



Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 38/2026

1 October 2026

Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 30 September 2026, rainfall was concentrated across western and scattered areas of the northern and eastern seaboard, while much of the remainder of Australia remained largely dry.
- Across cropping regions rainfall was again generally restricted to the west. In Western Australia, most areas recorded falls of between 5-25 millimetres, with falls of 25-50 millimetres and isolated totals above 50 millimetres recorded across in parts of the south.
 - These falls are expected to support winter crop development and pasture growth, particularly where higher totals were recorded.
- Over the 8 days to 8 October 2026, rainfall is forecast across large areas of southern, central and eastern Australia, with the highest totals expected in Victoria and parts of south-eastern New South Wales.
 - Cropping regions in Victoria, South Australia and central and southern New South Wales are forecast to receive 10-50 millimetres, with higher rainfall totals in southern areas. If realised, these falls are likely to provide a timely boost to soil moisture levels, support winter crop grain fill and maintain favourable pasture growth.
 - Remaining cropping regions, including Western Australia, northern New South Wales and Queensland, are generally forecast to receive only 1–10 millimetres.
- Rainfall during September 2026 was above average across much of Western Australia and parts of northern Australia, but below average across large areas of eastern and southern Australia as well as the parts of the far southwest.
 - The particularly low rainfall across the southeast has likely led to a drawdown of stored soil moisture levels to maintain forecast above average winter crop yields and above average pasture growth rates. Meanwhile, above average falls across parts of southern Western Australia would have provided a timely boost to soil moisture levels, support winter crop grain fill and maintain favourable pasture growth.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 88 gigalitres (GL) between 24 September 2026 and 1 October 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 14,991 GL, equivalent to 67% of total storage capacity. This is 4% or 589 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 \$350/ML on 24 September 2026 to \$358/ML on 1 October 2026.

1. Climate

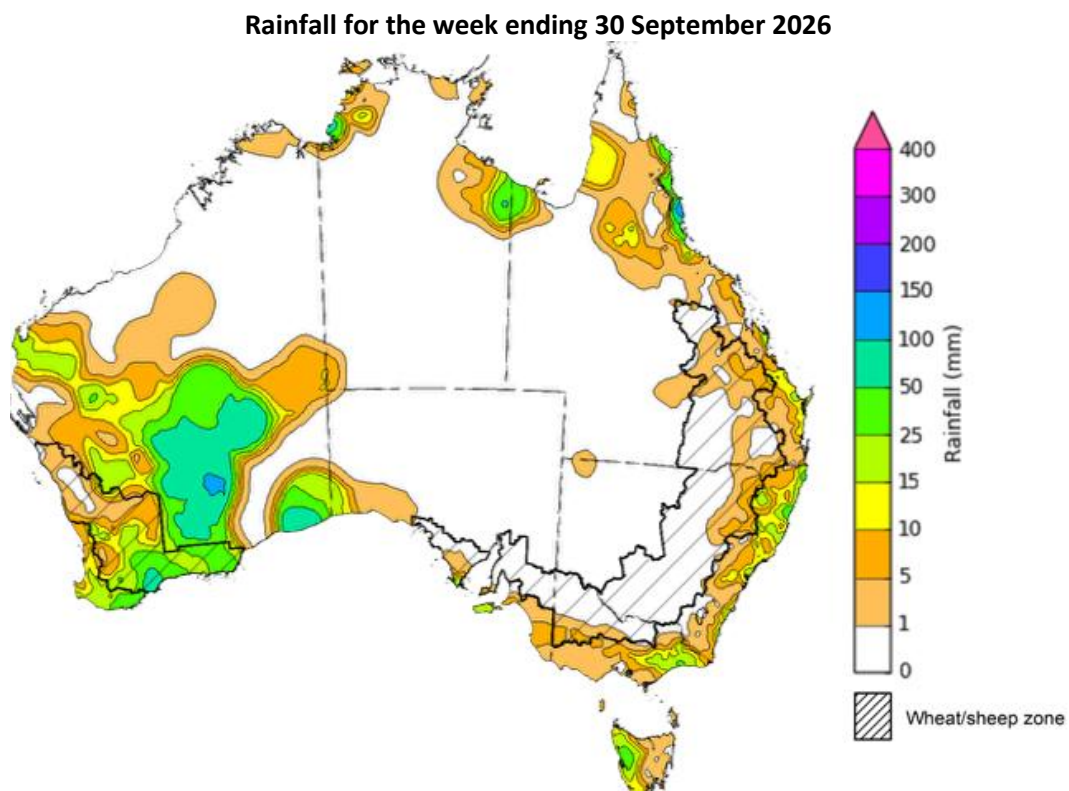
1.1. Rainfall this week

In the week ending 30 September 2026, rainfall was concentrated across western and scattered areas of the northern and eastern seaboard, while much of the remainder of Australia remained largely dry.

- The highest weekly totals were recorded in south-western Western Australia, where widespread falls of 5–50 millimetres and local totals of 50–150 millimetres were observed.
- Falls of 5–50 millimetres were also recorded across narrow bands of coastal northern and eastern Australia, and western Tasmania.
- In contrast, much of the remainder of Australia recorded little to no rainfall.

Across cropping regions, rainfall outcomes were mixed, with the most substantial falls confined to Western Australia.

- Western Australian cropping regions generally received 5–25 millimetres, with falls of 25–50 millimetres and isolated totals above 50 millimetres recorded across parts of the south.
 - These falls are expected to support winter crop development and pasture growth, particularly where higher totals were recorded.
- Cropping regions in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland recorded little to no rainfall.



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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: 30/09/2026

1.2. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

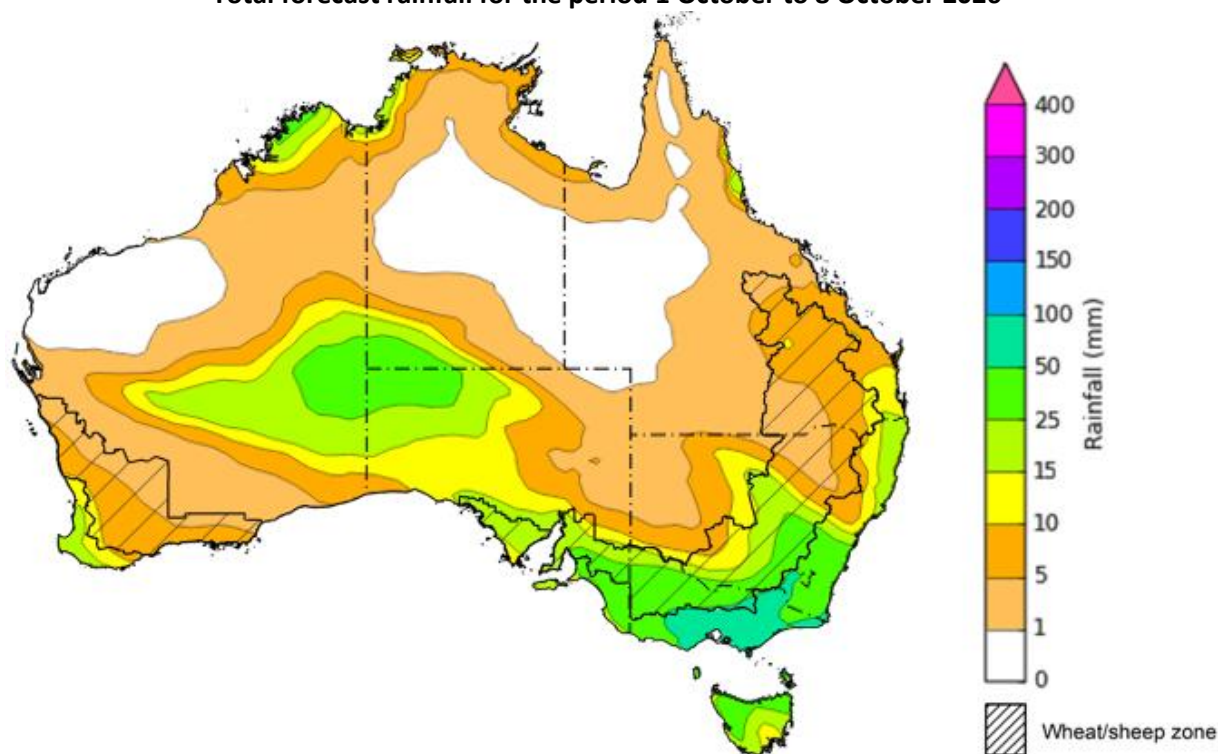
Over the 8 days from 1 to 8 October 2026, rainfall is forecast across large areas of southern, central and eastern Australia, with the highest totals expected in Victoria and parts of south-eastern New South Wales. Much of northern Australia is forecast to receive low rainfall or remain dry.

