



Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 34/2026

3 September 2026

Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 2 September 2026, cold fronts brought rainfall to large areas of south-western Australia.
 - Across cropping regions in Western Australia, falls of up to 50 millimetres were recorded. In South Australia and Victoria, light falls of up to 5 millimetres were observed.
 - These falls are expected to continue to support winter crop and pasture growth and provide a timely boost to soil moisture levels in Western Australia.
- Over the 8 days to 10 September 2026, rainfall is expected in parts of southern Australia, while northern areas are forecast to remain dry.
 - Cropping regions in Western Australia and South Australia are forecast to receive 5-15 millimetres, while Victoria and parts of southern New South Wales are likely to see 5-25 millimetres. These falls are likely to continue to support positive winter crop yield expectations and above average pasture growth across much of the southeast.
 - In contrast, conditions are expected to remain dry across most cropping regions in northern New South Wales and Queensland.
- Rainfall during August 2026 was generally above average in southern and central regions, but below average across parts of the east and west. Across the south, generally average falls have continued to support soil moisture levels, above average pasture growth and winter cropping outcomes.
- Pasture growth for the three months to August 2026 was mixed but broadly above average in central and southern areas, with much of south-eastern and central Australia seeing robust pasture growth.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 506 gigalitres (GL) between 27 August 2026 and 3 September 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 14,714 GL, equivalent to 66% of total storage capacity. This is 3% or 454 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 \$325/ML on 27 August 2026 to \$336/ML on 3 September 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

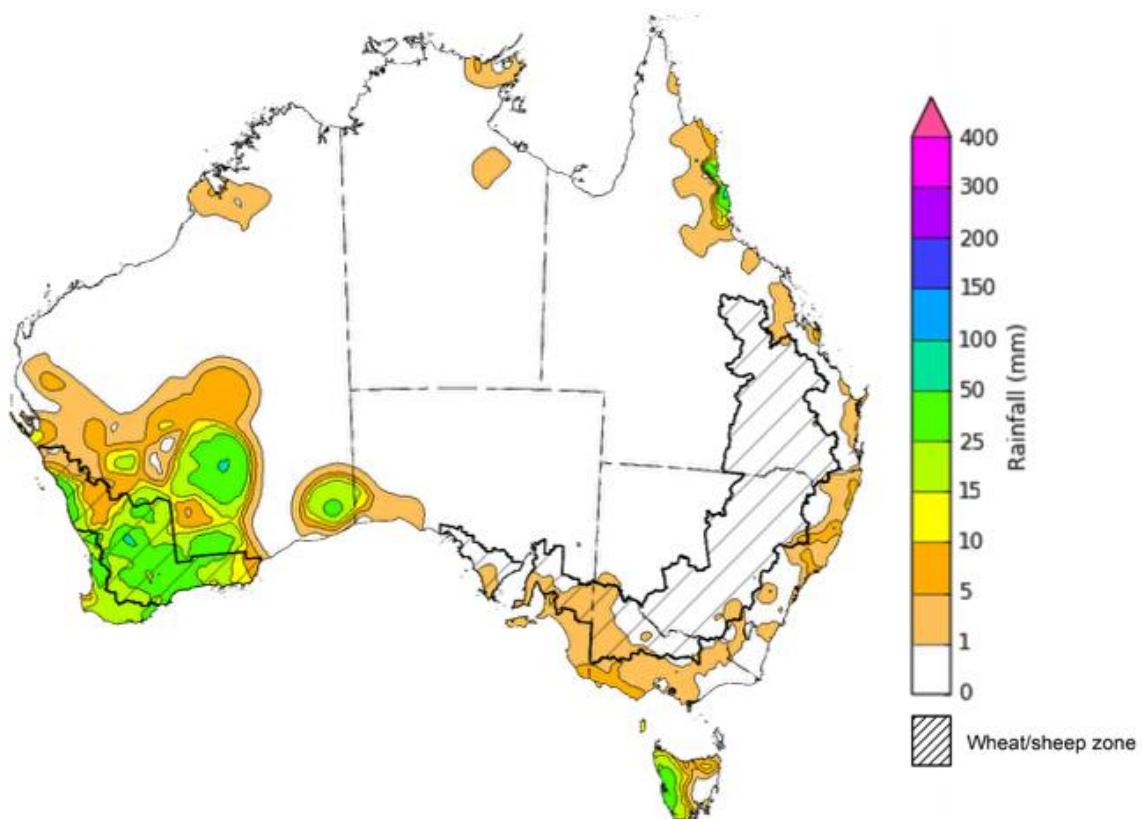
In the week ending 2 September 2026, cold fronts brought rainfall to large areas of south-western and scattered areas of south-eastern and eastern Australia, while much of the rest of Australia remained largely dry.

- Falls of 5-50 millimetres were recorded across southern Western Australia and western Tasmania, with isolated areas seeing up to 100 millimetres.
- Parts of Victoria, southern South Australia, and scattered areas of eastern New South Wales and Queensland saw lighter falls of 1-10 millimetres.
- In contrast, much of the remainder of Australia saw little to no rainfall.

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

- In Western Australia, falls of up to 50 millimetres were recorded. In South Australia and Victoria, light falls of up to 5 millimetres were observed.
 - These falls are expected to continue to support winter crop and pasture growth.
- Meanwhile, little to no rainfall was recorded across cropping regions in Queensland and New South Wales.

Rainfall for the week ending 2 September 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/>

Issued: 2/09/2026

1.2. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

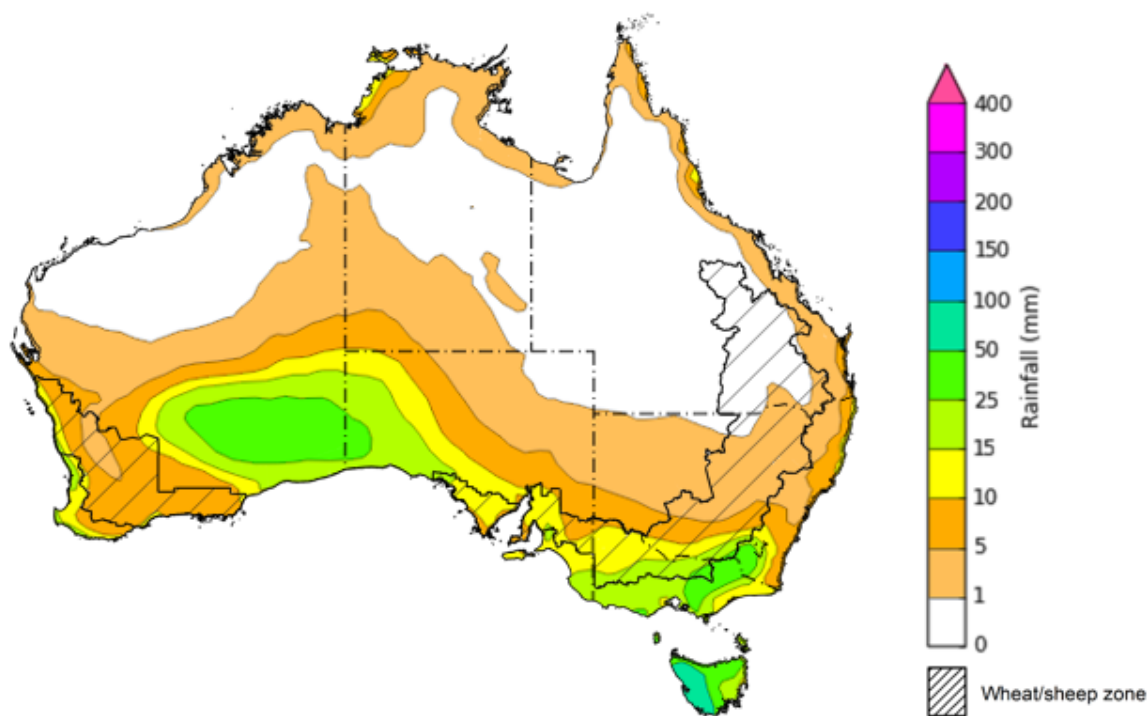
Over the 8 days to 10 September 2026, rainfall is expected across parts of southern Australia, while much of the remainder of Australia is expected to remain largely dry.

- Falls of between 5-50 millimetres are forecast for southern Western Australia, western and southern South Australia, southern New South Wales, and Victoria. In Tasmania, falls of between 15-100 millimetres are forecast.
- Much of the remainder of Australia is expected to see little to no rainfall.

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

- Most cropping regions in Western Australia and South Australia are forecast to receive 5-15 millimetres, while Victoria and parts of southern New South Wales are likely to see 5-25 millimetres.
 - If realised, these falls are likely to continue to support positive winter crop yield expectations and above average pasture growth across much of the southeast.
- In contrast, conditions are expected to remain dry across most cropping regions in northern New South Wales and Queensland.

Total forecast rainfall for the period 3 September to 10 September 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.

