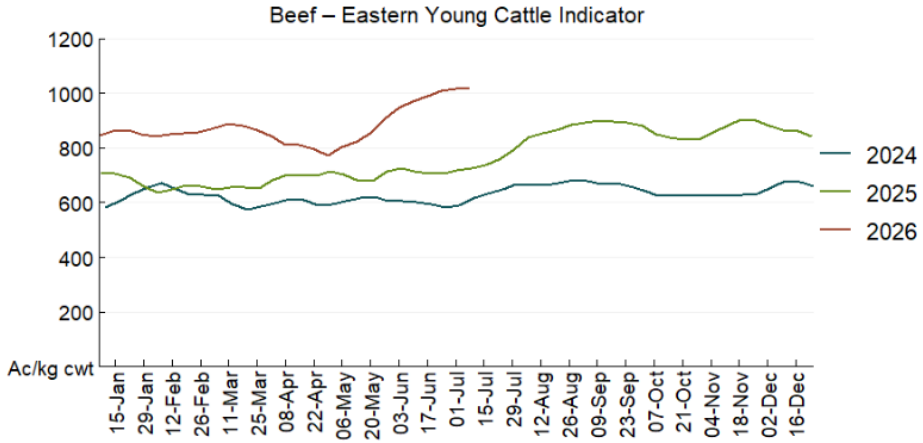


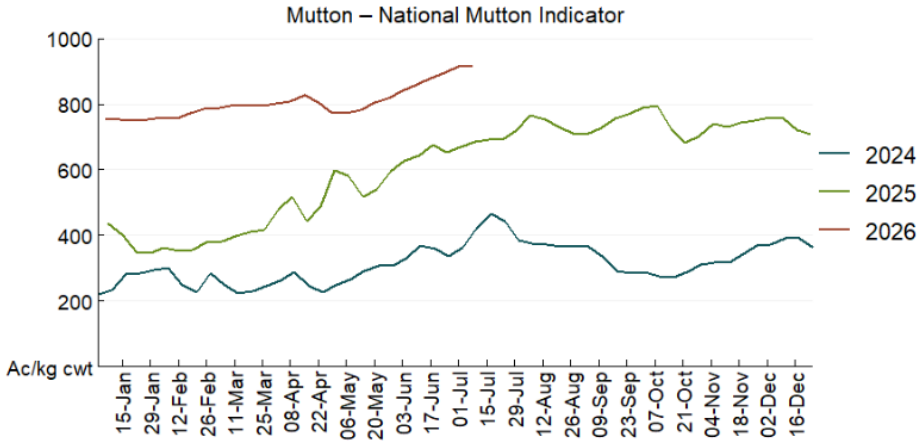


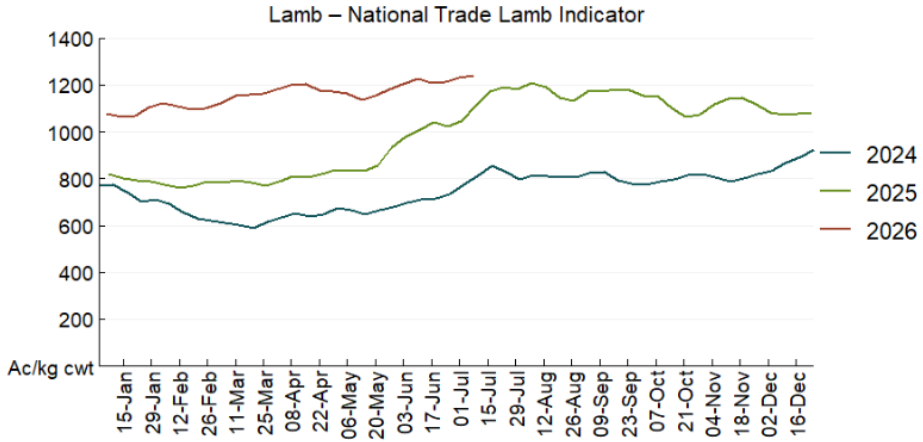


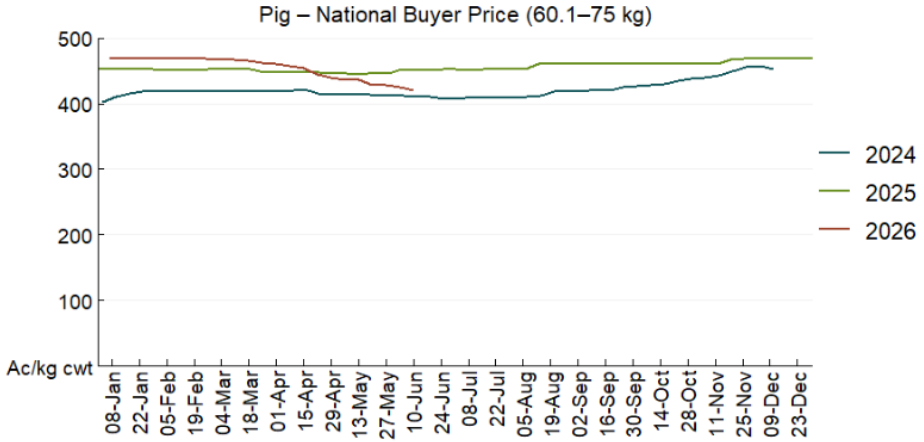

Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD
500
