



# Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 7/2025

20 February 2025

## Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 20 February 2025, low-pressure systems brought rainfall to the north and east of Australia
  - Tropical Cyclone Zelia brought rainfall totals exceeding 400 millimetres to coastal and inland areas of Western Australia
  - Rainfall totals of between 0-50 millimetres were recorded across **eastern cropping regions**, with the highest rainfalls in northern Queensland. These falls are likely to be sufficient to support average soil moisture levels and above average summer crop yield potentials but may have delayed the harvest of earlier planted summer crops.
  - **In contrast, southern cropping regions received little to no rainfall.**
- Over the coming eight days, rainfall totals are expected to be low.
  - All cropping regions are expected to receive up to 10 millimetres of rainfall, with isolated areas expected to receive up to 15 millimetres.
- Globally, variable rainfall during January has led to mixed crop production prospects.
  - Global production conditions were generally favourable for rice, maize and soybeans, but more variable for wheat.
  - Global production conditions have been less favourable compared to those used to formulate ABARES forecasts of global grain supplies and world prices for 2024–25 in its December 2024 edition of the Agricultural Commodities Report. As a result, global grain and oilseed production are likely to decline slightly compared to those presented in the December forecast.
- **Water storage levels** in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased between 13 February 2025 and 20 February 2025 by 231 gigalitres (GL). Current volume of water held in storage is 13 661 GL, equivalent to 61% of total storage capacity. This is 25 percent or 4,646GL less than at 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 \$190 on 13 February to \$162 on 20 February. Prices are lower in regions above the Barmah choke (except Murrumbidgee) due to the binding of the Barmah choke trade constraint.

# 1. Climate

## 1.1. Rainfall this week

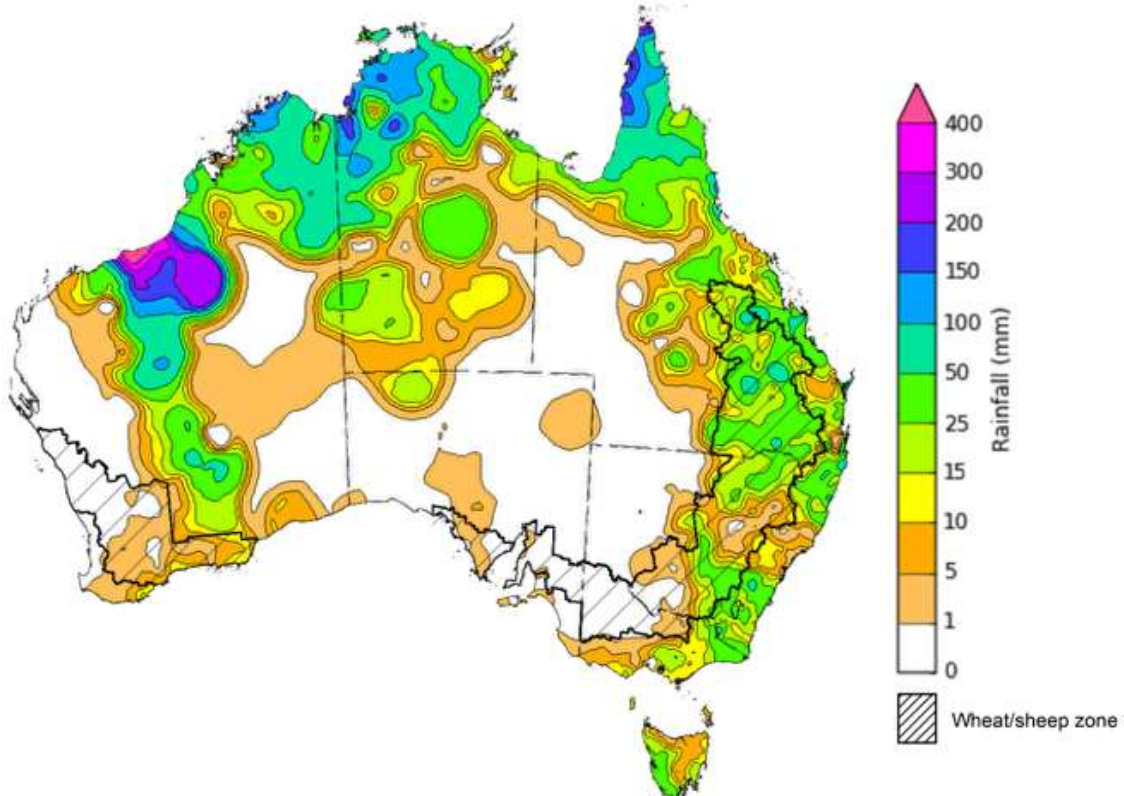
In the week ending 19 February, **Tropical Cyclone (TC) Zelia brought rainfall to the west of the country**. In the north and east, low-pressure systems contributed to showers and storms. High-pressure systems kept the remainder of the country largely dry.

