



Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 33/2026

27 August 2026

Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 26 August 2026, cold fronts and low-pressure systems brought rainfall to large areas of central and southern Australia.
 - Across cropping regions in southern Queensland, much of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, falls of up to 50 millimetres were recorded.
 - These falls are expected to continue to support strong crop and pasture growth across southern New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria, and provide a timely boost to soil moisture levels across northern New South Wales and southern Queensland following an extended period of dry conditions.
- Over the 8 days to 3 September 2026, rainfall is expected in parts of south-eastern and most of south-western Australia.
 - Cropping regions in Western Australia are forecast to receive 5-50 millimetres of rainfall, while parts of Victoria and southern New South Wales are likely to see 5-10 millimetres.
 - In contrast, conditions are expected to be mainly dry across most cropping regions in New South Wales, northern Victoria, South Australia, and Queensland.
- The national rainfall outlook for September to November 2026 indicates an increased probability of below median rainfall across much of south-eastern Australia as well as parts of the east and far southwest of the country.
 - The current rainfall outlook for September to November 2026 suggests an increased chance of below average falls across most cropping regions in south-eastern Australia, and mixed expected falls in Western Australia. However, favourable soil moisture levels across most of Australia's southern growing regions means that if forecast spring rainfall totals of between 25-100 millimetres are realised, these falls are likely to be sufficient to support the development and maturation of winter crops. However, due to limited stored soil moisture across large areas of northern New South Wales and Queensland, below average expected spring rainfall totals continue to represent an ongoing downside production risk for the 2026–27 winter and summer cropping seasons in these areas.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 340 gigalitres (GL) between 20 August 2026 and 27 August 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 14,208 GL, equivalent to 64% of total storage capacity. This is 4% or 673 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 \$319/ML on 20 August 2026 to \$325/ML on 27 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

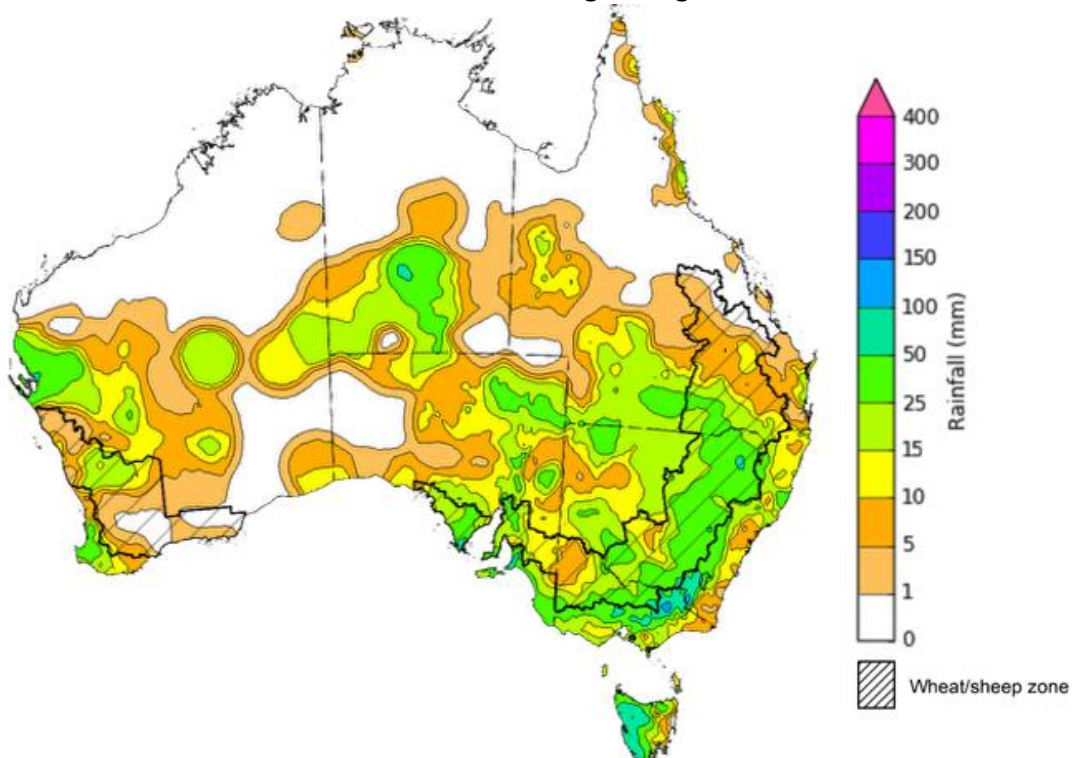
In the week ending 26 August 2026, cold fronts and low-pressure systems brought rainfall to large areas of central and southern Australia, while much of northern Australia remained largely dry.

- Falls of 5-50 millimetres were recorded across New South Wales, Victoria, southern Queensland, Tasmania, much of eastern South Australia, as well as large areas of southern Western Australia and the south of the Northern Territory.
- Parts of southern New South Wales, eastern Victoria, and western Tasmania saw greater falls of 50-150 millimetres.
- In contrast, much of the of northern Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and Queensland saw little to no rainfall.

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

- In southern Queensland, much of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, falls of up to 50 millimetres were recorded.
 - These falls are expected to continue to support strong crop and pasture growth, across southern New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria, and provide a timely boost to soil moisture levels across northern New South Wales and southern Queensland following an extended period of dry conditions.
- Meanwhile, limited falls of between 0-25 millimetres were recorded across cropping regions in Western Australian and northern Queensland.

Rainfall for the week ending 26 August 2026



©Commonwealth of Australia 2026, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 26/08/2026

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

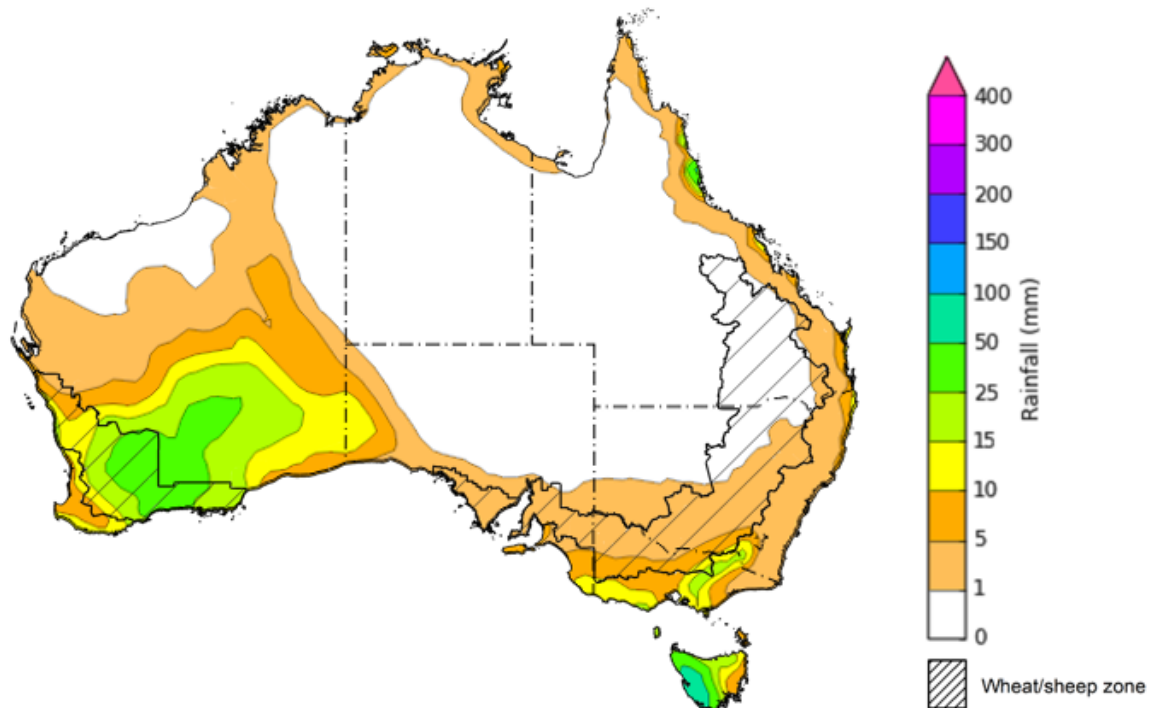
Over the 8 days to 3 September 2026, rainfall is expected across parts of south-eastern and most of south-western Australia, while much of the remainder of Australia is expected to remain largely dry.