- Falls of 15-50 millimetres are forecast across much of Victoria and parts of south-eastern New South Wales, increasing to 50-100 millimetres in southern and eastern Victoria. Similar totals are forecast for isolated areas in the far southeast of New South Wales.
- Rainfall of 10-50 millimetres is forecast across parts of southern and north-western South Australia, north-eastern New South Wales, south-eastern Queensland, Tasmania, parts of the southern, central and northern Western Australia and the south and north of the Northern Territory.

Across cropping regions rainfall over the 8 days to 8 October 2026 is forecast to be highest in Victoria, South Australia and southern New South Wales, with lower totals expected across Western Australia and Queensland.

- Across the Victorian cropping regions, widespread falls of 15-50 millimetres are forecast. Southern and central New South Wales, and South Australian cropping regions are forecast to receive 10-50 millimetres.
 - If realised, these falls are likely to provide a timely boost to soil moisture levels, support winter crop grain fill and maintain favourable pasture growth.
- Cropping regions across northern New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia are forecast to receive generally 1-10 millimetres.

Total forecast rainfall for the period 1 October to 8 October 2026



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

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1.3. Monthly rainfall

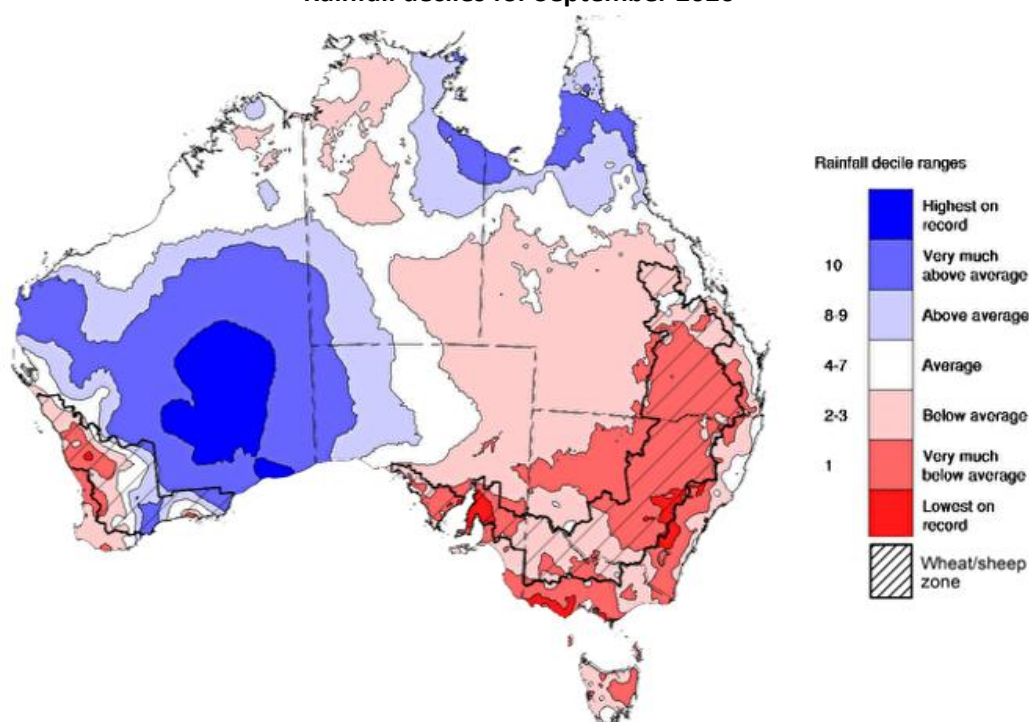
Rainfall during September 2026 was above average across much of Western Australia and parts of northern Australia, but below average across large areas of eastern and southern Australia as well as parts of the far southwest.

- Rainfall was very much above average to highest on record across parts of inland Western Australia, and above average across broader areas of western and northern Australia. In contrast, rainfall was very much below average to lowest on record across much of eastern and central New South Wales, south-eastern Queensland, southern Victoria and parts of southern South Australia and Tasmania.

Across cropping regions, September rainfall was generally very much below average, with the most pronounced deficiencies across eastern and south-eastern Australia, as well some north-western areas.

- Most cropping regions in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia generally recorded below average to very much below average rainfall. Across Western Australian cropping regions, rainfall was mostly below average to very much below average, although some south-eastern areas recorded average to very much above average rainfall.
 - These rainfall deficiencies have likely resulted in a drawdown of stored soil moisture levels to maintain forecast above average winter crop yields and above average pasture growth rates across much of the south-east. Meanwhile above average falls across parts of southern Western Australia would have provided a timely boost to soil moisture levels, support winter crop grain fill and maintain favourable pasture growth.
 - However, in areas where stored soil moisture was already limited, these conditions have likely led to substantial moisture stress at a critical period for winter crop development and may have further reduced winter crop yield particularly across northern New South Wales, Queensland and parts of Western Australia.

Rainfall deciles for September 2026



Note: Rainfall for September 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. Water markets – current week

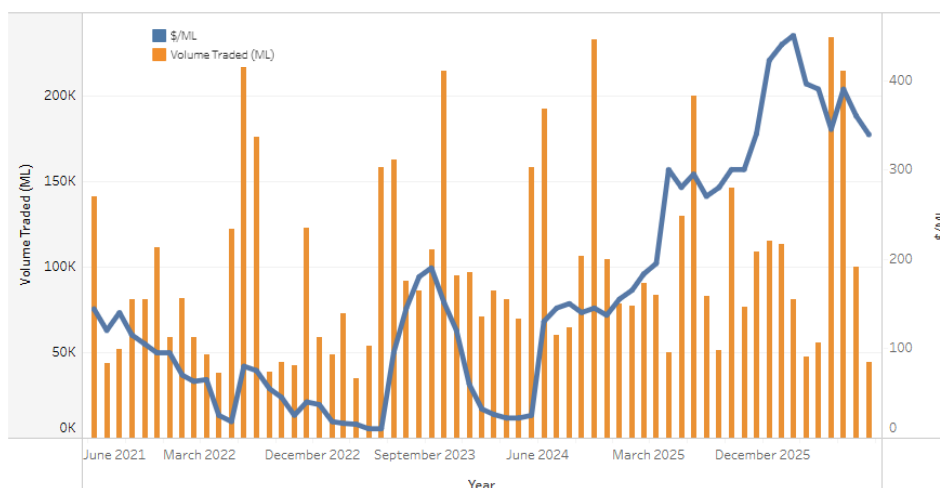
Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased by 88 gigalitres (GL) between 24 September 2026 and 1 October 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 14,991 GL, equivalent to 67% of total storage capacity. This is 4% or 589 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage 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 \$350/ML on 24 September 2026 to \$358/ML on 1 October 2026. Trade from the Goulburn to the Murray is closed. Trade downstream through the Barmah Choke is closed. Trade from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray is open.