- The northern tropics, including the Northern Territory, and northern Western Australia and Queensland recorded falls between 10-200 millimetres, with rainfall totals higher in far-northern regions.
  - In west Western Australia, TC Zelia brought rainfall totals exceeding 400 millimetres to coastal areas, with inland regions seeing between 10-300 millimetres.
- Eastern Queensland and New South Wales received between 5–100 millimetres of rainfall. Tasmania and eastern Victoria received between 10-50 millimetres. Much of the remainder of country recorded little to no rainfall over the period.

Rainfall totals were generally low across cropping regions in the south:

- In the east, much of Queensland and New South Wales saw between 5-50 millimetres of rainfall, with isolated areas of Queensland recording up to 100 millimetres.
  - These falls have likely boosted soil moisture for late planted summer crops and ahead of the planting of winter crops, however, this will also likely have brought some delays to the harvesting of earlier planted summer crops.
- In contrast, southern cropping regions including Western Australia, South Australia, and Victoria received little to no rainfall.

**Rainfall for the week ending 19 February 2025**



©Commonwealth of Australia 2025, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Note: The rainfall analyses and associated maps utilise data contained in the Bureau of Meteorology climate database, the Australian Data Archive for Meteorology (ADAM). The analyses are initially produced automatically from real-time data with limited quality control. They are intended to provide a general overview of rainfall across Australia as quickly as possible after the observations are received. For further information go to <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/rainfall/>

Issued: 19/2/2025

## 1.2. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

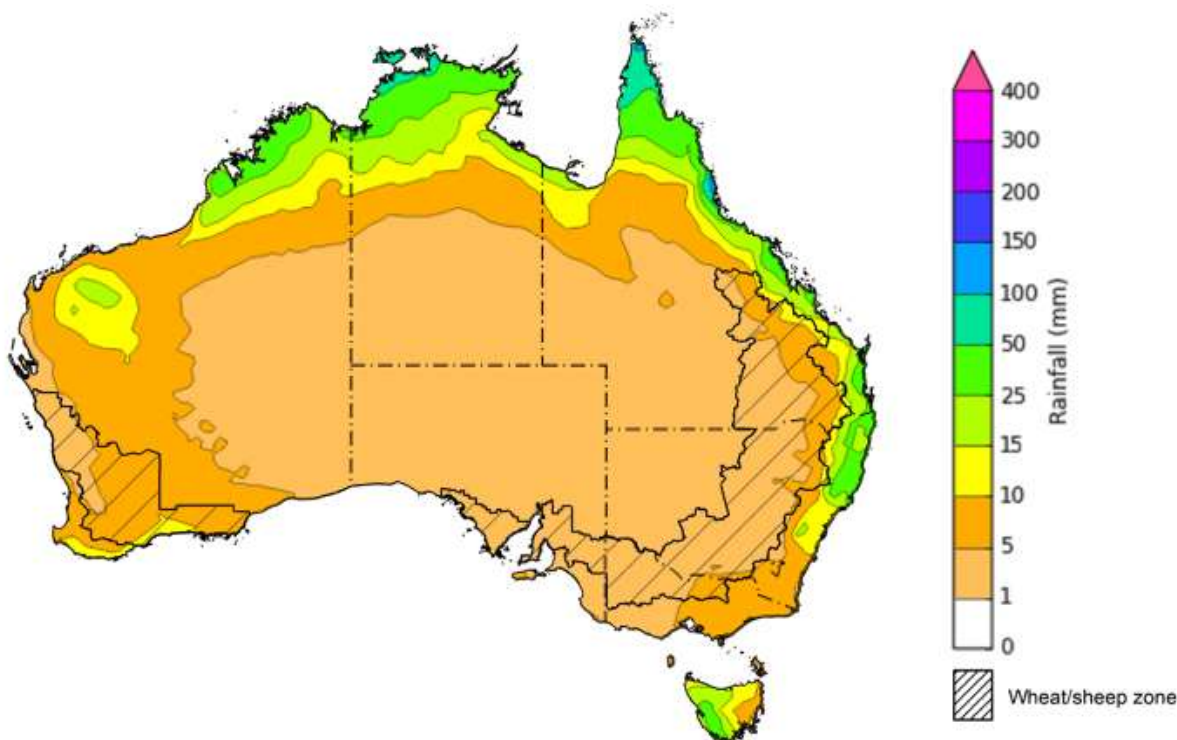
Over the 8 days to 27 February 2025, **low-pressure systems** are expected to bring rainfall to parts of the north and east of the country:

