



# Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 35/2026

10 September 2026

## Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 9 September 2026, troughs brought rainfall to parts of southern Australia.
  - Cropping regions in Victoria and parts of southern New South Wales recorded falls of up to 50 millimetres. In South Australia and Western Australia falls were highly variable with falls of between 1-10 millimetres were observed in most regions, with scattered areas in Western Australia seeing 10-25 millimetres of rainfall. These falls are expected to continue to support winter crop and pasture growth.
- Over the 8 days to 17 September 2026, rainfall is expected in south-eastern and central Australia, while much of the remainder of Australia is expected to remain largely dry.
  - Most cropping regions in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and southern New South Wales are forecast to receive 1-10 millimetres, while northern cropping regions are forecast to stay largely dry. If realised, these falls are likely to continue to support positive winter crop yield expectations in southern regions and above average pasture growth across much of the southeast.
- The national rainfall outlook for October to December 2026 indicates an above average chance of below median rainfall across parts of south-eastern Australia as well as parts of the far north of the country. However, there is an above average chance of median to above median rainfall much of the remainder Australia.
  - The current rainfall outlook for October to December 2026 suggests a decreased chance of exceeding average falls across some cropping regions in south-eastern Australia but increased chances of exceeding average falls in Western Australia, Queensland and northern New South Wales. If forecast rainfall totals are realised, they are likely to be sufficient to continue to support the current strong yield potential of winter crops across much of southern Australia and improve pasture growth outcomes in regions where previous rainfall was below average. However, the close to median rainfall forecast across most cropping regions in Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales may arrive too late to improve below average expected winter and summer crop production outcomes.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 130 gigalitres (GL) between 3 September 2026 and 10 September 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 14,844 GL, equivalent to 67% of total storage capacity. This is 3% or 518 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.
- Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from \$336/ML on 3 September 2026 to \$342/ML on 10 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

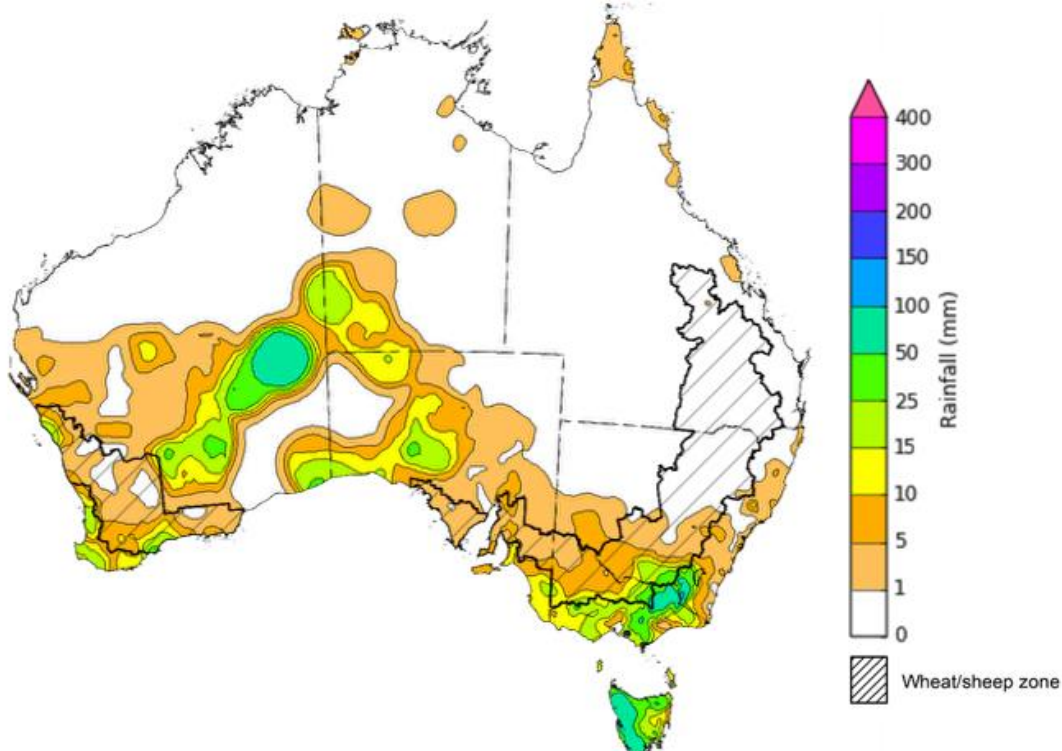
In the week ending 9 September 2026, troughs brought rainfall to parts of southern and central Australia, while much of the rest of Australia remained largely dry.

- Falls of 5-100 millimetres were recorded across scattered areas of eastern and southern Western Australia, southern New South Wales and Victoria, with Tasmania seeing 15-100 millimetres.
- Parts of South Australia and the southern Northern Territory saw lighter falls of 5-25 millimetres.
- In contrast, much of the remainder of Australia saw little to no rainfall.

In cropping regions, some rainfall was recorded across parts of southern Australia.

- In Victoria and parts of southern New South Wales falls of up to 50 millimetres were recorded. In South Australia and Western Australia falls were highly variable with falls of between 1-10 millimetres were observed in most regions, with scattered areas in Western Australia seeing 10-25 millimetres of rainfall.
  - 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 central and northern New South Wales.

**Rainfall for the week ending 9 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/>

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## 1.2. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

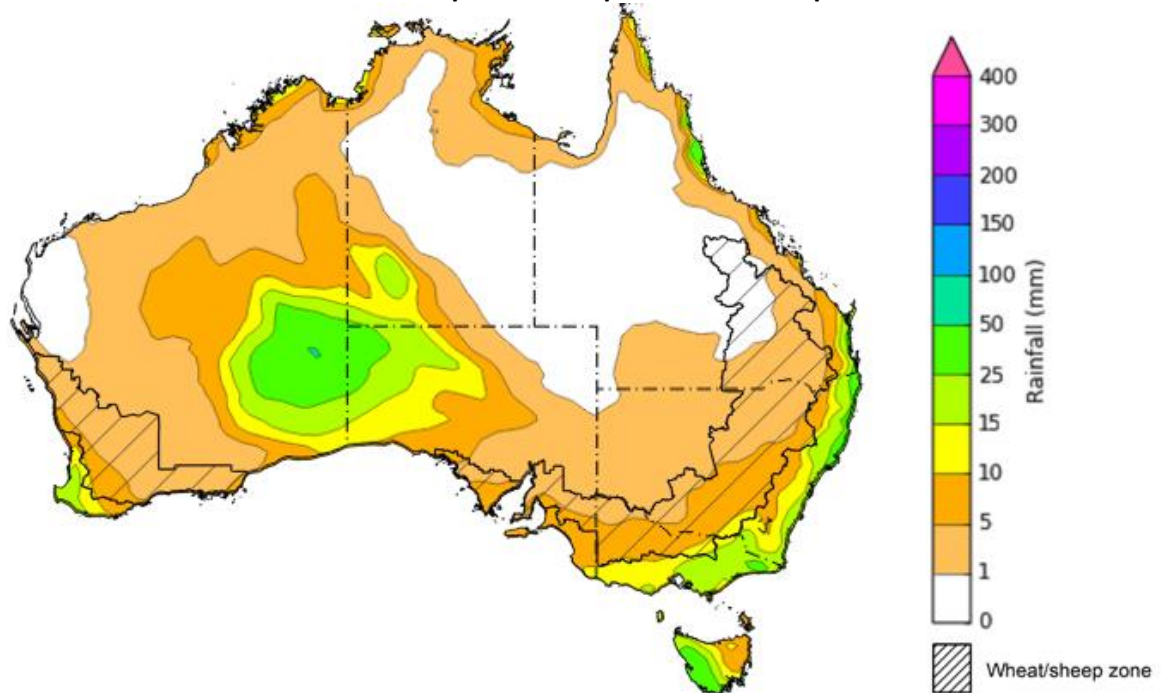
Over the 8 days to 17 September 2026, rainfall is expected across parts of south-eastern and central Australia, while much of the remainder of Australia is expected to remain largely dry.

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

Across all cropping regions, falls are expected to be low:

- Most cropping regions in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and southern New South Wales are forecast to receive 1-10 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 mostly dry across most cropping regions in northern New South Wales and Queensland.