Issued 03/09/2026

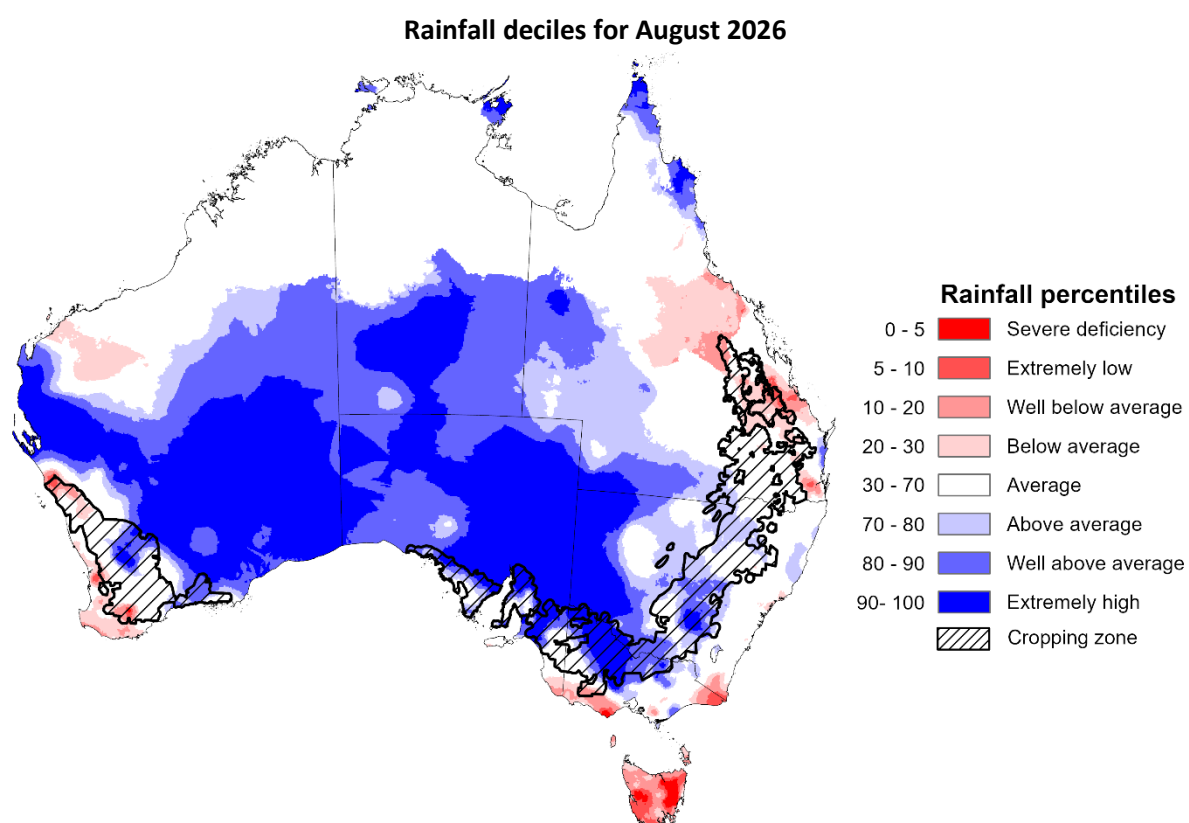
1.3. Monthly rainfall

Rainfall during August 2026 was generally above average in southern and central regions, but below average across parts of the east and far southeast and southwest.

- Large scale rainfall events leading to well above average August rainfall in southern Australia have been driven partially by negative phase of Southern Annual Mode (SAM) and warmer than normal sea surface temperature in the Indian Ocean, supporting the development of cold fronts and rainfall relative to July, when the SAM was more positive.

In cropping regions, August rainfall was well above average in the south, with western and north-east regions seeing broadly average to below average rainfall outcomes.

- Below average to average rainfall across much of Queensland and the west of Western Australia has led to a drawdown of stored soil moisture to support winter crop and pasture growth.
 - However, in areas where stored soil moisture was already low such as much of Queensland and northern New South Wales recent rainfall events are likely to have arrived too late to reverse declining crop and livestock production outcomes.
- In contrast, generally average to well above average falls across much of the south have continued to support soil moisture levels, above average pasture growth and winter cropping outcomes.



Note: Rainfall for August 2026 is compared with rainfall recorded for that period during the historical record (1900 to present). For further information, go to <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/austmaps/about-rain-maps.shtml>
Source: Bureau of Meteorology

1.4. Monthly Soil Moisture

In August 2026, modelled upper layer soil moisture was generally average to above average across much of Australia, with scattered areas in the east, south and west seeing below average modelled soil moisture.

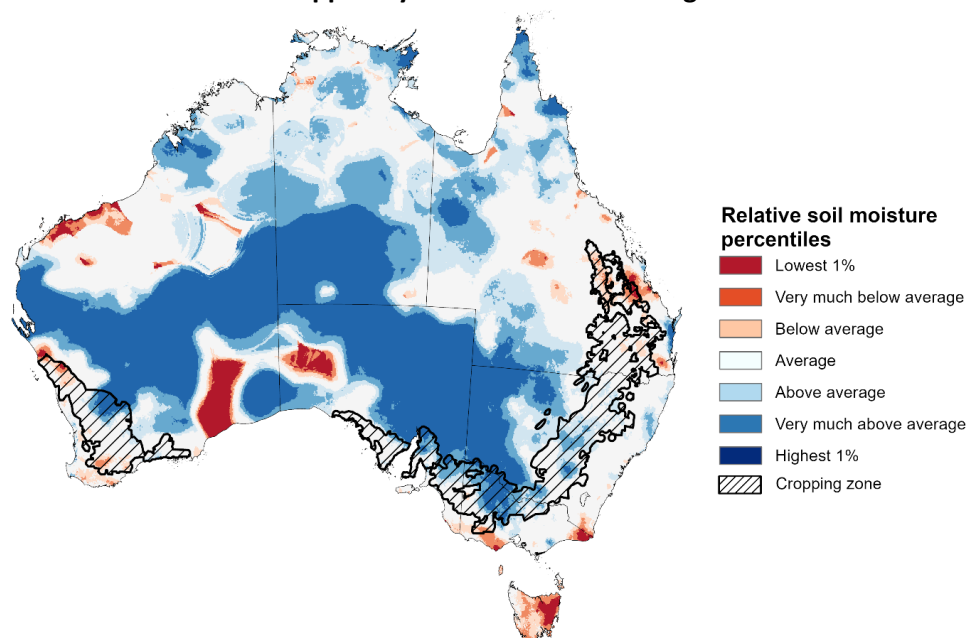
- Much of Western Australia, eastern and central South Australia, western New South Wales, the southern Northern Territory, and scattered parts of Queensland saw above average to very much above average upper layer soil moisture.
- In contrast, much of Tasmania, as well as parts of southern Western Australia, eastern Queensland, southern Victoria, and western South Australia saw below average to extremely low upper layer soil moisture.

At this time of year, upper layer soil moisture is less critical for well-established winter crops. However, upper layer soil moisture will be critical for supporting the germination and establishment of summer crops in the coming months.

- Across cropping regions, modelled upper layer soil moisture in August was modelled to be average to below average for most western and north-eastern cropping regions, with generally average to very much above average upper layer soil moisture across south-eastern regions.

This represents a considerable improvement from July 2026 as a result of strong rainfall outcomes for much of the south. Adequate and timely rainfall throughout the remainder of the growing season will be needed to support ongoing improvements in cropping and pasture growth outcomes particularly across south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales.

Modelled upper layer soil moisture for August 2026



Note: This map shows the levels of modelled upper layer soil moisture (0 to 10 centimetres) during August 2026. This map shows how modelled soil conditions during August 2026 compare with August conditions modelled over the reference period (1911 to 2016). Dark blue areas on the maps were much wetter in August 2026 than during the reference period. The bulk of plant roots occur in the top 20 centimetres of the soil profile. Soil moisture in the upper layer of the soil profile is therefore a useful indicator of the availability of water, particularly for germinating seed.

Source: Bureau of Meteorology (<https://awo.bom.gov.au/about/overview>)

Modelled lower layer soil moisture in August 2026 was average to very much above average across much of central Australia, while extremely low to below average modelled lower layer soil moisture was evident across large areas eastern and western Australia.