- Falls of between 5-50 millimetres are forecast for southern Western Australia, while much of Victoria, and parts of southern New South Wales and South Australia are forecast to see lower falls of up to 25 millimetres.
- In Tasmania, falls of 10-100 millimetres are forecast, with higher falls in western areas.
- Much of the remainder of is expected to see little to no rainfall.

Across cropping regions, moderate falls are expected across much of the southwest, with limited rainfall elsewhere:

- Cropping regions in Western Australia are forecast to receive 5-50 millimetres of rainfall, while parts of Victoria and southern New South Wales are likely to see 5-10 millimetres.
 - If realised, these falls are likely to continues to support close to average winter crop yield expectations across Western Australia.
- In contrast, conditions are expected to be mainly dry across most cropping regions in New South Wales, northern Victoria, South Australia, and Queensland.

Total forecast rainfall for the period 27 August to 3 September 2026



©Commonwealth of Australia 2026, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued 27/8/2026

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

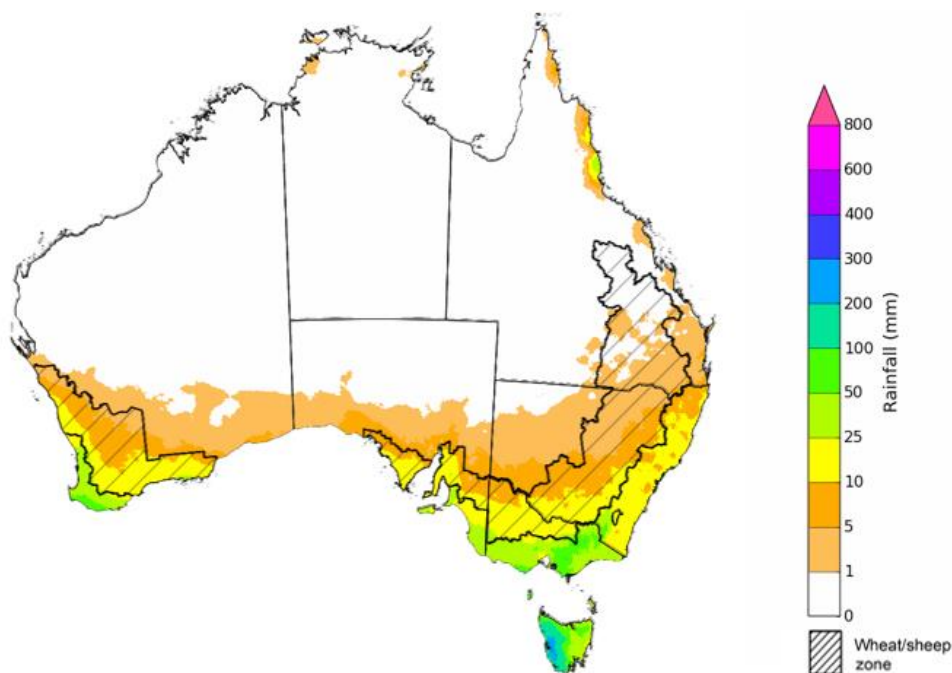
The Bureau of Meteorology has indicated that El Niño is underway in the tropical Pacific. Sea surface temperatures in the central tropical Pacific are above El Niño thresholds and atmospheric indicators are also aligning with an El Niño state. This suggests ocean-atmosphere coupling is acting to reinforce 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) has returned to neutral. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral but in its third week of positive values. Models suggest a positive IOD event is likely in the spring, however, this remains uncertain.

The most recent rainfall outlook for September 2026 provided by the Bureau of Meteorology indicates that much of Australia is likely to see below median rainfall, while scattered areas of north-eastern and north-western Australia, and Tasmania are more likely to see above median falls.

The Bureau of Meteorology's climate model indicates a 75% chance of September rainfall totals between 5-100 millimetres across the far south of the country. Isolated regions, including alpine regions of Victoria and western Tasmania, are likely to see higher falls of up to 300 millimetres. Much northern two-thirds of 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 5-25 millimetres during September 2026. If these forecast falls are realised, they are likely to provide sufficient moisture to support the development and maturation 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 0-10 millimetres. These expected low rainfall totals in northern areas is likely to have a negative effect on pasture availability and limit opportunities for the early planting of summer crops.

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



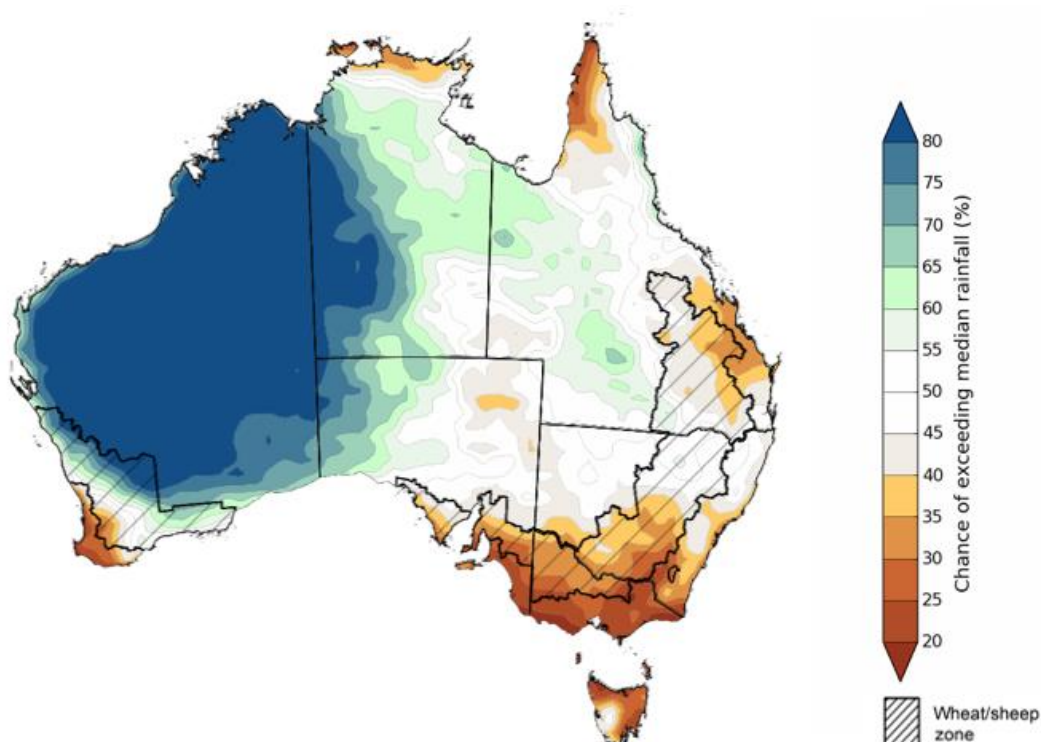
©Commonwealth of Australia 2026, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 27/8/2026

The rainfall outlook for **September 2026 to November 2026** indicates an **increased tendency towards below median rainfall** across much of south-eastern Australia as well as parts of the east and far southwest of the country. However, there is an **increased probability of median to above median rainfall** in much of western, northern and central Australia.

Across Western Australia cropping regions, the chance of receiving above median rainfall is 30-80%, with higher chances in northern regions. Cropping regions in Victoria, southern New South Wales and South Australia are estimated have a 20-45% chance of above median rainfall, with northern New South Wales and Queensland cropping regions having a 30-60% chance of above median rainfall.