- Falls of between 10–50 millimetres are likely for parts of northern Western Australia, the Northern Territory and northern Queensland.
  - Isolated areas in the far north are forecast to receive up to 100 millimetres of rainfall.
- Between 10–50 millimetres are forecast for the far east of Queensland, northeastern New South Wales and much of Tasmania.
- By contrast, a high-pressure system is expected to keep much of the remainder of Australia largely dry.

Rainfall totals across cropping regions over the coming week are forecast to be low:

- Low rainfall totals (1-10 millimetres) are forecast for all cropping regions, with the exceptions of southern Western Australia and northern Queensland (up to 15 millimetres of rainfall)
- While this is likely to contribute to a drawdown of soil moisture to support the growth of later sown summer crops, it will allow of an uninterrupted harvest of earlier sown crops.

### Total forecast rainfall for the period 20 February to 27 February 2025



©Commonwealth of Australia 2025, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

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 20/2/2025

### 1.3. January precipitation percentiles and current production conditions

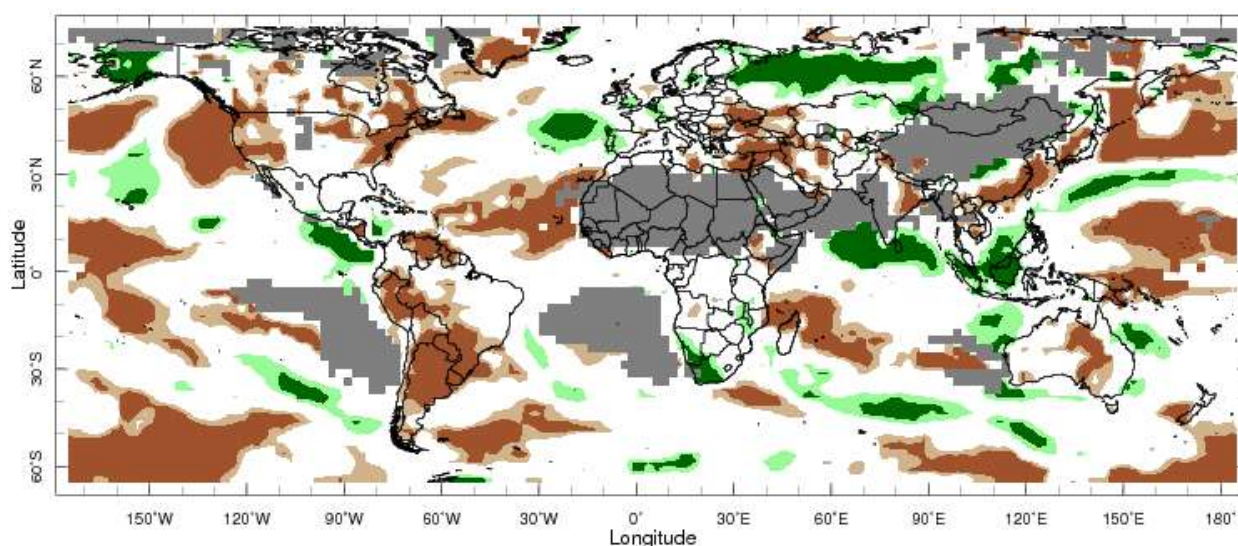
Crop production is affected by long-term trends in average rainfall and temperature, interannual climate variability, shocks during specific growth stages, and extreme weather events. Some crops are more tolerant than others to certain types of stresses, and at each growth stage, different types of stresses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

