

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 32/2026

20 August 2026

Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 19 August 2026, cold fronts and low-pressure systems brought rainfall to parts of the south, east and centre, while western and northern Australia remained largely dry.
 - Across cropping regions moderate falls of between 1-15 millimetres were recorded across Western Australia and South Australia. In Victoria, between 1-25 millimetres was observed.
 - These falls are expected to continue to support above average crop and pasture growth, particularly in South Australia and Victoria.
- Over the 8 days to 27 August 2026, rainfall is expected across parts of central, western and south-eastern Australia.
 - Cropping regions in New South Wales are forecast to receive 15-100 millimetres of rainfall, while Victoria is likely to see 10-50 millimetres. In South Australia and southern parts of Queensland, lighter falls of 10-25 millimetres are expected.
 - In contrast, conditions are expected to remain dry across cropping regions in Western Australia and northern Queensland.
- Rainfall in July 2026 was variable across the world's major grain- and oilseed-producing regions, leading to differing crop production outcomes. Global production conditions were generally favourable for wheat, maize, soybeans, and rice. However, unfavourable conditions across parts of the United States, India, the European Union and Southeast Asia are a risk to potential global production outcomes for wheat, maize and rice.
 - Global production conditions have been slightly more favourable to those used to formulate ABARES 2026–27 forecasts of global grain supplies and world prices in the June 2026 Agricultural Commodities Report. As a result, global grain and oilseed production are likely to increase beyond the estimates in the June forecast, due to small improvements in global soybeans and maize production.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 416 gigalitres (GL) between 13 August 2026 and 20 August 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 13,868 GL, equivalent to 62% of total storage capacity. This is 6% or 871 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 decreased from \$375/ML on 13 August 2026 to \$319/ML on 20 August 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 closed.

1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

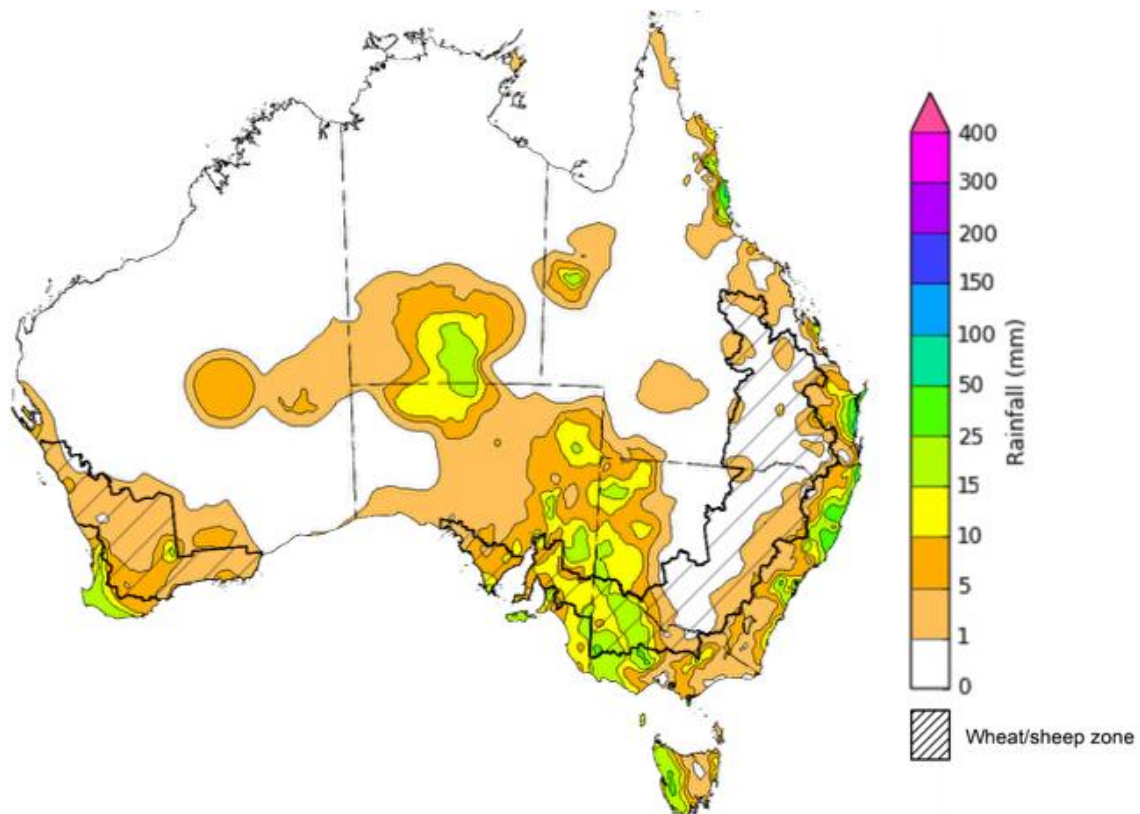
In the week ending 19 August 2026, cold fronts and low-pressure systems brought rainfall to parts of the south, east and centre of the country, while much of Australia remained largely dry.

- Falls of 10-50 millimetres were recorded across scattered areas of eastern Queensland, northern New South Wales and western Tasmania. Lighter falls of up to 5-25 millimetres occurred across western New South Wales, western Victoria and South Australia, the far southwest of Western Australia and southern Northern Territory.
- Much of the remainder of Australia saw little to no rainfall.

In cropping regions, moderate rainfall totals were recorded across parts of south-eastern Australia.

- Moderate falls of between 1-15 millimetres were recorded across Western Australia and South Australia. In Victoria, between 1-25 millimetres was observed.
 - These falls are expected to continue to support above average crop and pasture growth, particularly in South Australia and Victoria.
- Meanwhile, limited falls of between 0-5 millimetres were recorded across cropping regions in New South Wales and Queensland.

Rainfall for the week ending 19 August 2026



©Commonwealth of Australia 2026, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

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: 19/8/2026

1.2. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

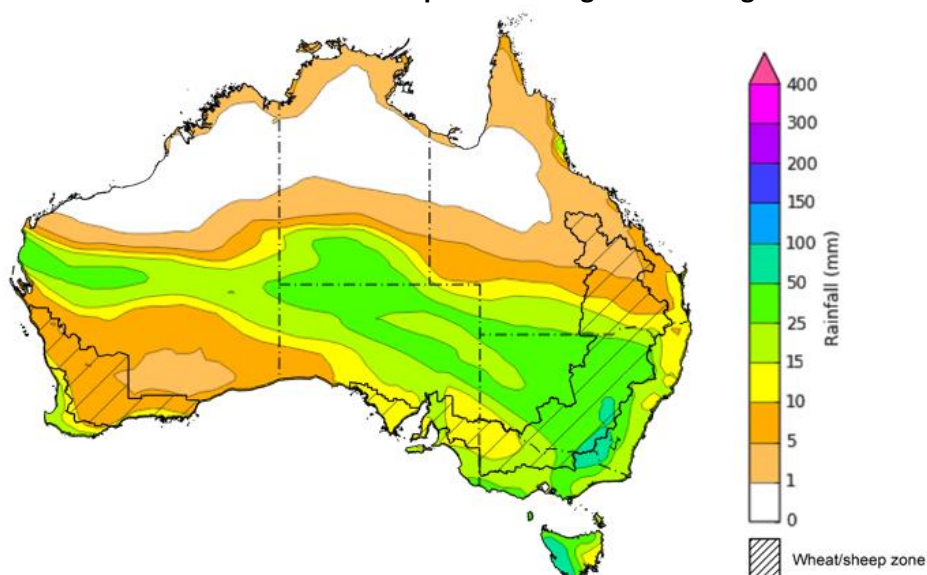
Over the 8 days to 27 August 2026, rainfall is expected across parts of central, western and south-eastern Australia, while much of northern Australia is expected to remain largely dry.

- Falls of between 10-100 millimetres are forecast for south-eastern regions including Tasmania, Victoria, and southern New South Wales.
- Lower falls are expected in eastern and central regions. Falls of between 10-50 millimetres are expected across parts of northern New South Wales, southern Queensland, South Australia, the southern Northern Territory, and central and the far southwest of Western Australia.
- Remaining areas are expected to see little to no rainfall.