Chance of exceeding the median rainfall September 2026 to November 2026



©Commonwealth of Australia 2026, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

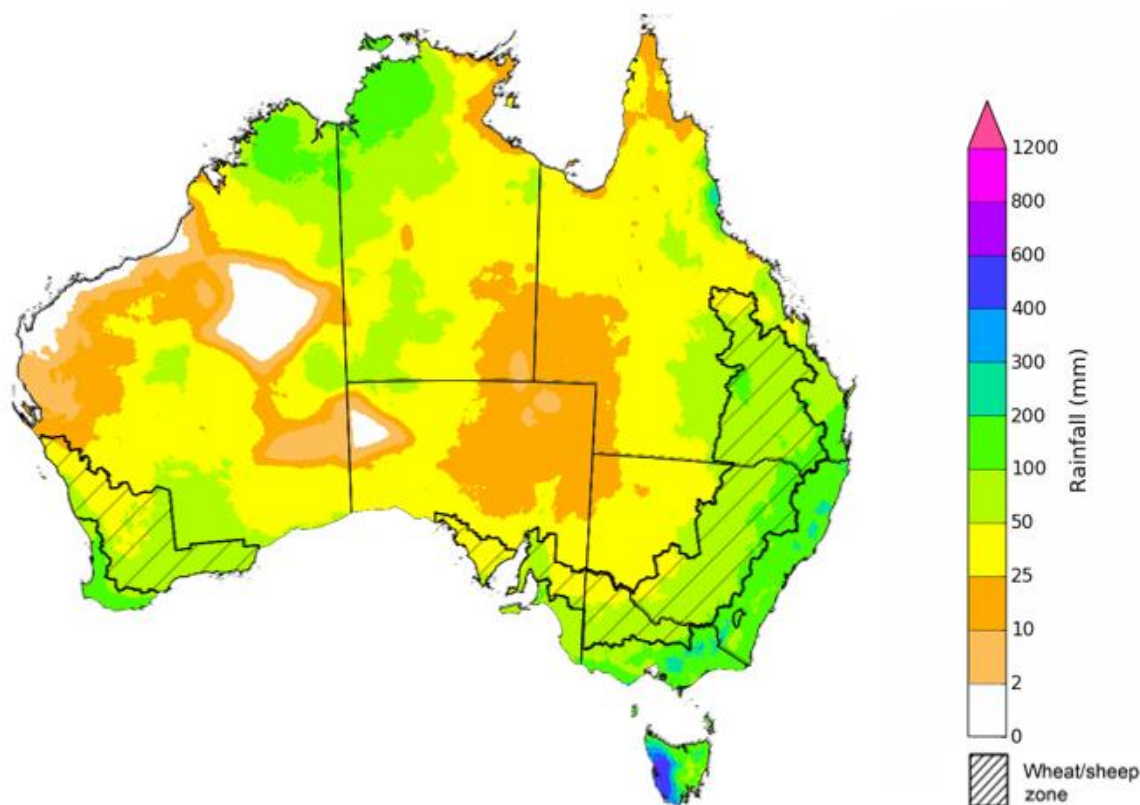
Issued: 27/8/2026

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

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

While these forecast 75% chance rainfall totals are only around half of the 1991-2020 average across most area, favourable soil moisture levels across most of Australia's southern growing regions means that if these forecast September through November rainfall totals are realised, they are likely to be sufficient to continue to support the growth and yield potential of winter crops. However, due to limited stored soil moisture across large areas of northern New South Wales and Queensland, below average expected spring rainfall totals northern New South Wales and Queensland continue to represent an ongoing downside production risk for the 2026–27 winter and summer cropping seasons in these areas.

Rainfall totals that have a 75% chance of occurring September 2026 to November 2026



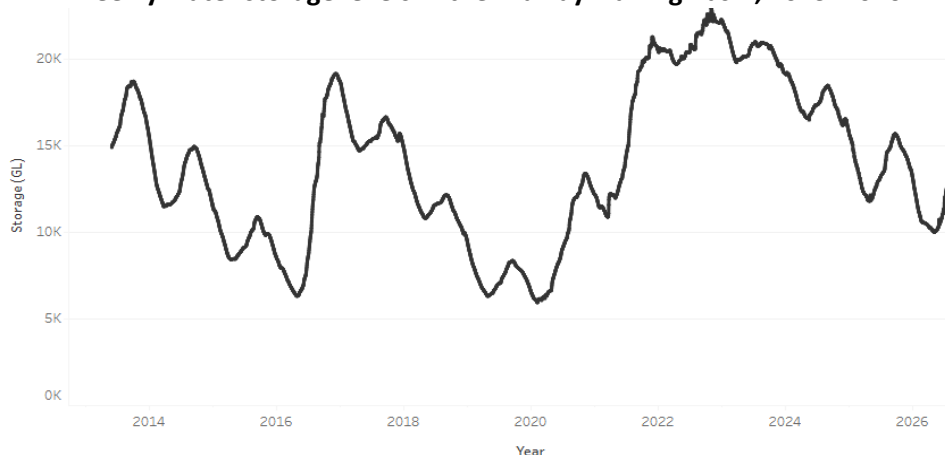
©Commonwealth of Australia 2026, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 27/8/2026

1.4. Water markets – current week

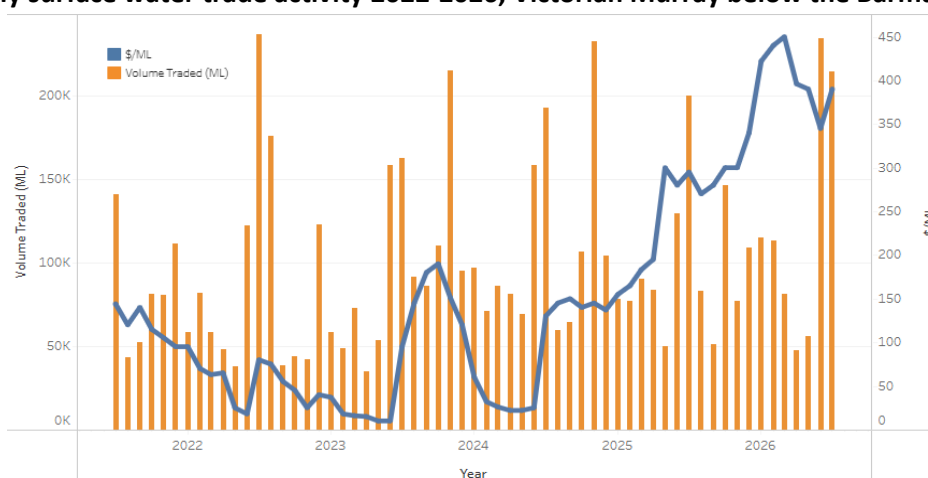
Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 340 gegalitres (GL) between 20 August 2026 and 27 August 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 14,208 GL, equivalent to 64% of total storage capacity. This is 4% or 673 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.

Weekly water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin, 2013–2026



Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from \$319/ML on 20 August 2026 to \$325/ML on 27 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.

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	225
NSW Murrumbidgee	273
Vic Greater Goulburn	292
Vic Murray Below	325

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.