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

Rainfall in January 2025 was variable across the world's major grain- and oilseed-producing regions:

- In the **southern hemisphere**, precipitation was below average in southern Brazil, Argentina, and central Australia. Above average precipitation occurred in parts of southeast Asia.
- In the **northern hemisphere**, precipitation was below average in north, east and west of the United States, eastern India and China, and parts of the Black Sea region. Precipitation was above average in western Europe, southern India, and much of the north of the Russian Federation.

Global precipitation percentiles, January 2025

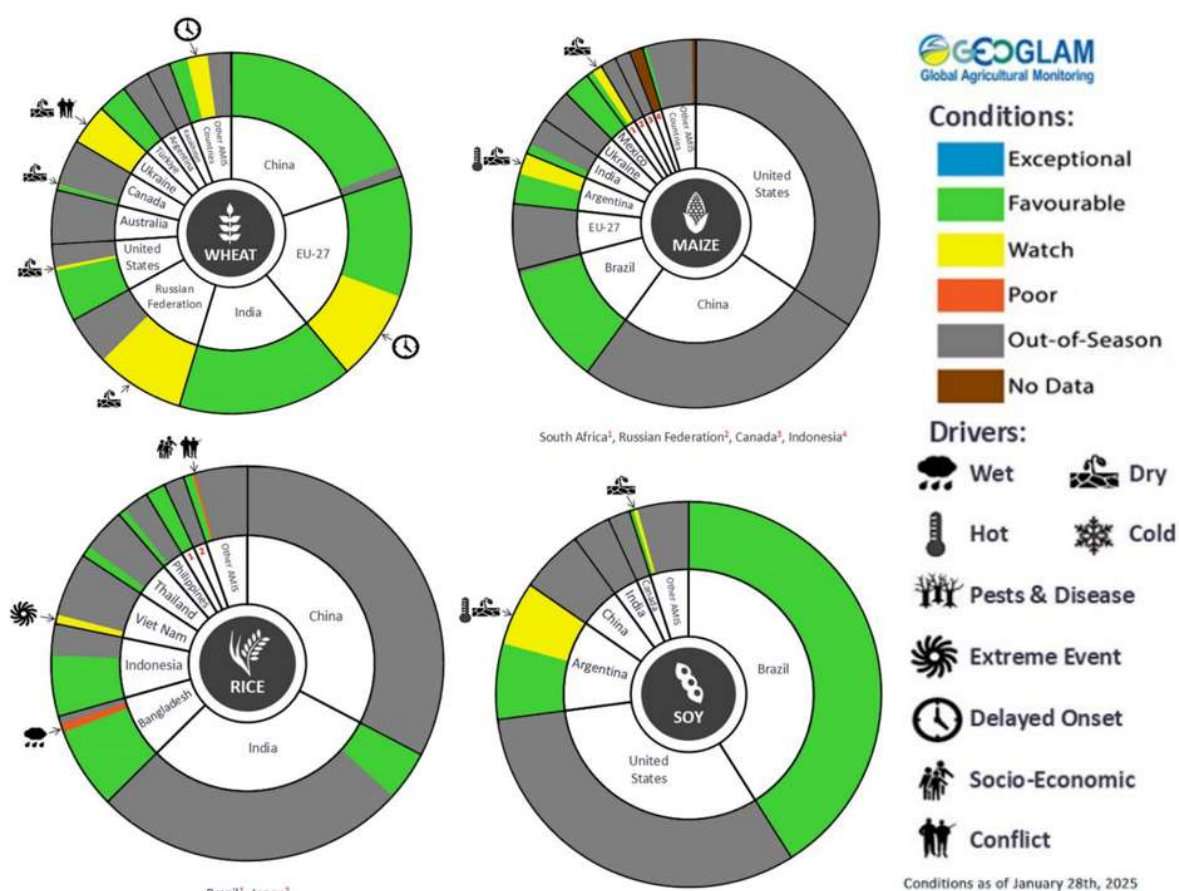


Note: The world precipitation percentiles indicate a ranking of precipitation for December, with the driest (0<sup>th</sup> percentile) being 0 on the scale and the wettest (100<sup>th</sup> percentile) being 1 on the scale. Percentiles are based on precipitation estimates from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center's [Climate Anomaly Monitoring System Outgoing Precipitation Index](#) dataset. Precipitation estimates for January 2025 are compared with rainfall recorded for that period during the 1981 to 2010 base period.  
Source: International Research Institute for Climate and Society

