



Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 29/2026

30 July 2026

Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 29 July 2026, much of Australia was largely dry, particularly across northern and central regions.
 - Light falls of between 1-10 millimetres were recorded across cropping regions in parts of southern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and southern Western Australia.
 - Successive weeks of dry conditions in some southern and eastern regions will see a continued drawdown of stored soil moisture to support crop and pasture growth.
- Over the 8 days to 6 August 2026, Australia is forecast to remain largely dry, with exceptions in south-western and some south-eastern regions.
- Across cropping regions, the 8-day forecasts indicates that falls are expected to be limited to the west and southeast:
 - In Western Australia falls of 10-25 millimetres are forecast for most western and central growing regions with lighter falls of up to 10 millimetres expected in the far southeast. If realised, these falls are likely to benefit crop and pasture growth, and boost soil moisture levels, following a relatively dry July.
 - Light falls of 1-5 millimetres are forecast for southern New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Remaining cropping regions are likely to see little to no rainfall over the coming 8-days.
- The northern rainfall onset for 2026–27 is likely to be earlier than usual for most western and central parts of northern Australia but later than normal for much of the east.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 205 gigalitres (GL) between 23 July 2026 and 30 July 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 12,963 GL, equivalent to 58% of total storage capacity. This is 8% or 1,044 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM).
- Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from \$389/ML on 23 July 2026 to \$403/ML on 30 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

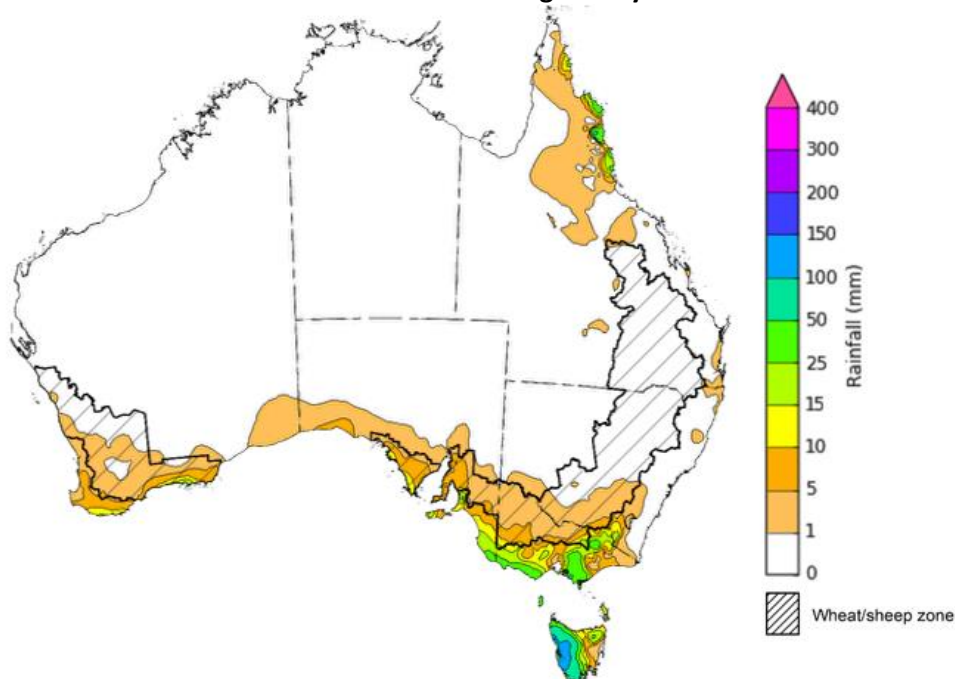
In the week ending 29 July 2026, much of Australia was largely dry, particularly across central and northern regions. Meanwhile, low-pressure systems and cold fronts brought rainfall to parts of southern and north-eastern Australia.

- Falls of 15-150 millimetres were recorded across western Tasmania, with southern parts of Victoria and South Australia seeing 10-50 millimetres. Similarly, parts of north-eastern Queensland saw up to 50 millimetres in scattered areas.
- Lower falls of 1-15 millimetres were observed in southern Western Australia, while remaining southern regions including northern Victoria, and parts of southern New South Wales saw limited falls of up to 10 millimetres.
- Much of the remainder of Australia saw little to no rainfall.

In cropping regions, low rainfall totals were recorded across parts of southern Australia.

- Light falls of between 1-10 millimetres were recorded across cropping regions in parts of southern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and southern Western Australia.
 - These light falls were recorded with continue to support soil moisture level and the growth of winter crops and pastures.
- Cropping regions across the remainder of New South Wales, Queensland, and northern Western Australia, saw little to no rainfall over the period.
 - Successive weeks of dry conditions in some southern and eastern regions will see a continued drawdown of stored soil moisture to support crop and pasture growth.
 - Dry conditions in Western Australia are consistent with weather patterns associated with the recent very strongly positive Southern Annular Mode (SAM), this is expected to be alleviated in coming weeks as the SAM transitions back to a neutral state.

Rainfall for the week ending 29 July 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/>

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1.2. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

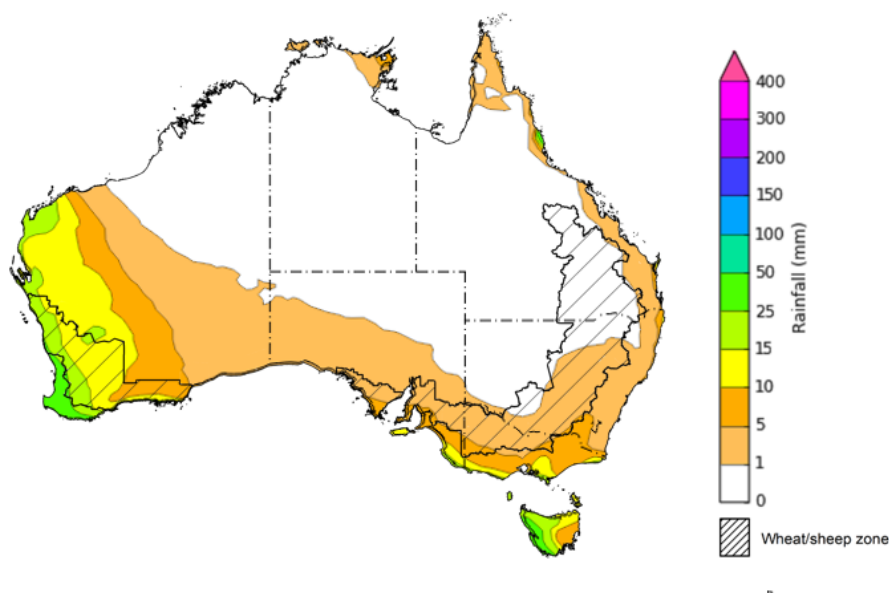
Over the 8 days to 6 August 2026, Australia is expected to remain largely dry, with exceptions in south-western and some south-eastern regions where cold fronts are likely to bring rainfall to certain regions.

- Falls of up to 50 millimetres are forecast for parts of Western Australia and Tasmania, with higher falls on western margins.
- Rainfall totals of between 5-15 millimetres are forecast for far southern parts of Victoria and South Australia.
- Remaining areas are expected to see little to no rainfall.

Across cropping regions, falls are expected to be limited:

- In Western Australia falls of 10-25 millimetres are forecast for most western and central growing regions with lighter falls of up to 10 millimetres expected in the far southeast.
 - If realised, these falls are likely to benefit crop and pasture growth, and boost soil moisture levels, following a relatively dry July.
- Light falls of 1-5 millimetres are forecast for southern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia. Remaining cropping regions are likely to see little to no rainfall over the coming 8 days.