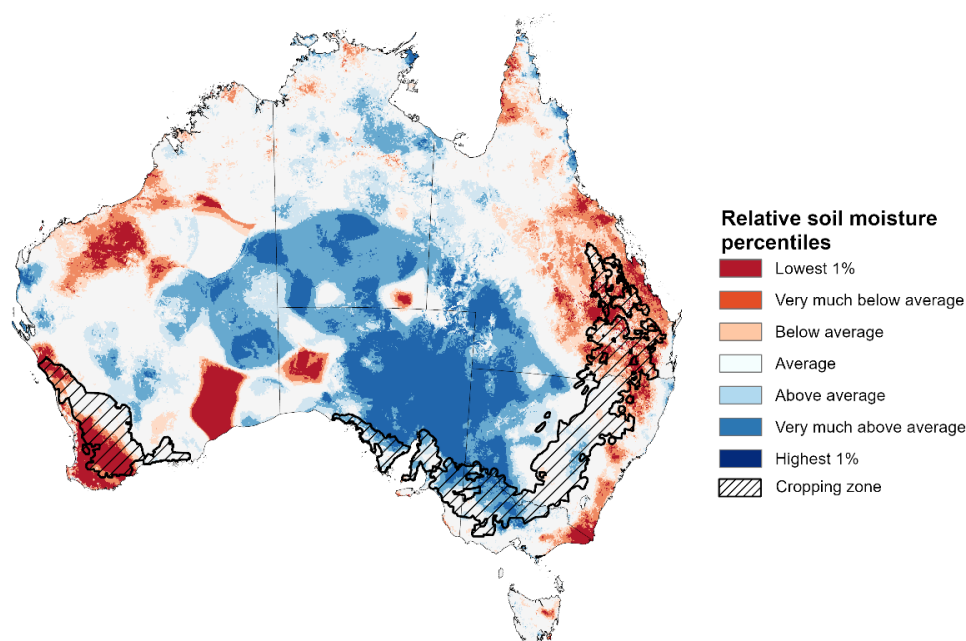
- Parts of eastern Queensland, eastern Victoria, eastern New South Wales, western South Australia, and south-western and northern Western Australia were modelled as having extremely low to below average lower layer soil moisture. By contrast, much of the southern Northern Territory, western Queensland, South Australia, western New South Wales, and northern Victoria were modelled as having above average to very much above average soil moisture over the period.

Lower layer soil moisture is a larger, deeper store that is slower to respond to seasonal conditions and tends to reflect the accumulated effects of events that have occurred over longer periods. Crop development and pasture growth in areas of above average lower layer soil moisture are typically less reliant on in-season rainfall than in areas with below average lower layer soil moisture.

- Cropping regions in Queensland and southern Western Australia were modelled as having extremely low to below average soil moisture. In contrast, Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales, scattered areas in Queensland and remaining areas in Western Australia recorded average to very much above average soil moisture for this time of year.

In areas with average to above average lower layer soil moisture, this is likely to provide a reserve of plant-available water to support crop growth over the spring period. Agricultural regions across southern Australia have seen a significant improvement in soil moisture levels since the end of January 2026. Furthermore, August 2026 modelling shows stable soil moisture storage from July 2026, which was an improvement in soil moisture conditions from the June period in some south-eastern areas— these gains in soil moisture levels mean the winter crop and pasture growth in the coming months will be less reliant on forecast spring rainfall outcomes. However, conditions have declined in cropping areas in Queensland and parts of southern Western Australia.

Modelled lower layer soil moisture for August 2026



Note: This map shows how modelled soil conditions during August 2026 compare with July conditions modelled over the reference period (1911 to 2016). Dark blue areas on the maps were much wetter in August 2026 than during the reference period. The dark red areas were much drier than during the reference period. The bulk of plant roots occur in the top 20 centimetres of the soil profile. The lower layer soil moisture is a larger, deeper store that is slower to respond to rainfall and tends to reflect accumulated rainfall events over longer time periods.

Source: Bureau of Meteorology (<https://awo.bom.gov.au/about/overview>)

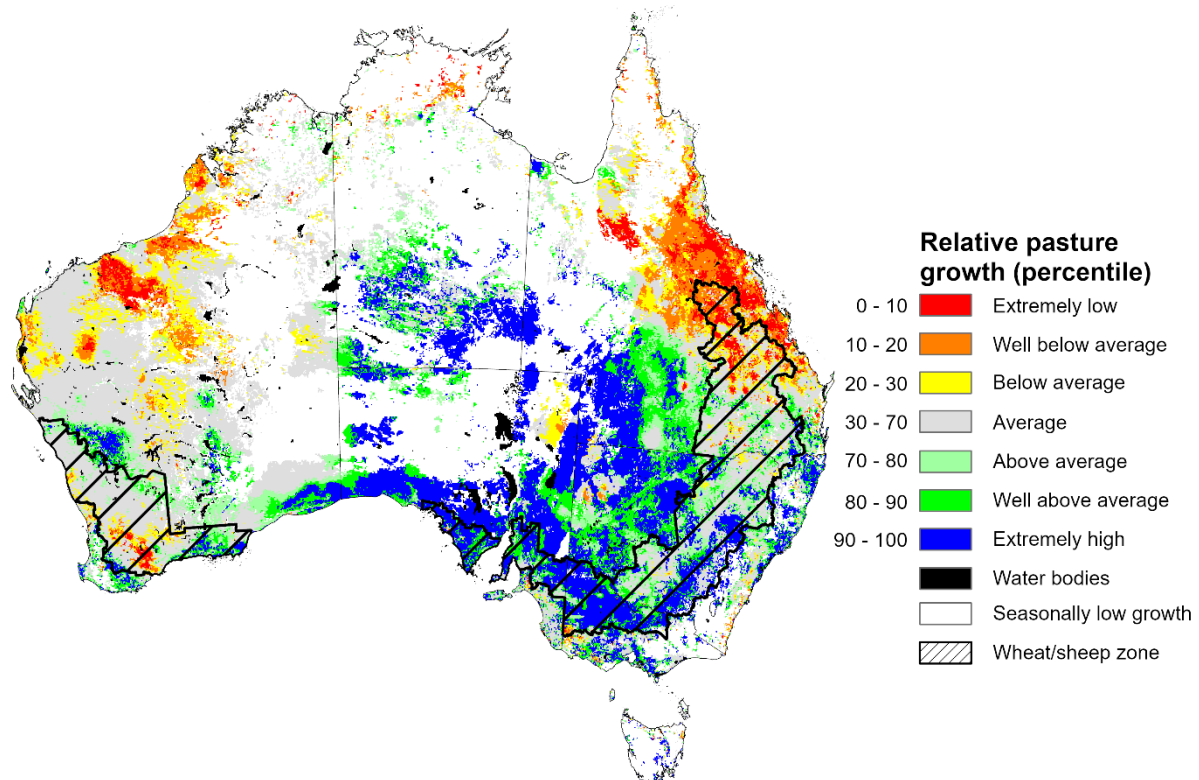
1.5. Pasture Growth

During the northern Australia dry season (May to September), pasture growth typically declines significantly due to the reduction in water availability, with livestock relying on pasture grown throughout the previous wet season. During winter, pasture growth typically increases in southeast Australia, reflecting higher rainfall totals, and reduced temperatures and evapotranspiration rates at this time of year. Pasture availability during this period influences the growth and branding and marking rates of lambs and calves, livestock turnoff and the production of meat, milk, and wool.

Pasture growth for the three months to August 2026 was variable across much of country.

- Average to extremely high relative pasture growth was modelled across much of southern and central Australia.
 - This pasture growth is expected to have allowed many farmers to maintain livestock numbers, provide opportunities to build standing dry matter availability.
- In contrast, large areas of north-western and north-eastern Australia saw relatively low pasture growth for this time of year.
 - This below average pasture growth has likely led to a decline in pasture availability. Graziers in regions where below average pasture growth was recorded will be more reliant on supplemental feed to maintain current stocking rates and production.

Relative pasture growth for 3-months ending August 2026 (1 June to 31 August 2026)

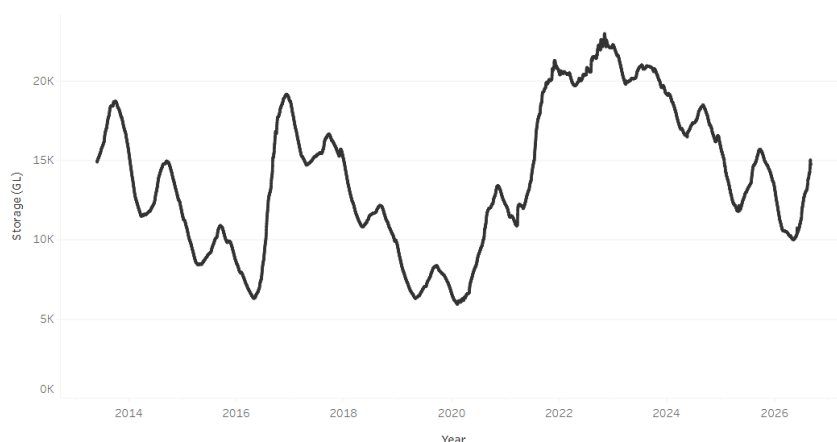


Notes: AussieGRASS pasture growth estimates are relative to the long-term record and shown in percentiles. Percentiles rank data on a scale of zero to 100. This analysis ranks pasture growth for the selected period against average pasture growth for the long-term record (1957 to 2016). Pasture growth is modelled at 5km² grid cells.
Source: Department of Environment, Science and Innovation

1.6. Water markets – current week

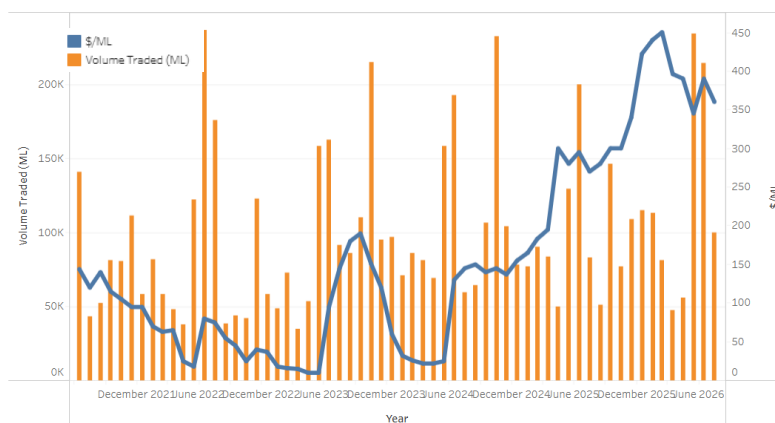
Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 506 gegalitres (GL) between 27 August 2026 and 3 September 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 14,714 GL, equivalent to 66% of total storage capacity. This is 3% or 454 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage 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 \$325/ML on 27 August 2026 to \$336/ML on 3 September 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	224
NSW Murrumbidgee	290
Vic Greater Goulburn	308
Vic Murray Below	336

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.