Across cropping regions, falls are expected across parts of the southeast, with limited rainfall elsewhere:

- Cropping regions in New South Wales are forecast to receive 15-100 millimetres of rainfall, while Victoria is likely to see 10-50 millimetres. In South Australia and southern parts of Queensland, lighter falls of 10-25 millimetres are expected.
 - If realised, these falls are likely to continue to support above average winter crop yield expectation across many south-eastern cropping areas.
- In contrast, conditions are expected to remain dry across cropping regions in Western Australia and northern Queensland

Total forecast rainfall for the period 20 August to 27 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.

1.3. July precipitation percentiles and current production conditions

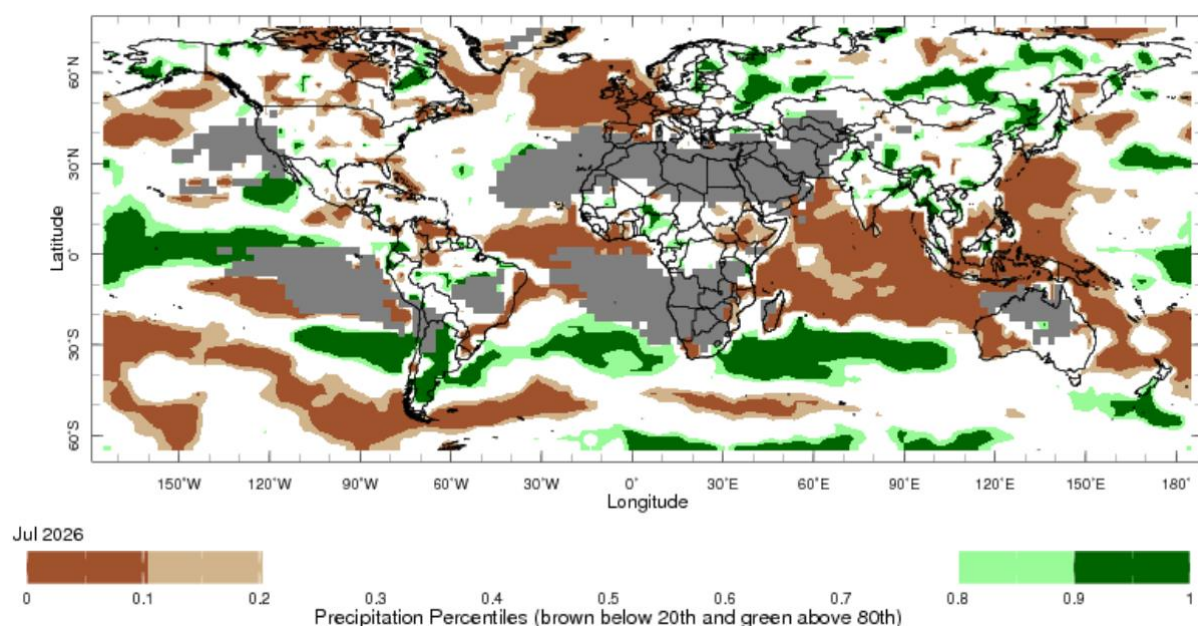
Crop production is affected by long-term trends in average rainfall and temperature, interannual climate variability, shocks during specific growth stages, and extreme weather events. Some crops are more tolerant than others to certain types of stresses, and at each growth stage, different types of stresses affect crop species in different ways.

Precipitation anomalies and outlooks presented below indicate the current and expected future production conditions for major grain and oilseed producing countries (responsible for over 80% of global crop production). This is an important input to assessing the global grain supply outlook.

Precipitation in July 2026 was variable across the world's major grain and oilseed producing regions:

- In the **northern hemisphere**, precipitation was above average in scattered western and eastern regions of China, parts of the northern Black Sea region, eastern India, and western parts of the United States. Precipitation was generally below average in western and central Europe, central China, and parts of the central and eastern United States. Precipitation was generally average across the remaining major northern hemisphere grain and oilseed producing regions.
- In the **southern hemisphere**, precipitation was below average across much of eastern Brazil, western Australia, as well as parts of Southeast Asia including Indonesia and the Philippines. Precipitation was above average across Argentina and central Brazil. Precipitation was generally average across the remaining major southern hemisphere grain and oilseed producing regions.

Global precipitation percentiles, July 2026

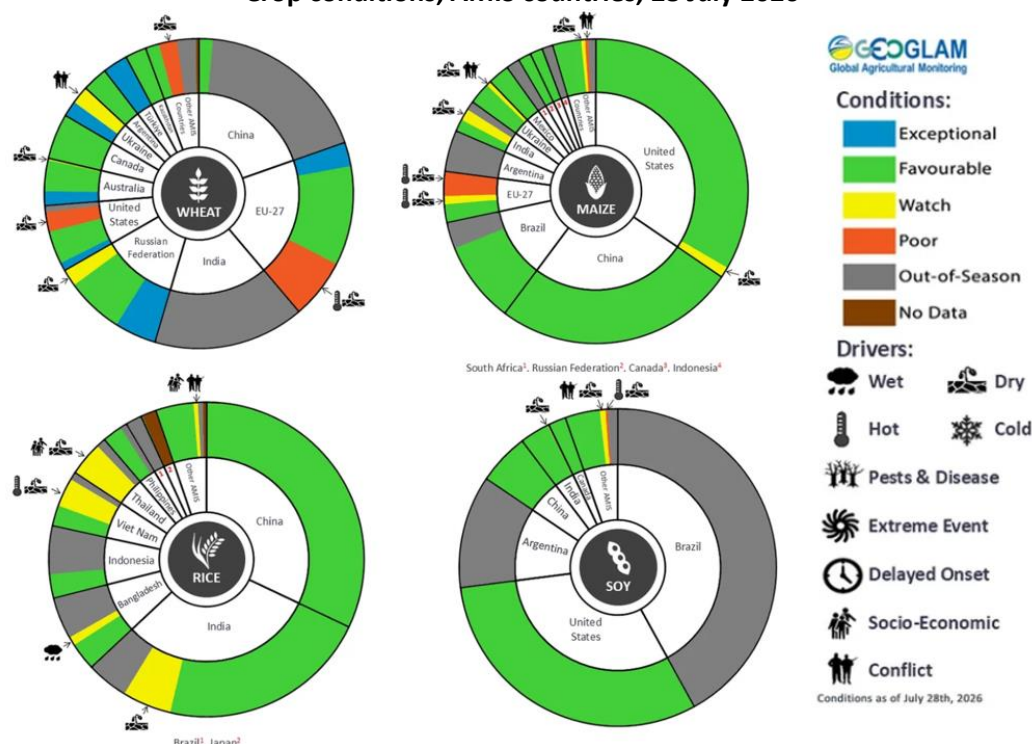


Note: The world precipitation percentiles indicate a ranking of precipitation for July, with the driest (0th percentile) being 0 on the scale and the wettest (100th percentile) being 1 on the scale. Percentiles are based on precipitation estimates from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center's [Climate Anomaly Monitoring System Outgoing Precipitation Index](#) dataset. Precipitation estimates for April are compared with rainfall recorded

As of 28 July 2026, global production conditions were generally favourable for wheat, maize, rice and soybeans, however, there are some areas of production concern across all four commodities:

- **Wheat** – In the **northern hemisphere**, wheat is developing under broadly favourable conditions in China and the Black Sea Region, while yields in the European Union and United States see challenges from hot and dry climate conditions. In the **southern hemisphere**, wheat is developing under generally favourable conditions.
- **Maize** – In the **southern hemisphere**, conditions have been largely favourable for the harvest across much of Brazil and Argentina. However, dry and heatwave conditions in **northern hemisphere** growing regions, including the European Union and India, are likely to weigh on crop outcomes.
- **Rice** – Global conditions remain broadly favourable for most major rice production regions, with exceptions in Thailand, parts of India, and Vietnam.
- **Soybeans** – Harvest has concluded in the **southern hemisphere**. Meanwhile, in the **northern hemisphere** crop establishment in the United States, Canada, China, and Ukraine has been broadly favourable, however, in **India** sowing is just beginning under mixed conditions due to the slow progress of the Southwest Monsoon and dry soils.