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	205
NSW Murrumbidgee	285
Vic Greater Goulburn	336
Vic Murray Below	358

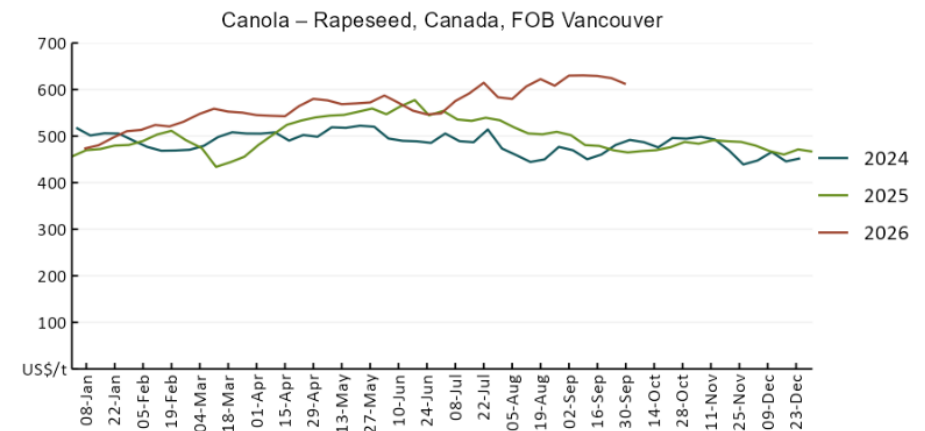
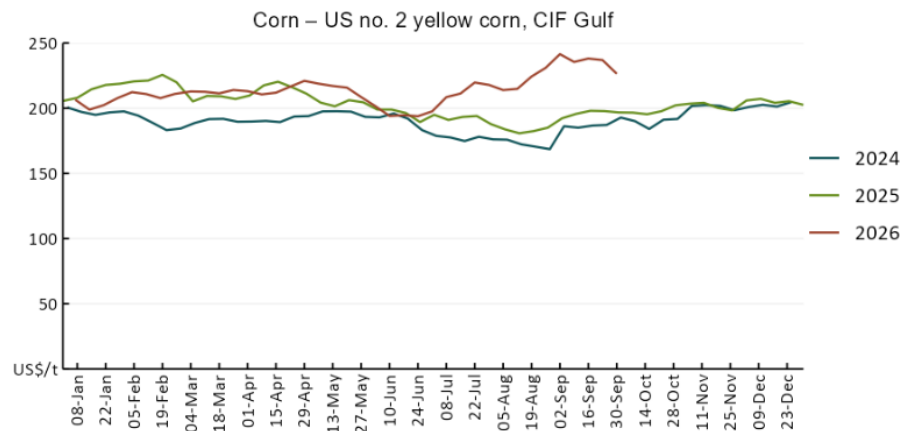
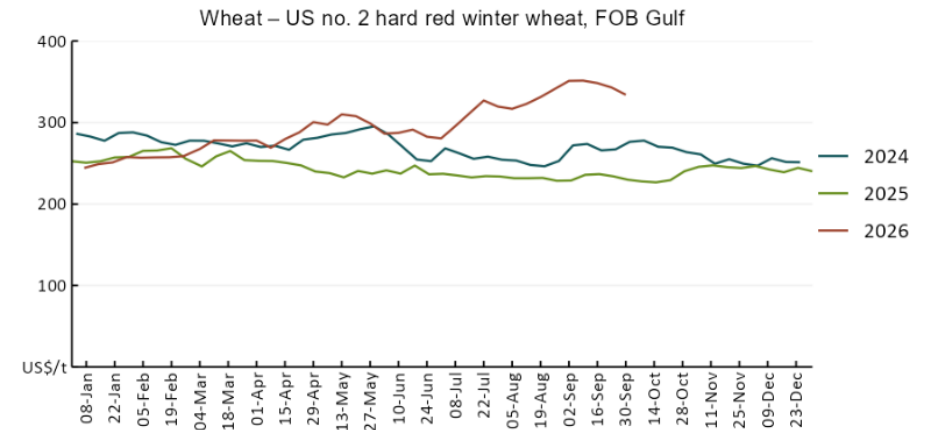
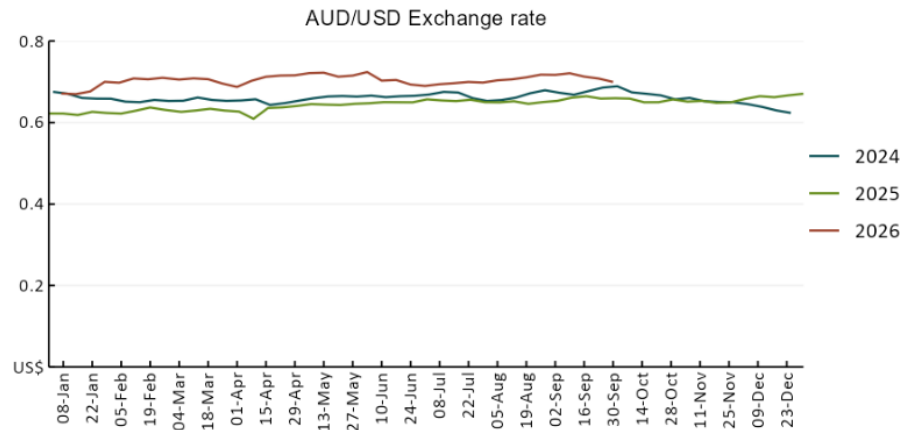
Note: The water allocation prices shown are volume weighted average prices based on the last 10 trades. Price data is sourced from Waterflow and current as at 1 October 2026.

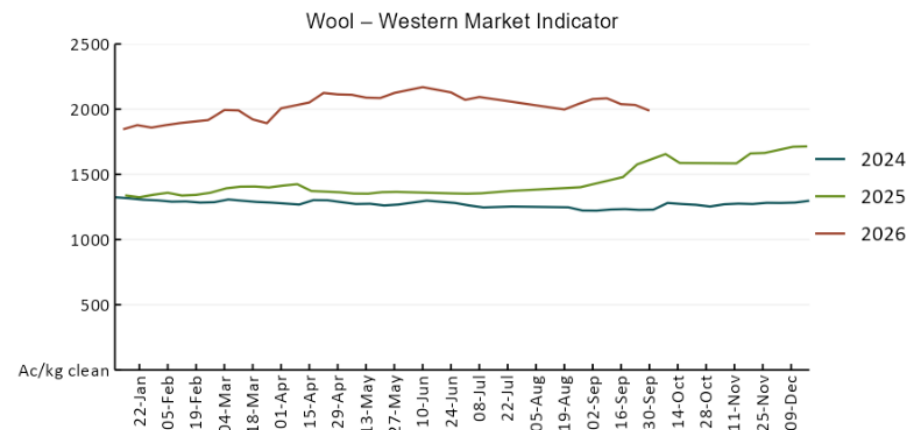
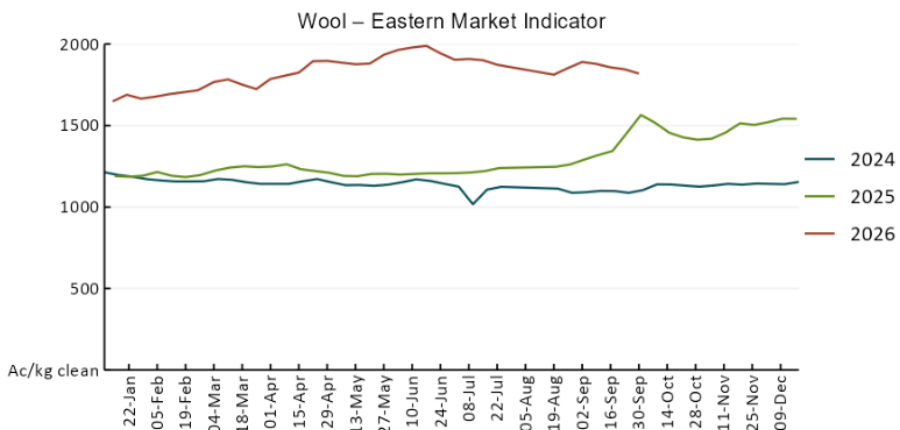
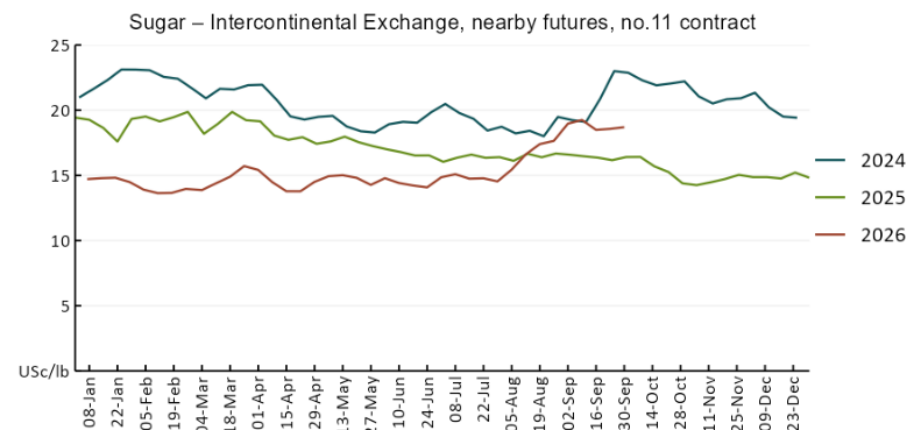
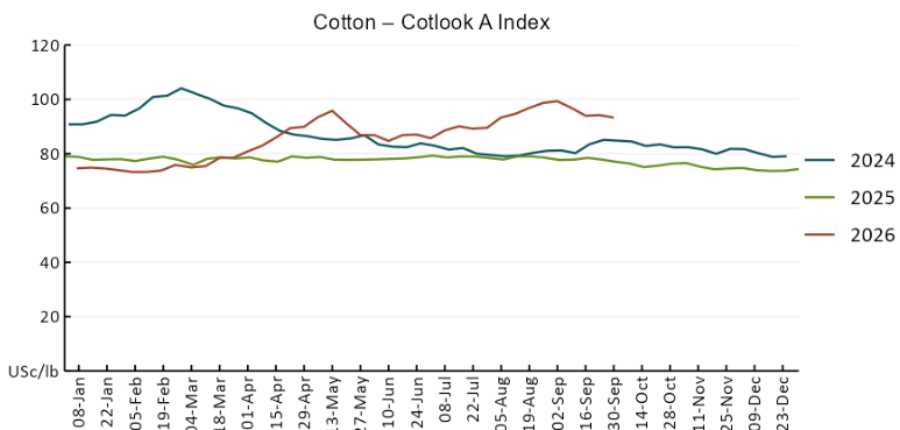
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-261001