**Total forecast rainfall for the period 10 September to 17 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.

### 1.3. National Climate Outlook

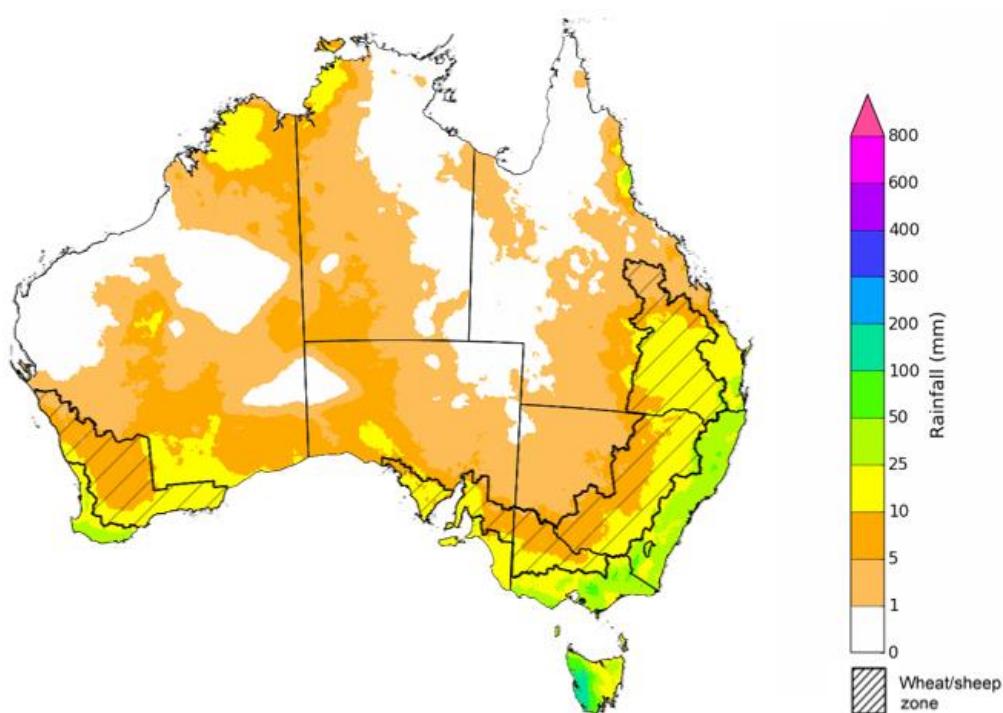
The Bureau of Meteorology has indicated that El Niño is underway in the tropical Pacific. Sea surface temperatures in the central tropical Pacific are above El Niño thresholds and atmospheric indicators are also aligning with an El Niño state. This suggests ocean-atmosphere coupling is acting to reinforce the El Niño state, which is likely to strengthen and maintain this event until at least the autumn of 2027. The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) has returned to neutral. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) has returned to neutral following a period of positive temperatures. Models suggest a positive IOD event is likely in the spring, however, the magnitude of this event is likely to be low.

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

The Bureau of Meteorology's climate model indicates a 75% chance of October rainfall totals between 5-50 millimetres across the south and east of the country, including southern Western Australia, Victoria, and eastern New South Wales. Isolated regions, including alpine regions of Victoria and western Tasmania, are likely to see higher falls of up to 300 millimetres. Northern and central Australia is likely to see little to no rainfall.

Across most winter and summer cropping regions, there is a 75% chance of receiving rainfall totals of between 5-25 millimetres during October 2026. If these relatively low expected rainfall totals are realised across parts of south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales, they are unlikely to substantially improve forecast winter and summer crop production as well as pasture growth. In contrast, above average soil moisture levels across much of southern Australia means that despite these forecast falls being below average for this time of year, they are likely to provide sufficient moisture to support the development and maturation of winter crops and maintain above average pasture growth rates.

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



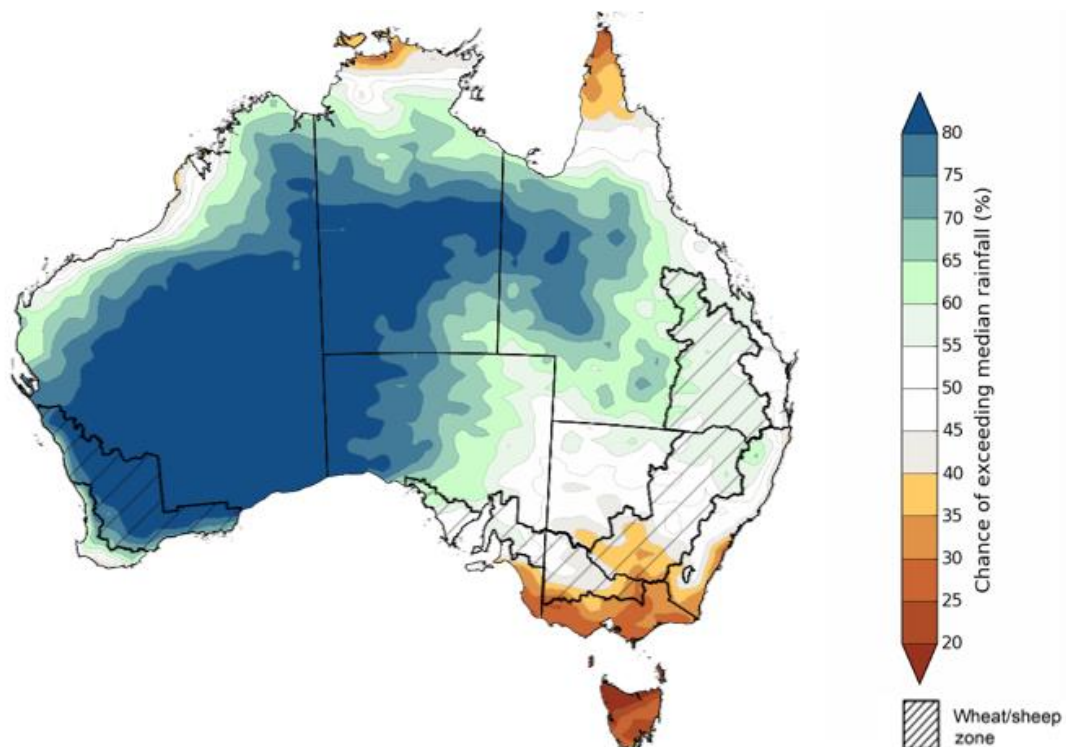
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The rainfall outlook for **October 2026 to December 2026** indicates an increased tendency towards **below median rainfall** across large areas of south-eastern Australia as well as parts of far north of the country. However, there is an **increased probability of median to above median rainfall** much of the remainder Australia.

During the October 2026 to December 2026 period the chance of receiving above median rainfall across Western Australian cropping regions is 65-80%. Meanwhile most cropping regions in South Australia, Queensland, and northern New South Wales have a 50-65% probability of above median rainfall. Cropping regions in Victoria and southern New South Wales are showing lower probabilities, ranging from 25-50% chance of exceeding the October to December median.

#### Chance of exceeding the median rainfall October 2026 to December 2026



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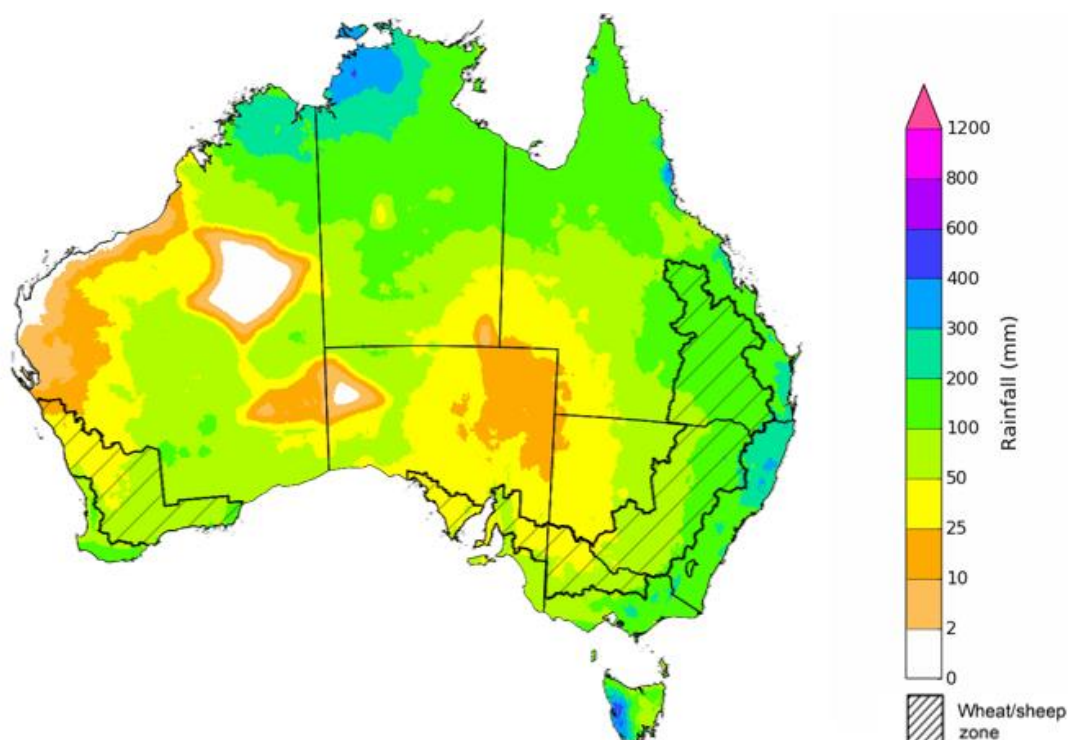
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The rainfall outlook for October 2026 to December 2026 suggests a 75% chance of receiving rainfall totals of between 50-300 millimetres across much of eastern and northern Australia. Higher falls in excess of 300 millimetres are expected across western Tasmania, scattered areas of eastern New South Wales, as well as alpine regions of Victoria and parts of the tropical north. Lower rainfall totals are forecast for central and western regions, with much of Western Australia, South Australia, south-western Queensland and western parts of New South Wales and Victoria likely to see 25-100 millimetres.