Total forecast rainfall for the period 30 July to 6 August 2026



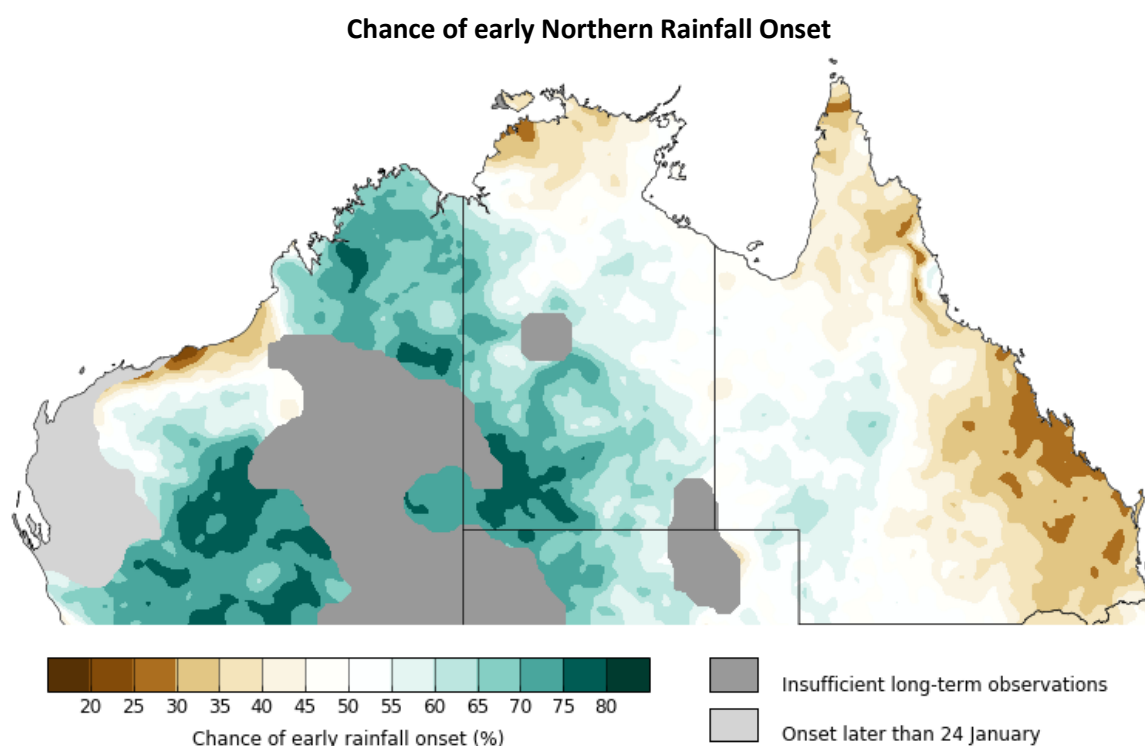
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Note: This rainfall forecast is produced from computer models. As the model outputs are not altered by weather forecasters, it is important to check local forecasts and warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology.

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1.3. National Climate Outlook

The northern rainfall onset outlook provides an indication of whether the first significant rains after the dry season are likely to be earlier or later than normal. The onset occurs when the total rainfall after 1 September reaches 50 millimetres, which is considered approximately the amount of rainfall required to stimulate plant growth. The northern rainfall onset for the 2026–27 season is likely to be earlier (55-80% chance of early rainfall onset) than usual for much of Western Australia and central regions including northern South Australia, much of the Northern Territory and parts of western Queensland. In contrast, across eastern and northern Queensland and the north of the Northern Territory, the chance of an early rainfall onset is 30-45%. Elsewhere, the northern rainfall onset is likely to be closer to the normal onset date.



1.4. Water markets – current week

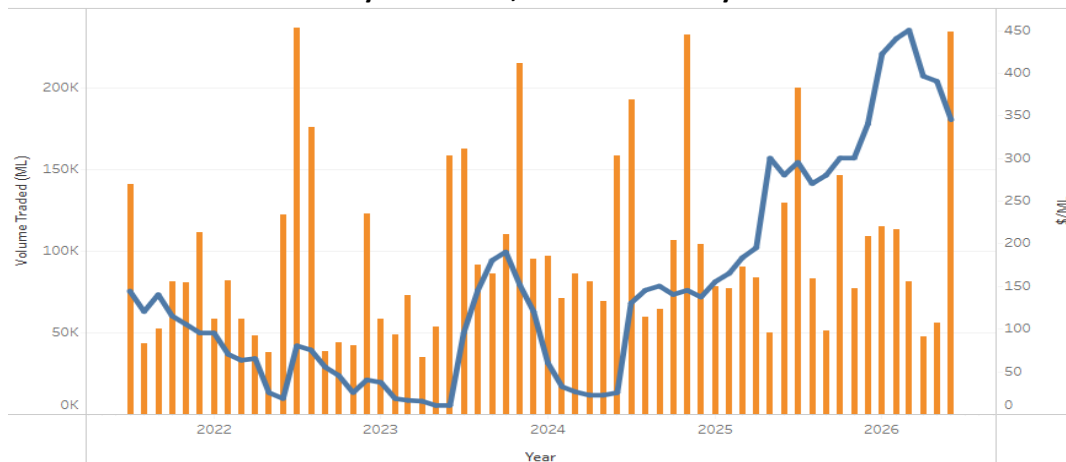
Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 205 gegalitres (GL) between 23 July 2026 and 30 July 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 12,963 GL, equivalent to 58% of total storage capacity. This is 8% or 1,044 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.

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



Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from \$389/ML on 23 July 2026 to \$403/ML on 30 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	305
NSW Murrumbidgee	408
Vic Greater Goulburn	368
Vic Murray Below	403

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 23 July 2026.