Crop conditions, AMIS countries, 28 July 2026



AMIS Agricultural Market Information System.
Source: AMIS

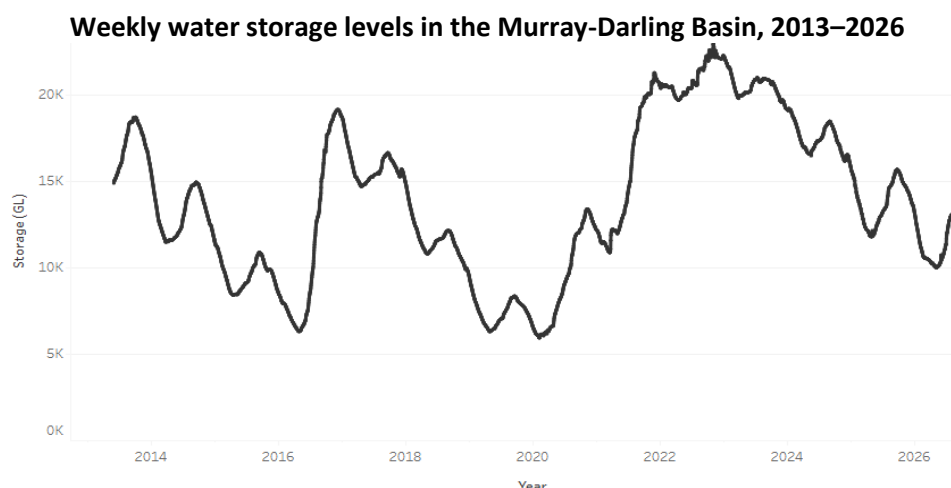
The global climate outlook for September 2026 to November 2026 indicates that mixed rainfall conditions are expected for the world's major grain and oilseed producing regions. Outlooks and potential production impacts are presented in the following table.

Rainfall outlook and potential impact on the future state of production conditions, September 2026 - November 2026

Region	Rainfall outlook	Potential impact on production
Argentina	Above average rainfall is likely across parts of central and southern Argentina, with broadly average to below average rainfall in the north.	Anticipated rainfall is likely to support the heading and vegetative development of wheat and corn, but could impede the planting of cotton and corn.
Black Sea Region	Above average rainfall is expected across northern parts of Türkiye, while average to below average rainfall is expected in remaining areas.	Above average rainfall is likely to support vegetative development and maturation of cotton, rice, and corn, as well as snowpack ahead of winter wheat dormancy.
Brazil	Rainfall outcomes across Brazil are expected to be below average in many northern and central areas, while southern areas see broadly average to above average conditions.	Average to above average rainfall across southern Brazil is likely to benefit the maturation of wheat and rice.
Canada	Rainfall across Canada is expected to be mixed, with broadly average conditions and areas of both below and above average precipitation in southern regions.	Average rainfall is likely to support corn, soybean, and sunflower flowering, and the development of grain and oilseeds over October.
China	Average rainfall is expected across most of China, with scattered areas of above average rainfall in western regions and below average rainfall in central and eastern regions.	Generally average rainfall across much of China is likely to support the growth and development of major crops over the season, including rice, cotton, corn and soybeans.
European Union	Average rainfall expected for much of the European Union, with exceptions in parts of central and western Europe where below average rainfall is more likely.	Close to average rainfall across much of Europe is likely to benefit harvesting of major crops including corn and soybeans, but below average rainfall in parts of central and western Europe could reduce yield potential.
South Asia (India)	Below average rainfall is expected across much of India.	Anticipated rainfall is likely to present a downside production risk the flowering of cotton in September.
Southeast Asia (SEA)	Below average rainfall is likely across much of Southeast Asia.	Below average rainfall in SEA is likely to impede growth and development outcomes for rice and corn, but could support harvesting in October.
The United States	Above average rainfall is likely for much of the southern and central United States, with northern areas likely to see close to average falls.	Average to above average rainfall conditions expected across the United States is likely to support soil moisture levels and the development of major crops.

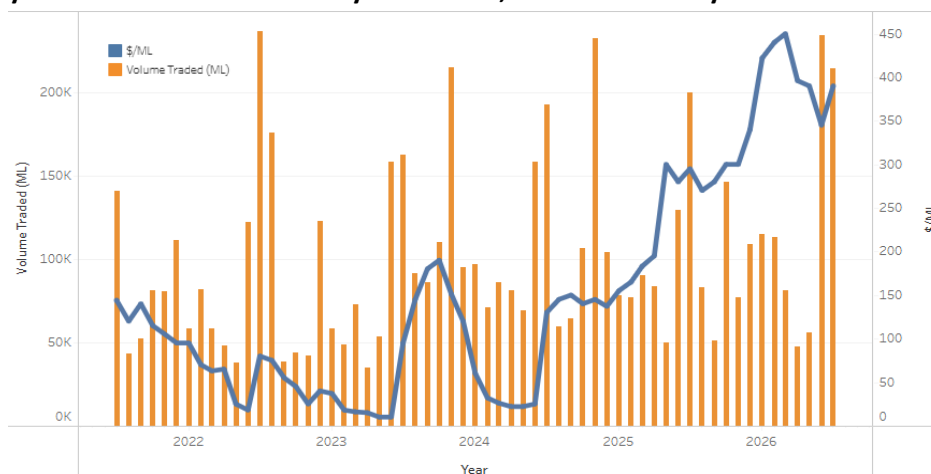
1.4. Water markets – current week

Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 416 gegalitres (GL) between 13 August 2026 and 20 August 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 13,868 GL, equivalent to 62% of total storage capacity. This is 6% or 871 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.



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Monthly surface water trade activity 2022–2026, Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke



Weekly water market prices, Southern Murray–Darling Basin

Region	\$/ML
NSW Murray Above	276
NSW Murrumbidgee	287
Vic Greater Goulburn	298
Vic Murray Below	319

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 6 August 2026.

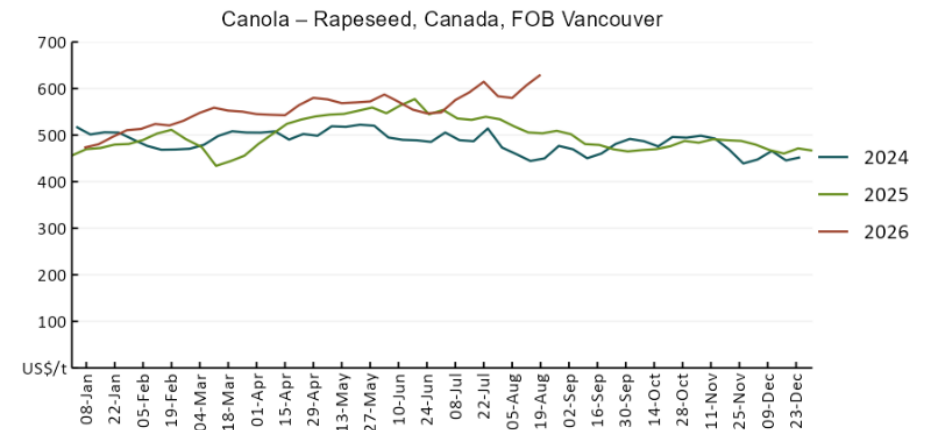
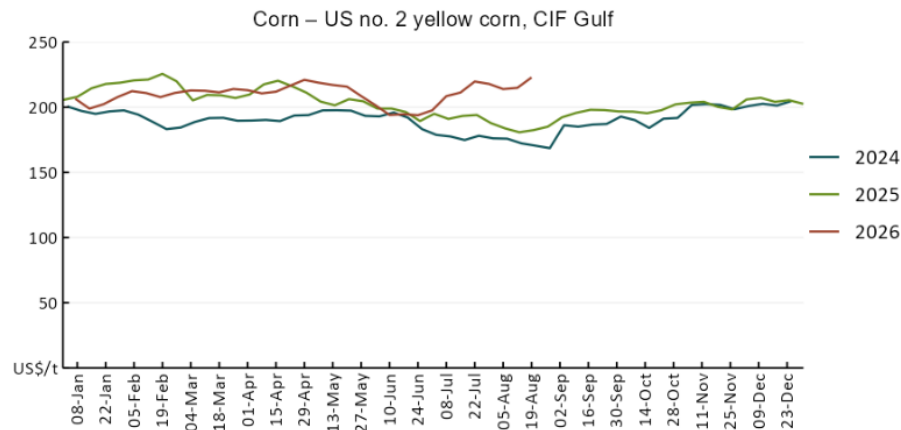
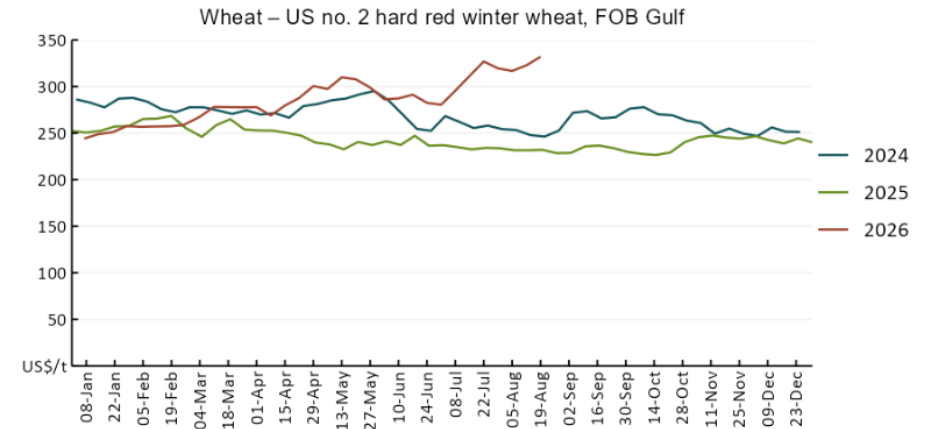
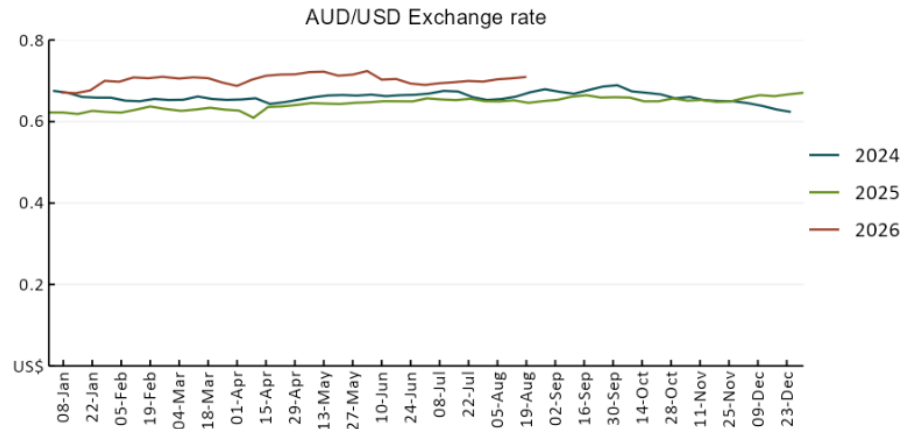
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit