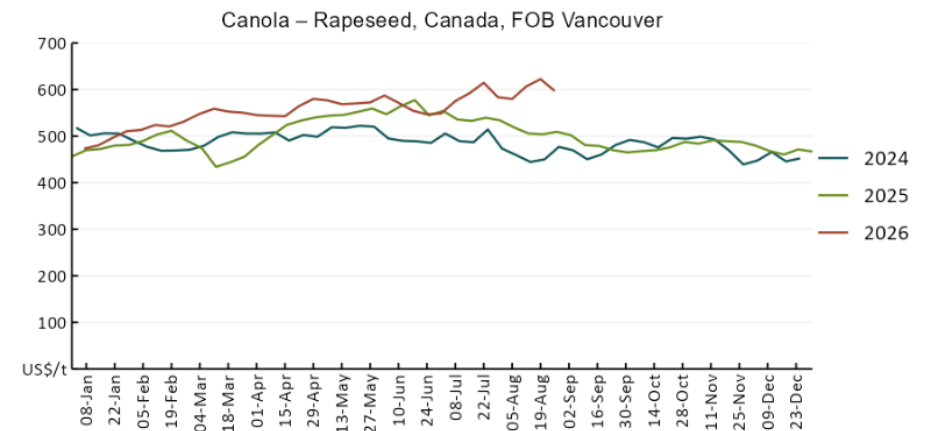
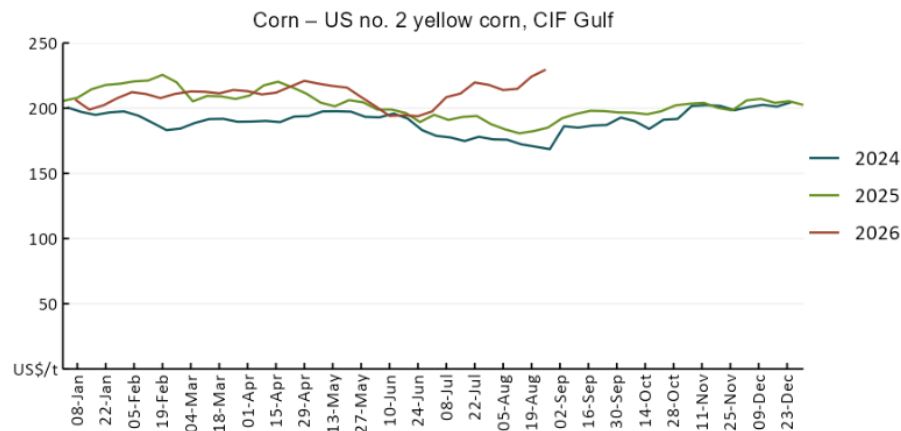
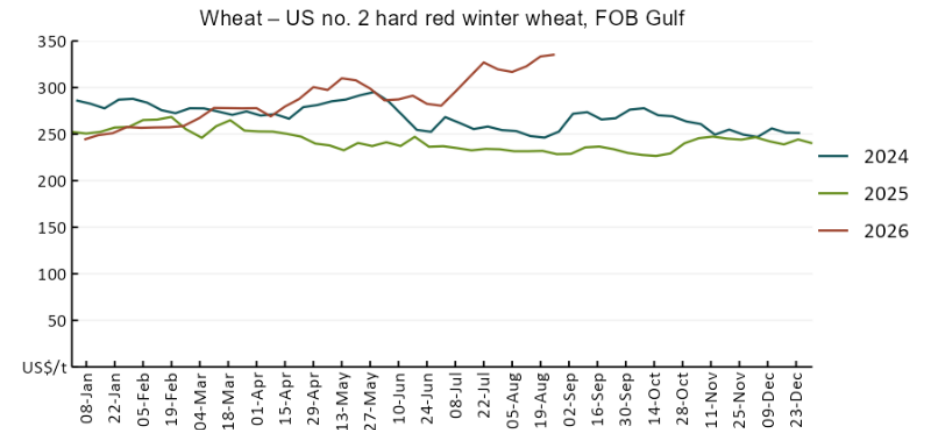
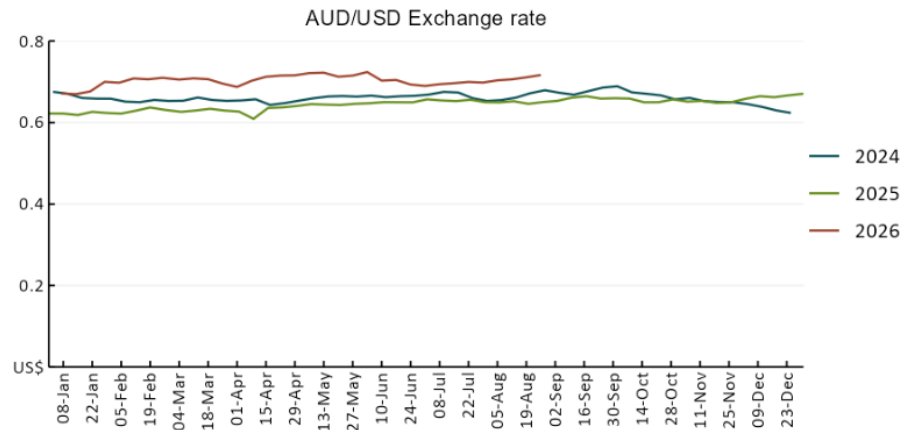
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit

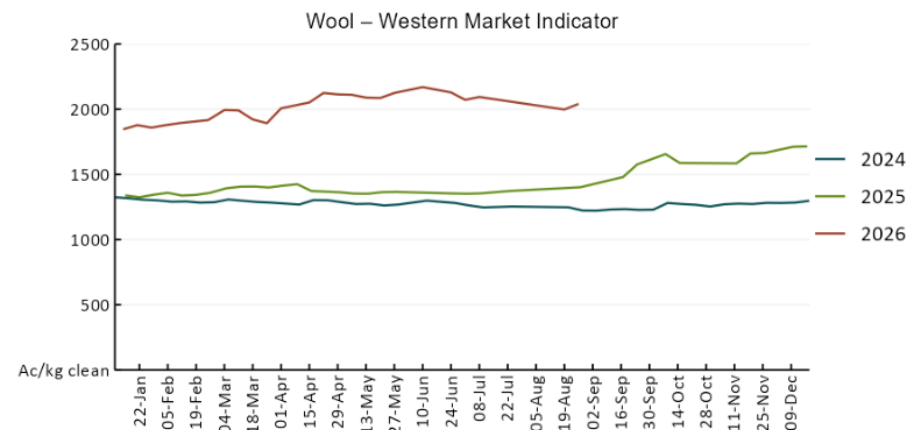
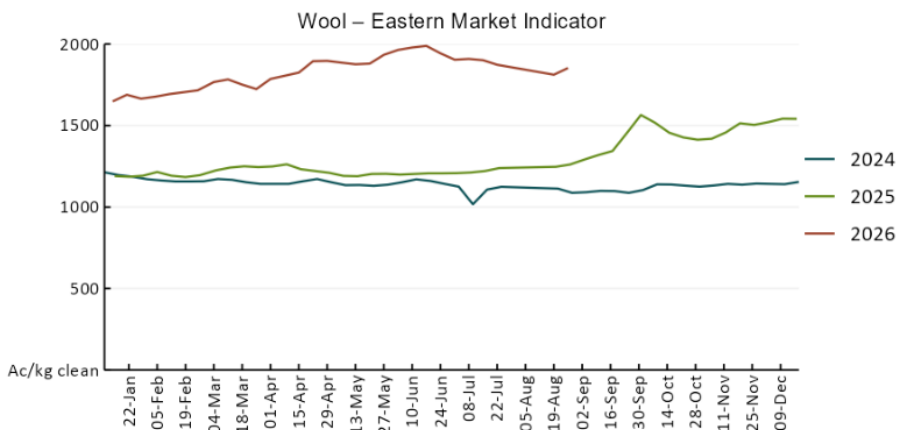
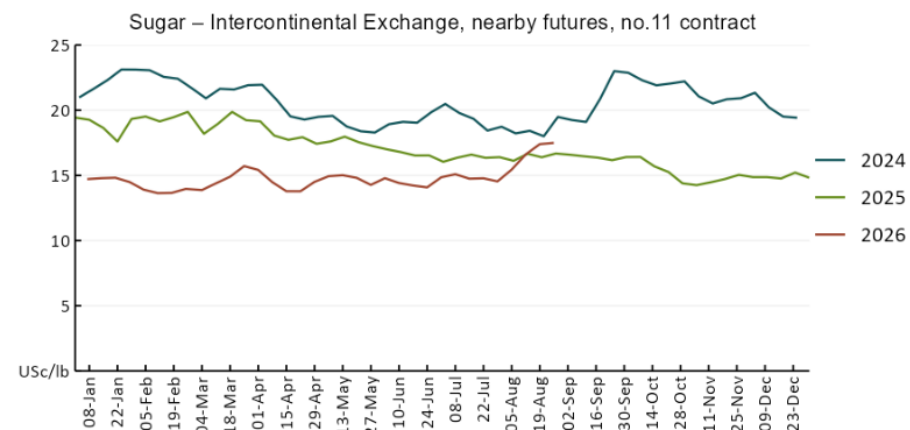
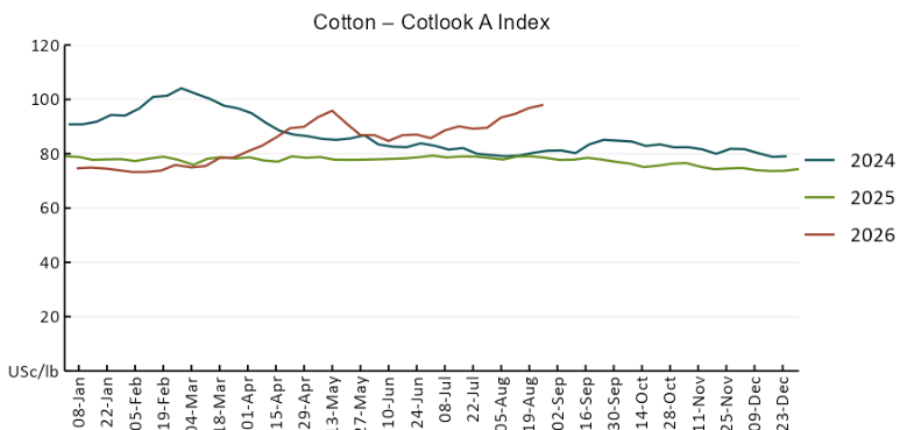
https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-260827