In cropping regions, there is a 75% chance of receiving between 100-200 millimetres across much of Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales. Southern cropping regions, including Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and southern New South Wales are likely to see lower falls of 25-100 millimetres.

If these forecast October through December rainfall totals are realised, they are likely to be sufficient to support at least average plant growth, in areas with average or better levels of soil moisture. They are also likely to be sufficient to continue to support the current strong yield potential of winter crops across much of southern Australia and improve outcomes in regions where previous rainfall was below average. However, the close to median rainfall forecast across most cropping regions in Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales may arrive too late to materially improve below average expected winter and summer crop production outcomes.

#### **Rainfall totals that have a 75% chance of occurring October 2026 to December 2026**



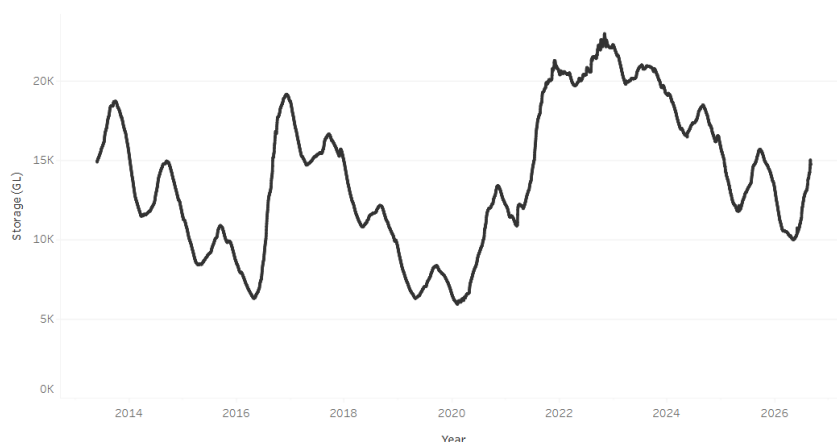
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## 1.4. Water markets – current week

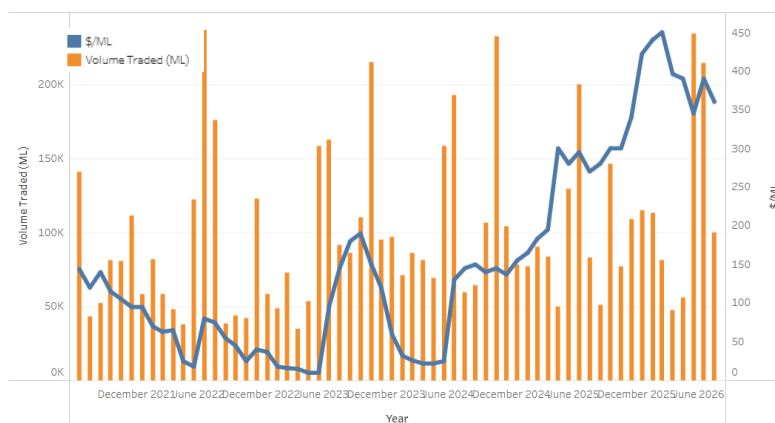
Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) increased by 130 gegalitres (GL) between 3 September 2026 and 10 September 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 14,844 GL, equivalent to 67% of total storage capacity. This is 3% or 518 GL less than the same time last year. Water 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 \$336/ML on 3 September 2026 to \$342/ML on 10 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     | 229   |
| NSW Murrumbidgee     | 300   |
| Vic Greater Goulburn | 307   |
| Vic Murray Below     | 342   |

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.

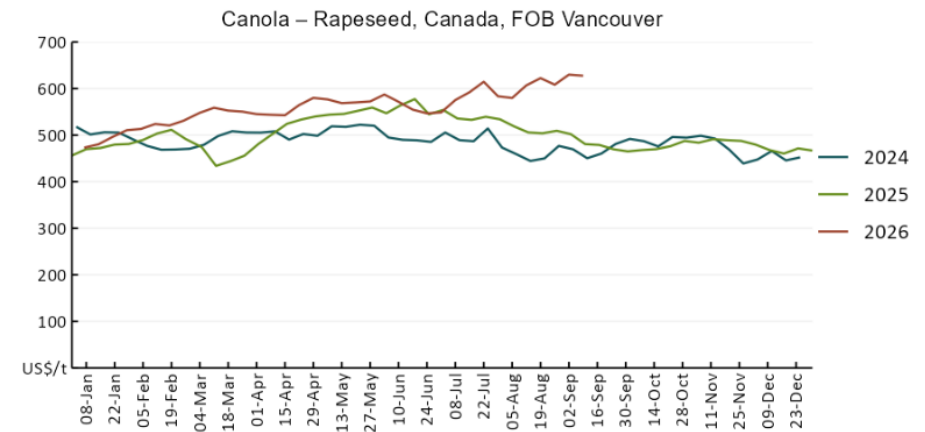
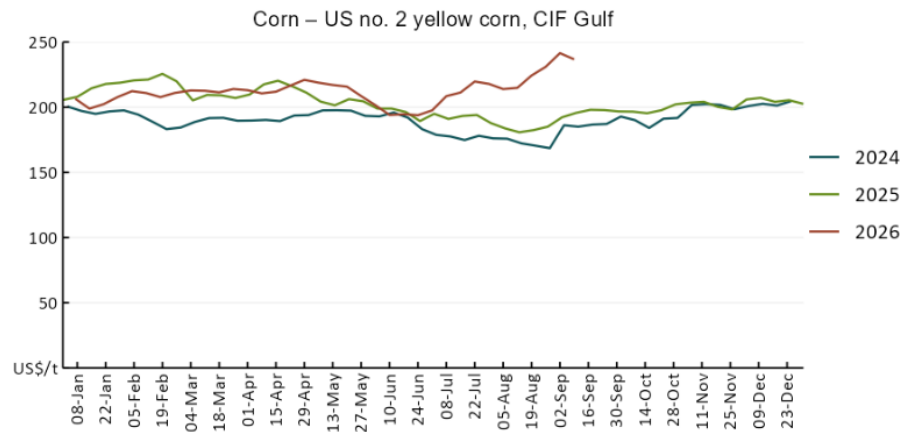
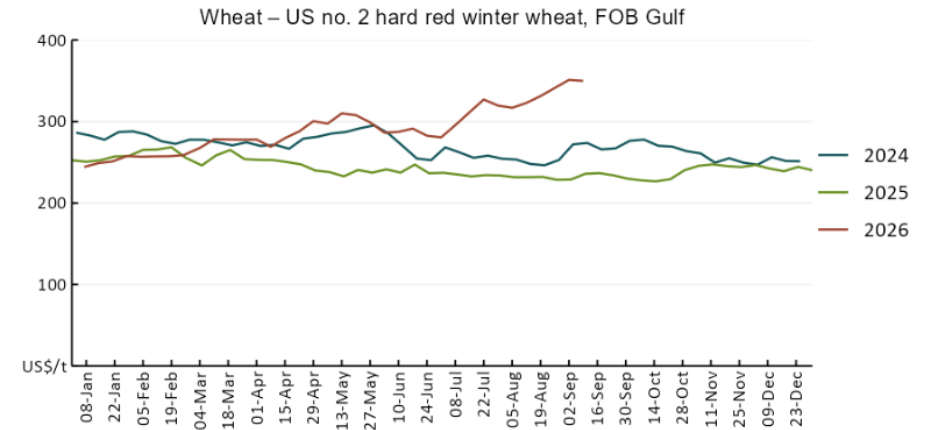
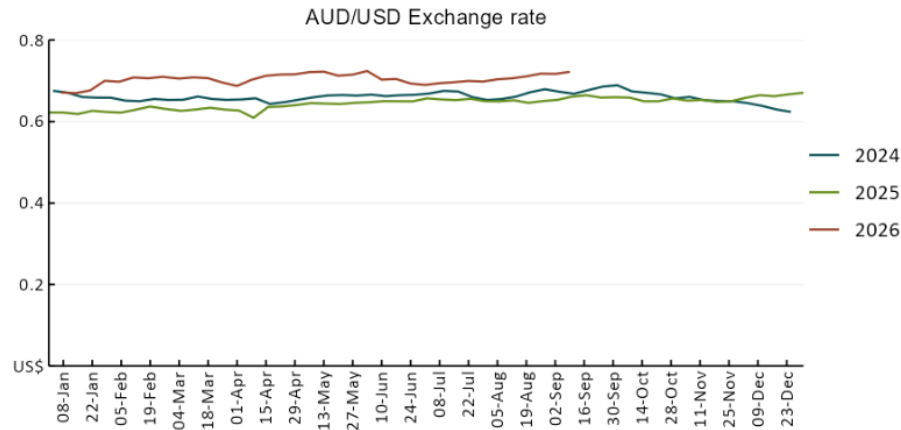
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit

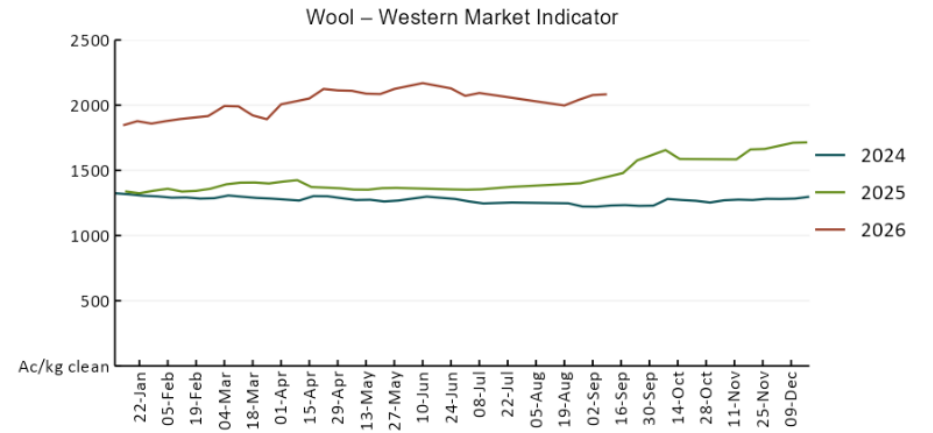
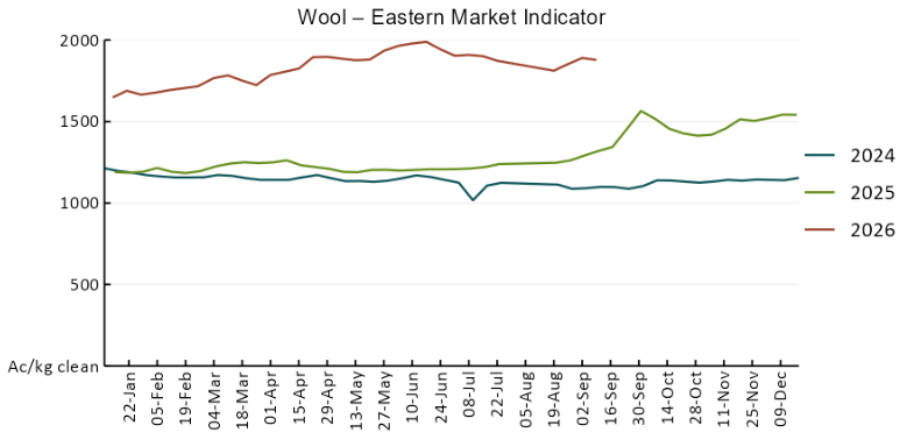
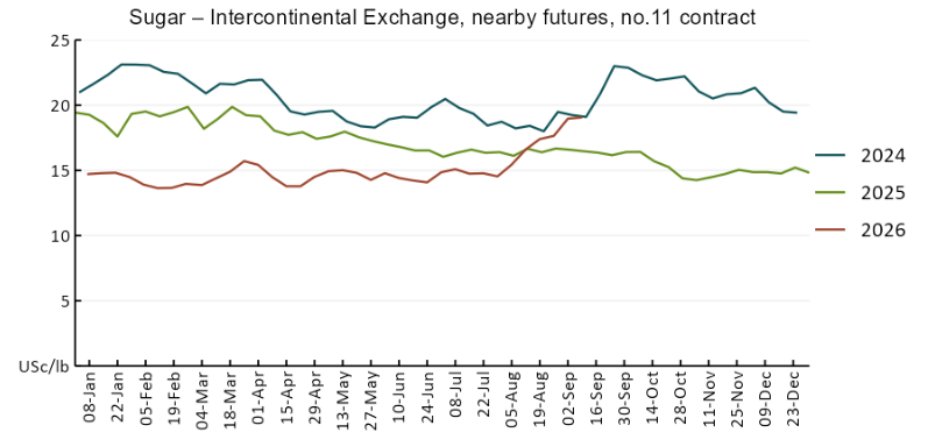
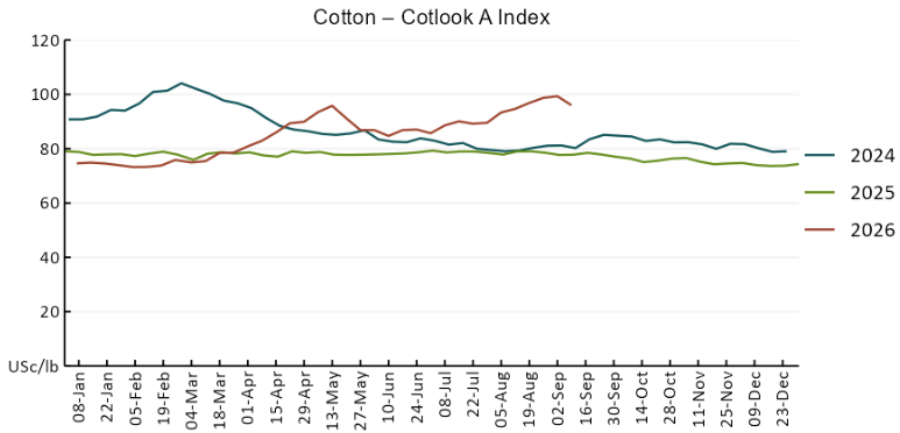
[https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly\\_update/weekly-update-260903](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-260903)