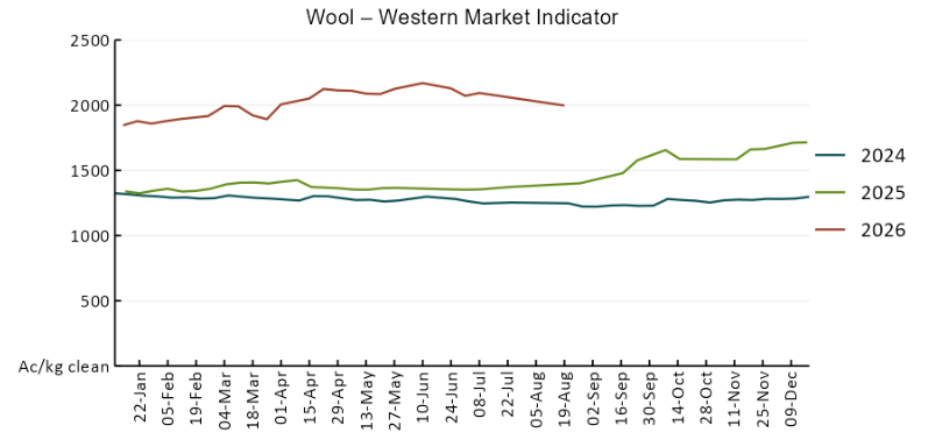
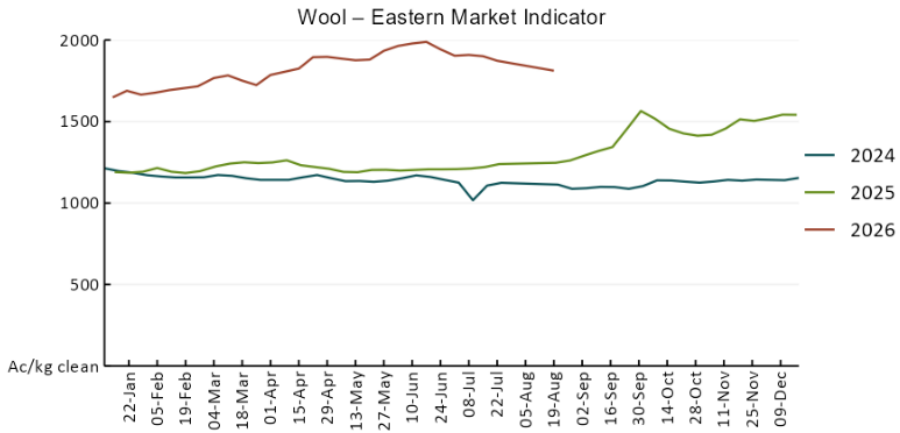
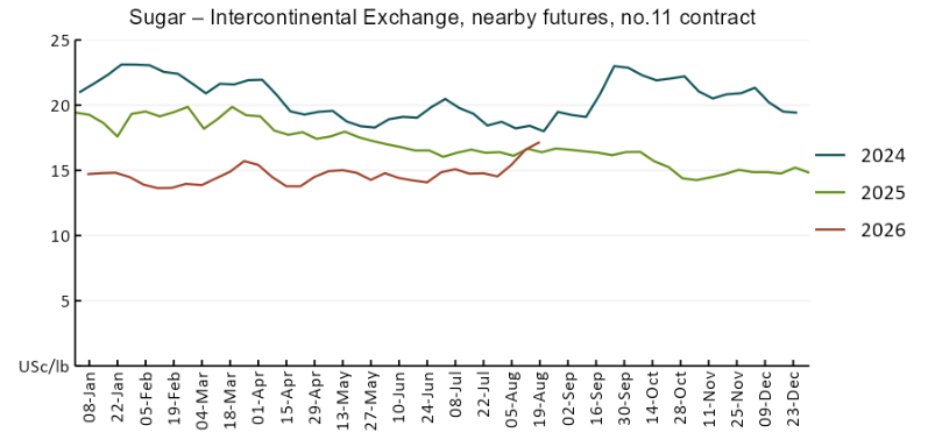
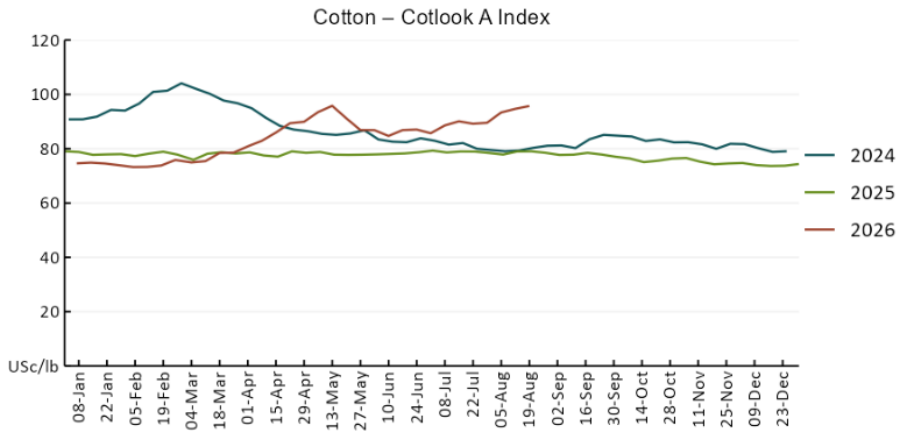
https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-260820