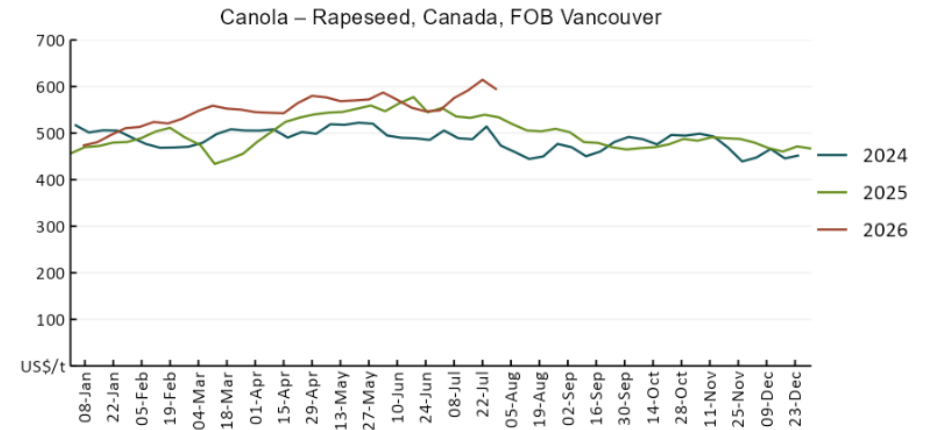
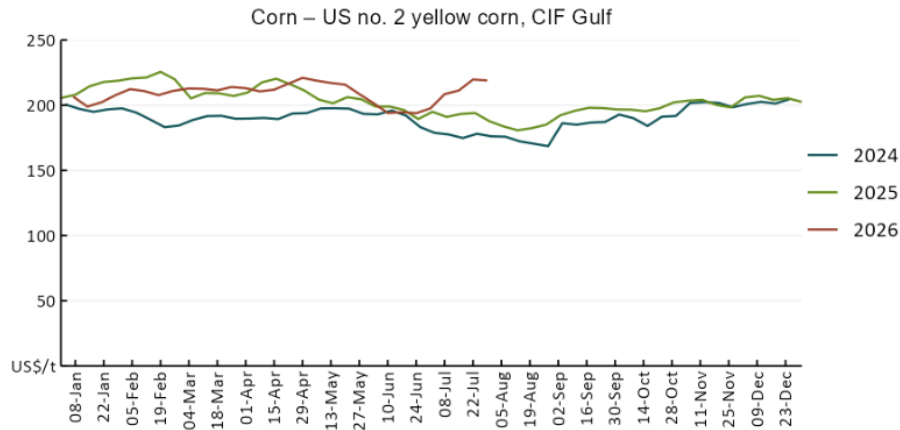
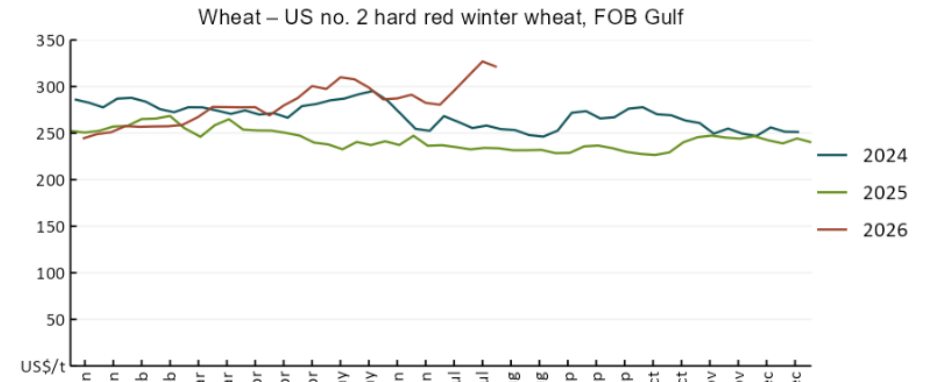
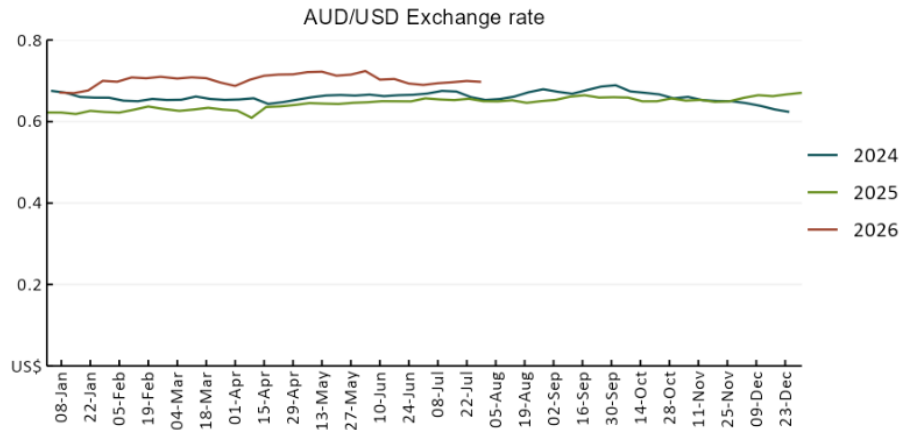
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit

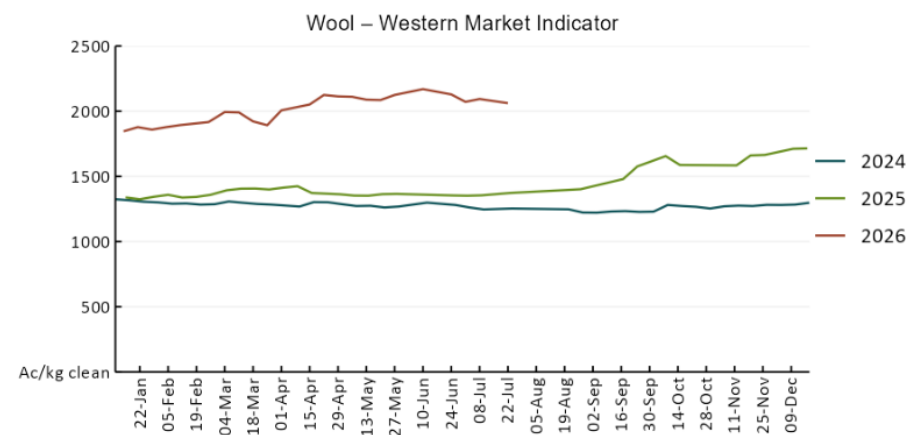
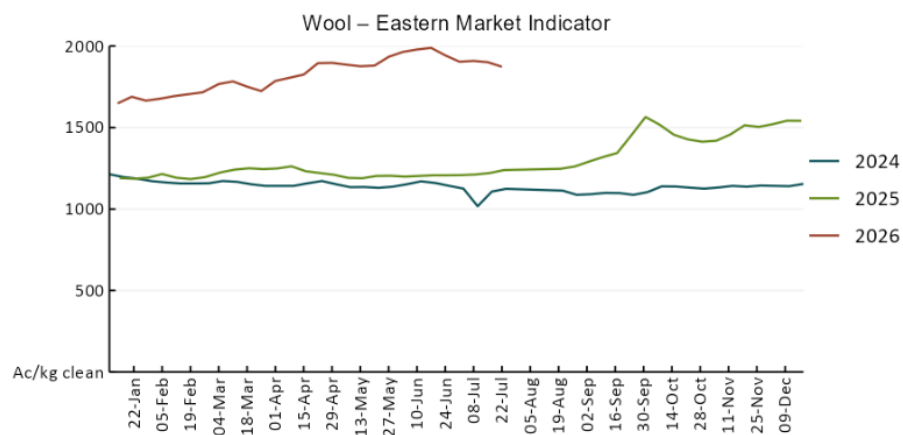
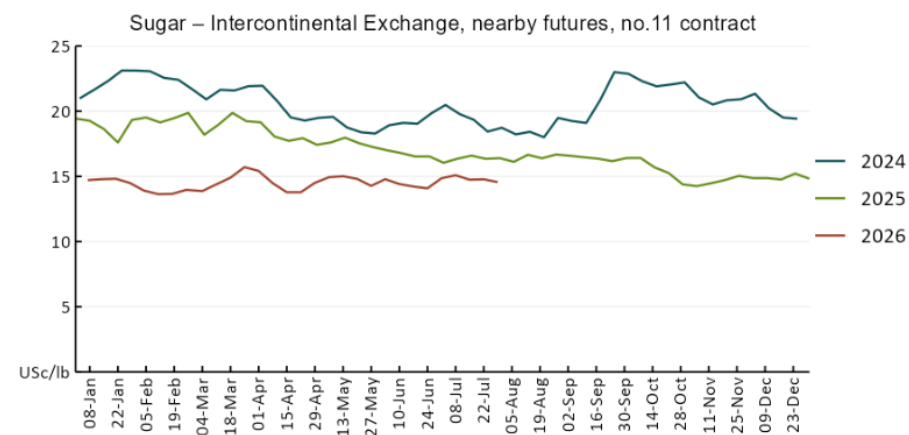
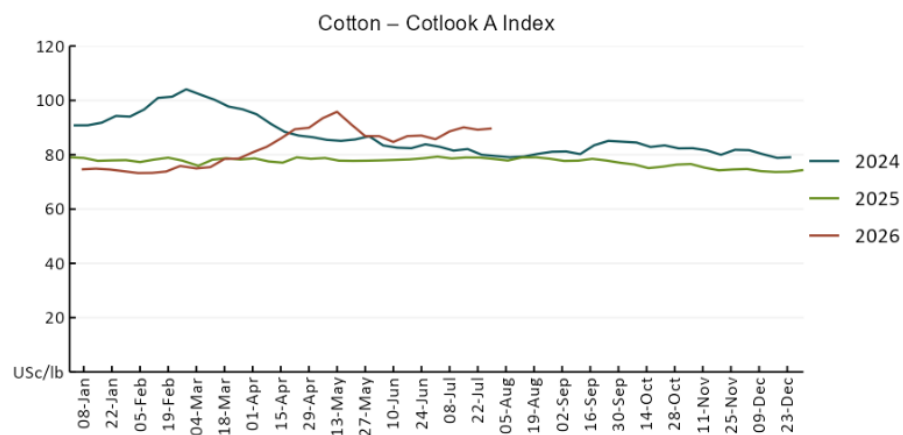
https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-260723