2. Commodities

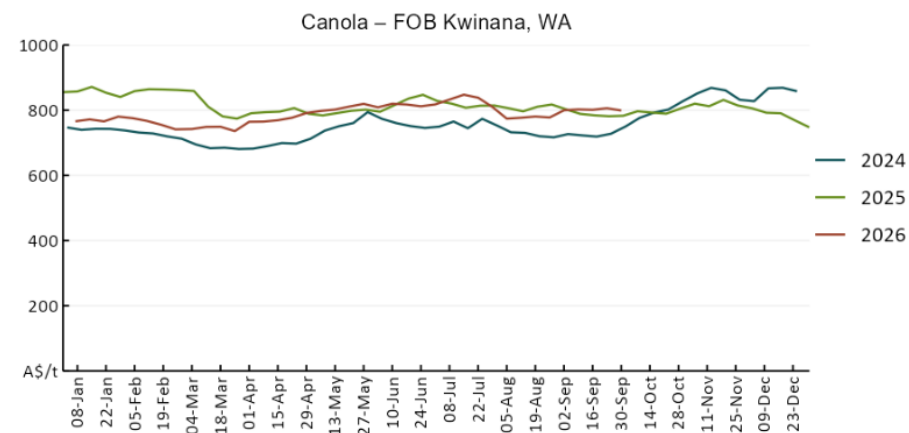
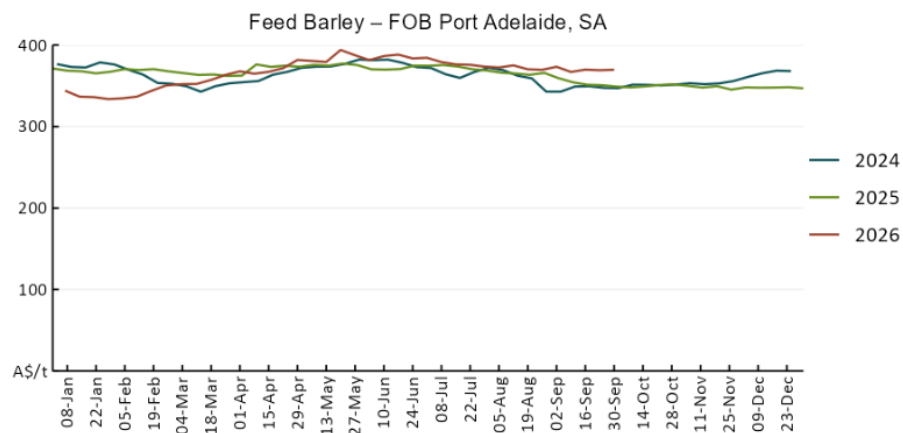
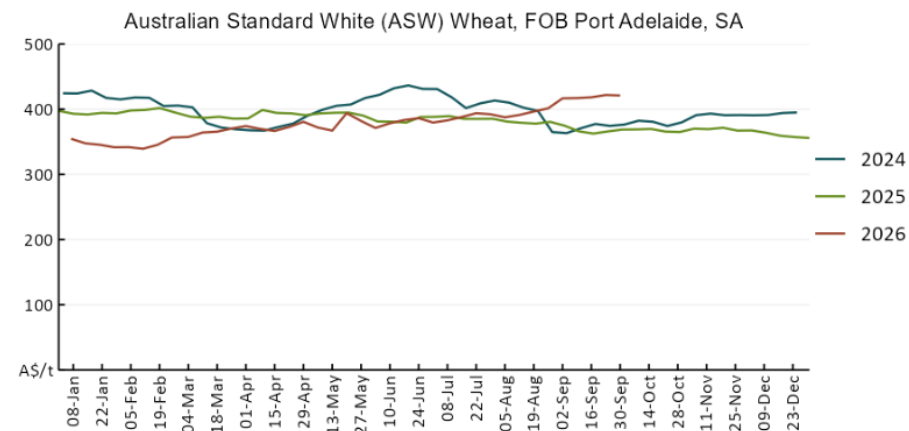
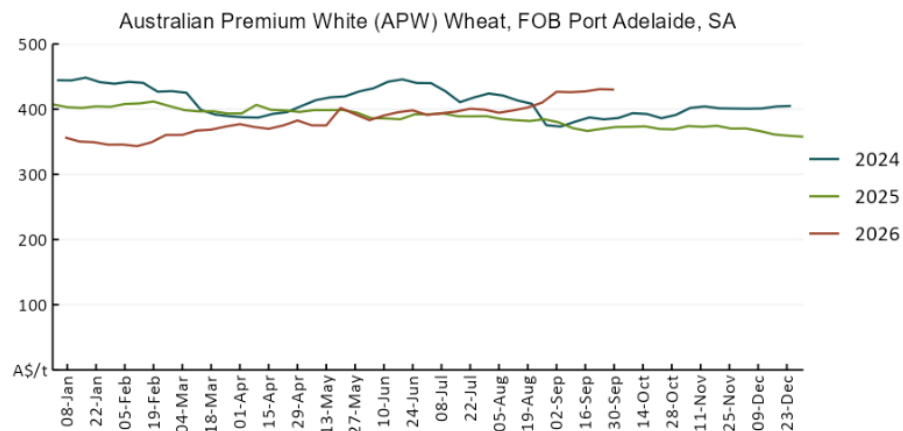
Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
Selected world indicator prices							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	30-Sep	A\$/US\$	0.70	0.71	-1%	0.66	6%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	30-Sep	US\$/t	334	343	-3%	234	43%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	30-Sep	US\$/t	226	237	-4%	196	16%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	30-Sep	US\$/t	612	625	-2%	483	27%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	30-Sep	USc/lb	93.3	94.2	-1%	78.0	20%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	30-Sep	USc/lb	18.7	18.6	1%	16.4	14%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	30-Sep	Ac/kg clean	1,819	1,845	-1%	1,352	35%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	30-Sep	Ac/kg clean	1,989	2,033	-2%	1,529	30%
Selected Australian grain export prices							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	30-Sep	A\$/t	430	431	0%	372	16%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	30-Sep	A\$/t	421	422	0%	367	15%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	30-Sep	A\$/t	370	369	0%	354	4%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	30-Sep	A\$/t	799	806	-1%	789	1%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	30-Sep	A\$/t	441	440	0%	411	7%
Selected domestic livestock indicator prices							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	30-Sep	Ac/kg cwt	914	935	-2%	895	2%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	30-Sep	Ac/kg cwt	810	827	-2%	741	9%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	30-Sep	Ac/kg cwt	1,088	1,110	-2%	1,176	-8%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	16-Sep	Ac/kg cwt	367	367	0%	461	-20%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	9-Sep	Ac/kg lwt	450	440	2%	369	22%
Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	16-Sep	US\$/t	3,565	3,585	-1%	3,800	-6%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	16-Sep	US\$/t	3,689	3,695	0%	2,618	41%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	16-Sep	US\$/t	4,075	3,503	16%	4,762	-14%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	16-Sep	US\$/t	5,739	5,917	-3%	6,860	-16%