2. Commodities

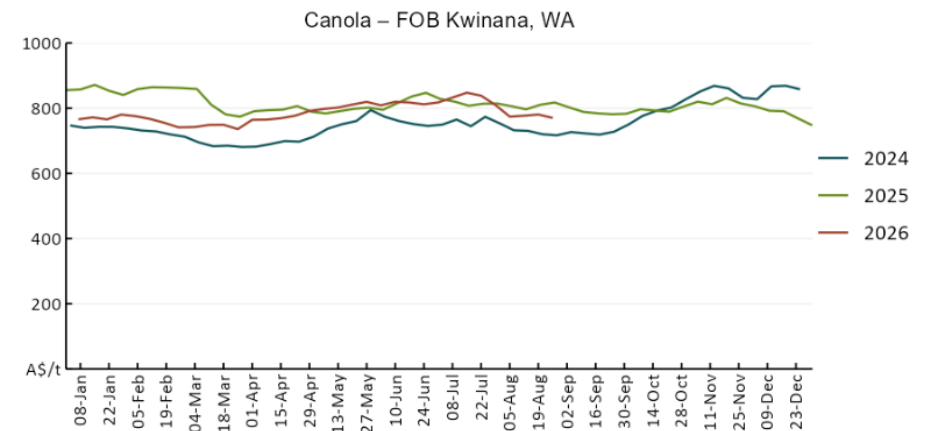
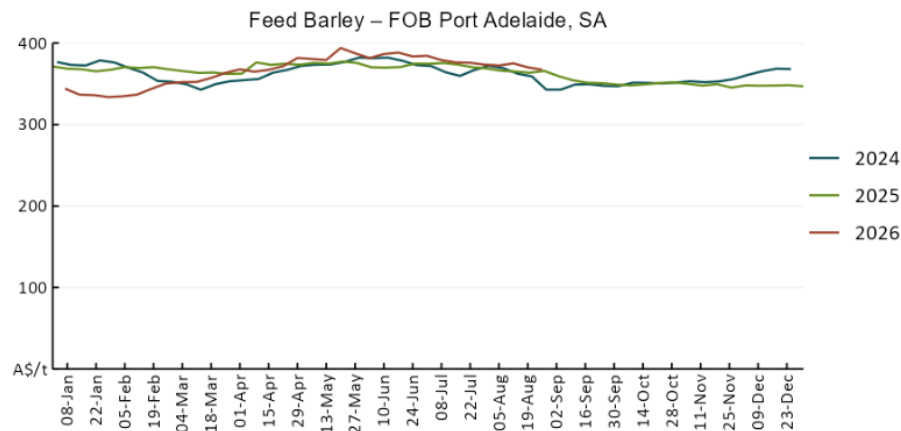
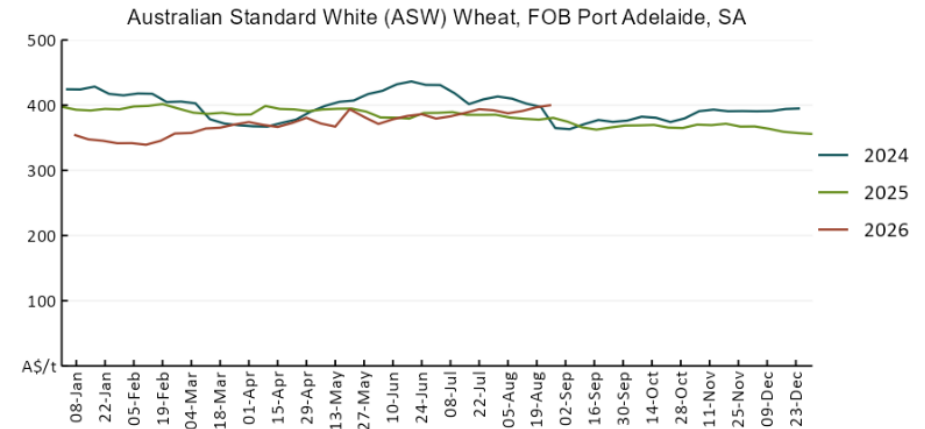
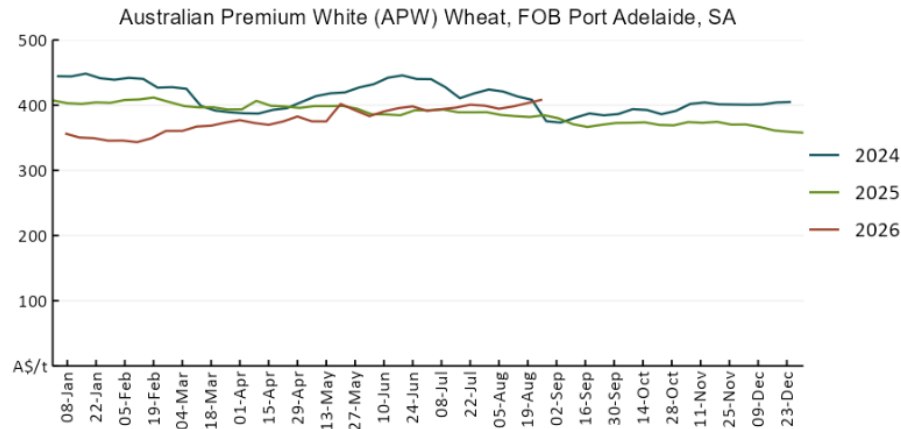
Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
Selected world indicator prices							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	19-Aug	A\$/US\$	0.72	0.71	1%	0.65	10%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	19-Aug	US\$/t	336	334	1%	231	45%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	19-Aug	US\$/t	230	224	2%	183	25%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	19-Aug	US\$/t	597	623	-4%	510	17%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	19-Aug	USc/lb	98.0	96.9	1%	78.6	25%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	19-Aug	USc/lb	17.5	17.4	1%	16.5	6%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	19-Aug	Ac/kg clean	1,853	1,812	2%	1,254	48%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	19-Aug	Ac/kg clean	2,041	1,998	2%	1,399	46%
Selected Australian grain export prices							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	19-Aug	A\$/t	409	403	1%	384	6%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	19-Aug	A\$/t	400	397	1%	380	5%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	19-Aug	A\$/t	367	370	-1%	365	1%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	19-Aug	A\$/t	770	781	-1%	808	-5%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	19-Aug	A\$/t	430	432	-1%	421	2%
Selected domestic livestock indicator prices							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	19-Aug	Ac/kg cwt	949	928	2%	860	10%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	19-Aug	Ac/kg cwt	819	830	-1%	740	11%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	19-Aug	Ac/kg cwt	1,153	1,183	-3%	1,170	-1%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	5-Aug	Ac/kg cwt	374	388	-4%	459	-19%
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%