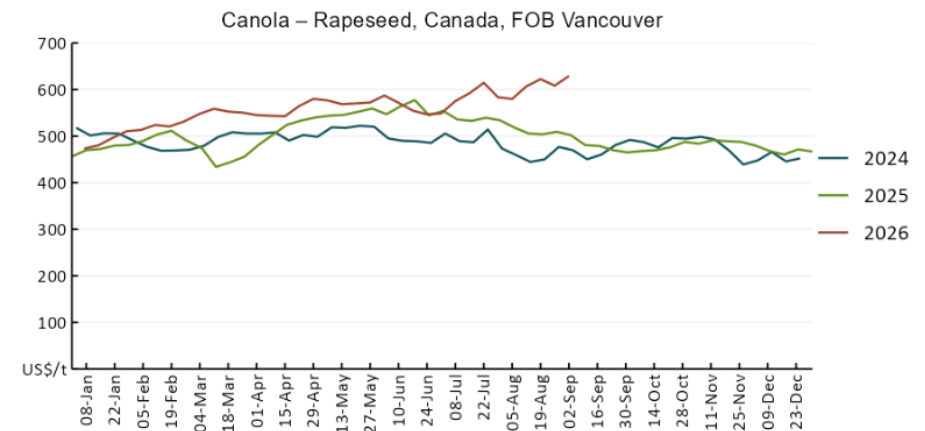
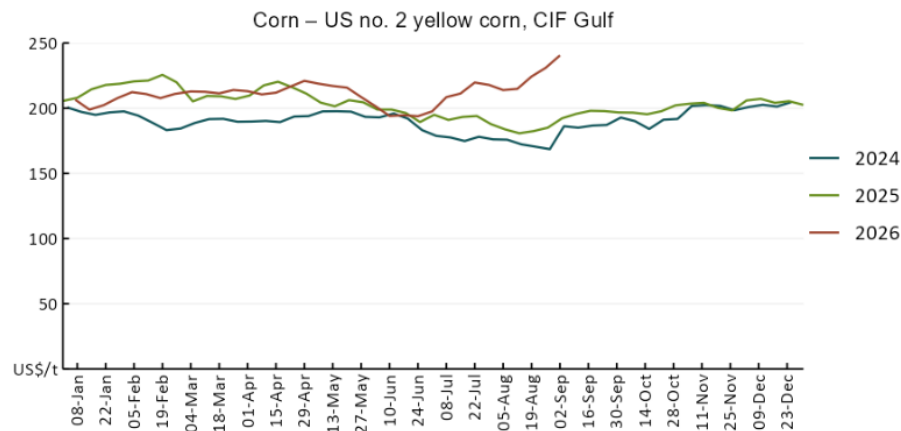
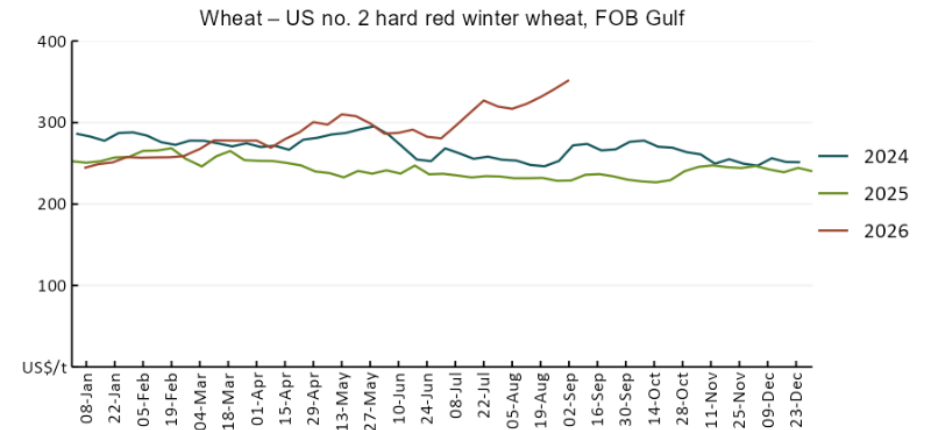
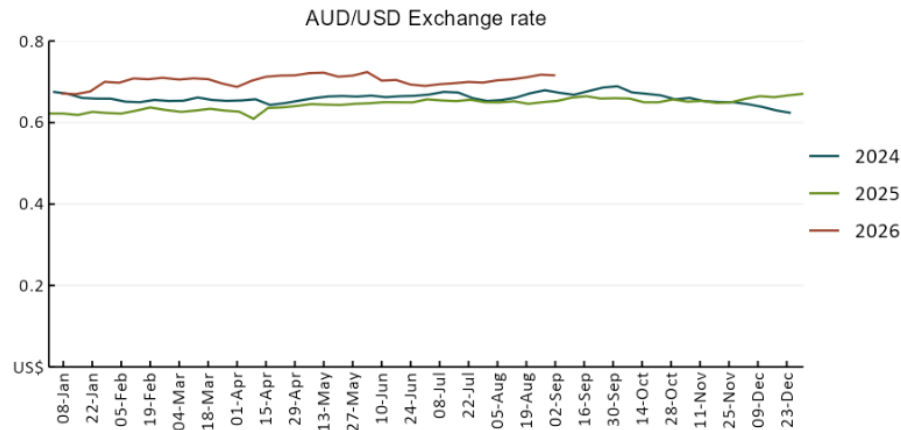
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit

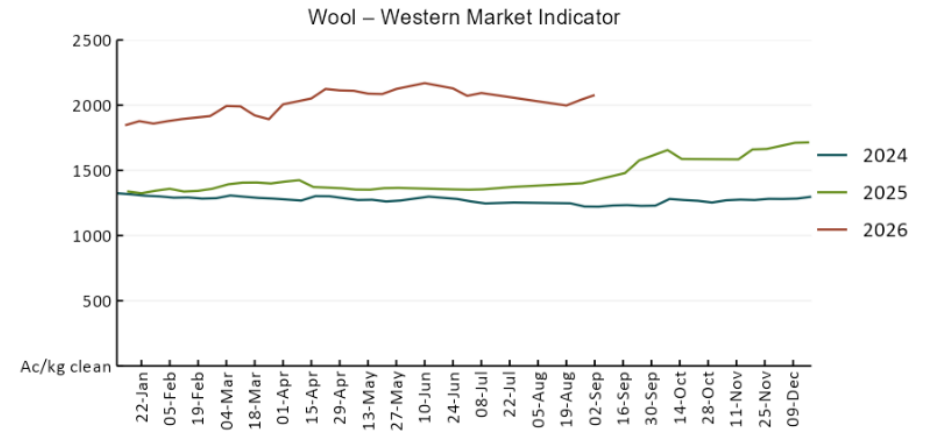
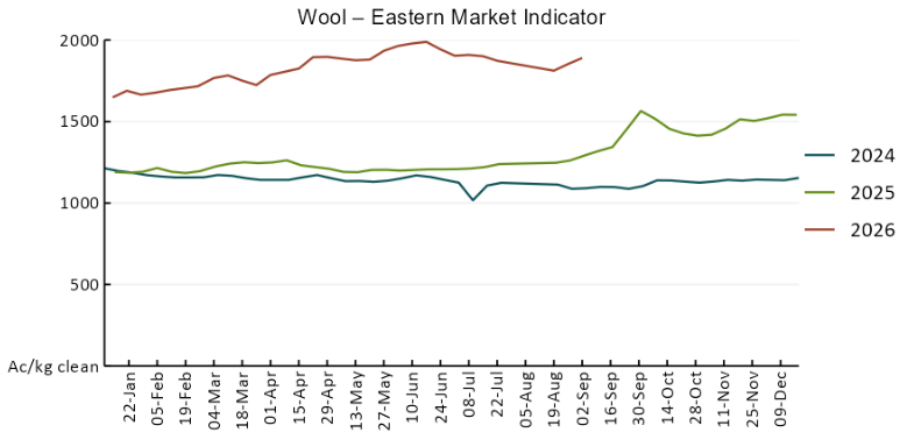
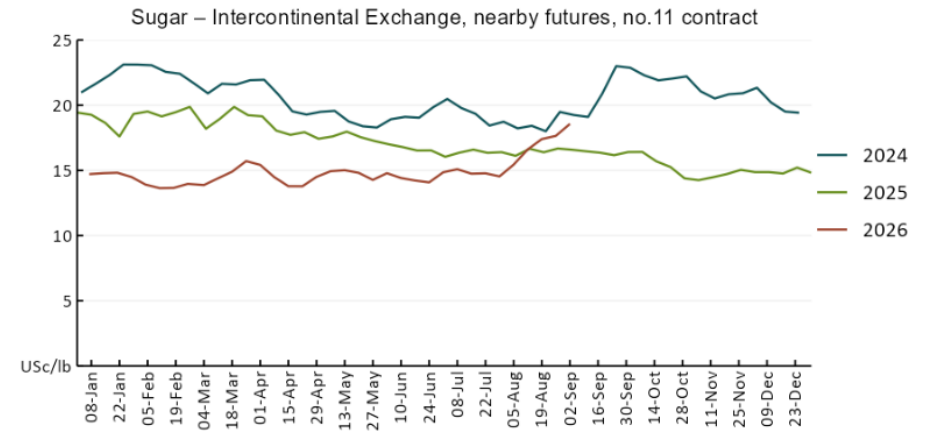
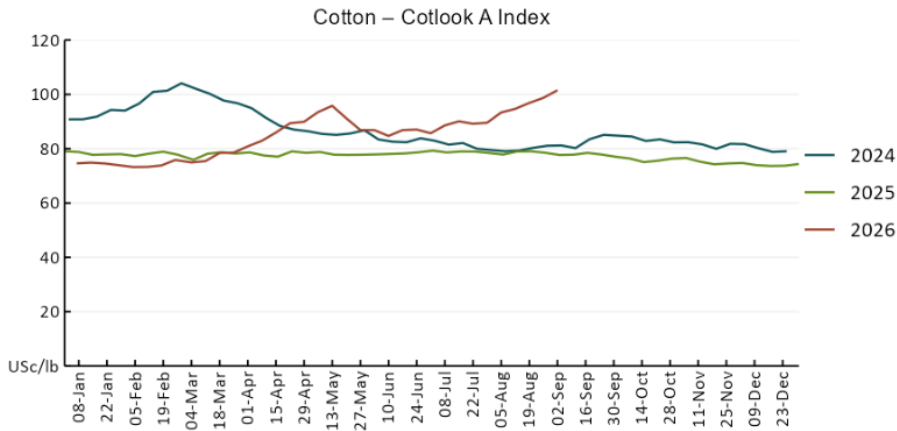
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2. Commodities