As of 28 January 2025, global production conditions were generally favourable for rice, maize and soybeans, but variable for wheat:

- **Wheat** – in the northern hemisphere, winter wheat is developing under favourable climatic conditions, with exceptions of the Russian Federation, Ukraine and parts of the European Union.
- **Maize** – Harvest in Brazil is progressing favourably, but dry conditions in Argentina have adversely affected crop yields.
- **Rice** – Conditions are generally favourable, however, adverse climate conditions have negatively impacted crops in Vietnam.
- **Soybeans** – Harvest in the southern hemisphere is progressing under favourable conditions, with exceptions in drought affected areas in Argentina.

### Crop conditions, AMIS countries, 28 January 2025



AMIS Agricultural Market Information System.  
Source: AMIS

The global climate outlook for March 2025 to May 2025 indicates that mixed rainfall conditions are expected for the world’s major grain-producing and oilseed-producing regions. Outlooks and potential production impacts for the major grain and oilseed producing countries are presented in the following table.

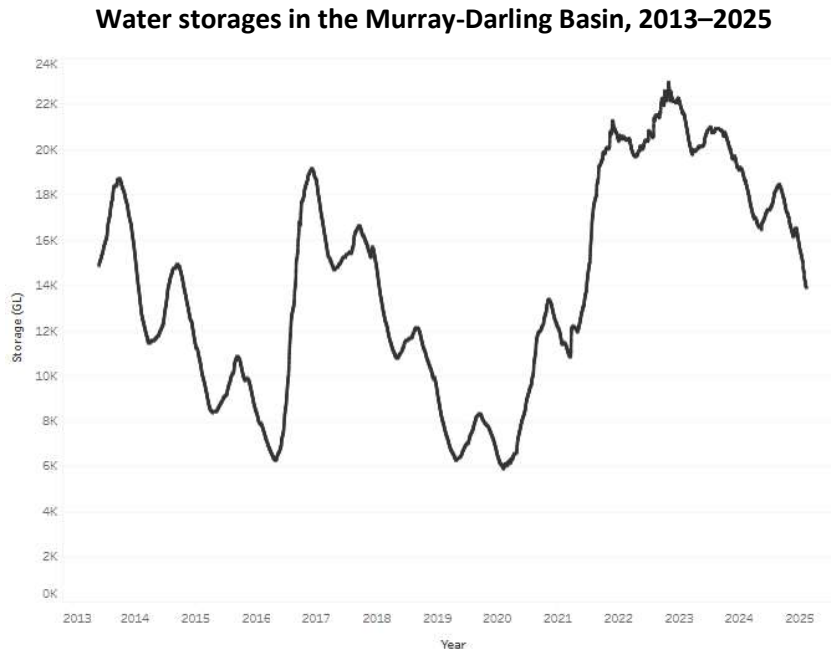
## Rainfall outlook and potential impact on the future state of production conditions, March-May 2025