2. Commodities

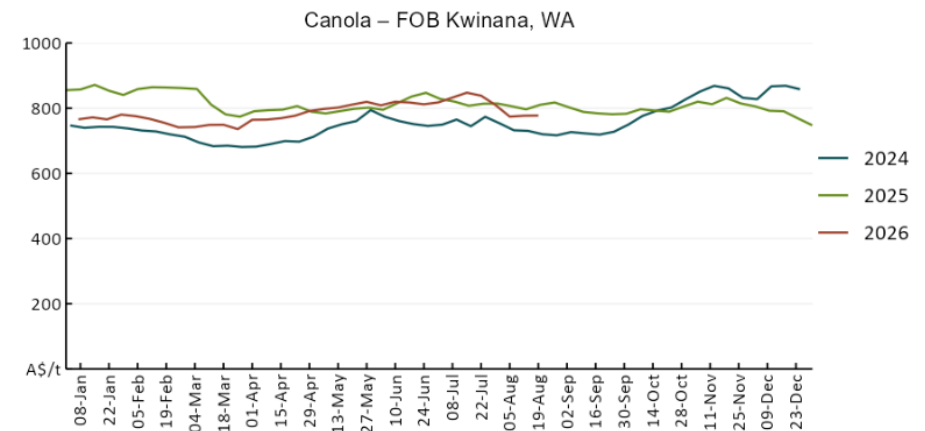
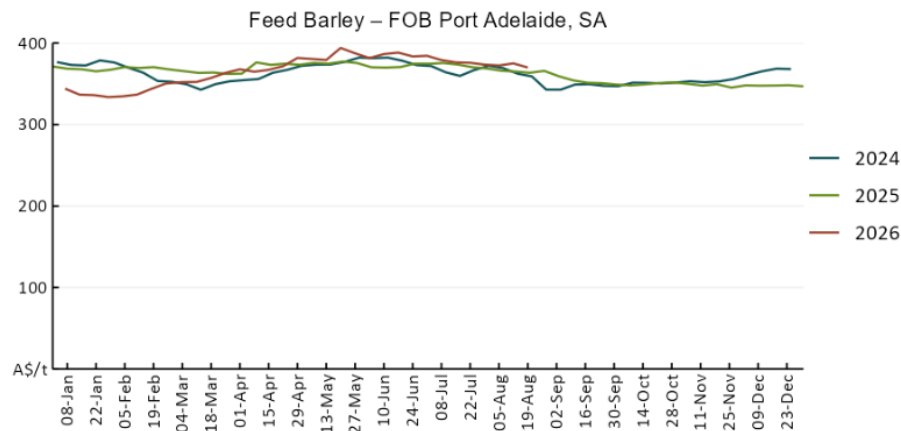
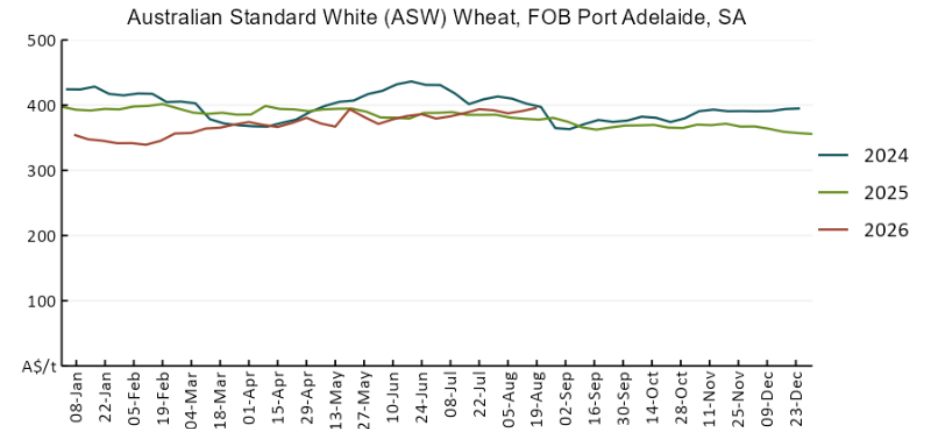
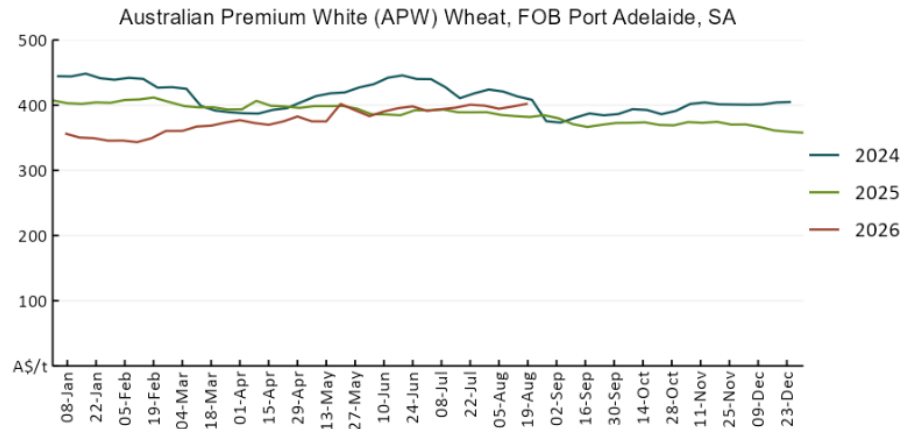
Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
Selected world indicator prices							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	19-Aug	A\$/US\$	0.71	0.71	0%	0.65	9%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	19-Aug	US\$/t	332	323	3%	231	44%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	19-Aug	US\$/t	223	215	4%	183	22%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	19-Aug	US\$/t	630	607	4%	510	24%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	19-Aug	USc/lb	95.7	94.7	1%	78.6	22%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	19-Aug	USc/lb	17.2	16.6	3%	16.5	4%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	19-Aug	Ac/kg clean	1,812	1,873	-3%	1,254	44%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	19-Aug	Ac/kg clean	1,998	2,062	-3%	1,399	43%
Selected Australian grain export prices							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	19-Aug	A\$/t	402	398	1%	384	5%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	19-Aug	A\$/t	396	391	1%	380	4%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	19-Aug	A\$/t	370	375	-1%	365	1%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	19-Aug	A\$/t	778	777	0%	808	-4%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	19-Aug	A\$/t	432	432	0%	421	3%
Selected domestic livestock indicator prices							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	19-Aug	Ac/kg cwt	924	911	1%	860	7%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	19-Aug	Ac/kg cwt	835	820	2%	740	13%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	19-Aug	Ac/kg cwt	1,193	1,177	1%	1,170	2%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	5-Aug	Ac/kg cwt	388	389	0%	459	-15%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	5-Aug	Ac/kg lwt	440	430	2%	350	26%
Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	19-Aug	US\$/t	3,591	3,483	3%	4,024	-11%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	19-Aug	US\$/t	3,502	3,261	7%	2,781	26%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	19-Aug	US\$/t	3,744	3,723	1%	4,562	-18%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	19-Aug	US\$/t	5,993	6,367	-6%	7,080	-15%