400
300
200
100
A$/t
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
30-Sep
14-Oct
28-Oct
11-Nov
25-Nov
09-Dec
23-Dec
2024
2025
2026

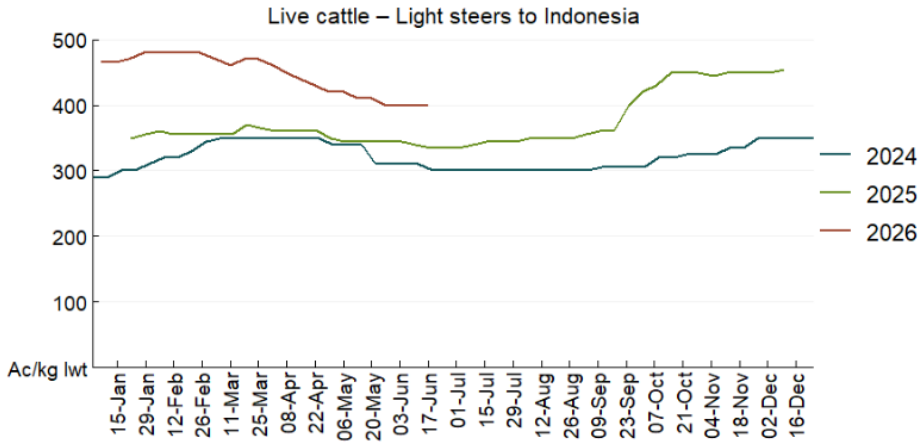
3.3 Selected domestic livestock indicator prices