2. Commodities

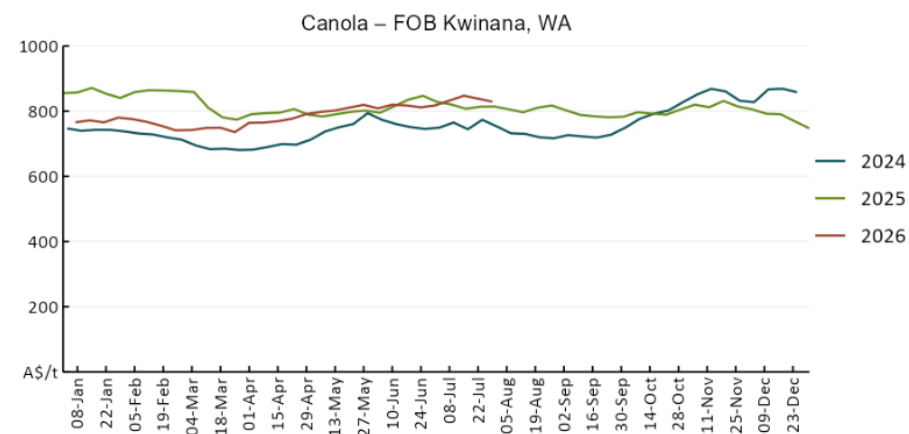
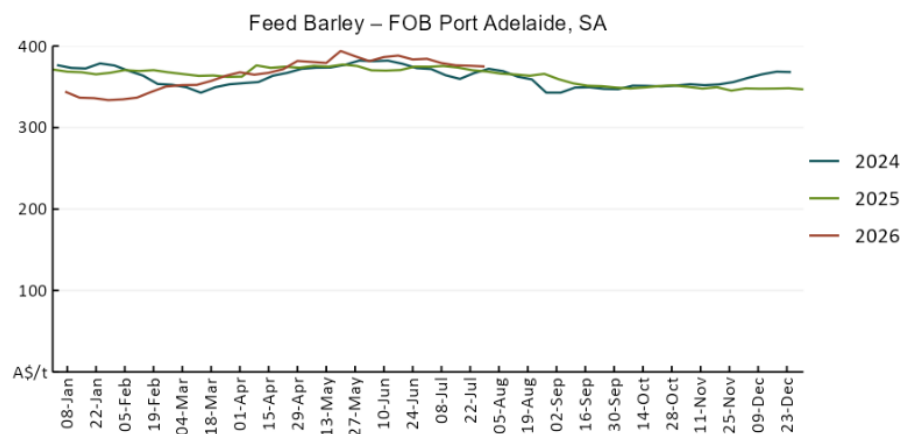
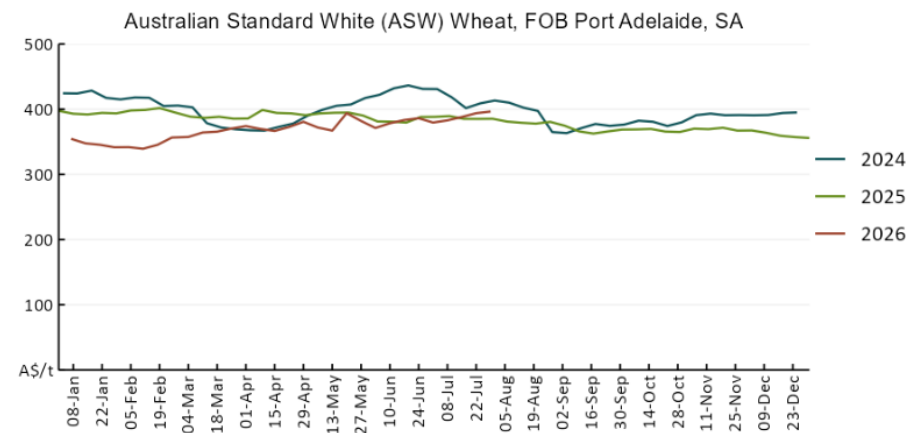
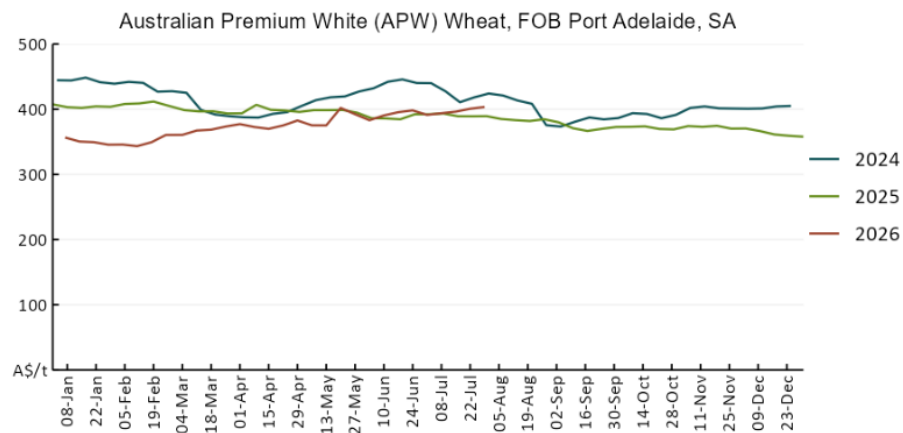
Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
Selected world indicator prices							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	29-Jul	A\$/US\$	0.70	0.70	0%	0.65	7%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	29-Jul	US\$/t	321	327	-2%	235	37%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	29-Jul	US\$/t	219	220	0%	192	14%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	29-Jul	US\$/t	594	615	-3%	539	10%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	29-Jul	USc/lb	89.7	89.2	1%	78.9	14%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	29-Jul	USc/lb	14.6	14.8	-1%	16.4	-11%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	22-Jul	Ac/kg clean	1,873	1,901	-1%	1,220	54%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	22-Jul	Ac/kg clean	2,062	2,094	-2%	1,360	52%
Selected Australian grain export prices							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	29-Jul	A\$/t	404	401	1%	391	3%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	29-Jul	A\$/t	397	394	1%	387	3%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	29-Jul	A\$/t	375	376	0%	373	1%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	29-Jul	A\$/t	829	839	-1%	817	2%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	29-Jul	A\$/t	433	432	0%	426	2%
Selected domestic livestock indicator prices							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	29-Jul	Ac/kg cwt	990	1,004	-1%	748	32%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	29-Jul	Ac/kg cwt	879	908	-3%	692	27%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	29-Jul	Ac/kg cwt	1,192	1,203	-1%	1,141	4%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	15-Jul	Ac/kg cwt	401	404	-1%	452	-11%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	29-Jul	Ac/kg lwt	430	440	-2%	342	26%
Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	22-Jul	US\$/t	3,486	3,425	2%	3,894	-10%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	22-Jul	US\$/t	3,234	3,135	3%	2,752	18%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	22-Jul	US\$/t	3,586	3,900	-8%	4,725	-24%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	22-Jul	US\$/t	6,405	6,341	1%	6,951	-8%