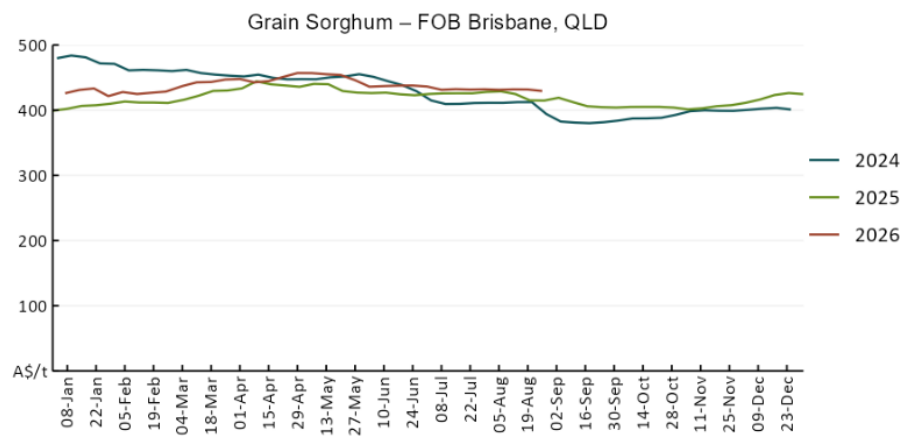
2.1. Selected world indicator prices



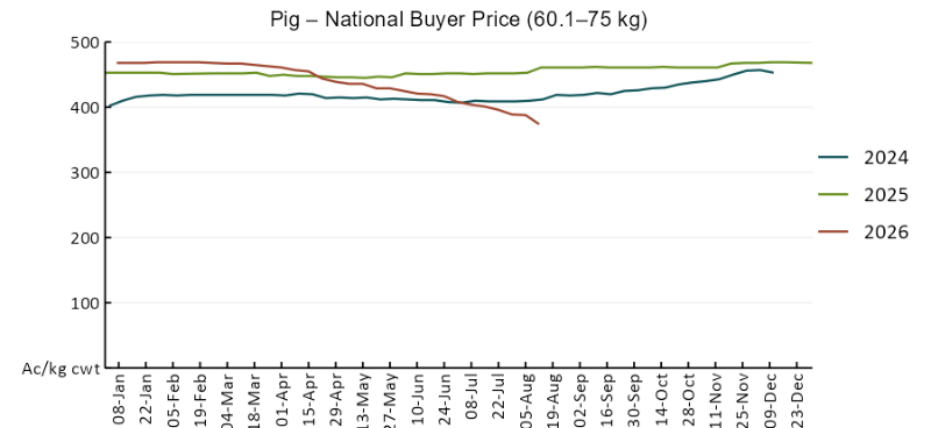
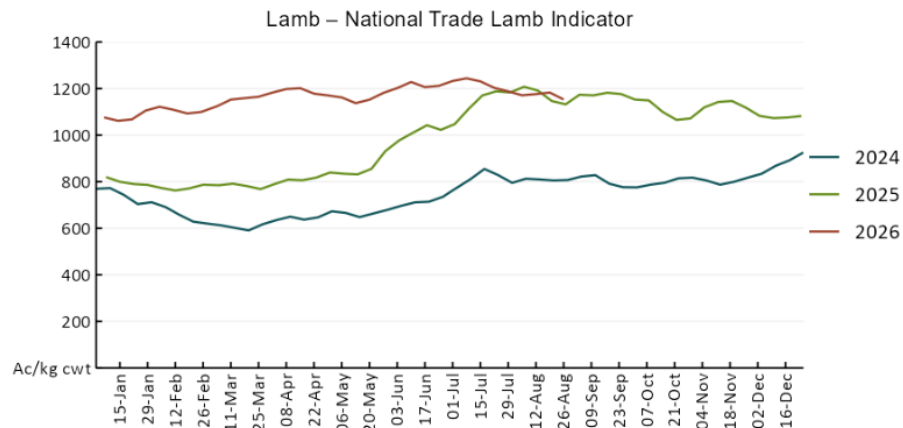
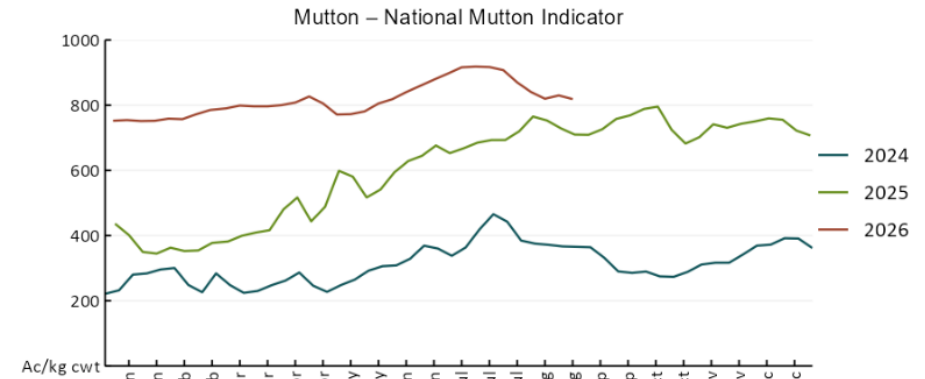
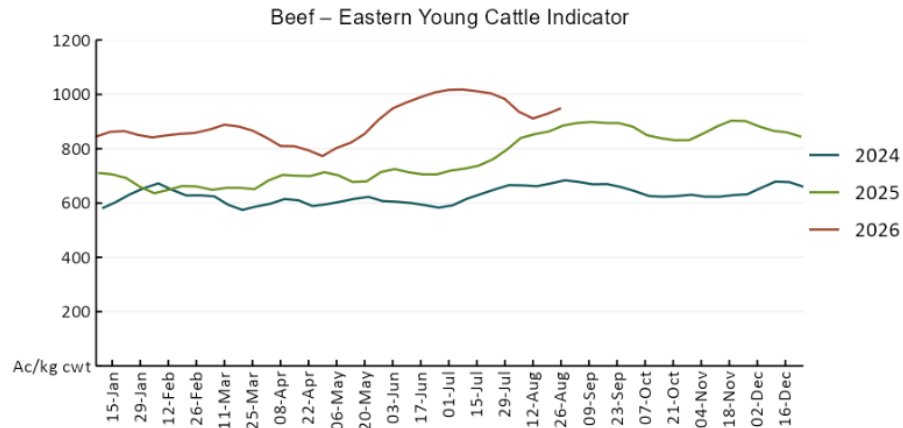


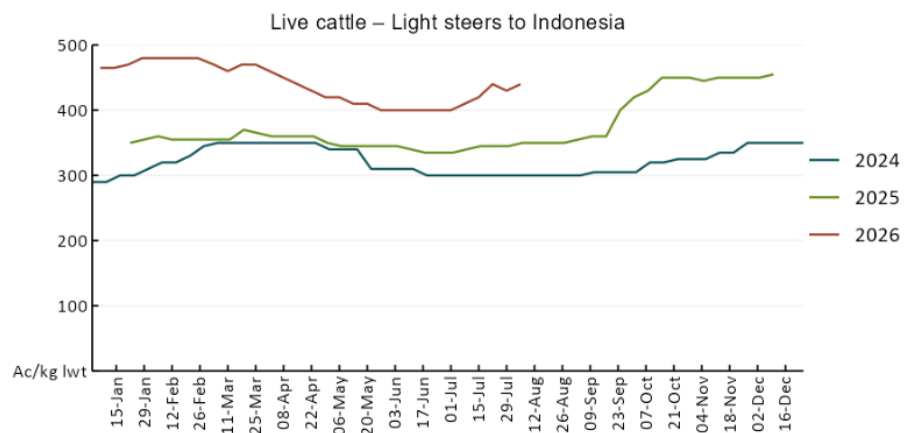
3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices



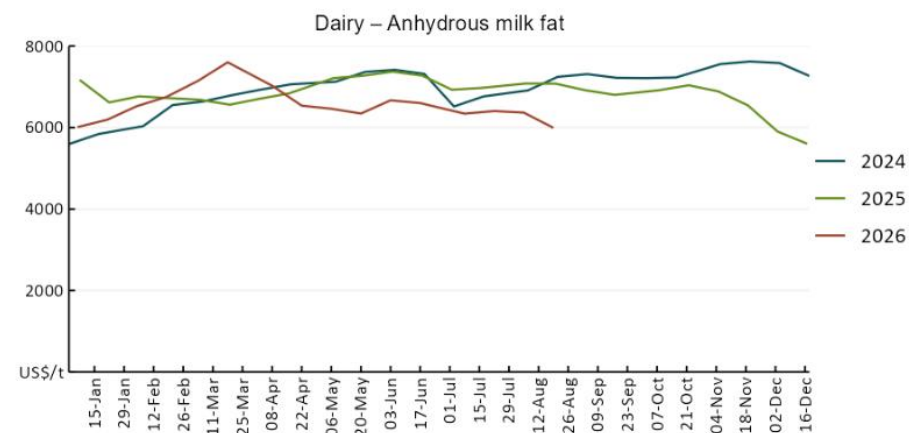
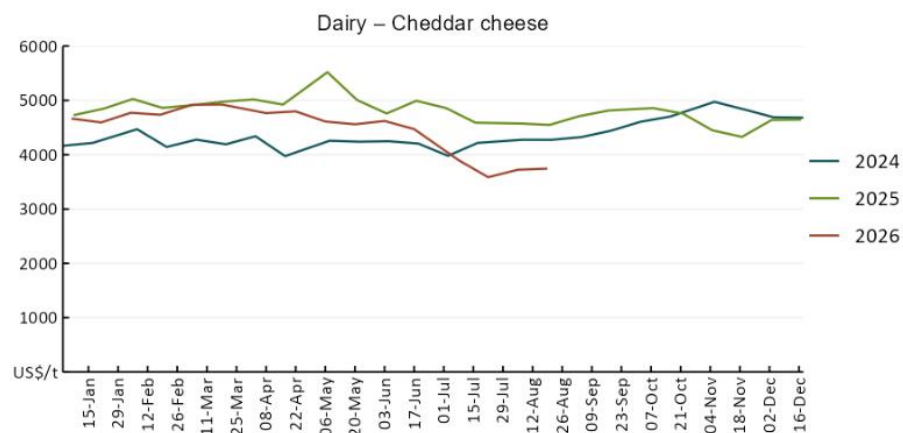
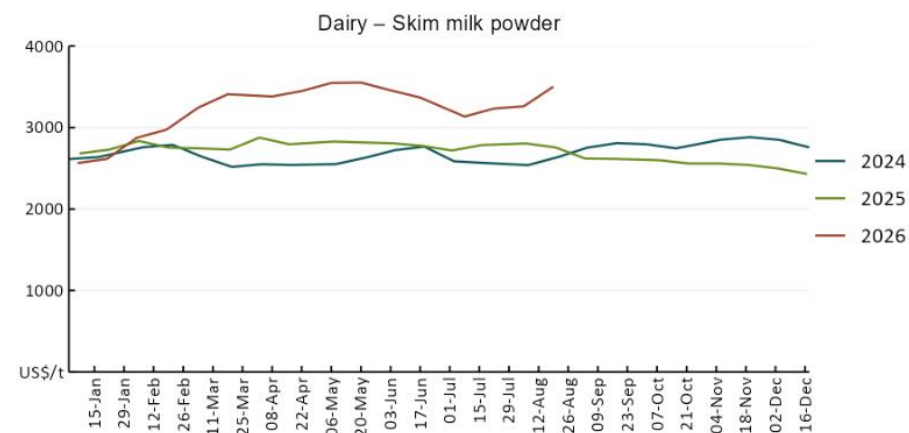
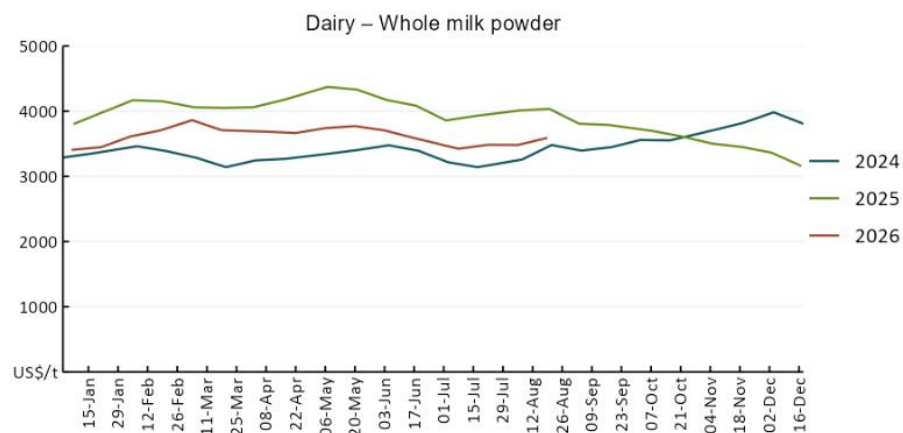