## 2. Commodities

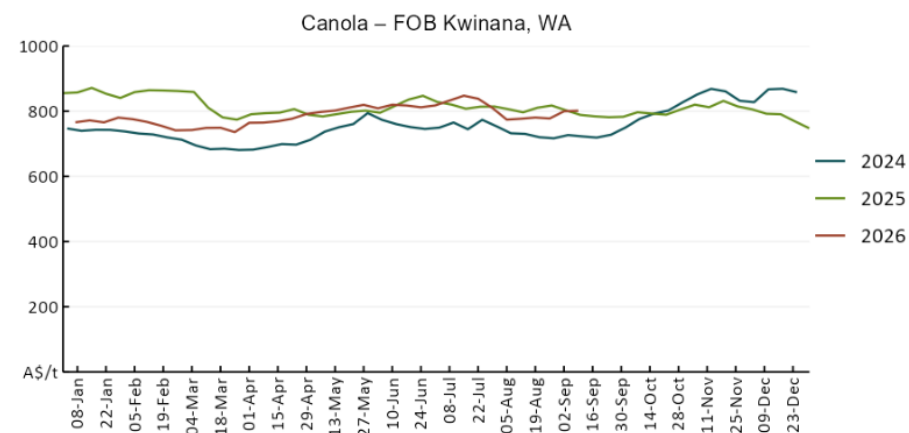
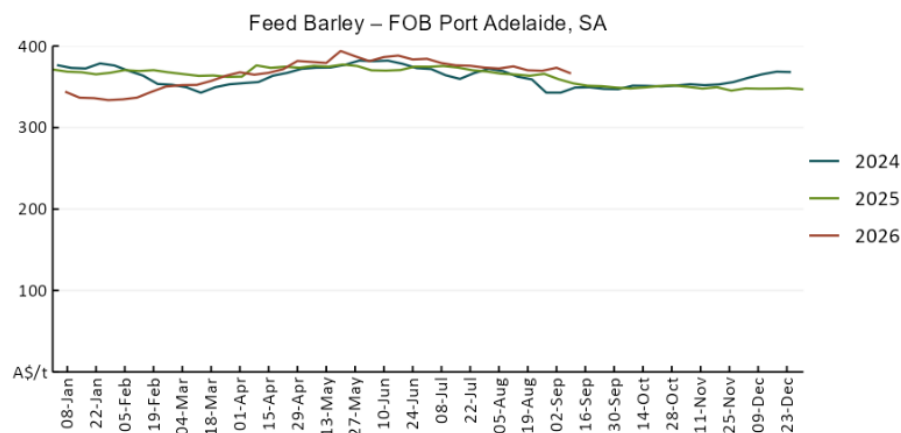
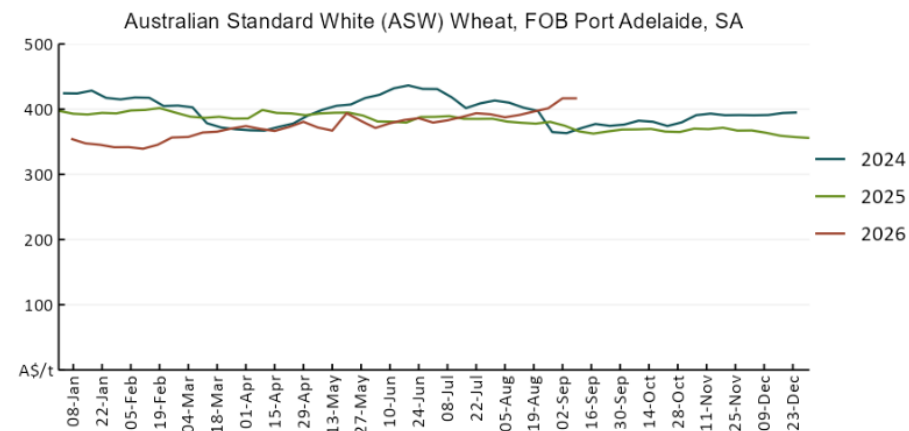
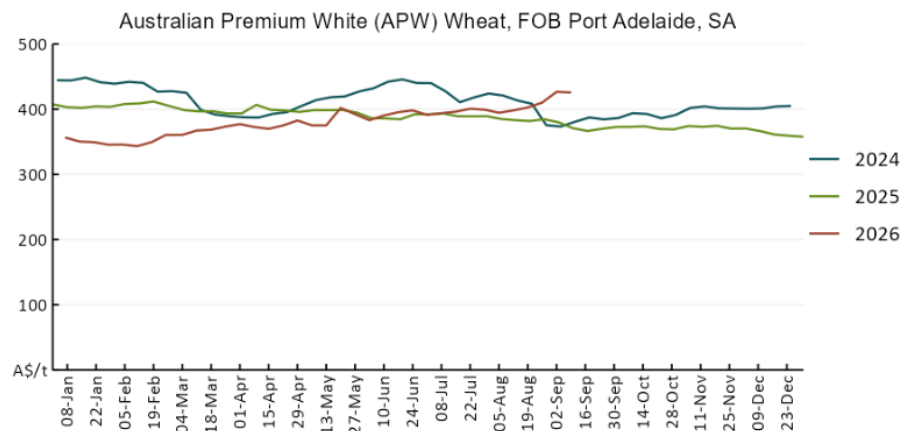
| Indicator                                                         | Week average | Unit        | Latest Price | Previous Week | Weekly change | Price 12 months ago | Annual change |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| <b>Selected world indicator prices</b>                            |              |             |              |               |               |                     |               |
| AUD/USD Exchange rate                                             | 9-Sep        | A\$/US\$    | 0.72         | 0.72          | 1%            | 0.66                | 9%            |
| Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf                  | 9-Sep        | US\$/t      | 350          | 351           | 0%            | 234                 | 50%           |
| Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf                             | 9-Sep        | US\$/t      | 237          | 242           | -2%           | 196                 | 21%           |
| Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver                          | 9-Sep        | US\$/t      | 628          | 630           | 0%            | 483                 | 30%           |
| Cotton – Cotlook A Index                                          | 9-Sep        | USc/lb      | 96.0         | 99.3          | -3%           | 78.0                | 23%           |
| Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract | 9-Sep        | USc/lb      | 19.1         | 19.0          | 1%            | 16.4                | 16%           |
| Wool – Eastern Market Indicator                                   | 9-Sep        | Ac/kg clean | 1,878        | 1,890         | -1%           | 1,352               | 39%           |
| Wool – Western Market Indicator                                   | 9-Sep        | Ac/kg clean | 2,084        | 2,078         | 0%            | 1,529               | 36%           |
| <b>Selected Australian grain export prices</b>                    |              |             |              |               |               |                     |               |
| Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA       | 9-Sep        | A\$/t       | 426          | 427           | 0%            | 372                 | 14%           |
| Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA      | 9-Sep        | A\$/t       | 417          | 417           | 0%            | 367                 | 13%           |
| Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA                               | 9-Sep        | A\$/t       | 366          | 373           | -2%           | 354                 | 4%            |
| Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA                                          | 9-Sep        | A\$/t       | 802          | 800           | 0%            | 789                 | 2%            |
| Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD                                 | 9-Sep        | A\$/t       | 429          | 430           | 0%            | 411                 | 5%            |
| <b>Selected domestic livestock indicator prices</b>               |              |             |              |               |               |                     |               |
| Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator                             | 9-Sep        | Ac/kg cwt   | 1,002        | 990           | 1%            | 895                 | 12%           |
| Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC           | 9-Sep        | Ac/kg cwt   | 878          | 867           | 1%            | 741                 | 18%           |
| Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator                              | 9-Sep        | Ac/kg cwt   | 1,192        | 1,179         | 1%            | 1,176               | 1%            |
| Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price              | 26-Aug       | Ac/kg cwt   | 373          | 374           | 0%            | 461                 | -19%          |
| Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia                           | 5-Aug        | Ac/kg lwt   | 440          | 430           | 2%            | 369                 | 19%           |
| <b>Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices</b>           |              |             |              |               |               |                     |               |
| 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%          |