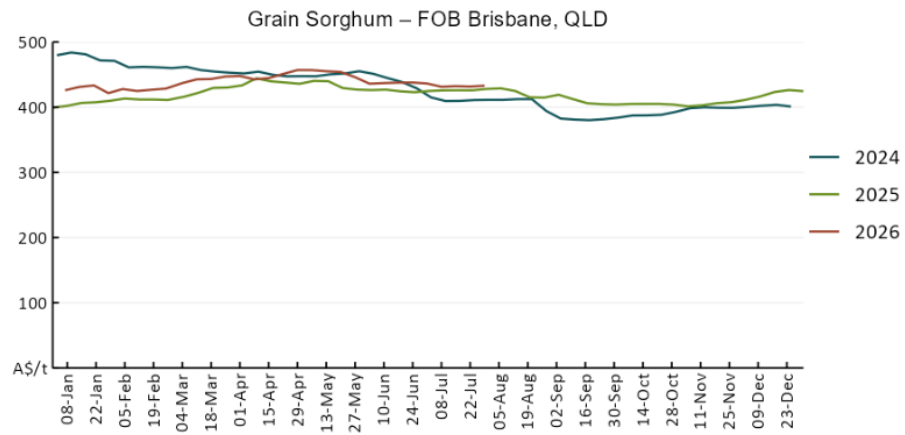
2.1. Selected world indicator prices



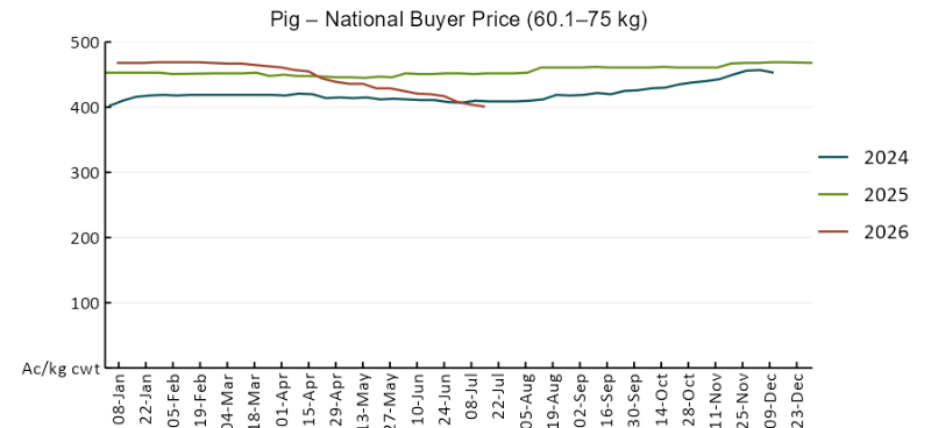
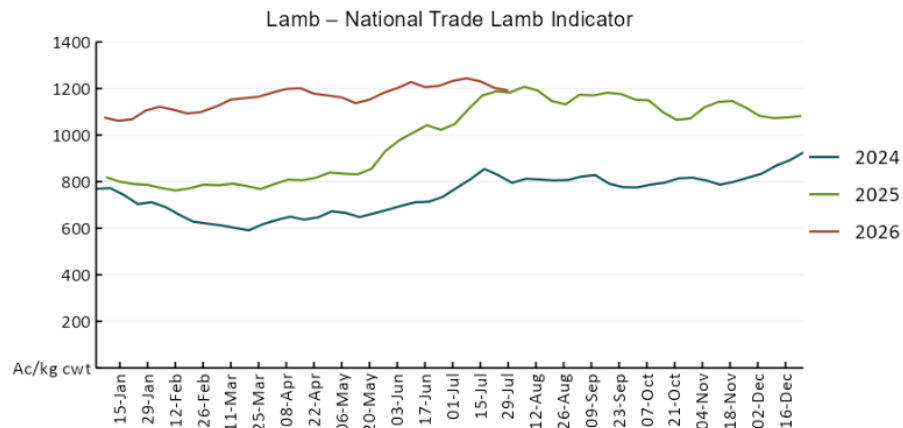
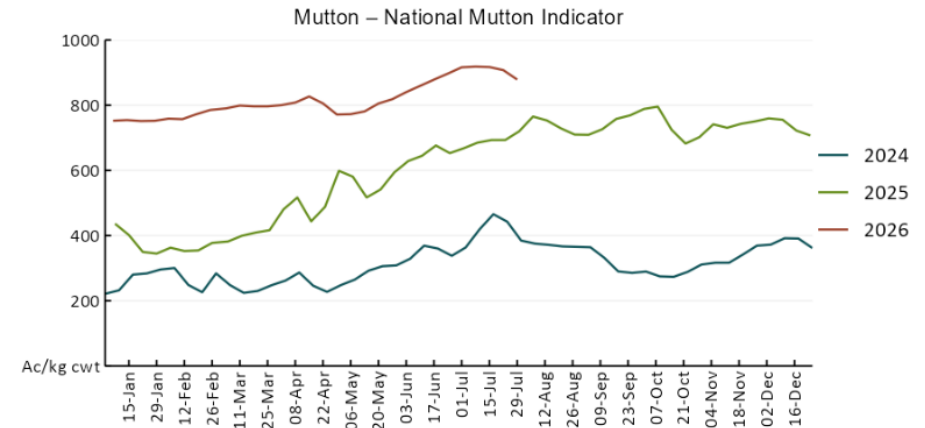
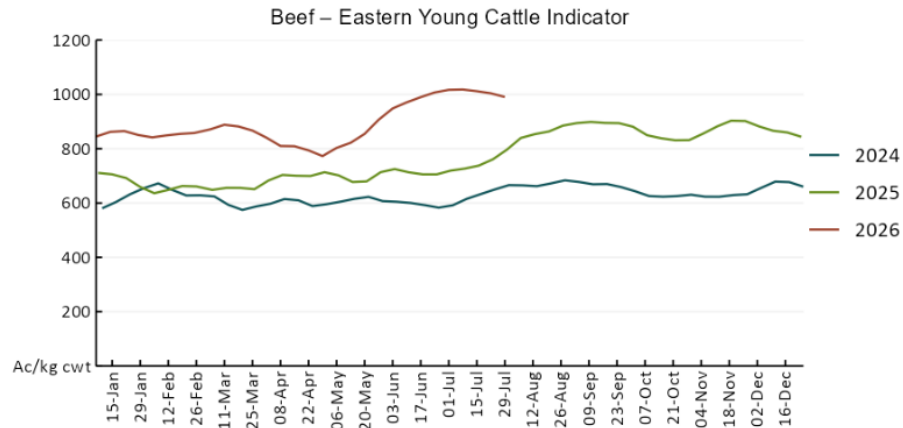


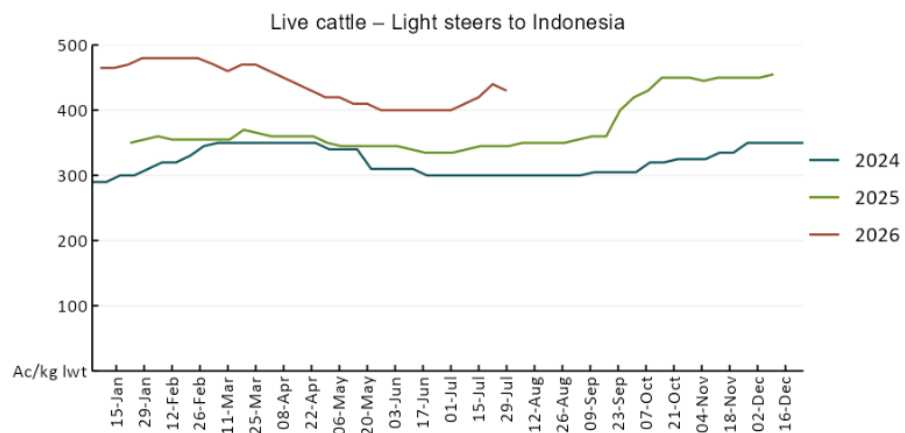
3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices