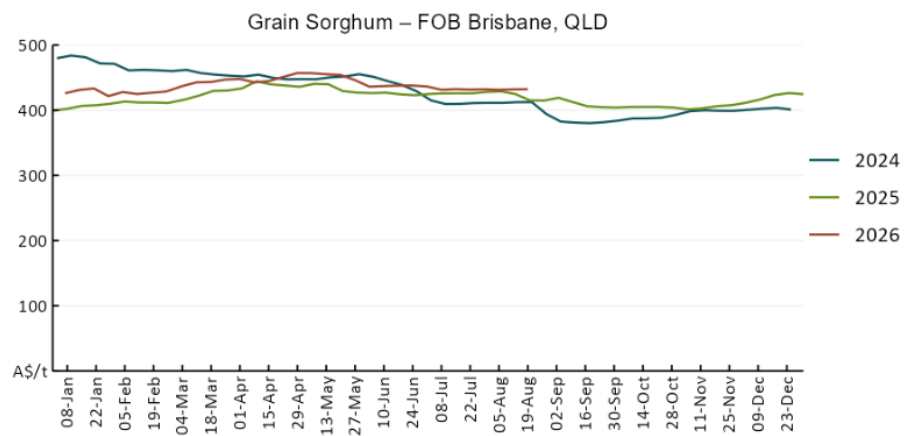
2.1. Selected world indicator prices



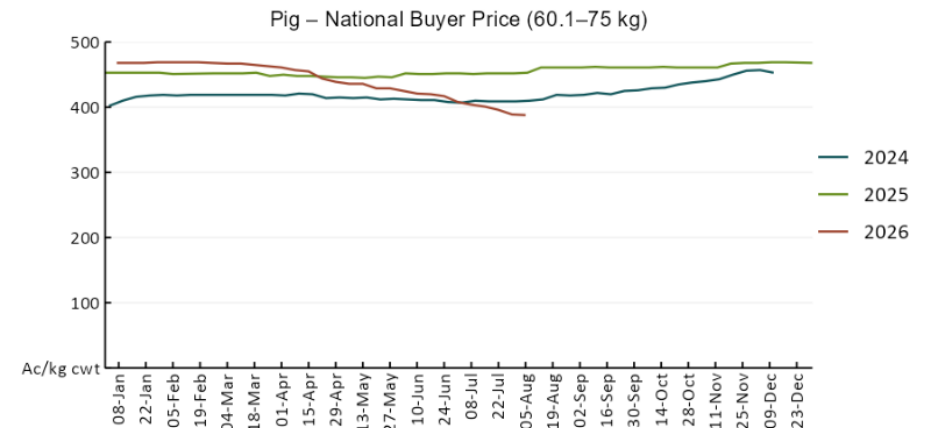
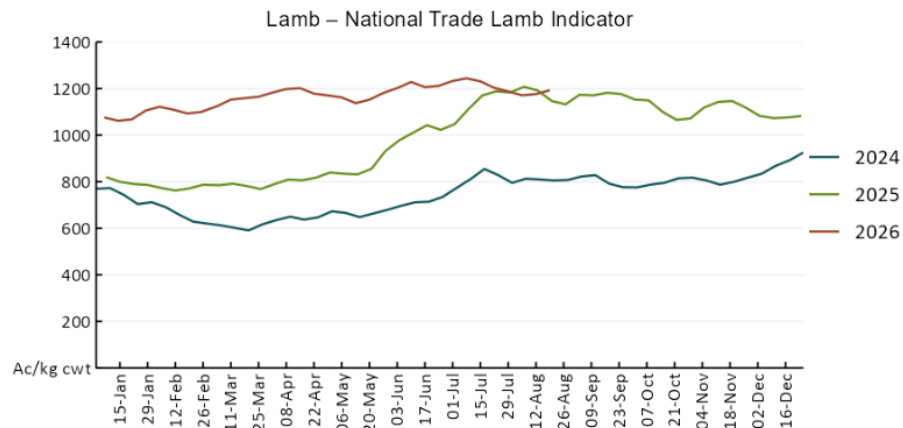
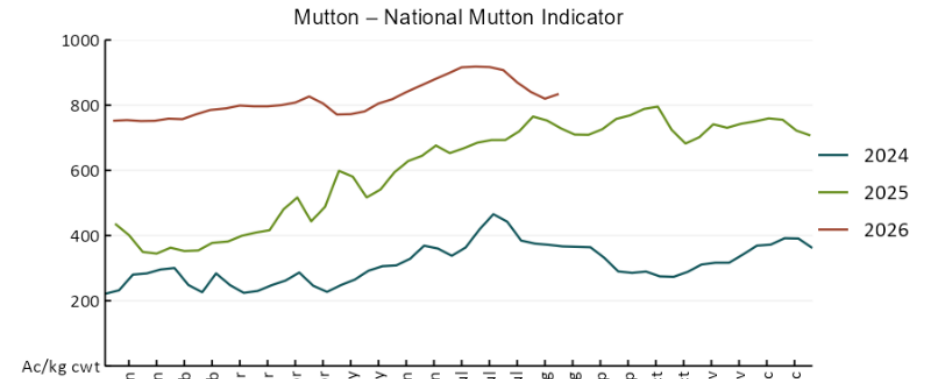
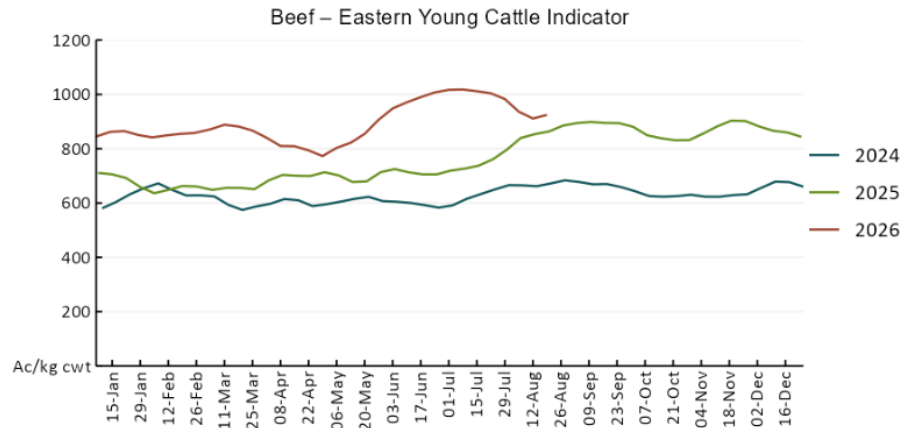


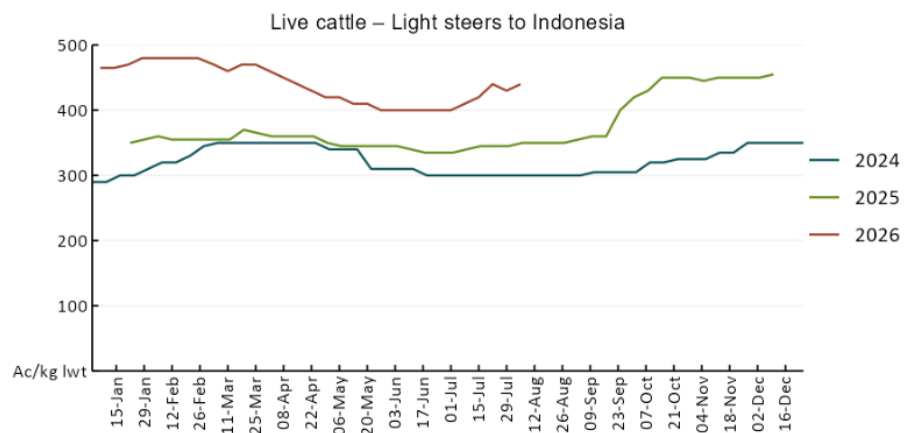
3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices



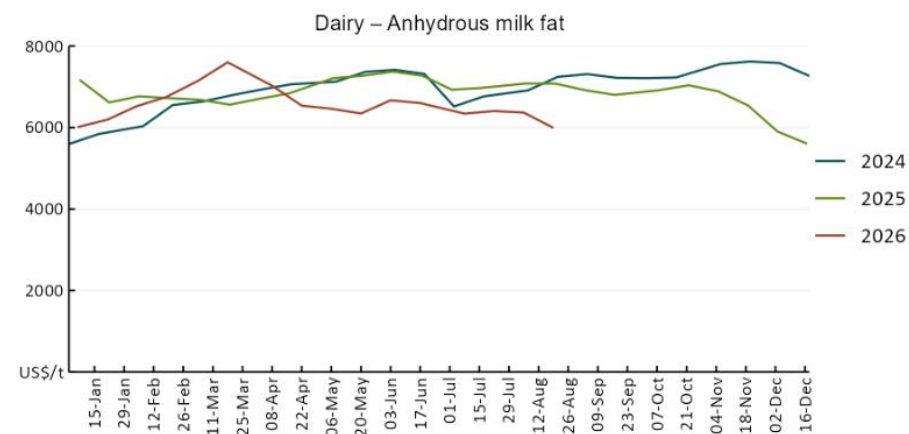
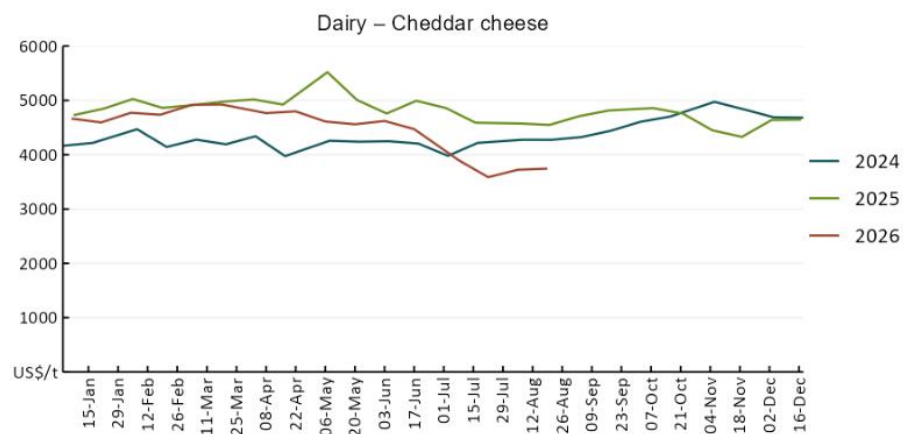
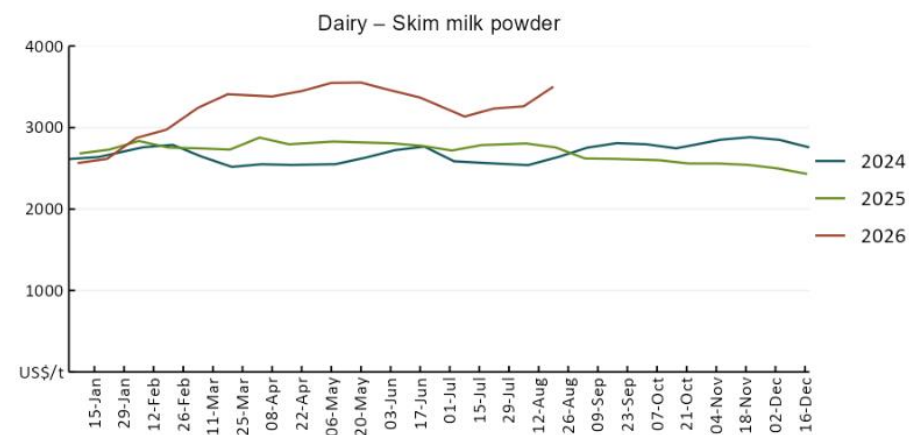
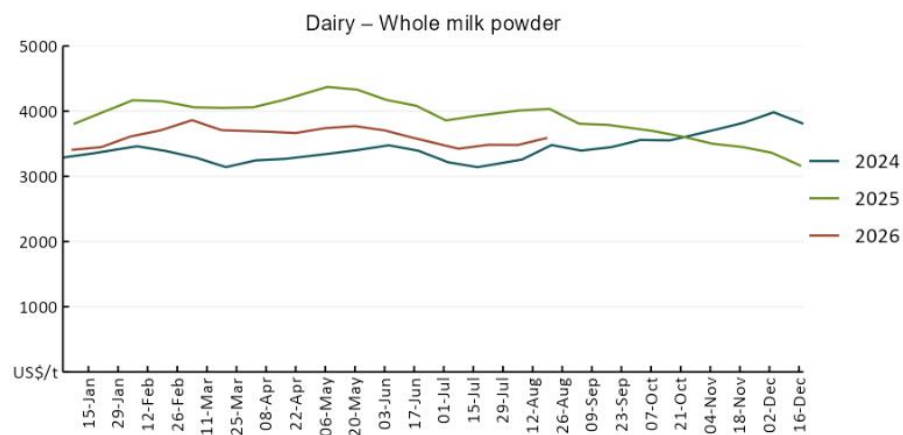