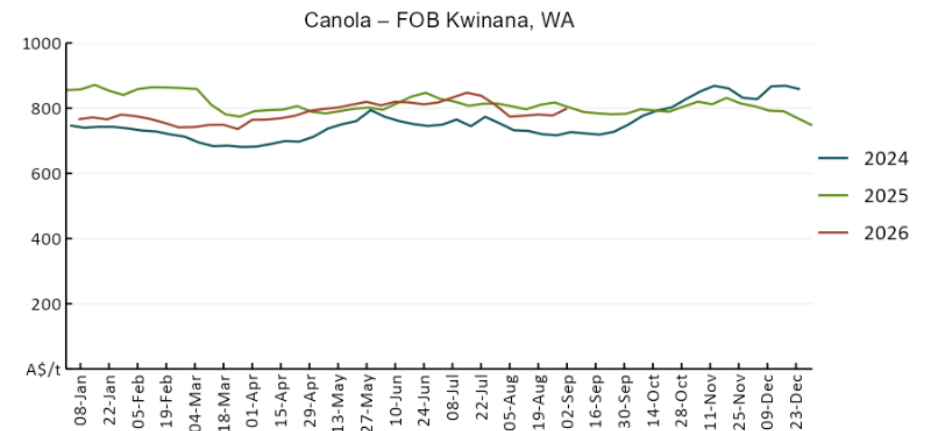
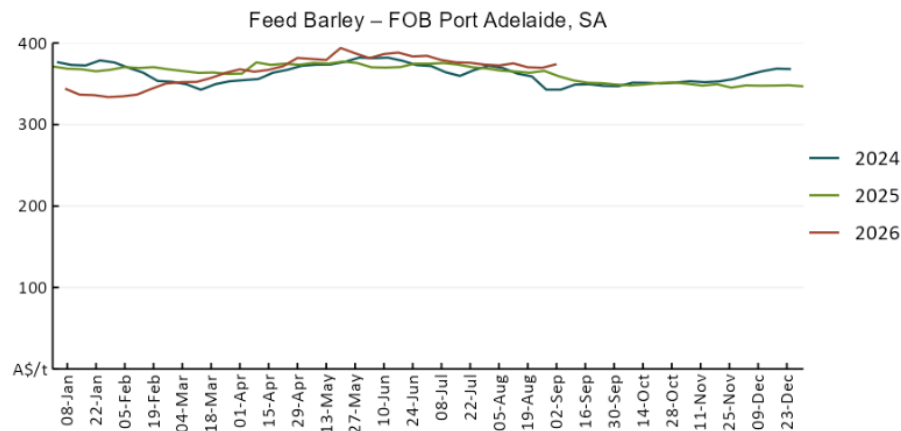
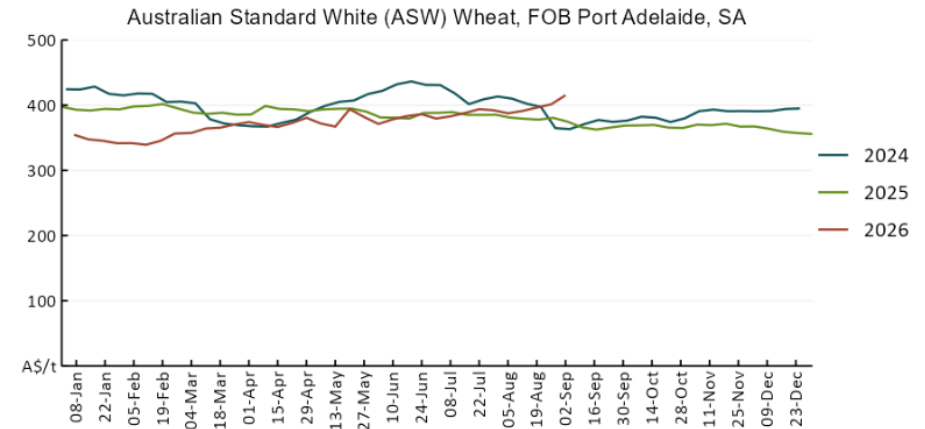
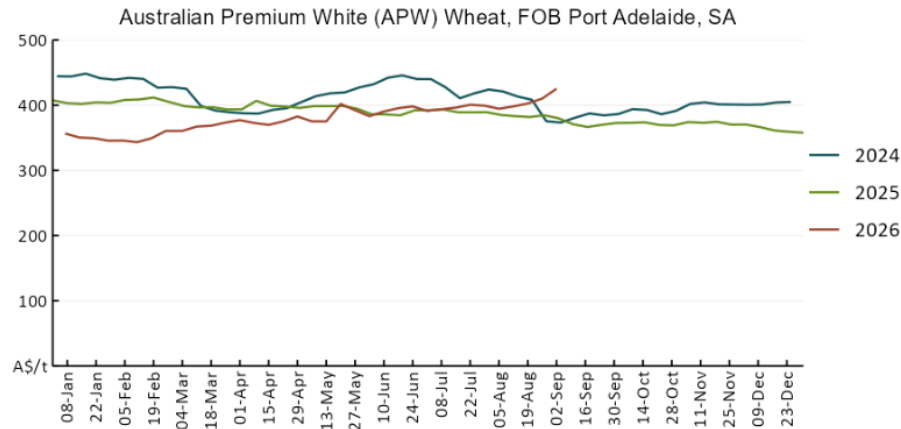
Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
Selected world indicator prices							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	2-Sep	A\$/US\$	0.72	0.72	0%	0.66	9%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	2-Sep	US\$/t	352	341	3%	234	51%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	2-Sep	US\$/t	241	231	4%	196	23%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	2-Sep	US\$/t	629	608	3%	483	30%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	2-Sep	USc/lb	101.5	98.7	3%	78.0	30%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	2-Sep	USc/lb	18.6	17.7	5%	16.4	13%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	2-Sep	Ac/kg clean	1,890	1,853	2%	1,352	40%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	2-Sep	Ac/kg clean	2,078	2,041	2%	1,529	36%
Selected Australian grain export prices							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	2-Sep	A\$/t	425	410	4%	372	14%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	2-Sep	A\$/t	415	401	3%	367	13%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	2-Sep	A\$/t	374	370	1%	354	6%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	2-Sep	A\$/t	799	778	3%	789	1%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	2-Sep	A\$/t	430	430	0%	411	5%
Selected domestic livestock indicator prices							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	2-Sep	Ac/kg cwt	985	956	3%	895	10%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	2-Sep	Ac/kg cwt	863	830	4%	741	17%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	2-Sep	Ac/kg cwt	1,172	1,156	1%	1,176	0%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	12-Aug	Ac/kg cwt	374	388	-4%	461	-19%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	5-Aug	Ac/kg lwt	440	430	2%	369	19%
Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	2-Sep	US\$/t	3,585	3,591	0%	3,800	-6%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	2-Sep	US\$/t	3,695	3,502	6%	2,618	41%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	2-Sep	US\$/t	3,503	3,744	-6%	4,762	-26%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	2-Sep	US\$/t	5,917	5,993	-1%	6,860	-14%