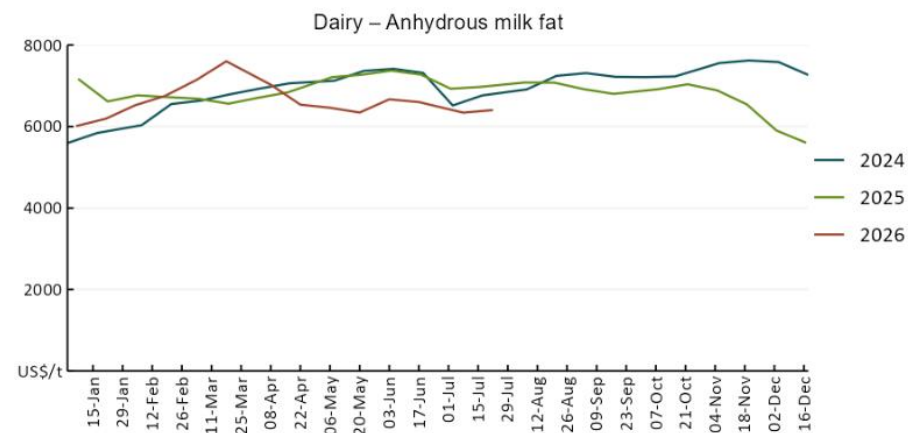
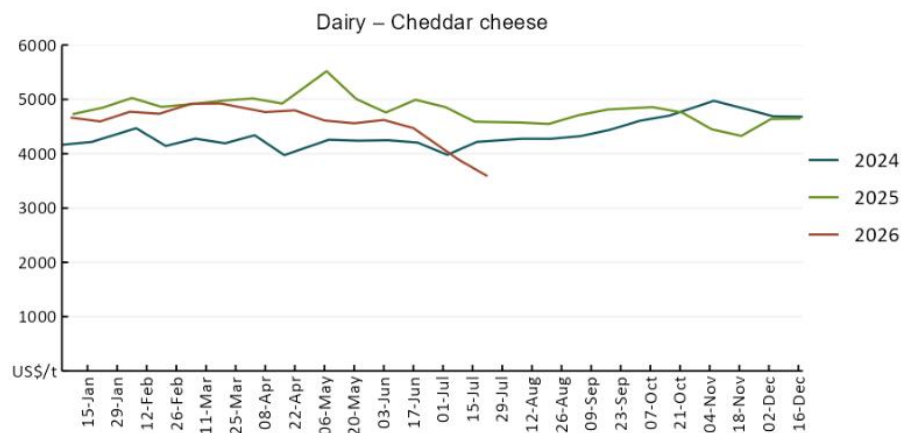
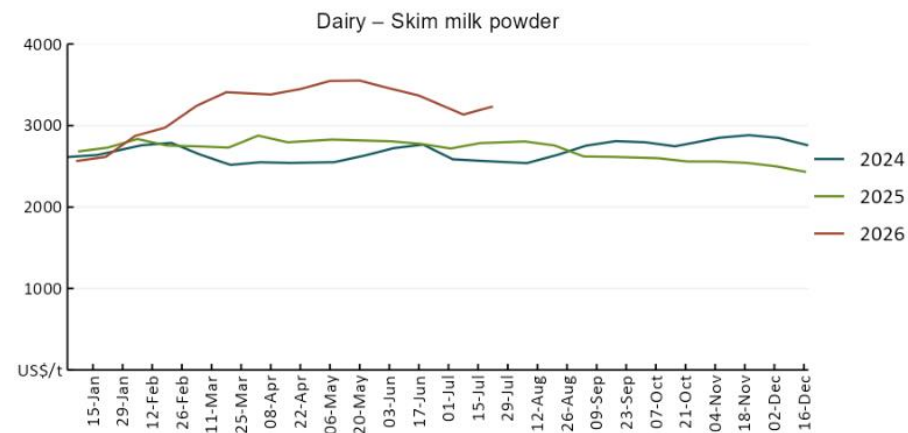
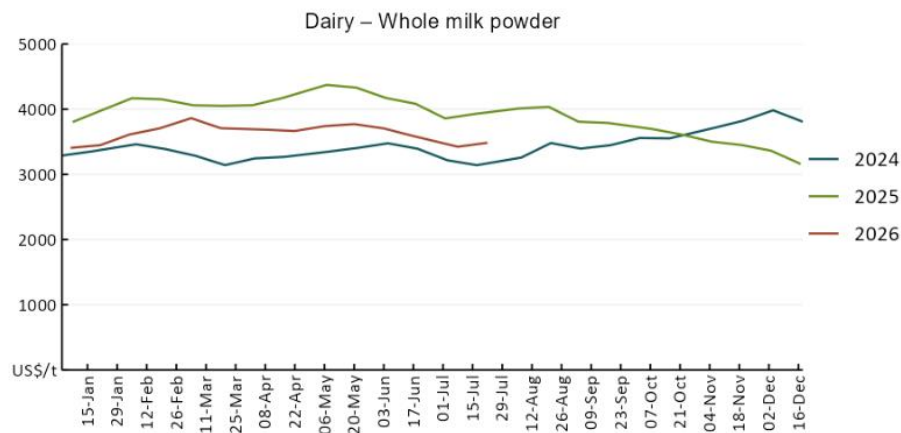


3.3 Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

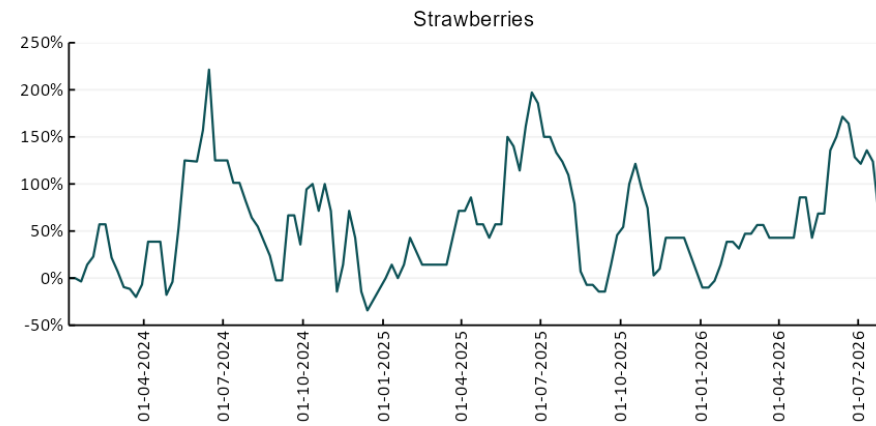
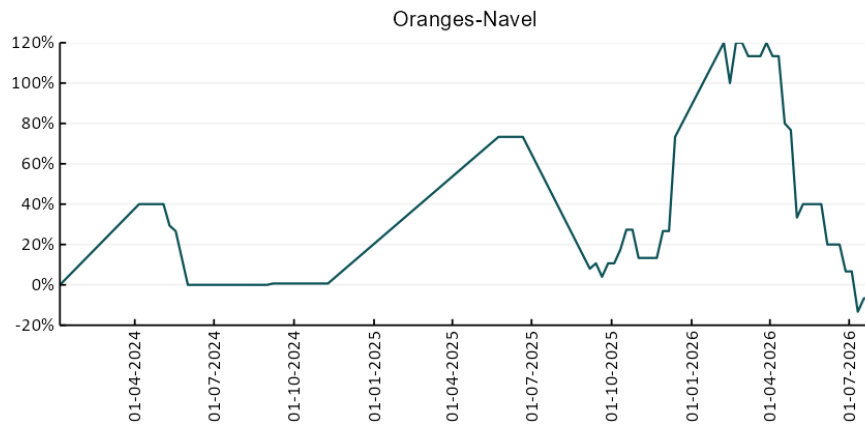
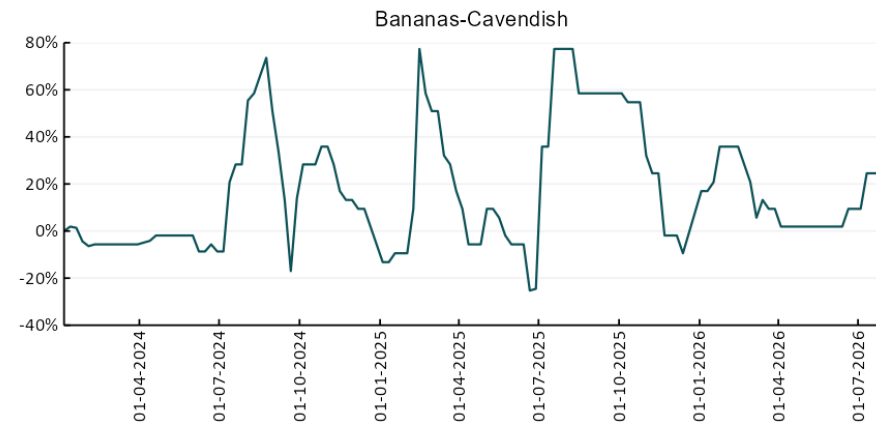
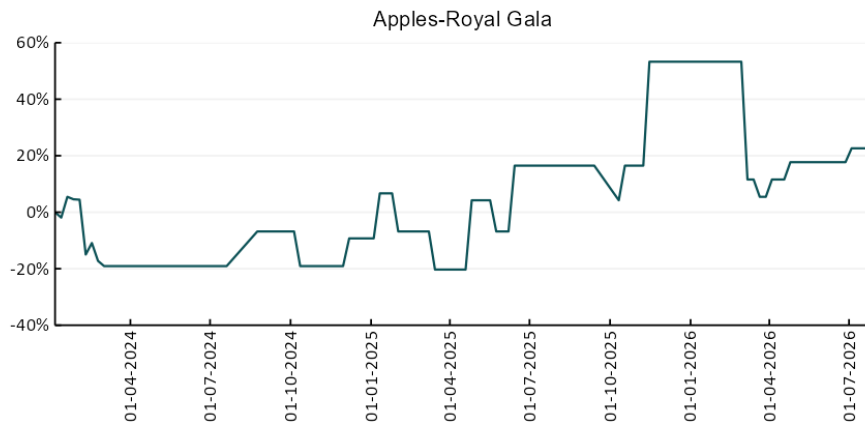