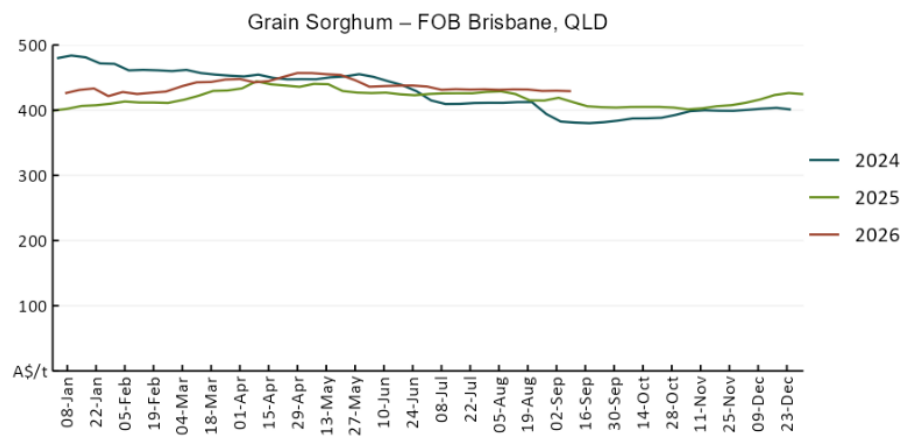
## 2.1. Selected world indicator prices



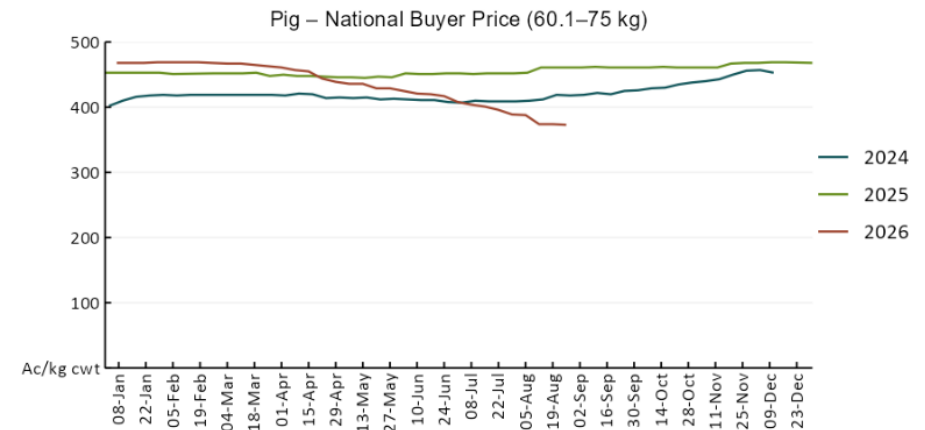
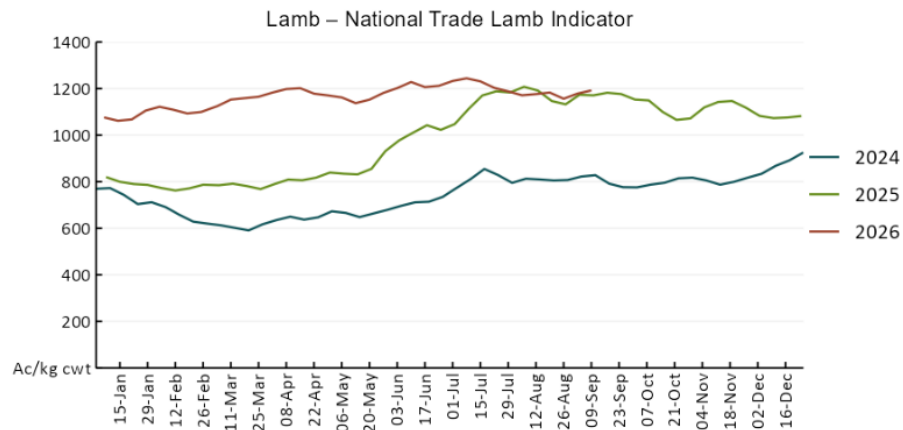
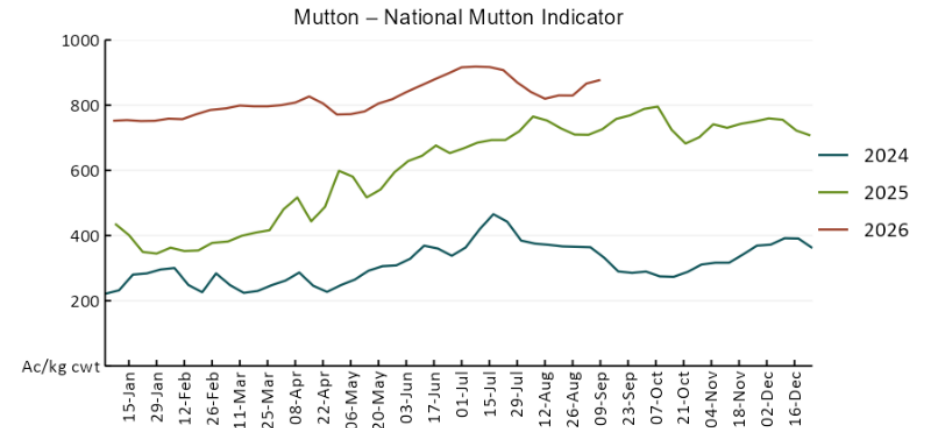
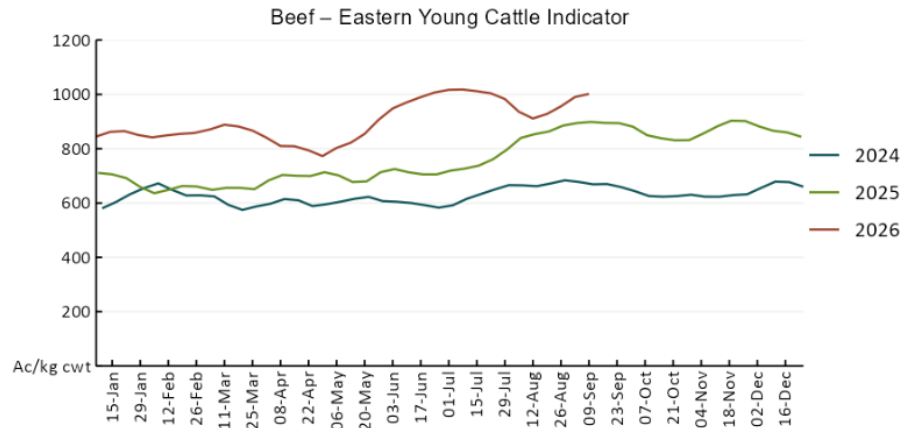


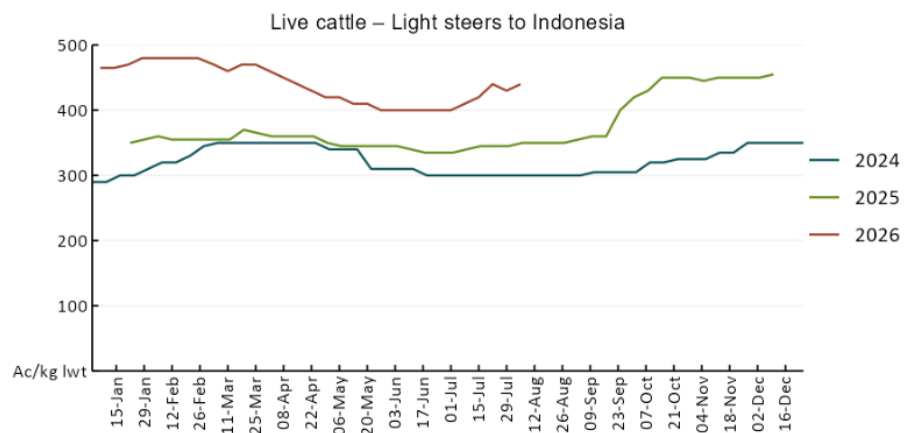
### 3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices



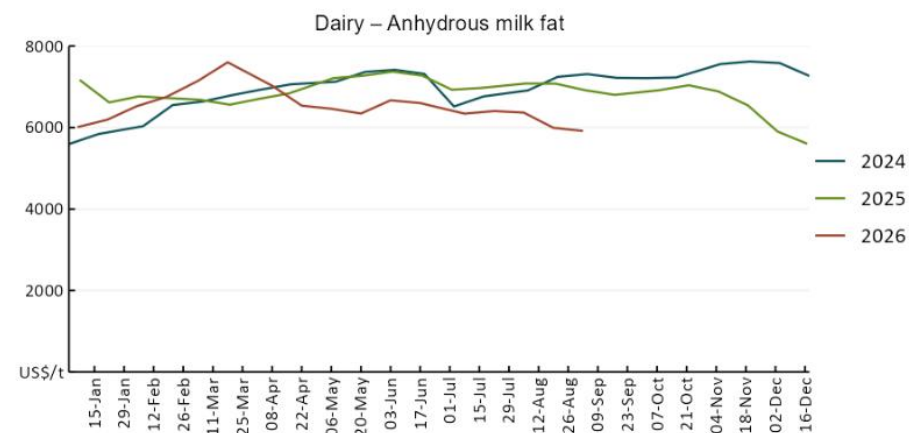
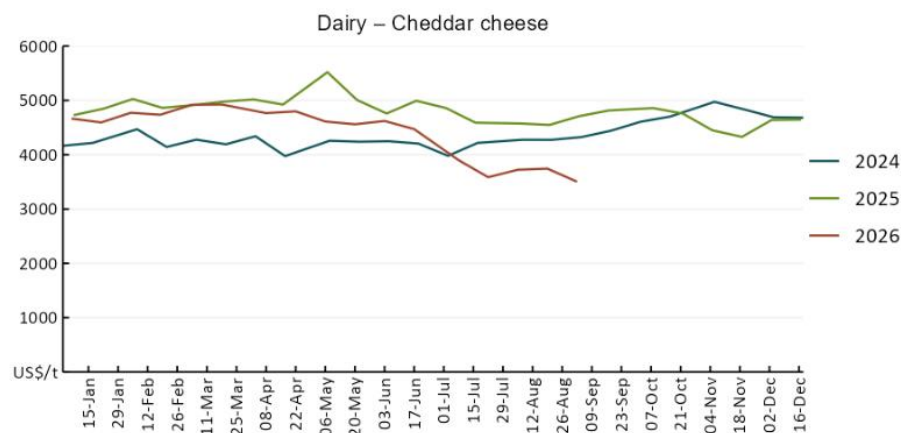
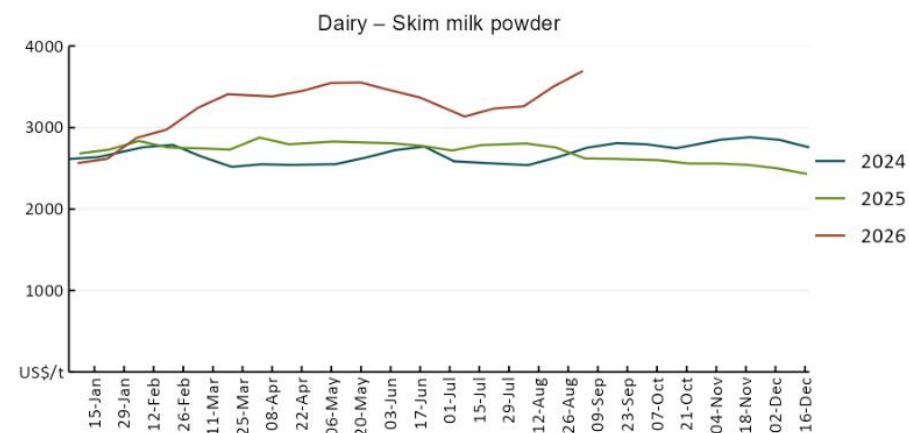
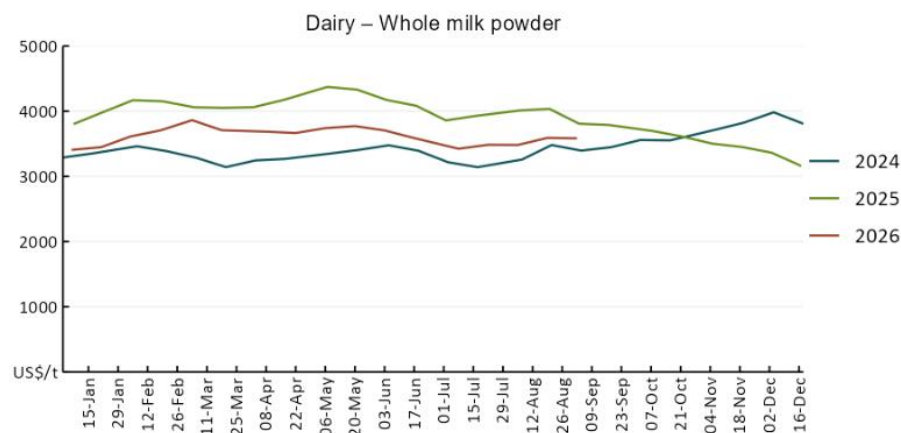