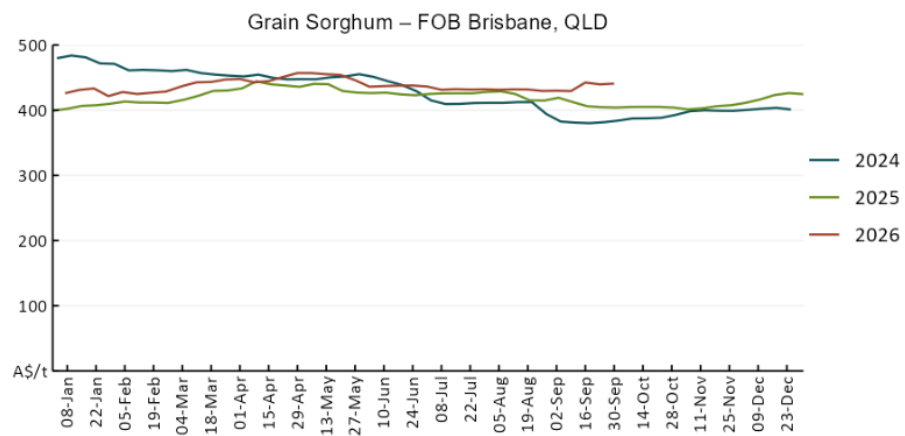
2.1. Selected world indicator prices



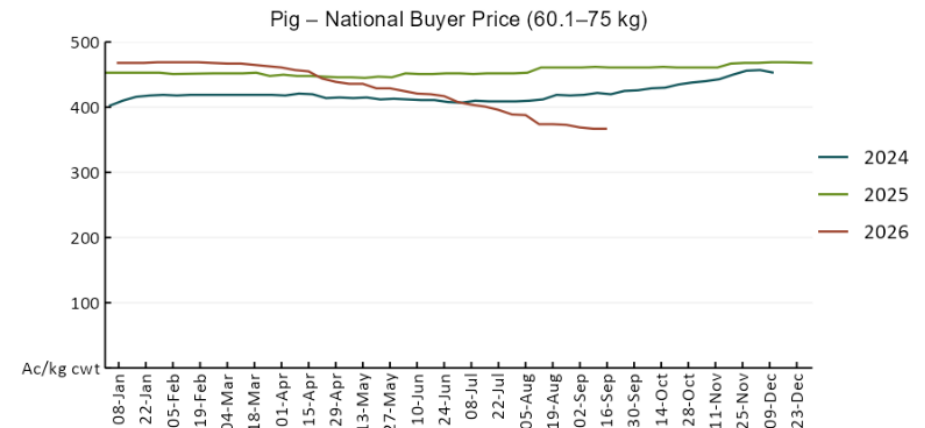
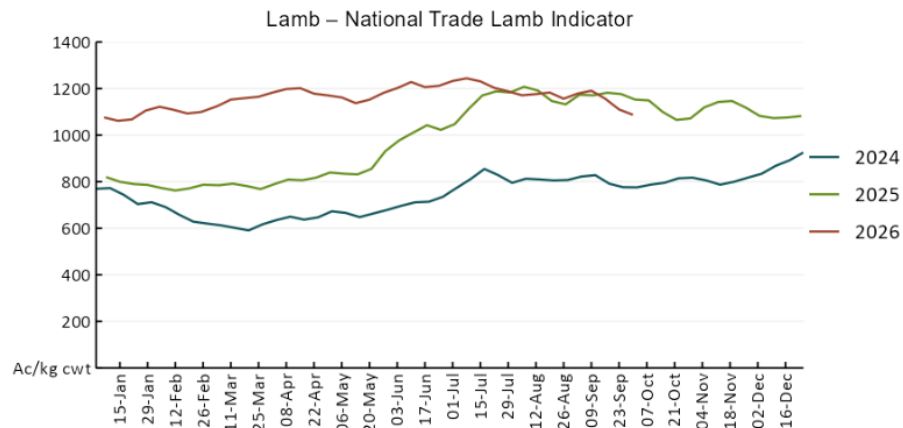
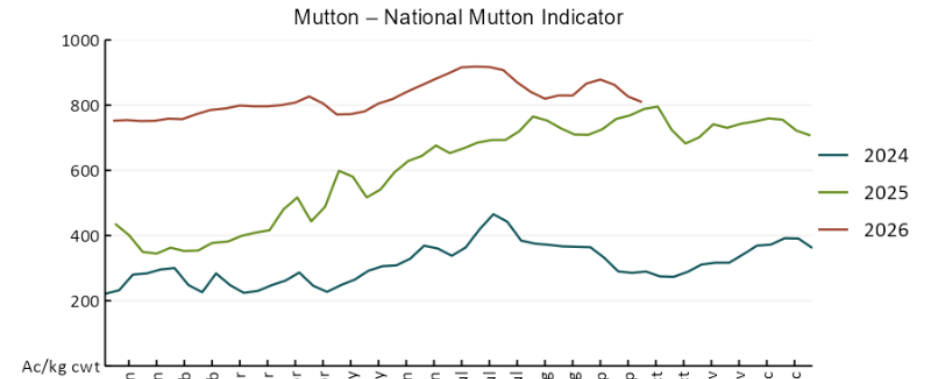
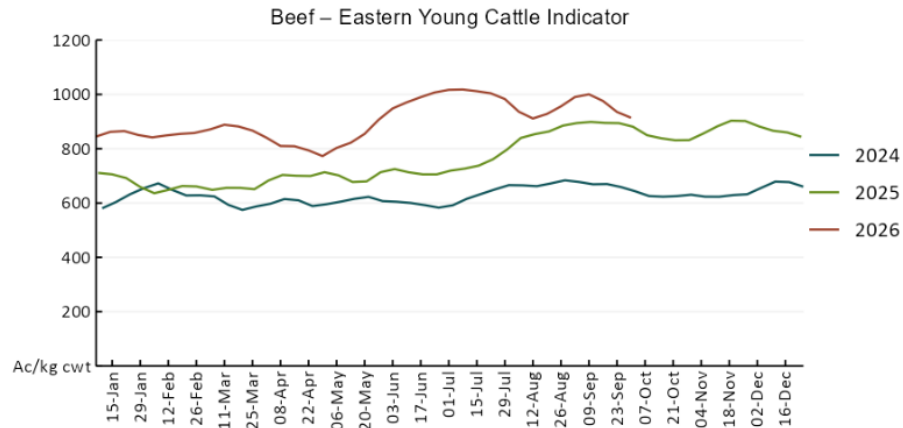