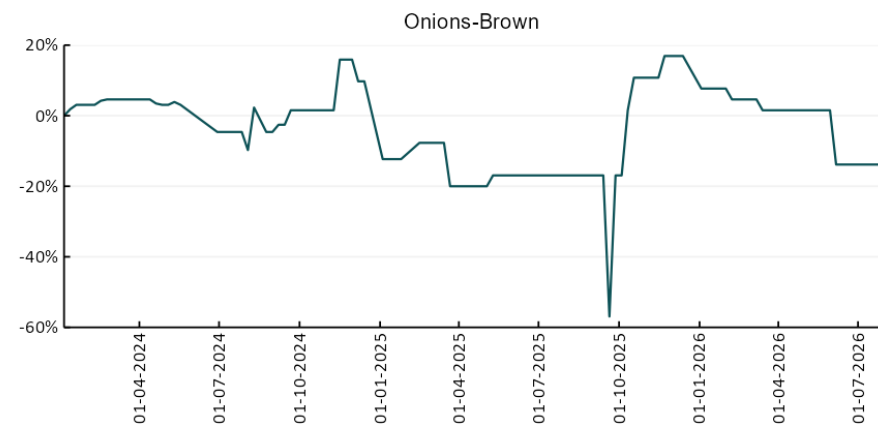
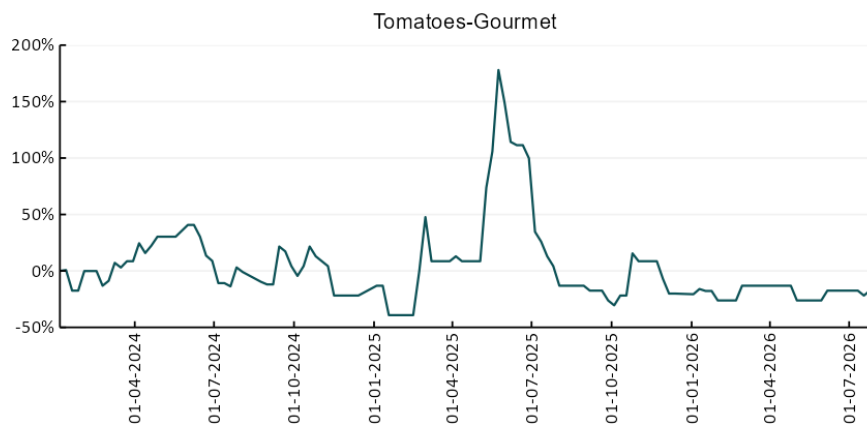
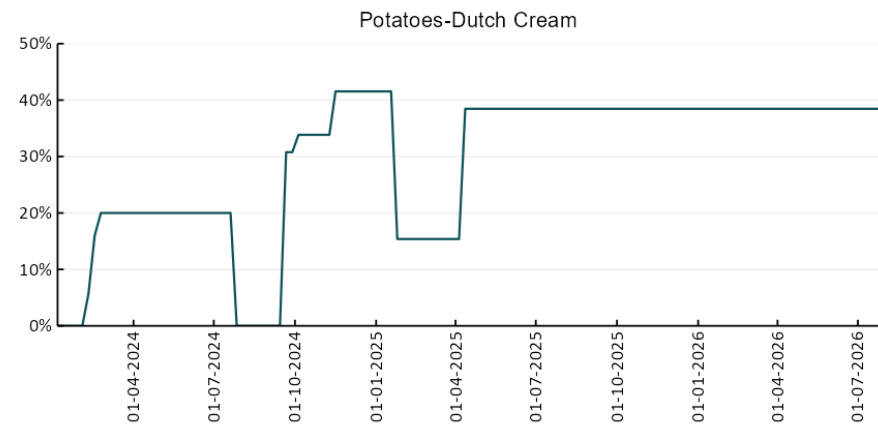
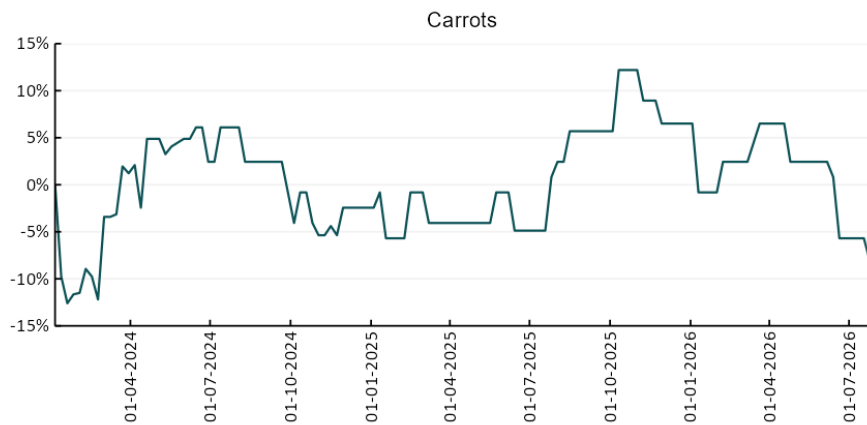