3.3 Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

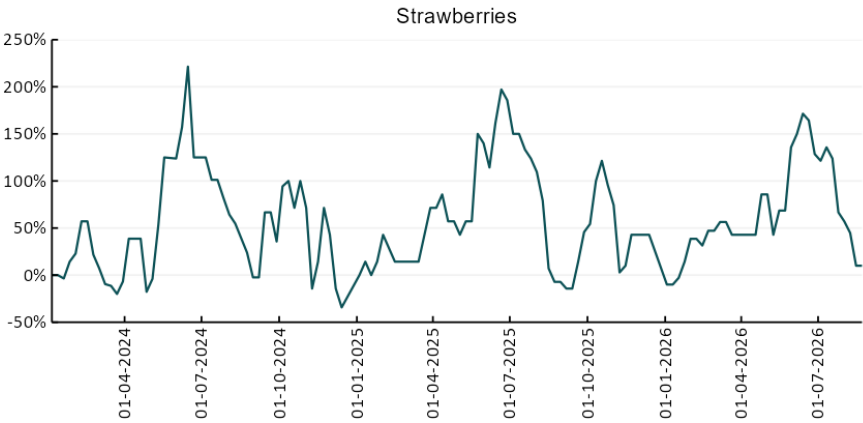
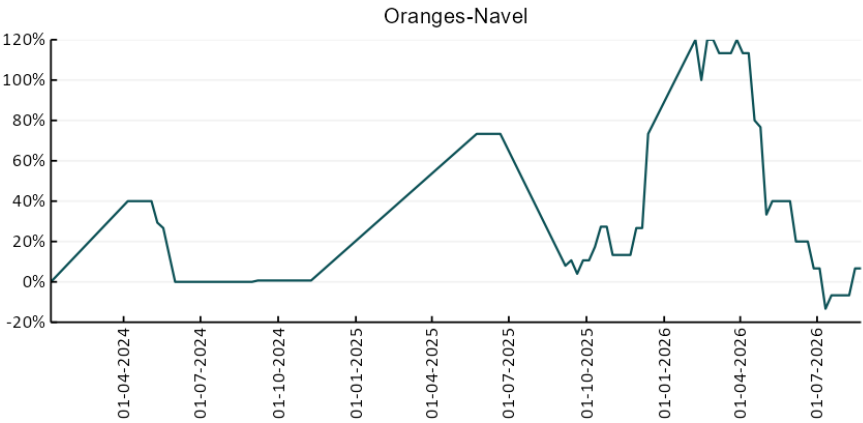
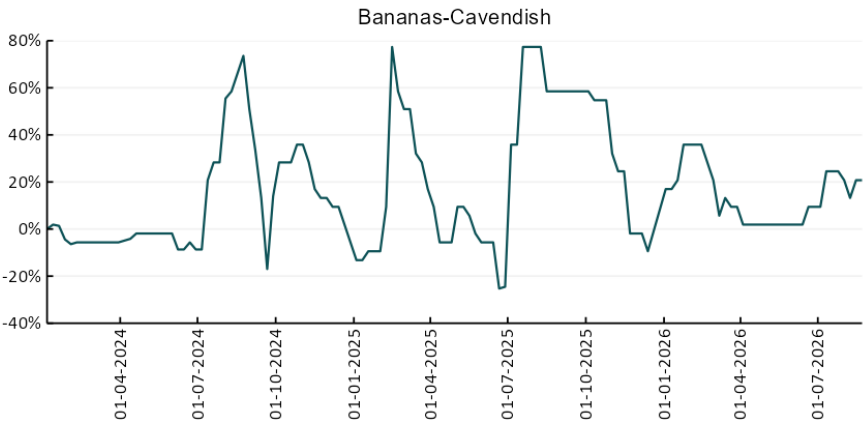
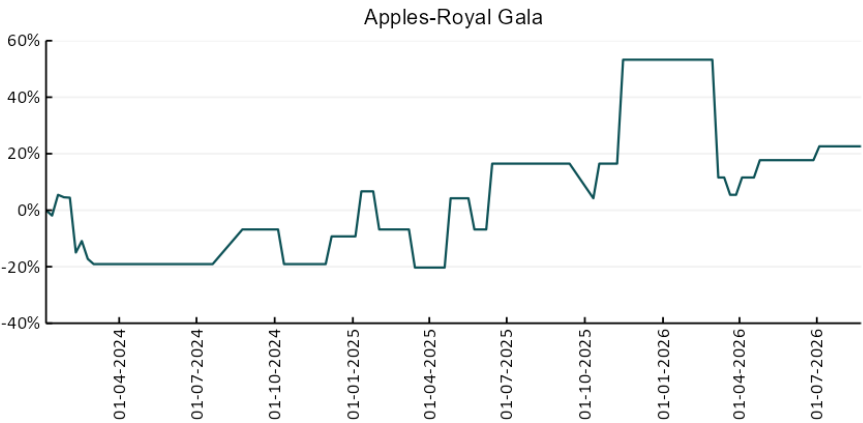