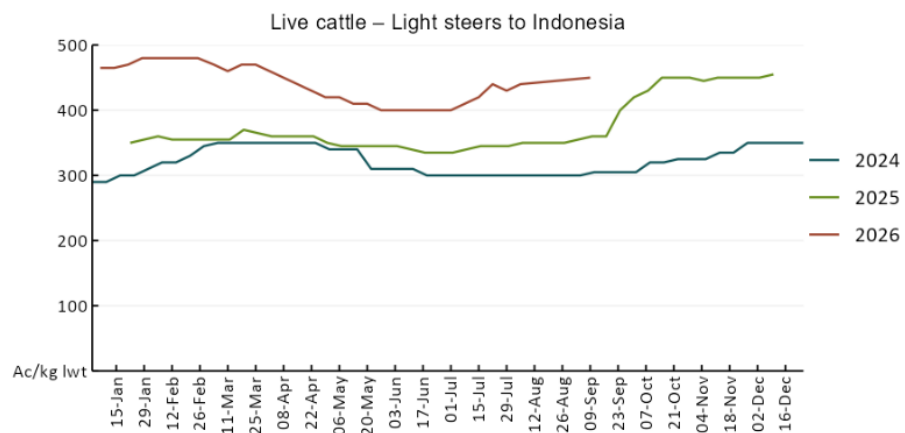
3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices



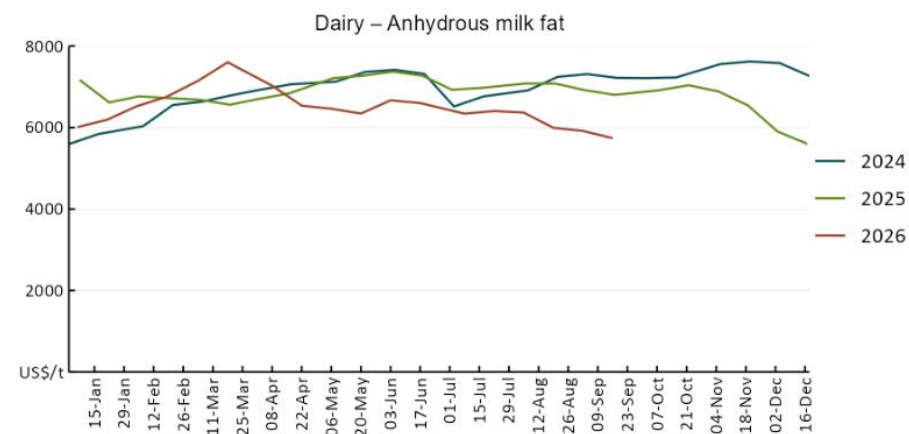
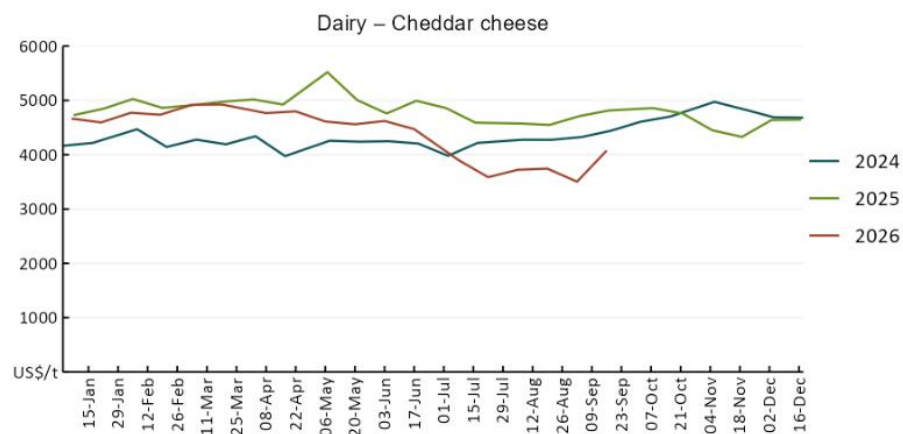
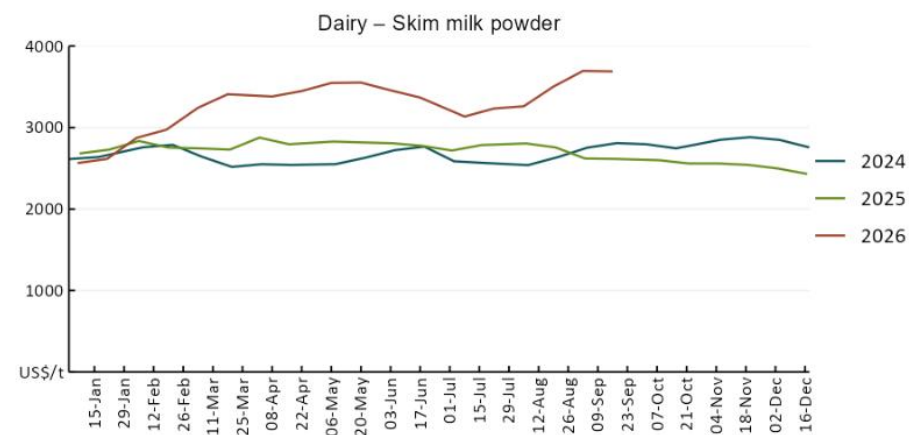
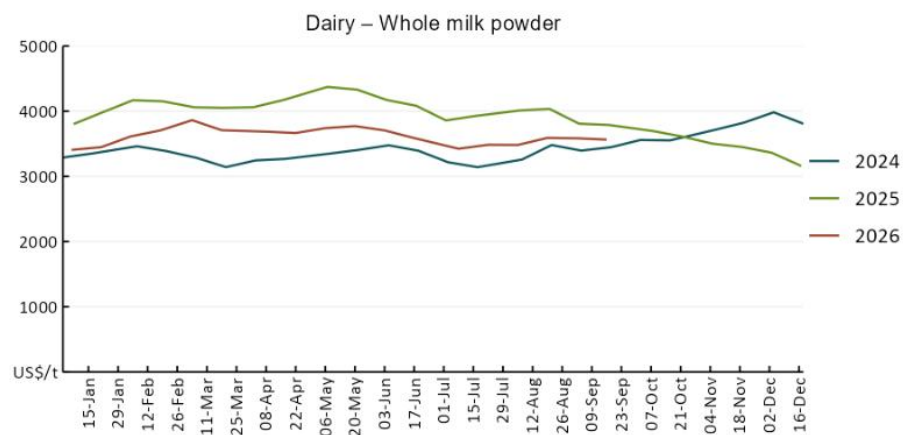