Region	March-May rainfall outlook	Potential impact on production
<b>Argentina</b>	Average to above average rainfall is more likely across northern parts of Argentina, with much of eastern and southern Argentina likely to see below average rainfall.	Above average rainfall is likely to support the filling of corn over this period. Whereas below average rainfall may impact the heading of corn in the west and east.
<b>Black Sea Region</b>	Below average to average rainfall is expected across much of the Black Sea region, including parts of Türkiye, Ukraine, and the west of the Russian Federation.	Below average rainfall is likely to impact the heading of winter wheat in Ukraine, Türkiye, and the Russian Federation.
<b>Brazil</b>	Average rainfall is likely for much of Brazil, with exceptions in the far south.	Average rainfall in central and northern Brazil is likely to support the filling of corn, over the period. However, in the south, below average rainfall may impact the heading of corn.
<b>Canada</b>	Generally, average to above average rainfall is likely across the south, with exceptions in some central regions.	Above average rainfall is likely to support the heading of winter wheat and the planting of spring and summer crops in affected regions.
<b>China</b>	Below average rainfall is likely across parts of China, especially in eastern regions. Above average rainfall is more likely in the north and south.	Drier than average conditions in eastern regions may impact the heading of winter wheat.
<b>Europe</b>	Average rainfall is likely for much of Europe, while parts of southern Europe (such as Italy and Spain) are likely to see above average rainfall. Below average rainfall is more likely in the north.	Above average rainfall in the south is likely to support the filling of winter wheat, while below average rainfall may impact the heading of winter wheat in the north.
<b>South Asia (India)</b>	Above average rainfall is expected in the south. Average rainfall is likely across remaining areas.	Average or better rainfall across much of India will support the filling of winter wheat and the planting of summer crops.
<b>Southeast Asia (SEA)</b>	Average to above average rainfall is likely across much of Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia, as well as Indonesia and Malaysia, with average rainfall expected in the remaining regions.	Average to above average rainfall in SEA may impact the heading of winter wheat.
<b>The United States of America (US)</b>	Generally, below average rainfall is likely for much of southern US, with above average rainfall more likely across the northeast and northwest.	Above average rainfall conditions expected across the northeast and northwest may support the filling of winter wheat, and provide moisture for the planting of summer crops.

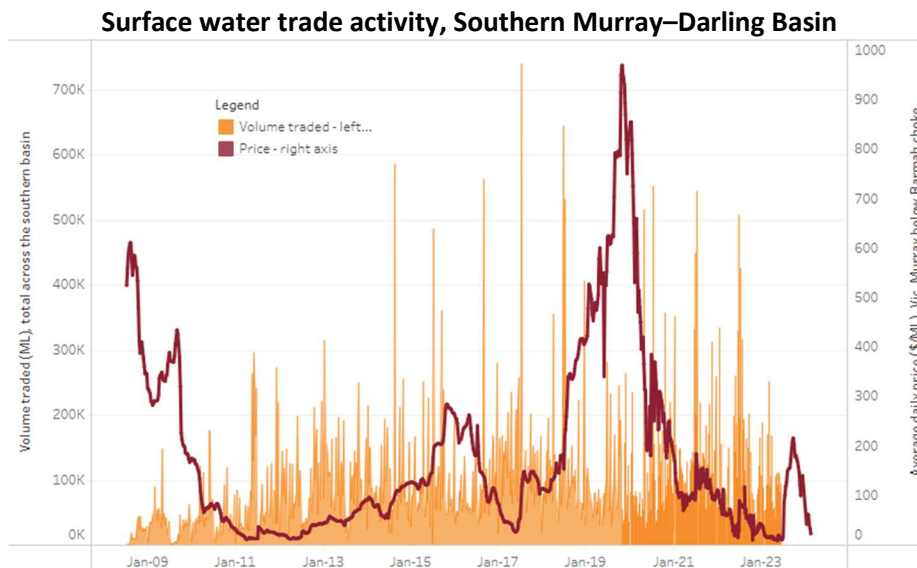
## 2. Water

### 2.1. Water markets – current week

Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) decreased between 13 February 2025 and 20 February 2025 by 231 gigalitres (GL). Current volume of water held in storage is 13 661 GL, equivalent to 61% of total storage capacity. This is 25 percent or 4,646GL less than at the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the BOM.



Allocation prices for the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke increased from \$190 on 13 February to \$162 on 20 February. Prices are lower in regions above the Barmah choke (except Murrumbidgee) due to the binding of the Barmah choke trade constraint.



The trades shown reflect estimated market activity and do not encompass all register trades. The price is shown for the VIC Murray below the Barmah choke. Historical prices (before 1 July 2019) are ABARES estimates after removing outliers from BOM water register data. Prices after 1 July 2019 and prior to the 30 October 2019 reflect recorded transaction prices as sourced from Ruralco. Prices after the 30 October 2019 are sourced from Waterflow. Data for volume traded is sourced from the BOM water register. Only the price data shown is current on 17 October 2024.