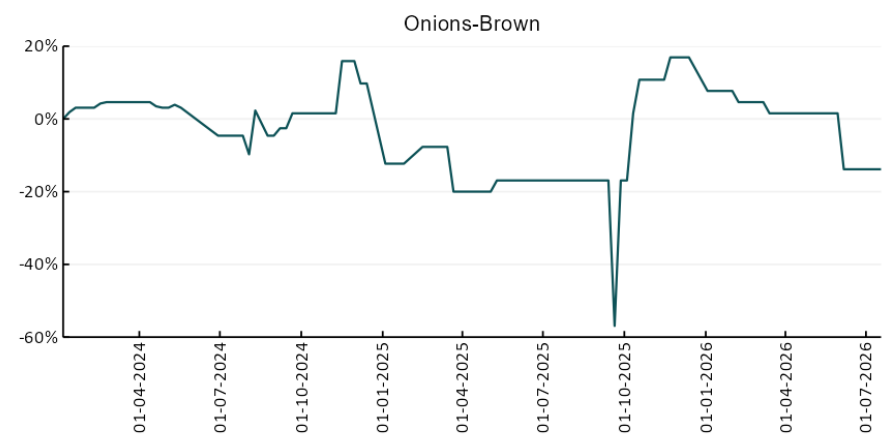
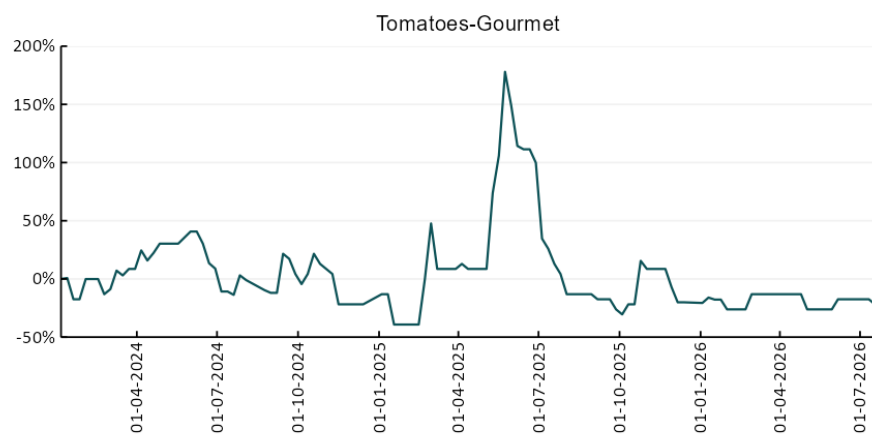
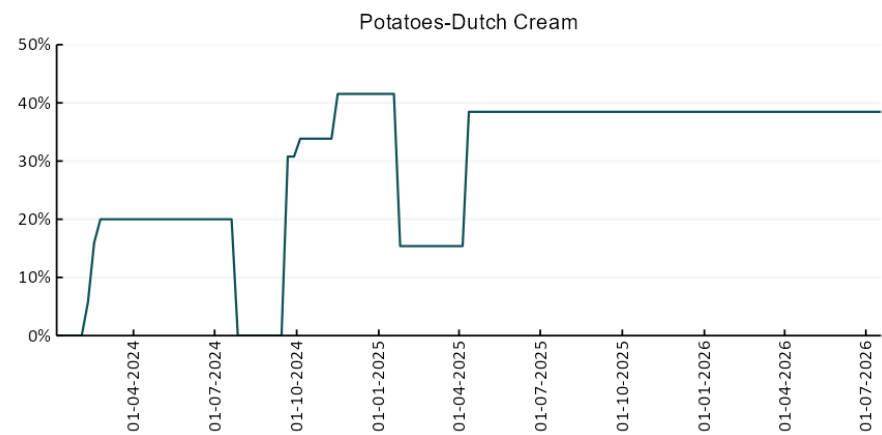
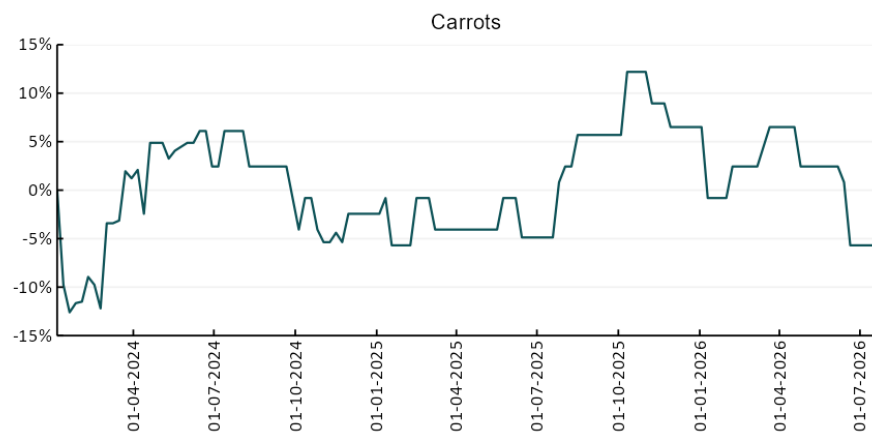
3.4 Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices



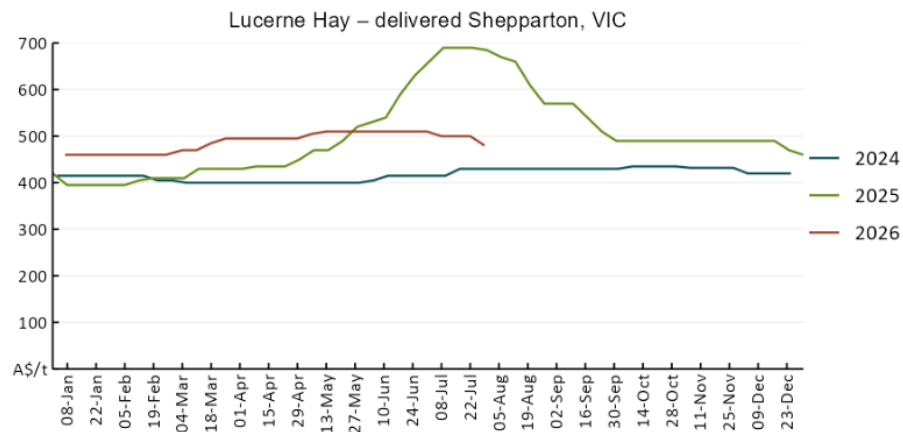
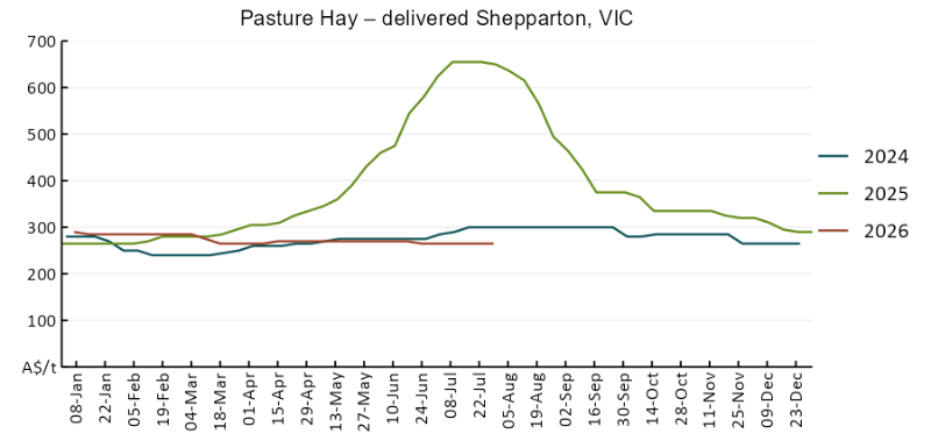
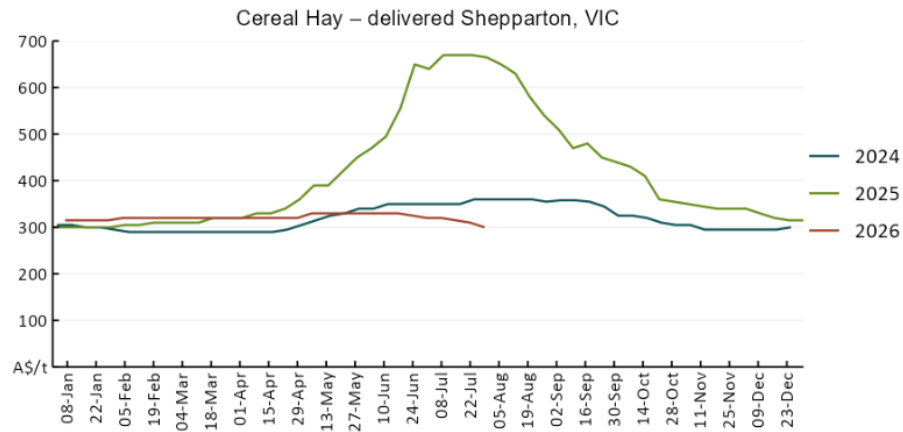
3.5 Selected fruit and vegetable prices







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

GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone 1800 900 090

Web [agriculture.gov.au/abares](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares)

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