3.3 Selected domestic livestock indicator prices

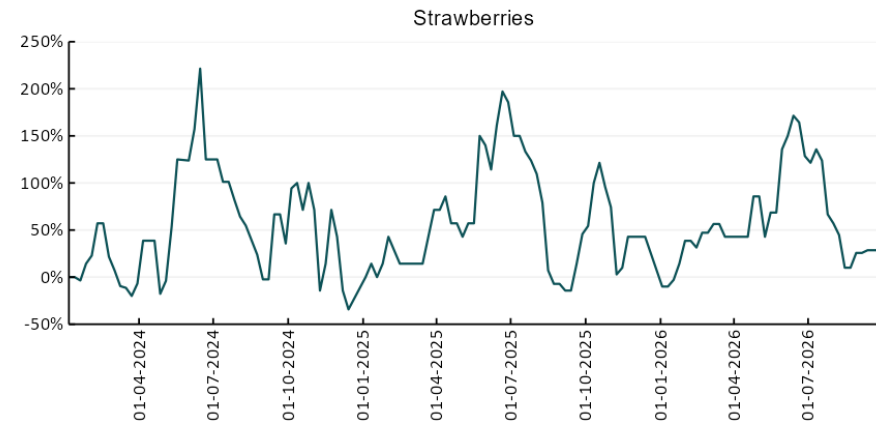
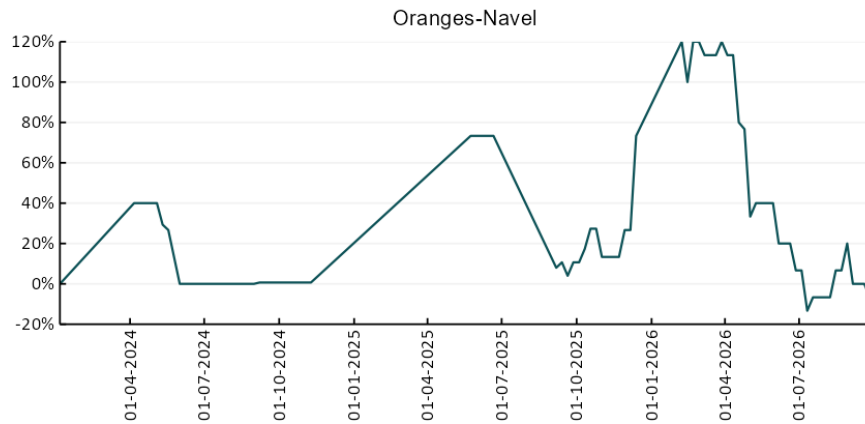
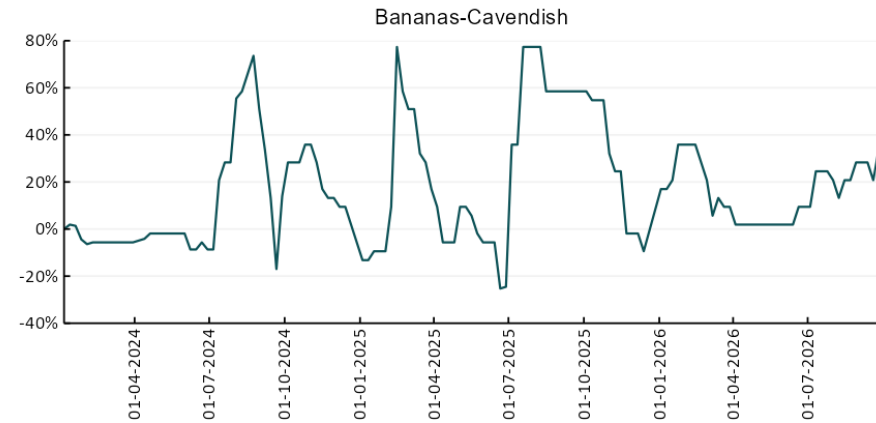
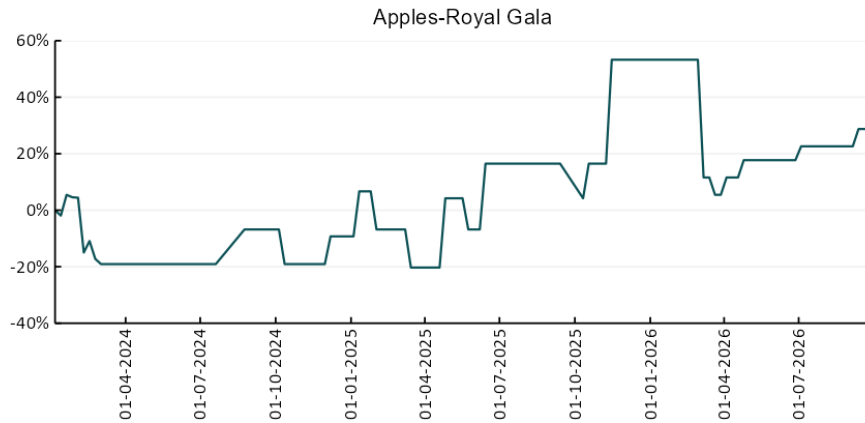


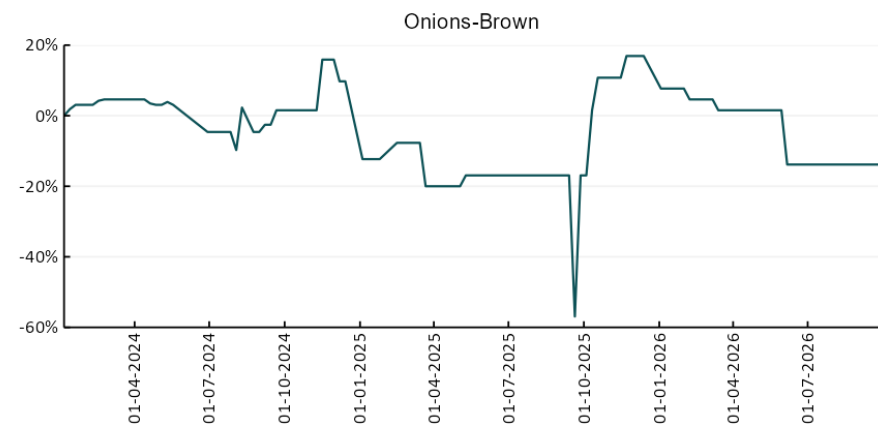
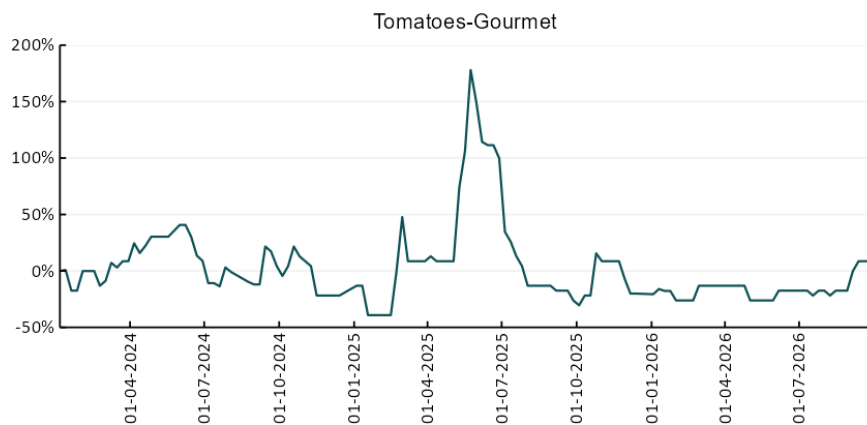
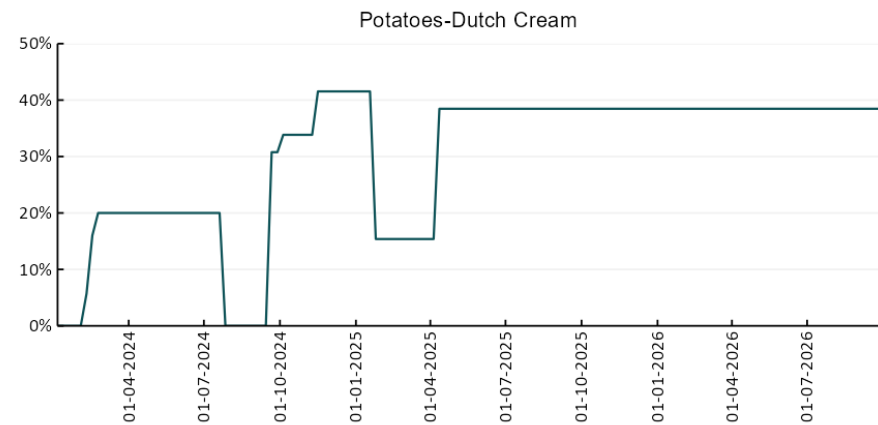
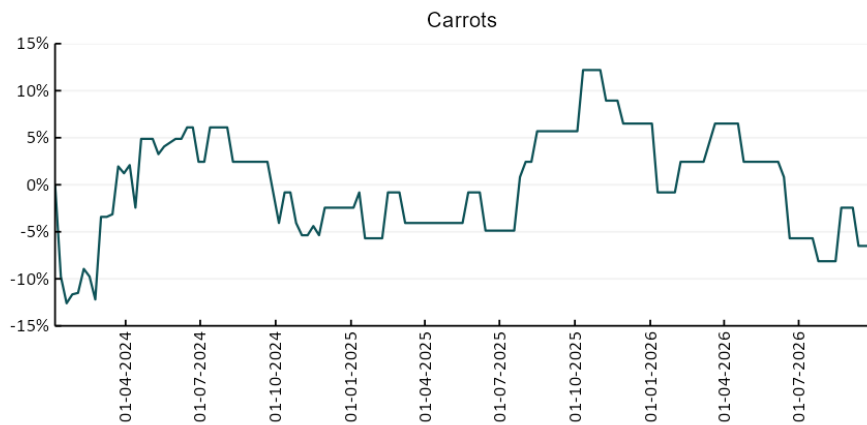