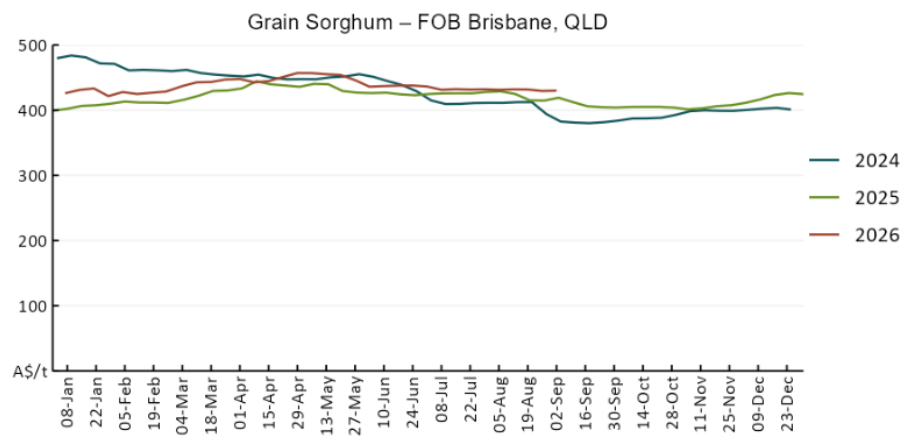
2.1. Selected world indicator prices



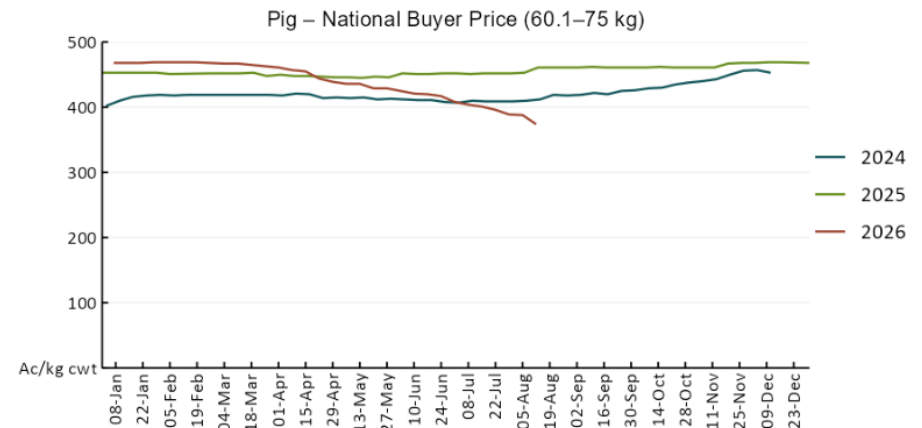
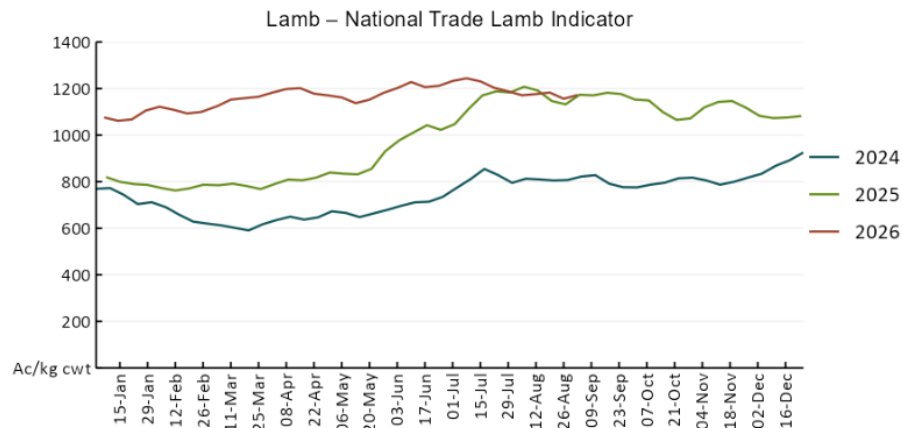
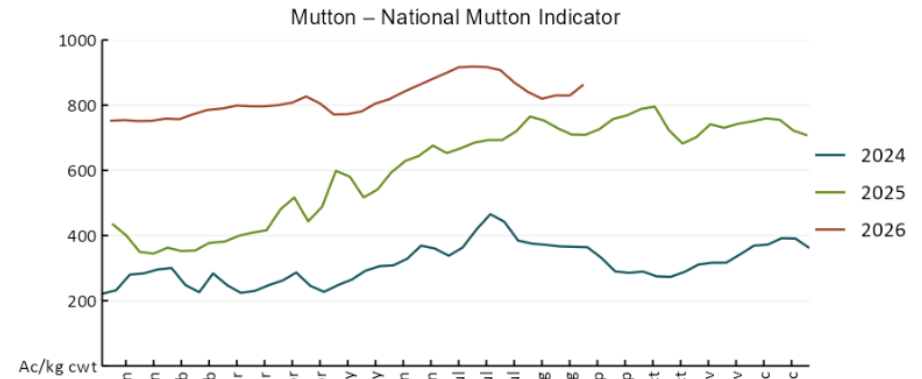
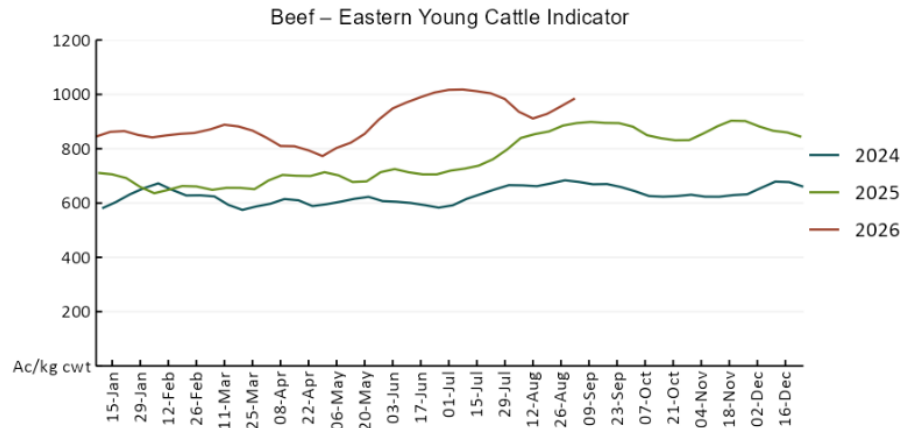


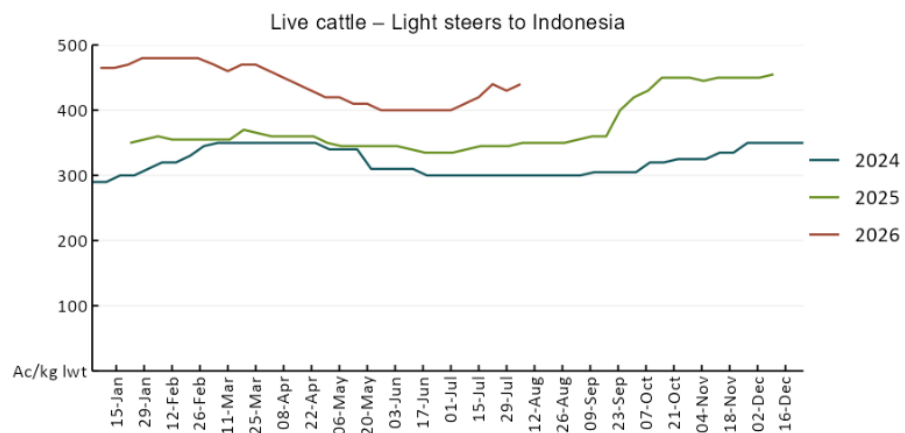
3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices



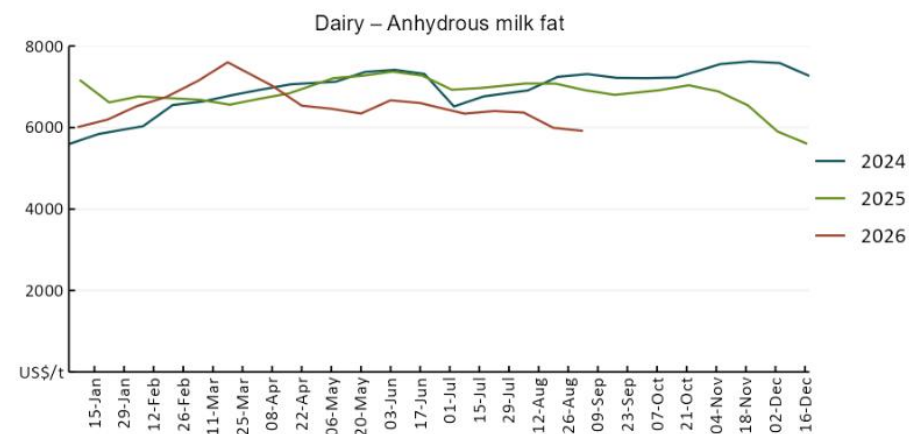
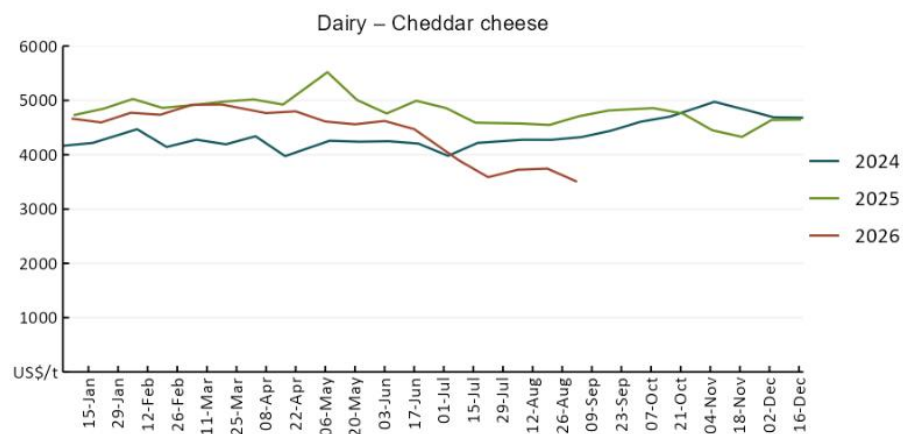
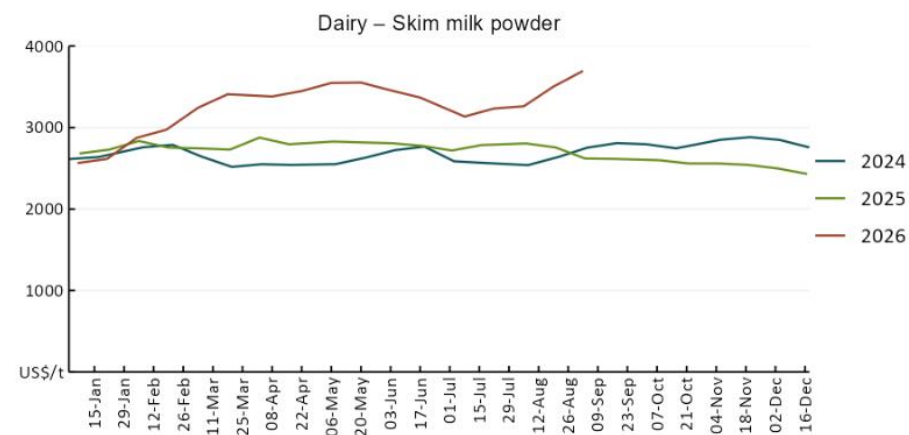
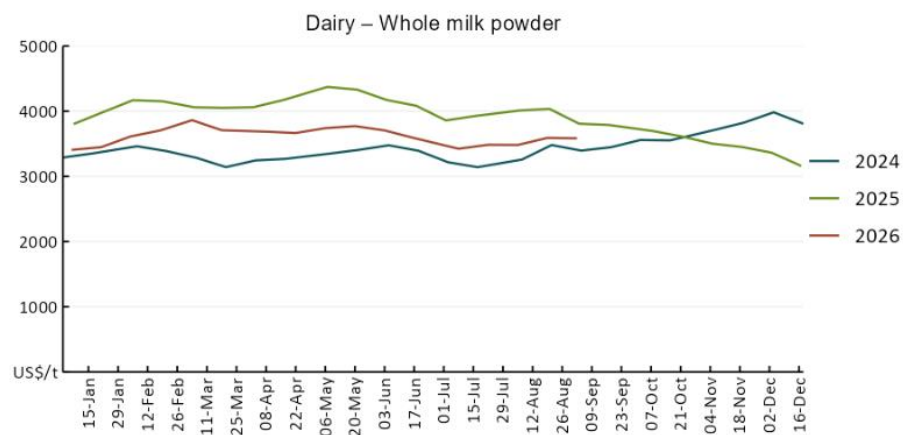


3.3 Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

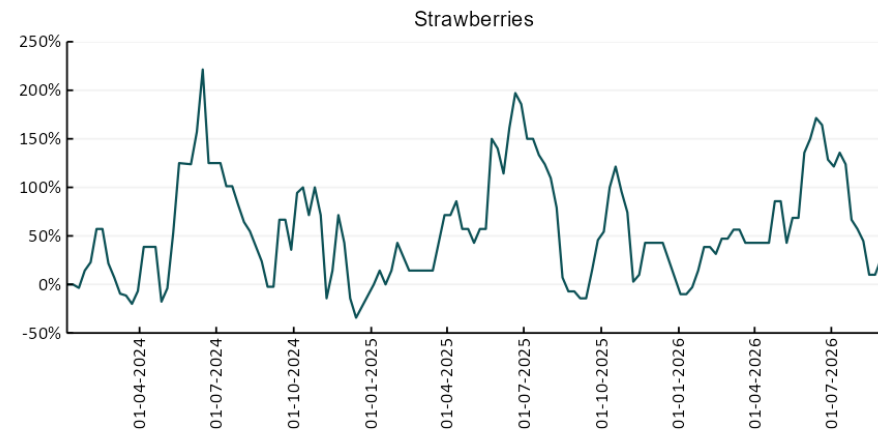
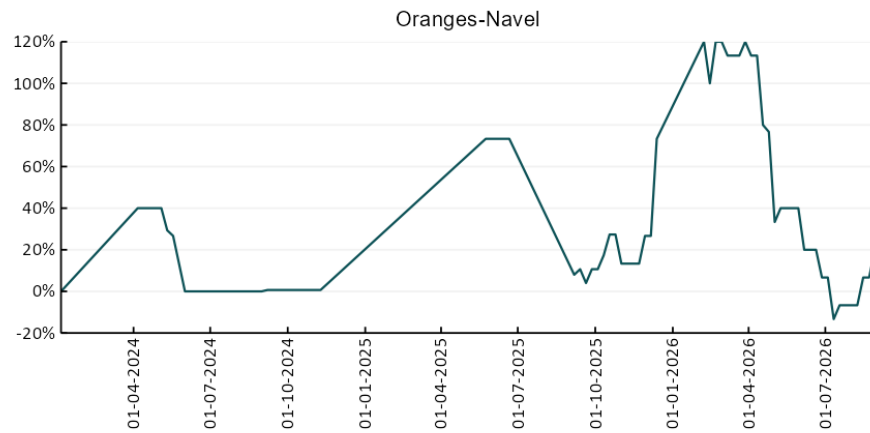
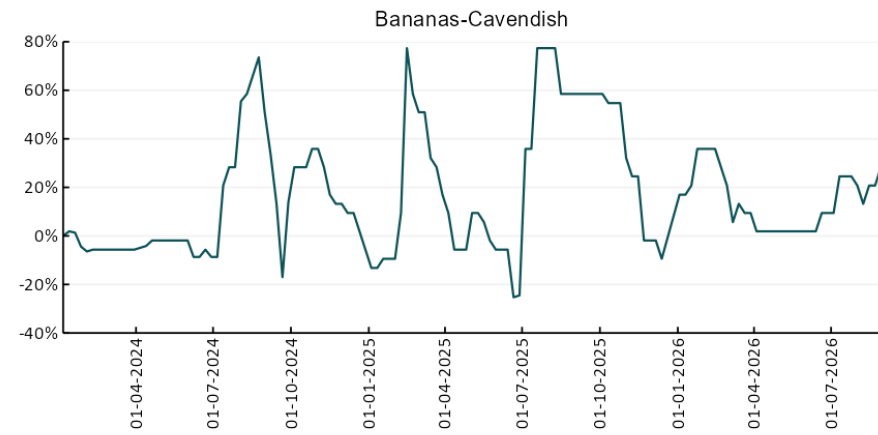
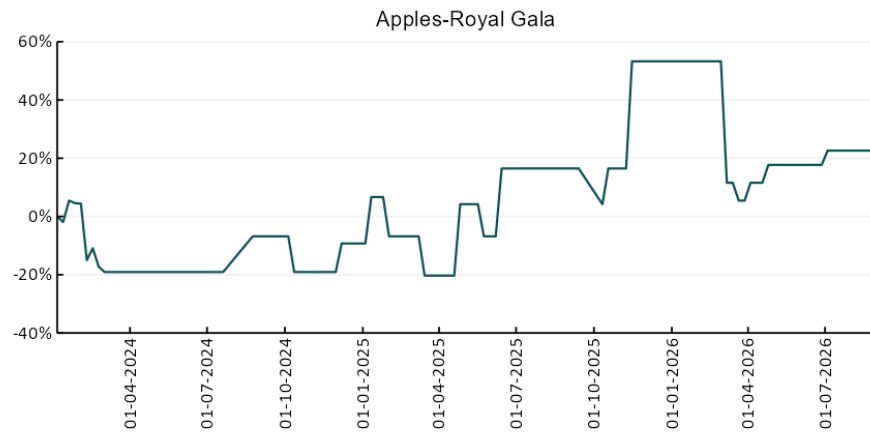