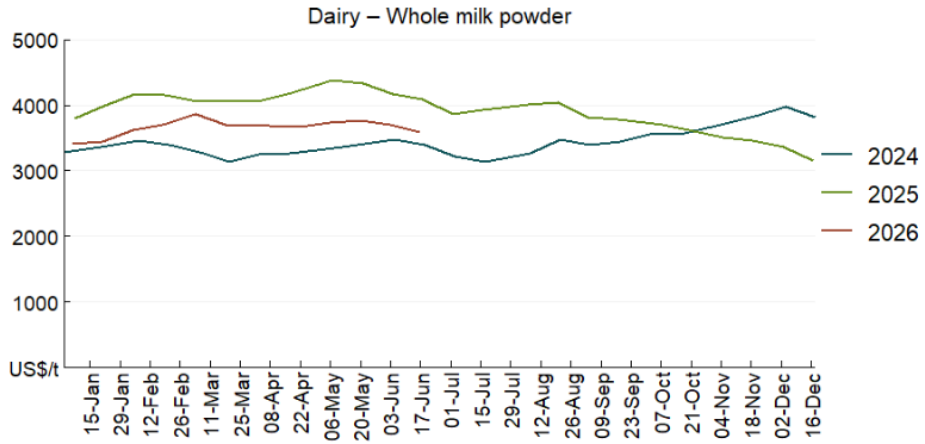


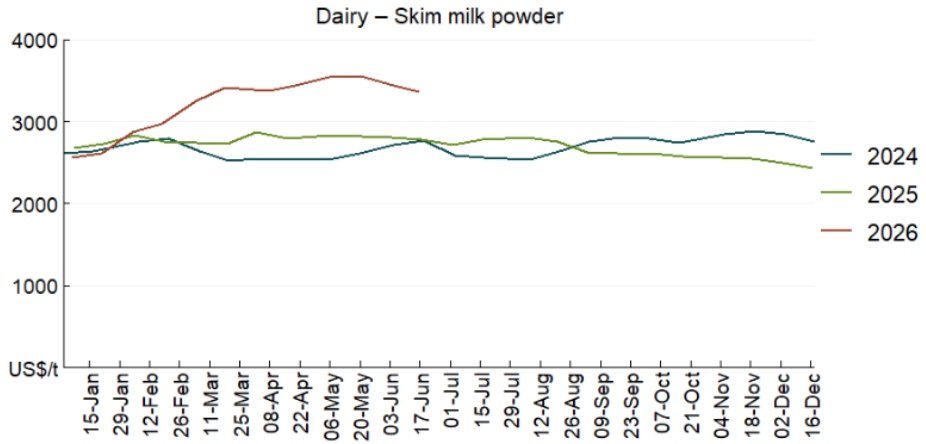


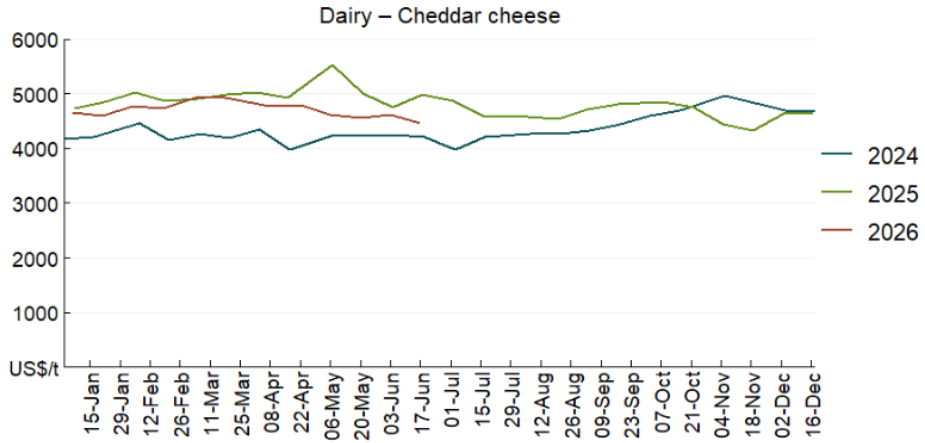


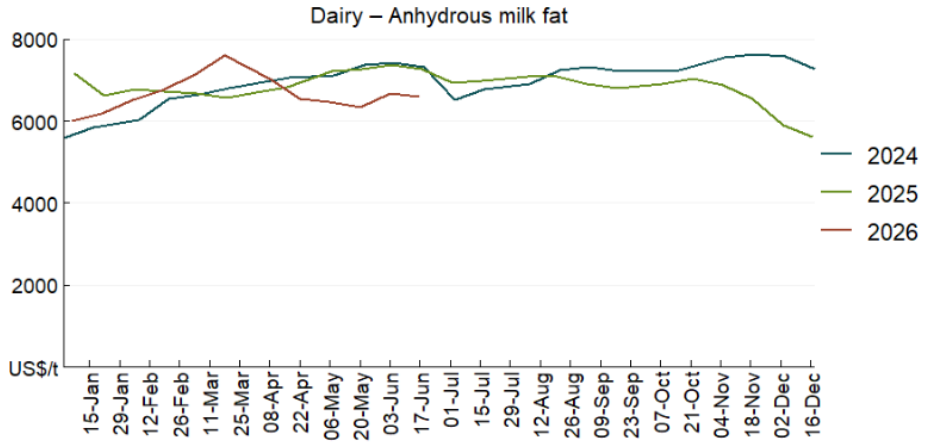

Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia
500
400
300
200
100
Ac/kg lwt
15-Jan
29-Jan
12-Feb
26-Feb
11-Mar
25-Mar
08-Apr
22-Apr
06-May
20-May
03-Jun
17-Jun
01-Jul
15-Jul
29-Jul
12-Aug
26-Aug
09-Sep
23-Sep
07-Oct
21-Oct
04-Nov
18-Nov
02-Dec
16-Dec
2024
2025
2026