3.4 Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

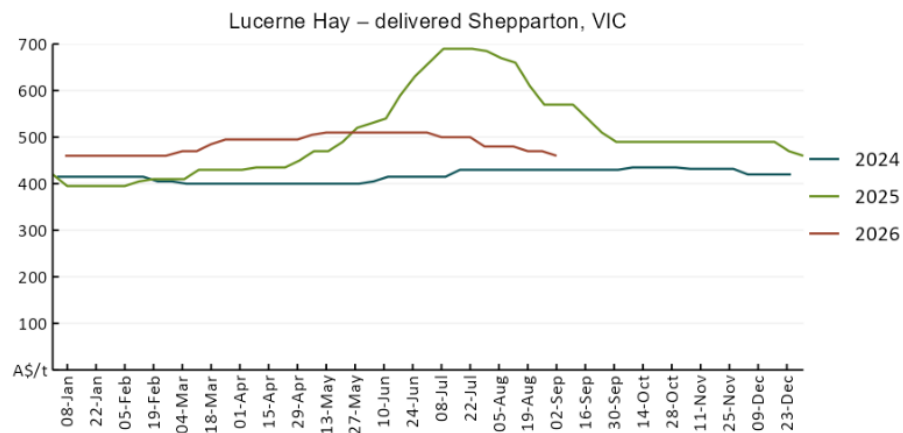
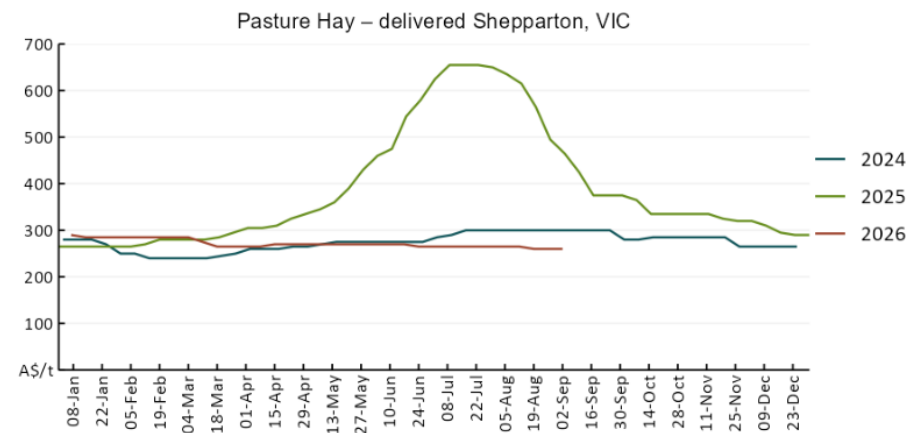
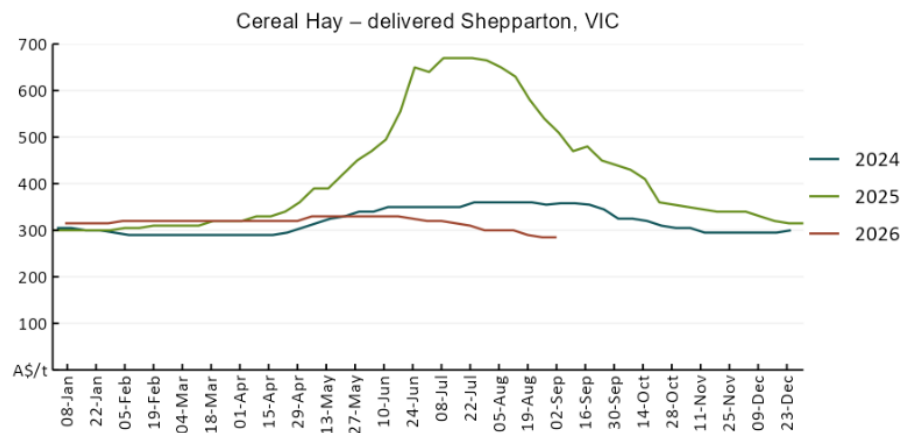


3.5 Selected fruit and vegetable prices





3.6 Selected domestic fodder indicator prices



4. Data attribution

Climate

Bureau of Meteorology

- Weekly rainfall totals: www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/
- Monthly and last 3-month rainfall percentiles: <https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/#moreMaps>
- Rainfall forecast: www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp
- Seasonal outlook: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary/
- Climate drivers: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>
- Soil moisture: <https://awo.bom.gov.au/products/historical/soilMoisture-rootZone/>

Other

- Pasture growth: www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/aussiegrass/
- 3-month global outlooks: [Environment and Climate Change Canada](#), [NOAA Climate Prediction Center](#), [EUROBRISA](#), [CPTC/INPE](#), [European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts](#), [Hydrometcenter of Russia](#), [National Climate Center](#), [Climate System Diagnosis and Prediction Room \(NCC\)](#), [International Research Institute for Climate and Society](#)
- Global production: <https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/ogamaps/cropmapsandcalendars.aspx>
- Autumn break: Pook et al., 2009, <https://rmets-onlinelibrary-wiley-com.virtual.anu.edu.au/doi/epdf/10.1002/joc.1833>

Water

Prices

- Waterflow: <https://www.waterflow.io/>
- Ruralco: <https://www.ruralcowater.com.au/>
- Bureau of Meteorology:
- Allocation trade: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-markets/mdb/at>
- Storage volumes: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-storages/summary/drainage>

Trade constraints:

- Water NSW: <https://www.watarnsw.com.au/customer-service/ordering-trading-and-pricing/trading/murrumbidgee>
- Victorian Water Register: <https://www.waterregister.vic.gov.au/TradingRules2019/>

Commodities

Fruit and vegetables

- Datafresh: www.freshstate.com.au

Pigs

- Australian Pork Limited: www.australianpork.com.au

Dairy

- Global Dairy Trade: www.globaldairytrade.info/en/product-results/

World wheat, canola

- International Grains Council: <https://www.igc.int/en/default.aspx>
- United States Department of Agriculture

World cotton

- Cotlook: www.cotlook.com/

World sugar

- New York Stock Exchange - Intercontinental Exchange

Wool

- Australian Wool Exchange: www.awex.com.au/

Domestic wheat, barley, sorghum, canola and fodder

- Jumbuk Consulting Pty Ltd: [Jumbuk AG | Agriculture Consulting](#)

Cattle, beef, mutton, lamb, goat and live export

- Meat and Livestock Australia: <https://www.mla.com.au/prices-markets/>

Australian Agricultural Drought Indicators

About [Australian Agricultural Drought Indicators](#)

The Australian Agricultural Drought Indicators (AADI) links weather and agricultural data with a range of scientific and economic models to measure and forecast the effects of climate variability and drought on agricultural outcomes.

On AADI, projected broadacre farm profits are presented as percentile outcomes relative to simulated historical outcomes using the groupings:

Highest	95-100th percentile
Very much above average	85-95th percentile
Above average	65-85th percentile
Average	35-65th percentile
Below average	15-35th percentile
Very much below average	5-15th percentile
Lowest 5%	0-5th percentile

There are two AADI farm profit indicators:

- The AADI farm profit climate and price indicator shows the effect of climate and prices on broadacre farm business profits of current farms compared to the last 33 years.
- The AADI farm profit climate only indicator isolates the effect of climate on profits by holding prices fixed.

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Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone 1800 900 090

Web agriculture.gov.au/abares

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