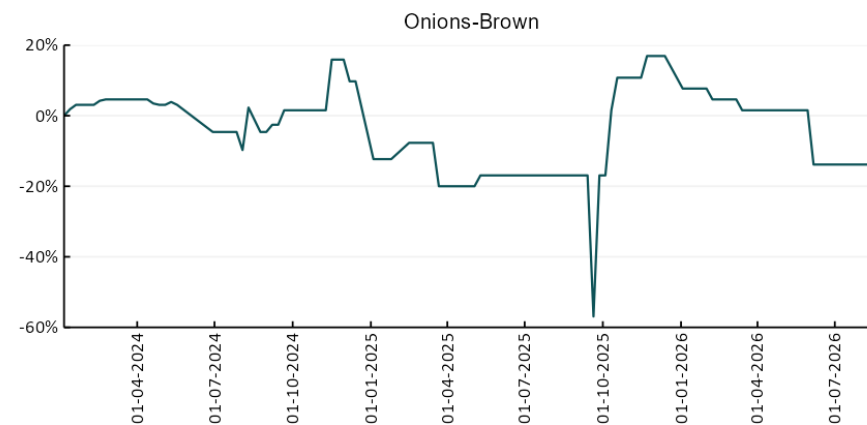
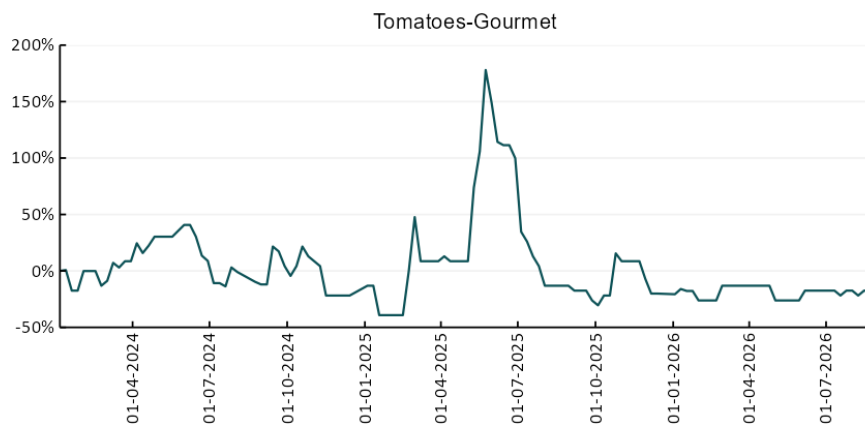
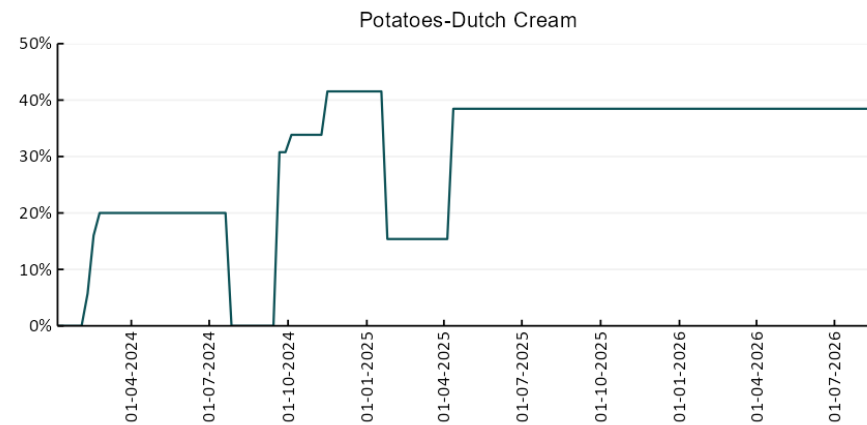
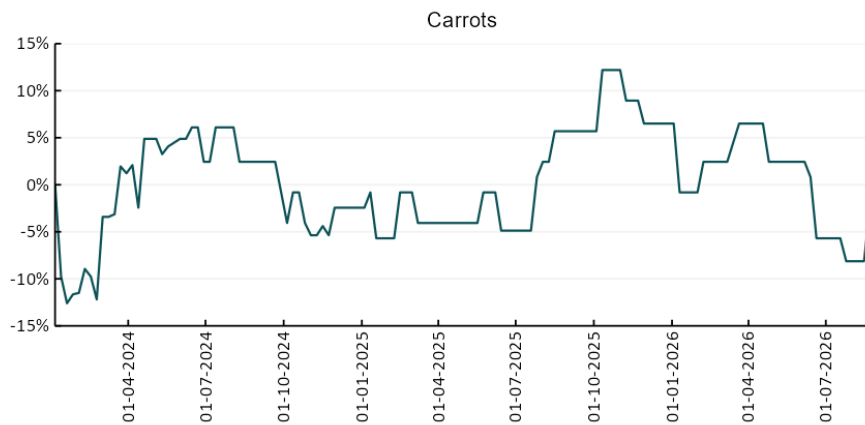


3.4 Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

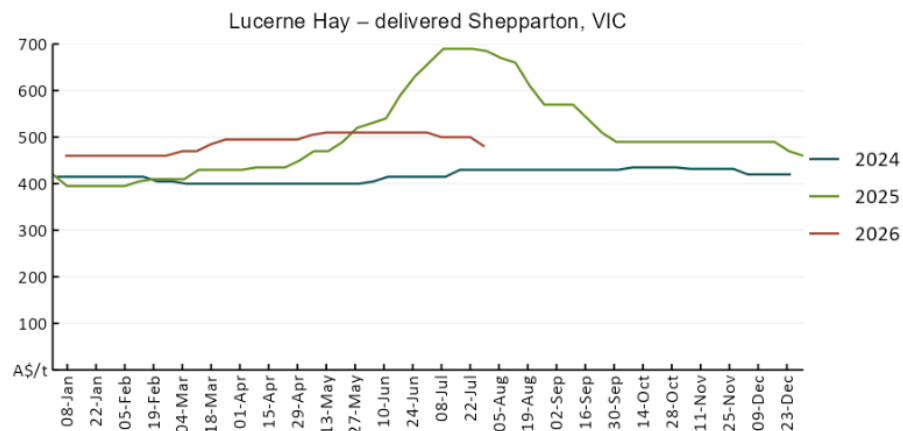
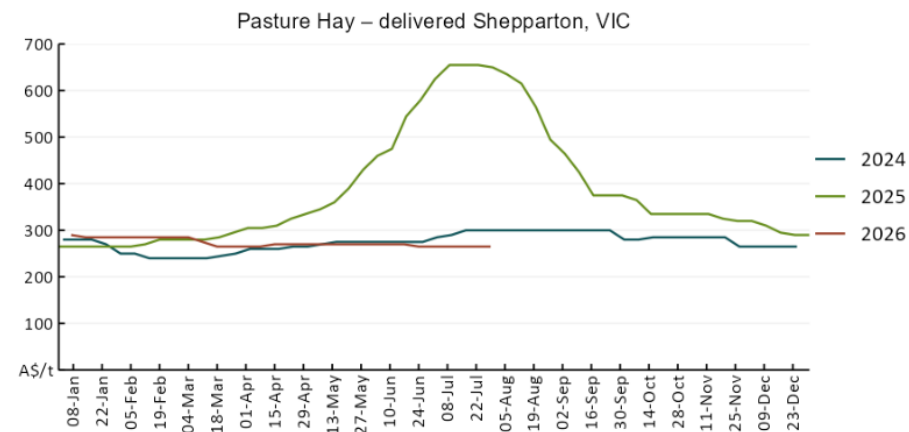
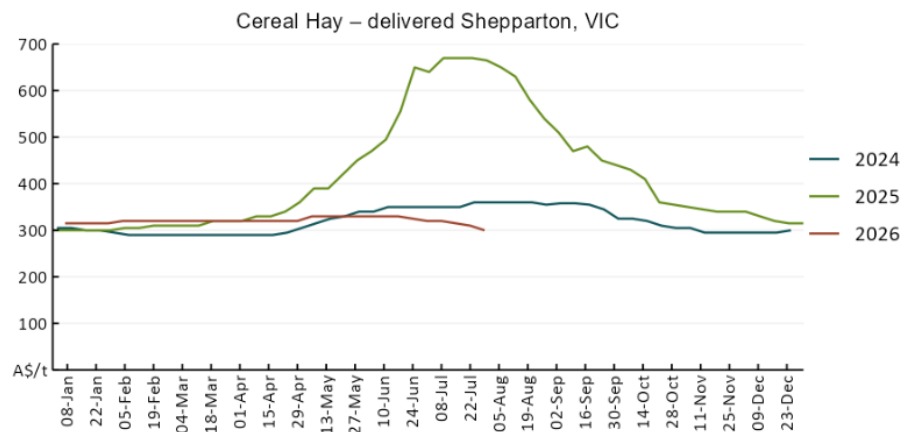


3.5 Selected fruit and vegetable prices





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.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2026

Ownership of intellectual property rights

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights, if any) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

Creative Commons licence

All material in this publication is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](#) except content supplied by third parties, logos and the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

Inquiries about the licence and any use of this document should be emailed to copyright@awe.gov.au.



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, 20 August 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](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares)

Disclaimer

The Australian Government acting through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, represented by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, has exercised due care and skill in preparing and compiling the information and data in this publication. Notwithstanding, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, ABARES, its employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the information or data in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.

Statement of Professional Independence

The views and analysis presented in ABARES publications, including this one, reflect ABARES professionally independent findings, based on scientific and economic concepts, principles, information and data. These views, analysis and findings may not reflect or be consistent with the views or positions of the Australian Government, or of organisations or groups who have commissioned ABARES reports or analysis. More information on [professional independence](#) is provided on the ABARES website.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Holly Beale and Matt Miller.