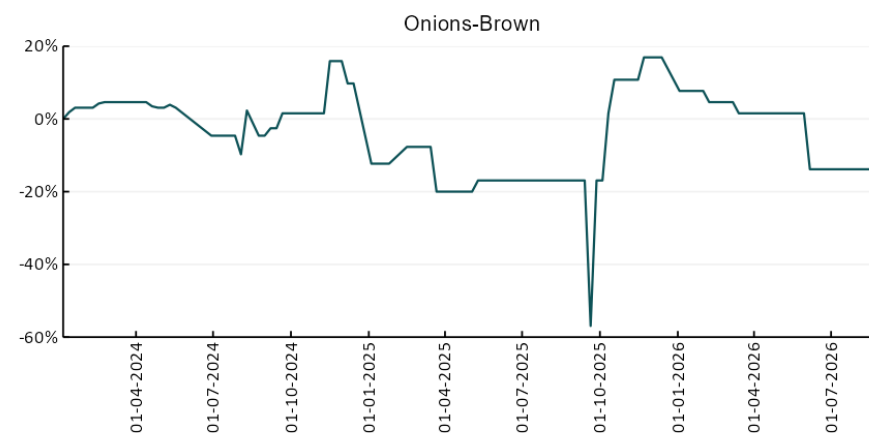
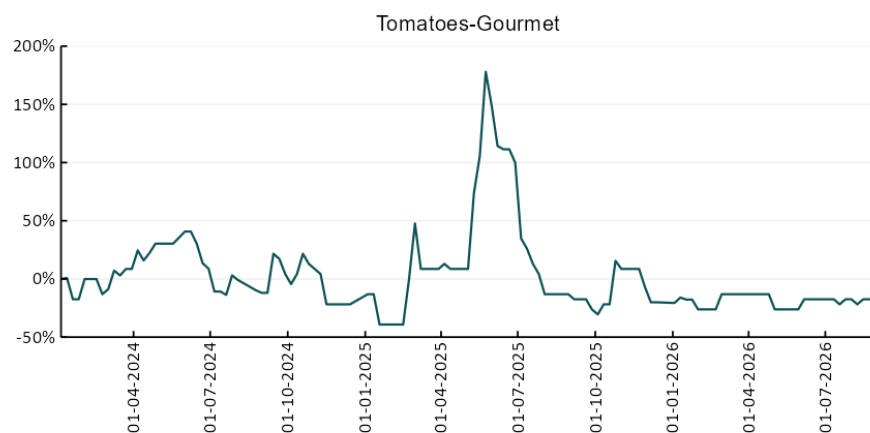
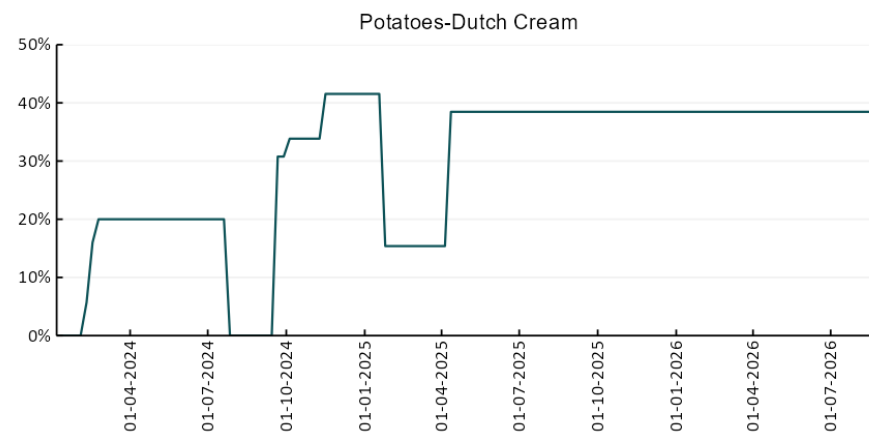
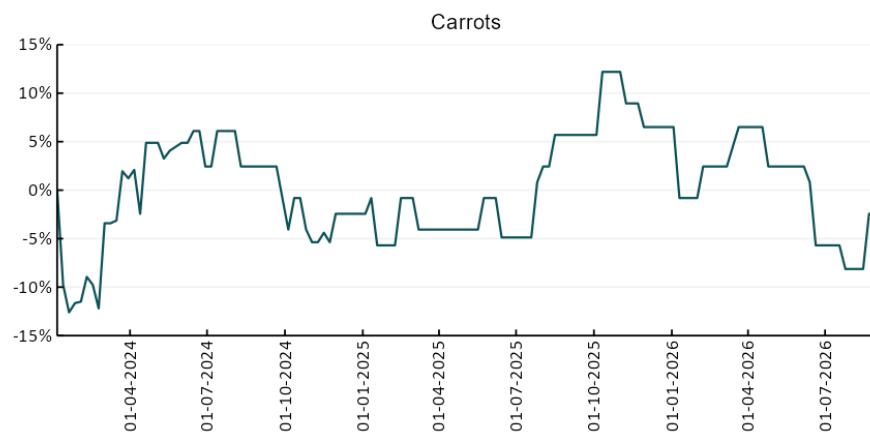


3.4 Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

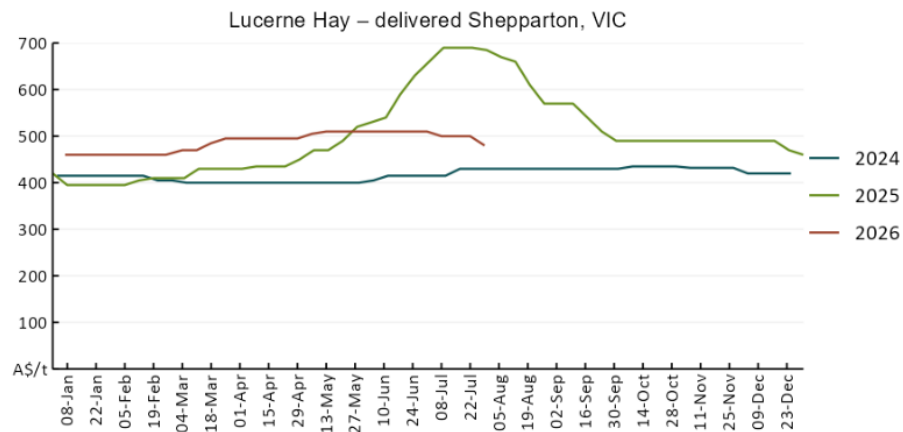
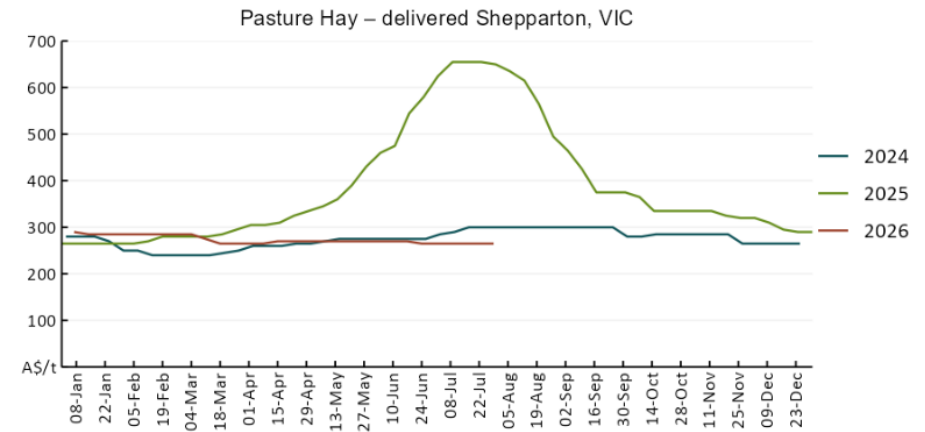
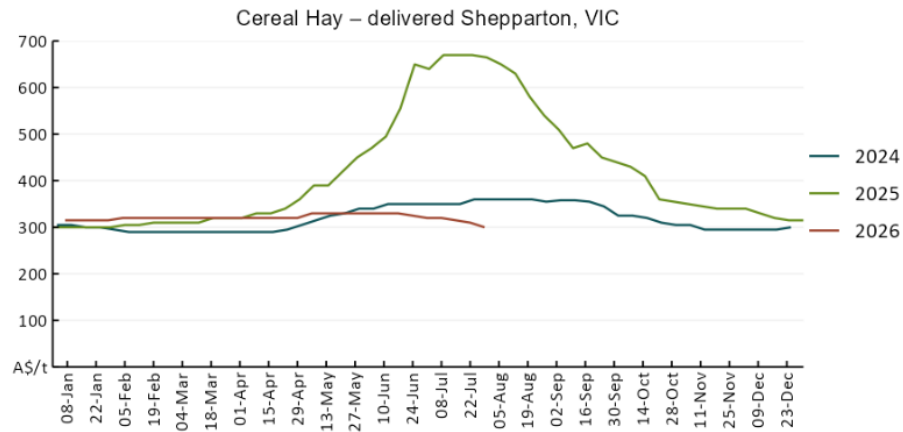


3.5 Selected fruit and vegetable prices





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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