3.3 Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

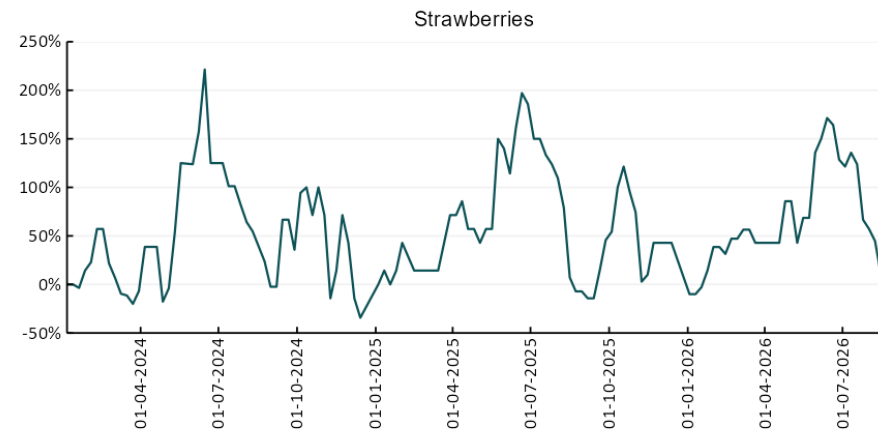
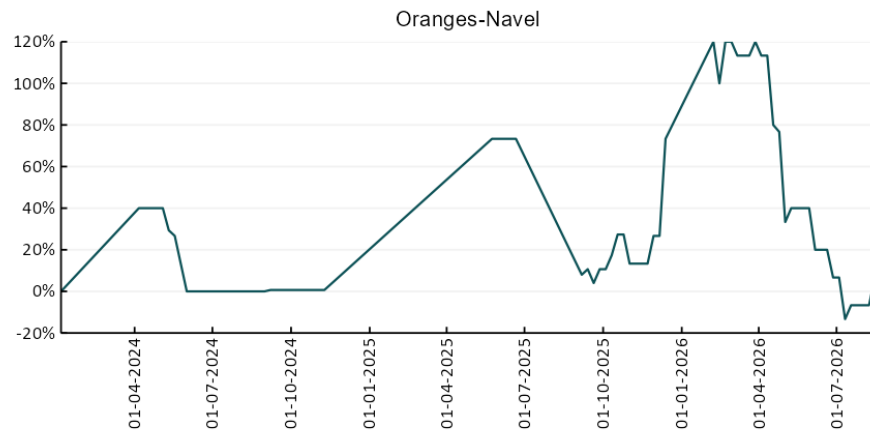
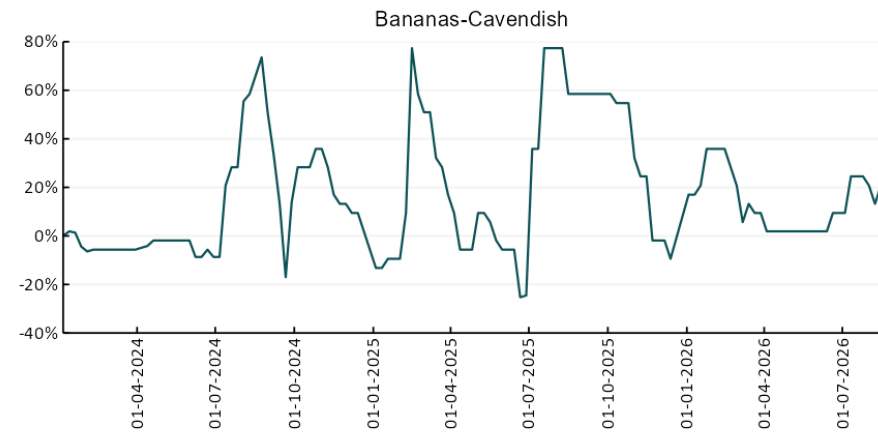
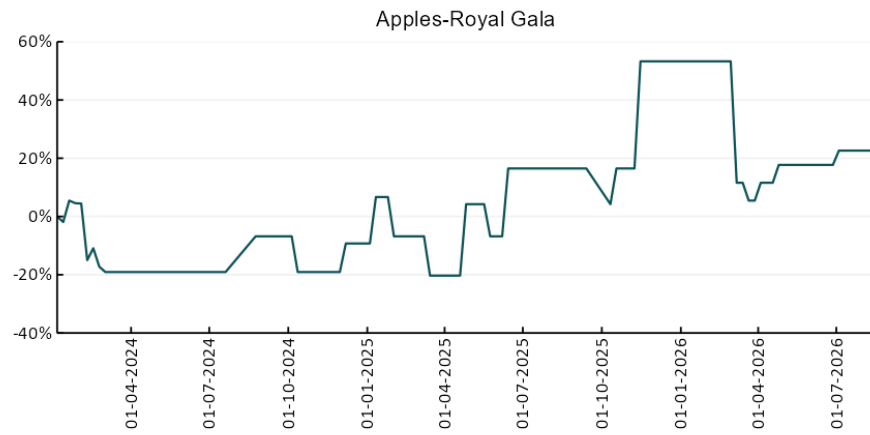