3.4 Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

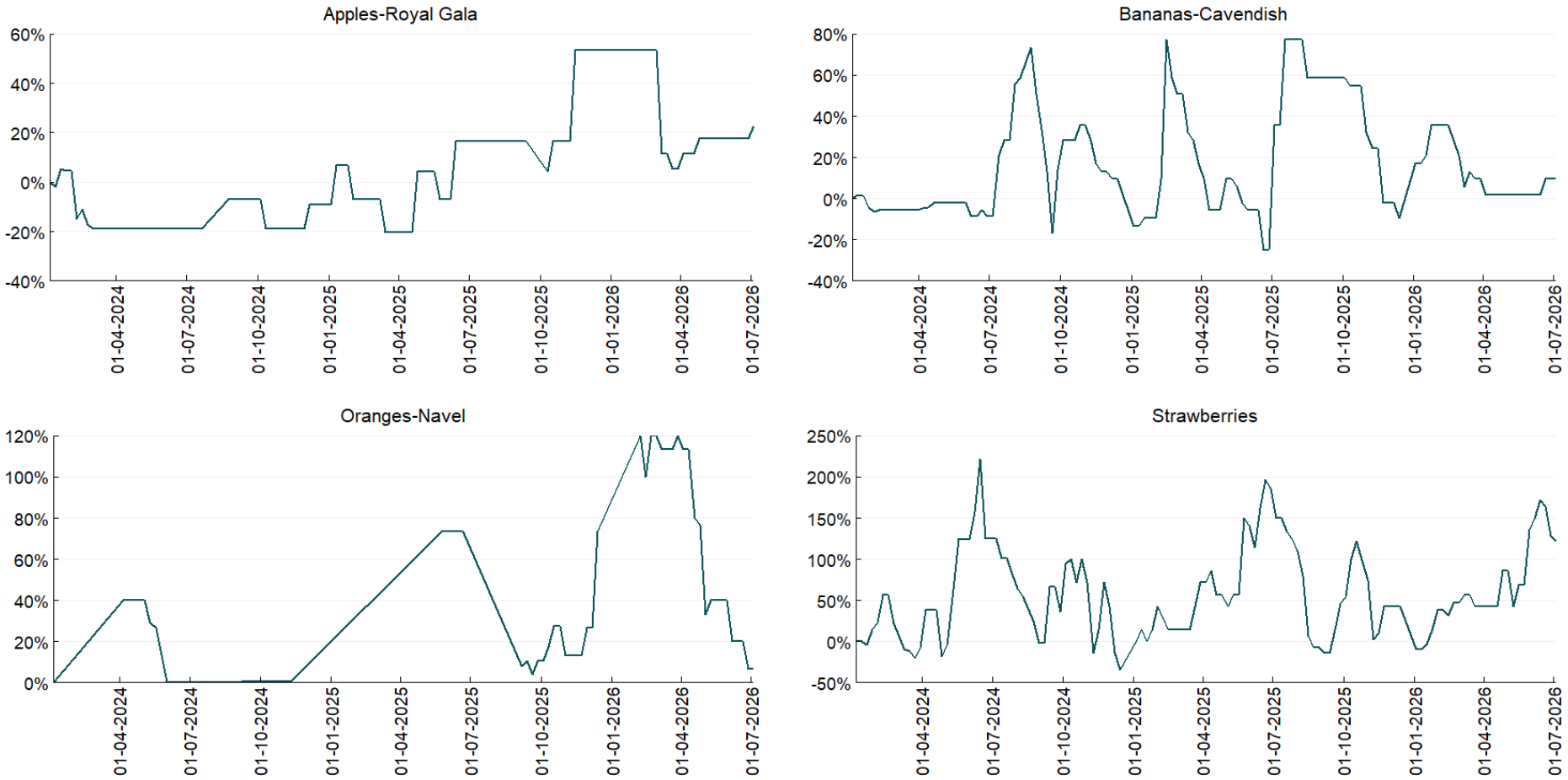


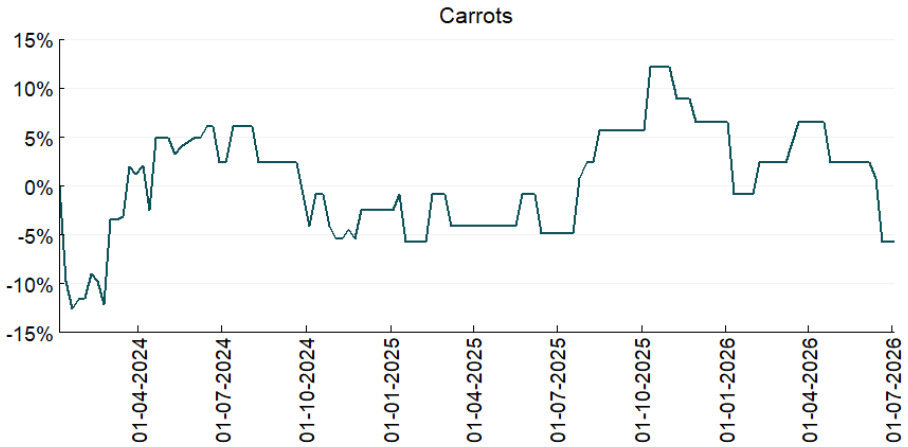


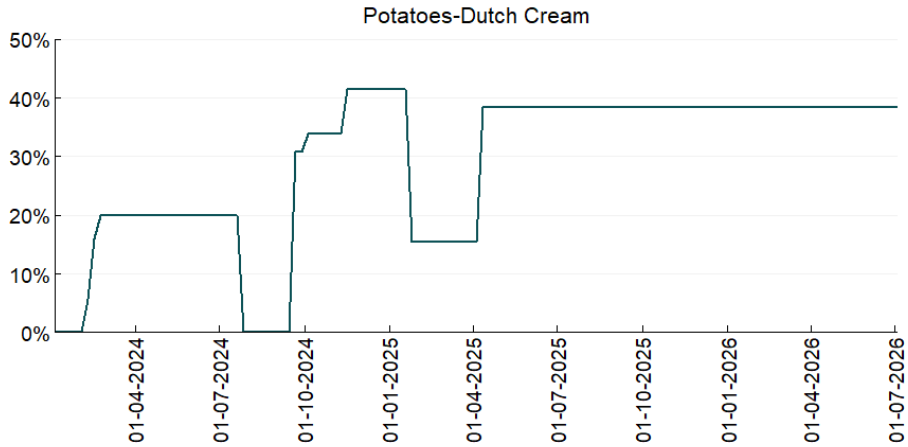


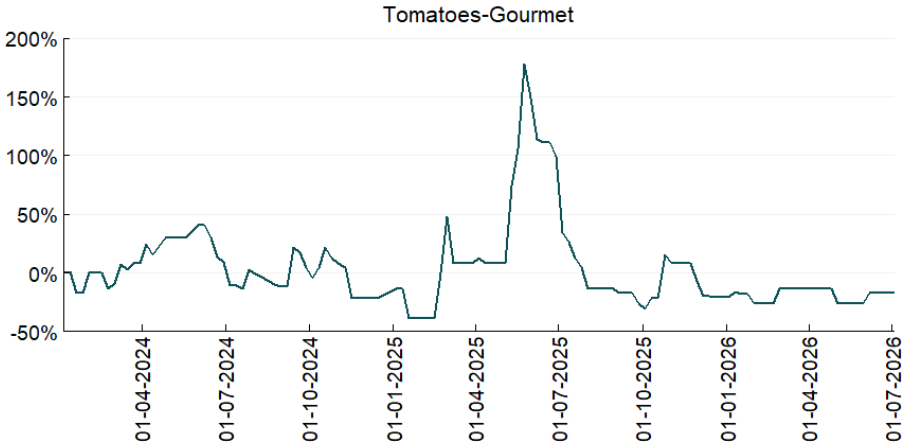


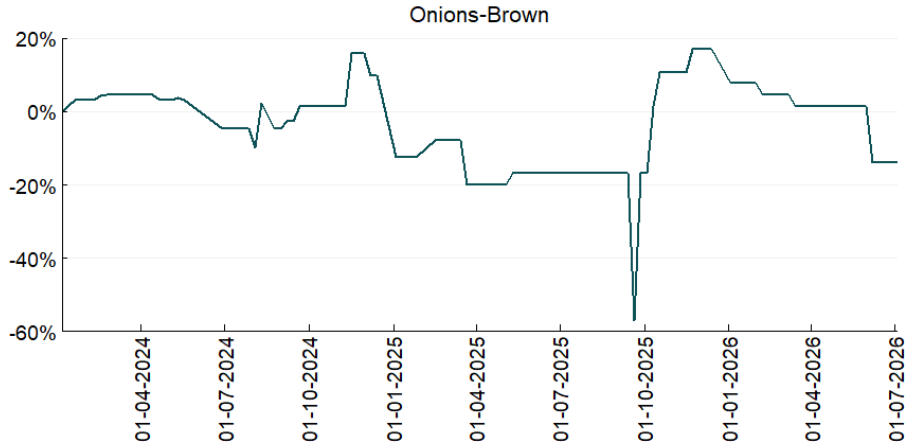
3.5 Selected fruit and vegetable prices



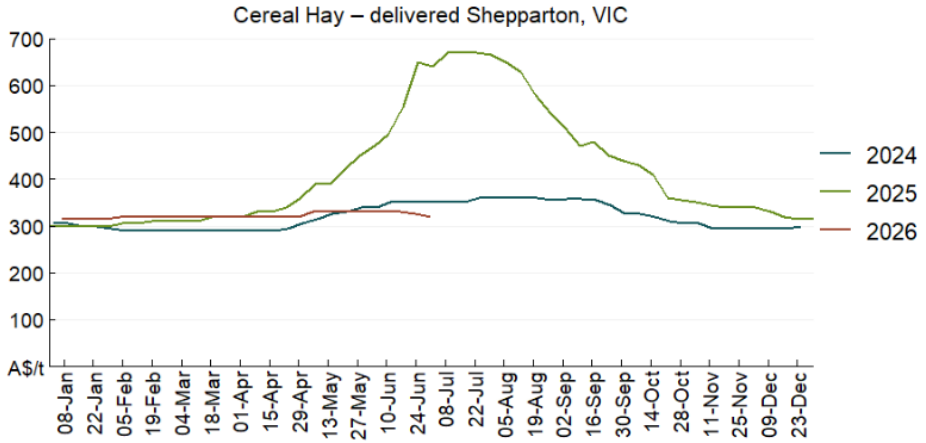

Carrots
15%
10%
5%
0%
-5%
-10%