### 3.3 Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

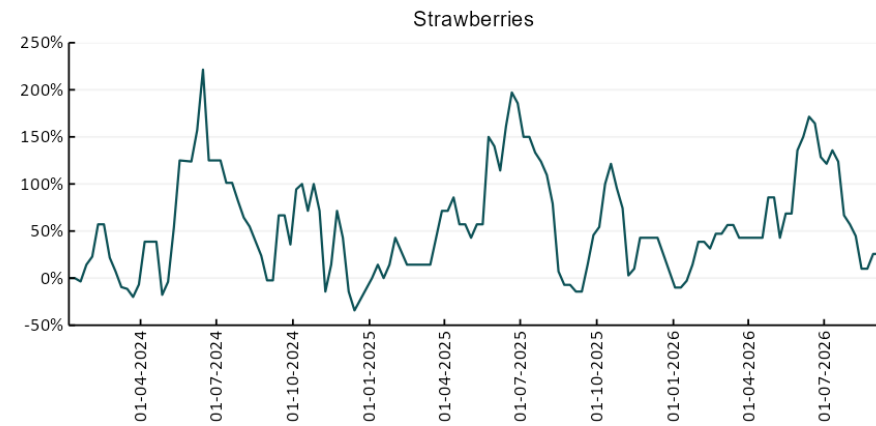
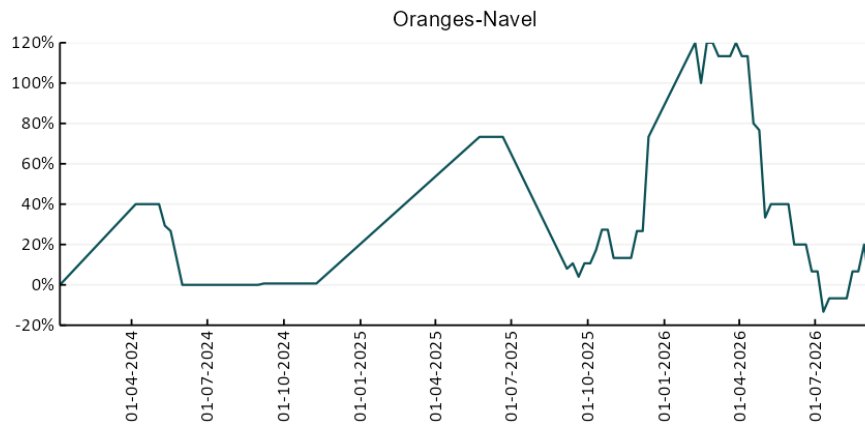
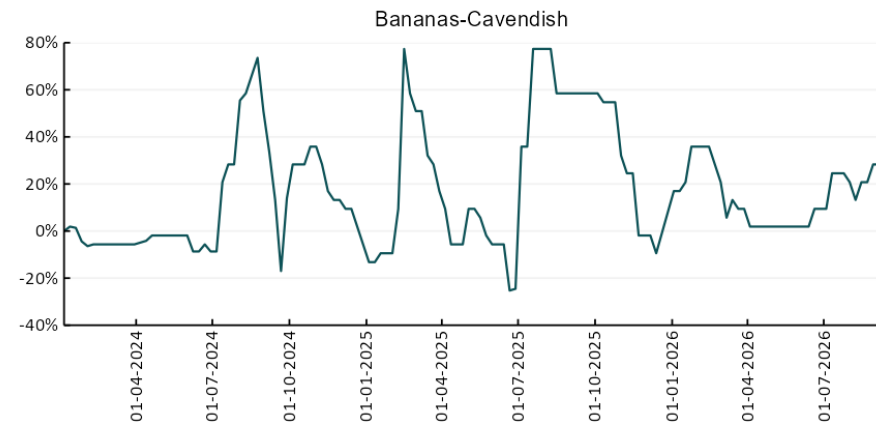
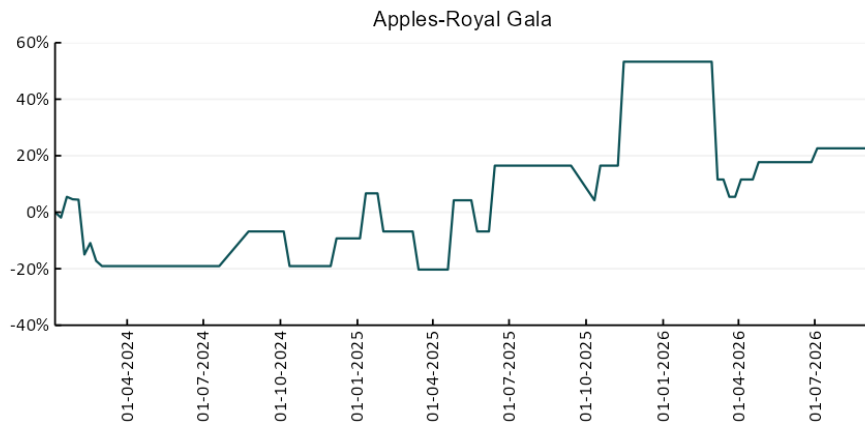