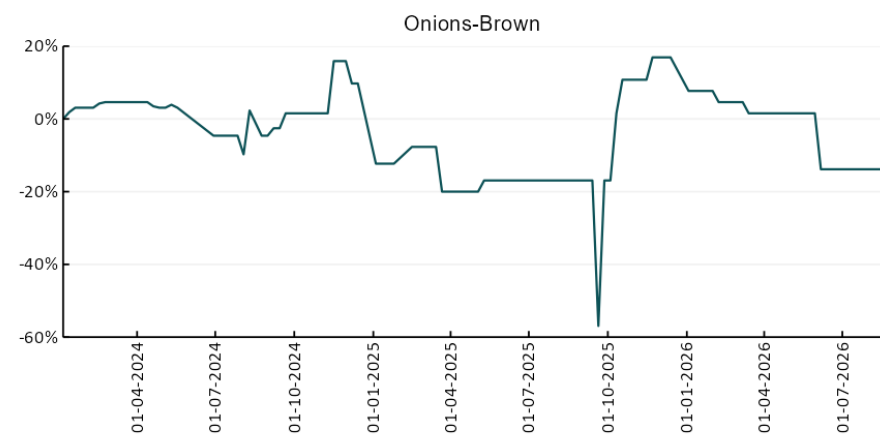
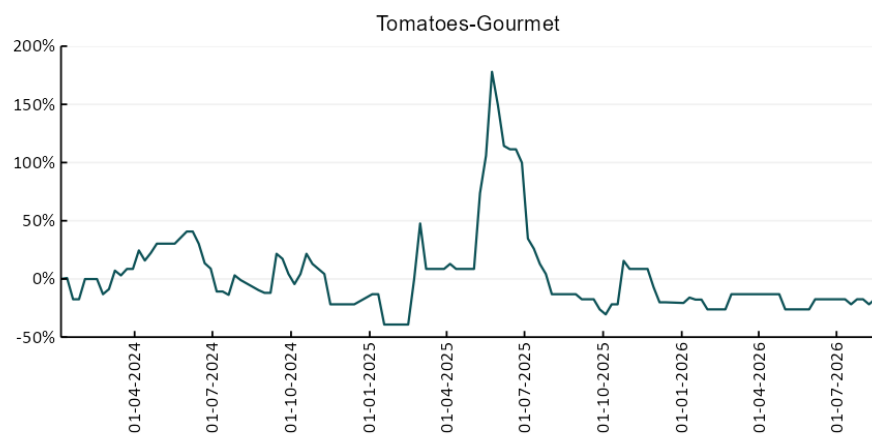
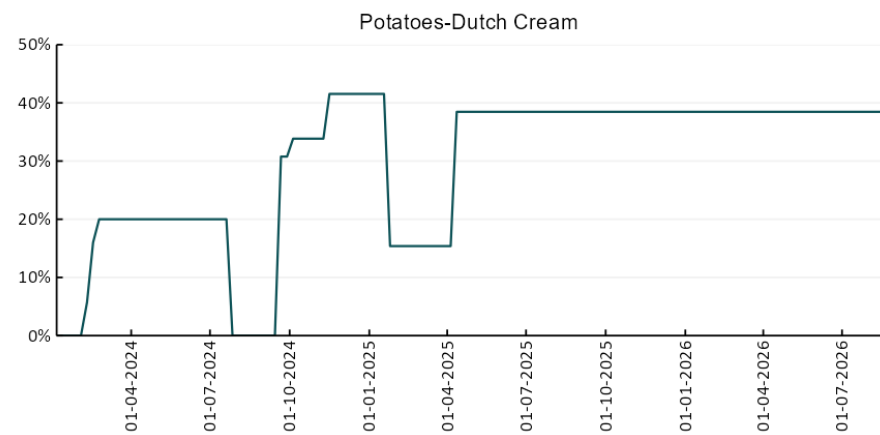
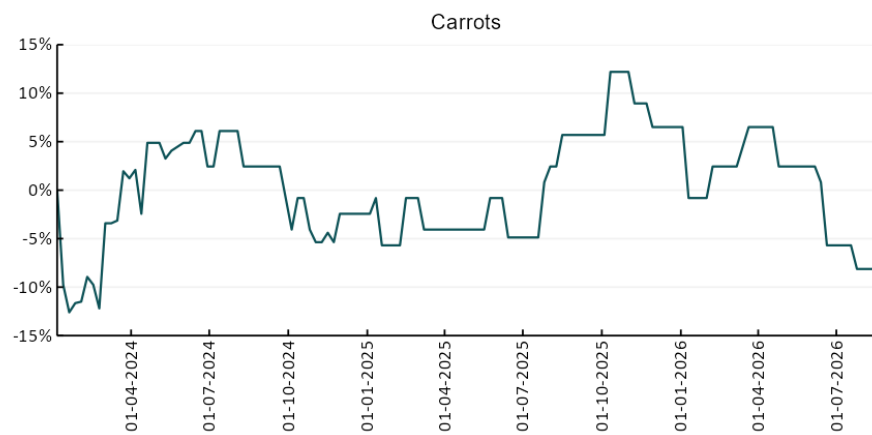


3.4 Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

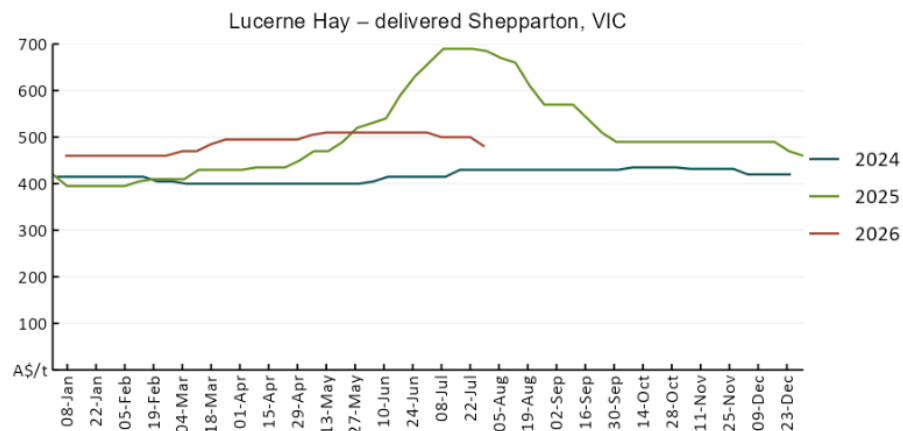
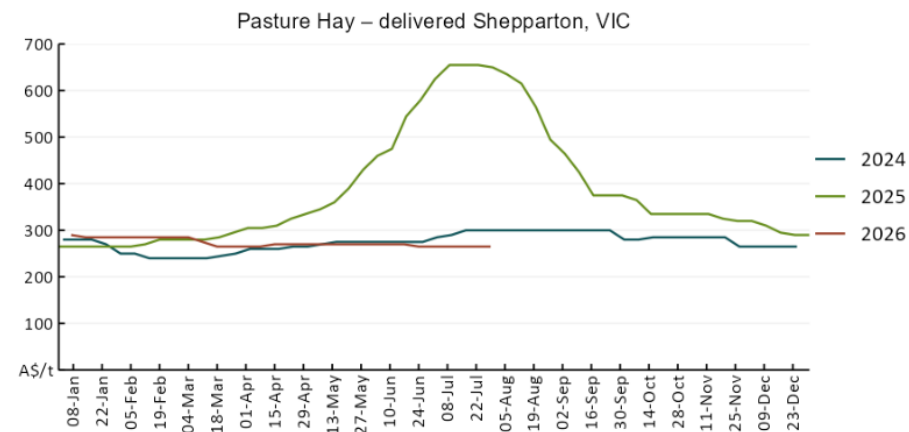
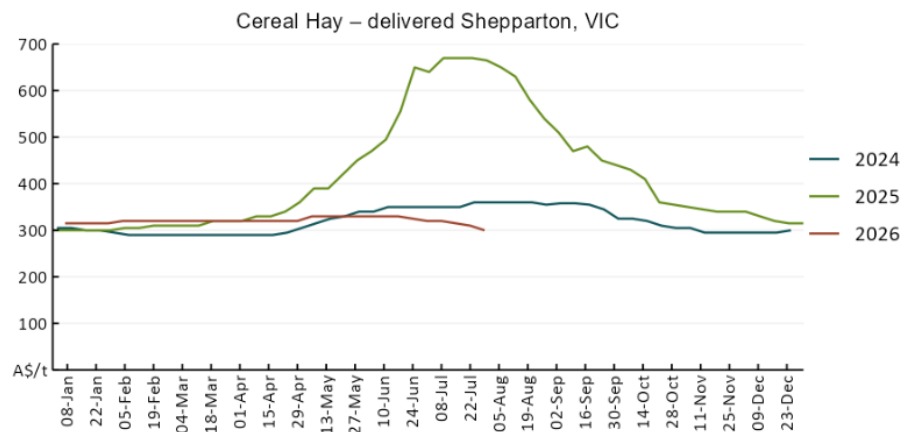


3.5 Selected fruit and vegetable prices





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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