-15%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026
01-07-2026

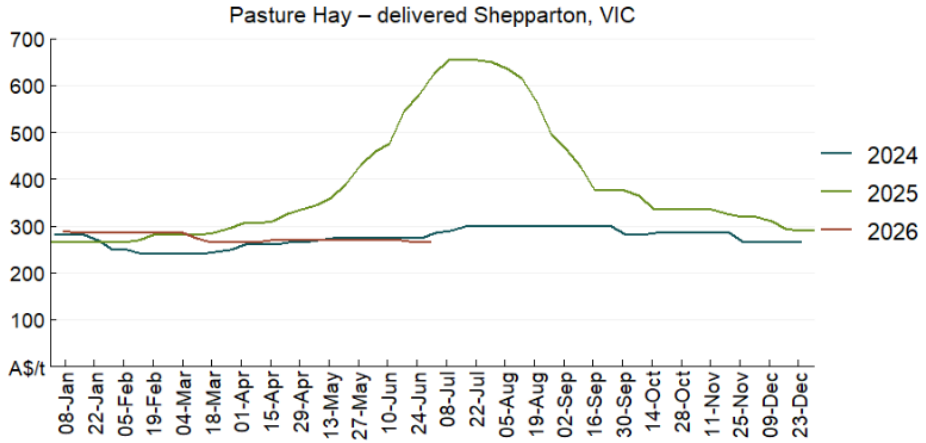

Potatoes-Dutch Cream
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026
01-07-2026

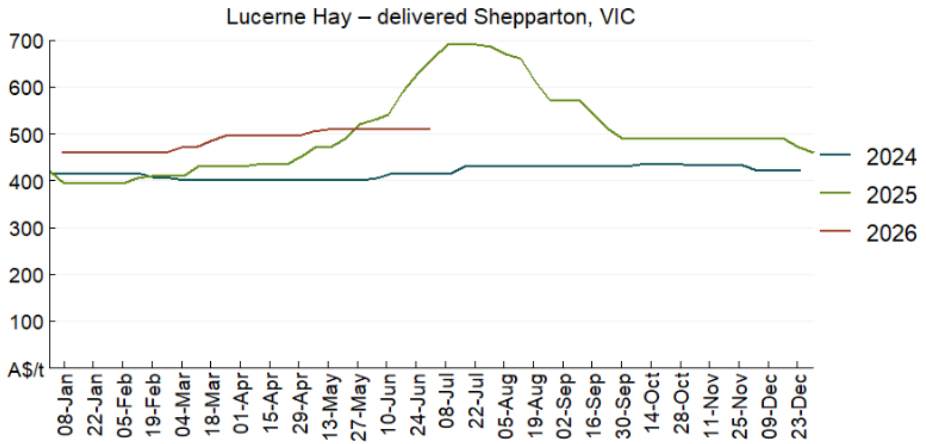

Tomatoes-Gourmet
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
-50%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026
01-07-2026


Onions-Brown
20%
0%
-20%
-40%
-60%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026
01-04-2026
01-07-2026

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 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.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: 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.

Cataloguing data
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