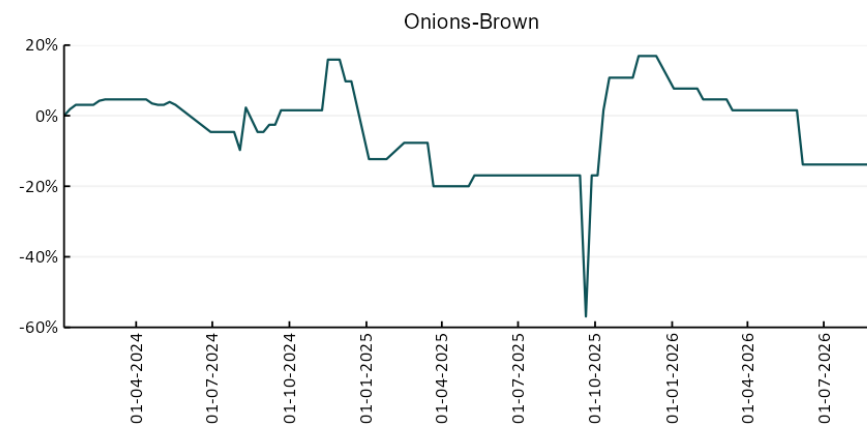
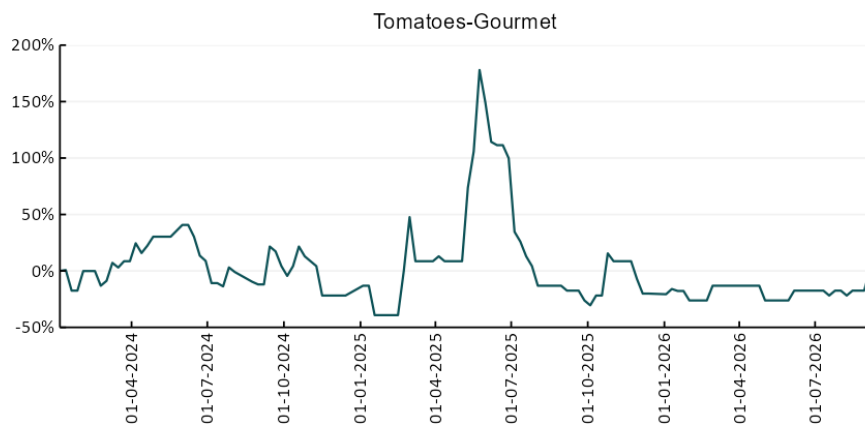
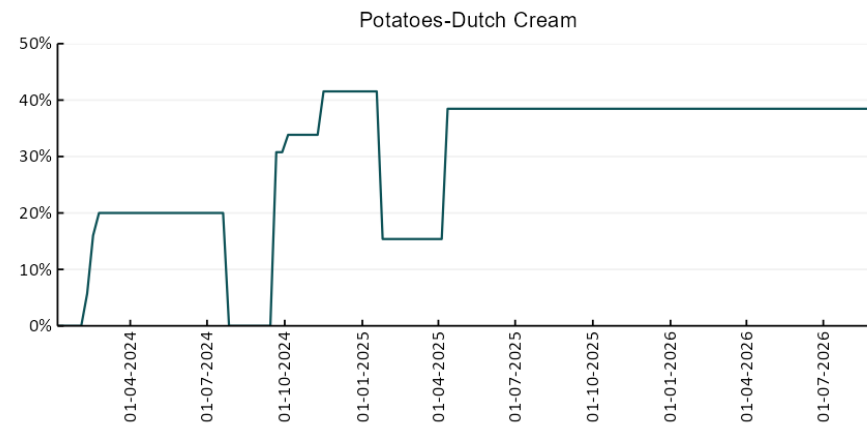
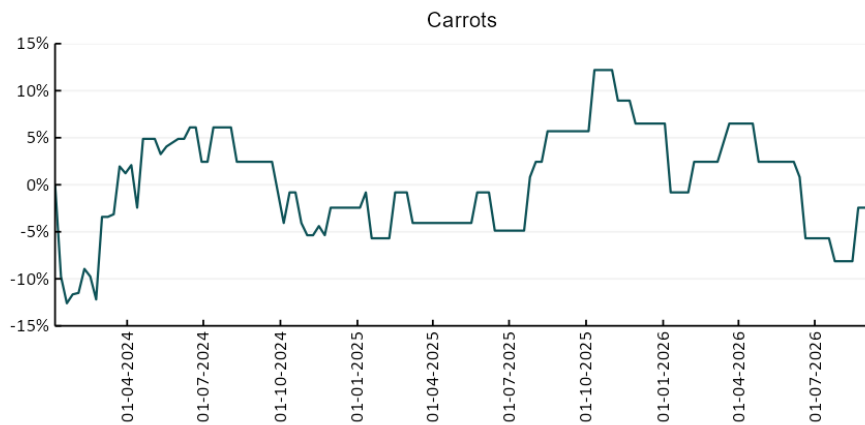


### 3.4 Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

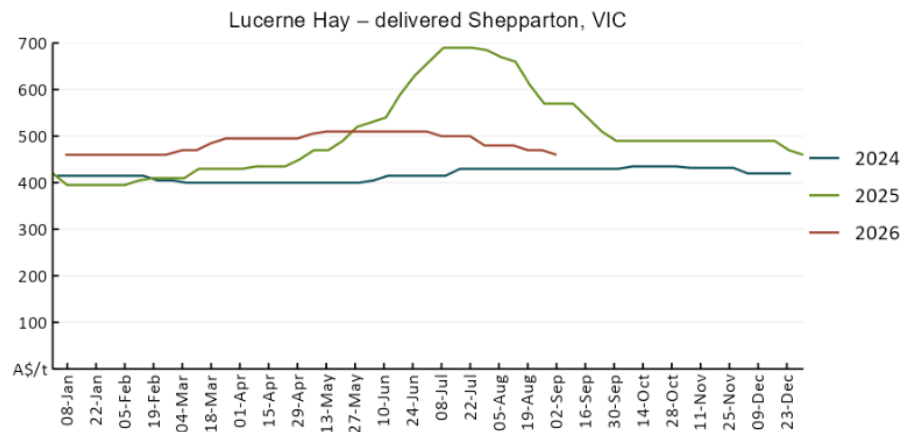
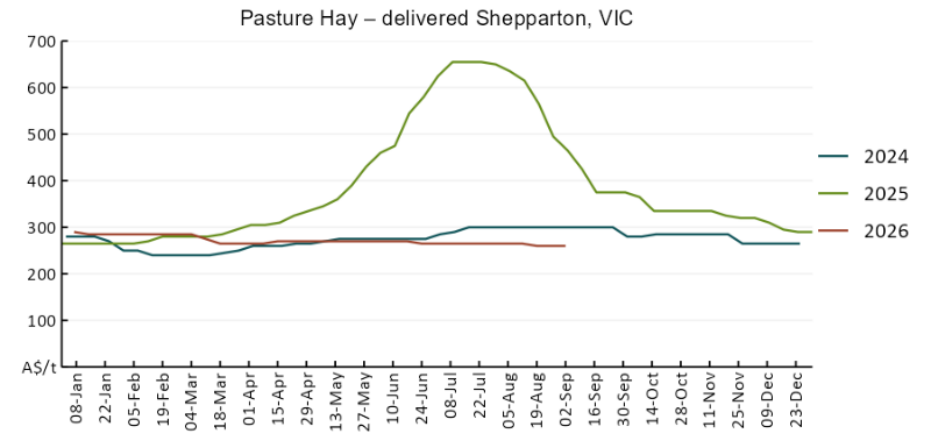
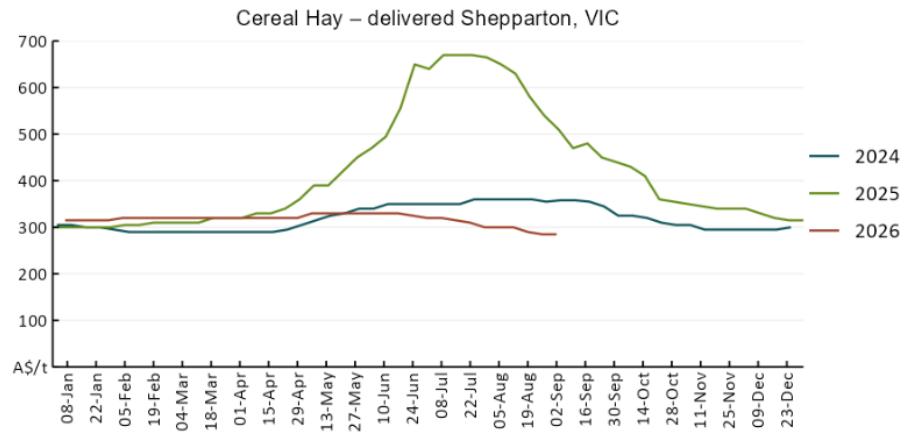


### 3.5 Selected fruit and vegetable prices





### 3.6 Selected domestic fodder indicator prices



## 4. Data attribution

### Climate

#### Bureau of Meteorology

- Weekly rainfall totals: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/](http://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](http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp)
- Seasonal outlook: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary/](http://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/](http://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](http://www.freshstate.com.au)

#### Pigs

- Australian Pork Limited: [www.australianpork.com.au](http://www.australianpork.com.au)

#### Dairy

- Global Dairy Trade: [www.globaldairytrade.info/en/product-results/](http://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/](http://www.cotlook.com/)

#### World sugar

- New York Stock Exchange - Intercontinental Exchange

#### Wool

- Australian Wool Exchange: [www.awex.com.au/](http://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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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, 10 September 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](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)

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### **Acknowledgements**

This report was prepared by Holly Beale and Matthew Miller.