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

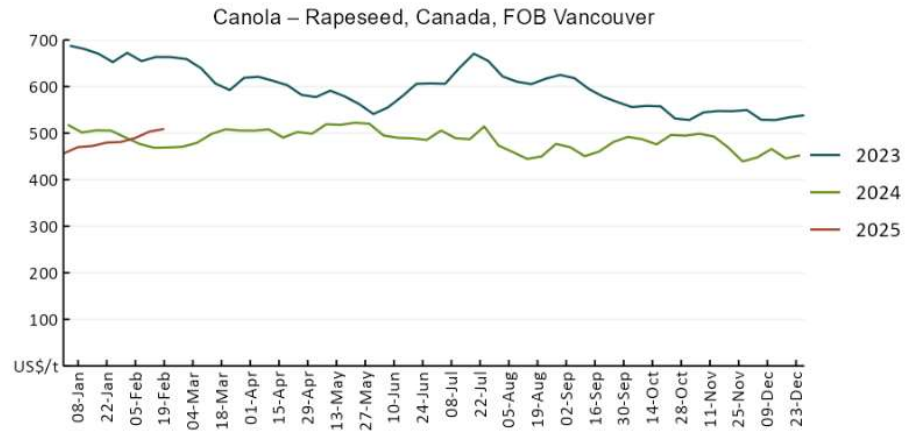
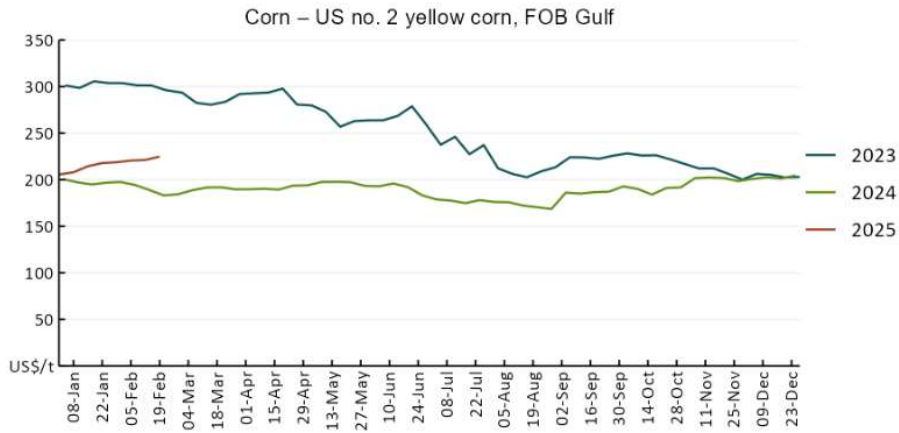
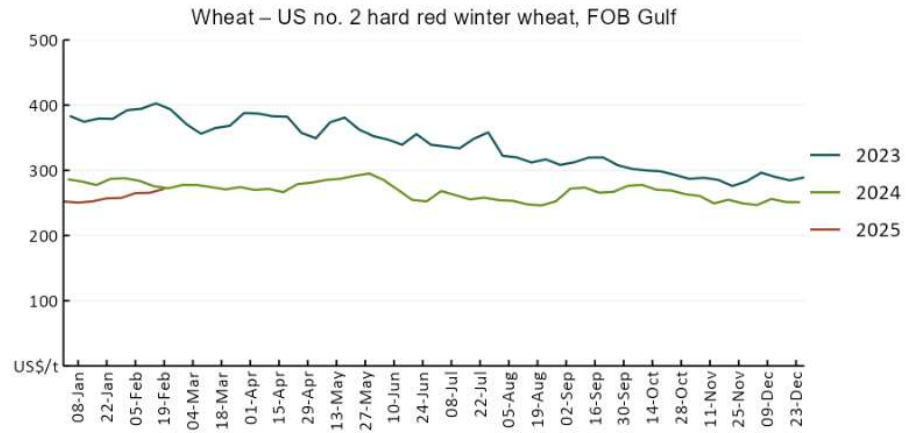
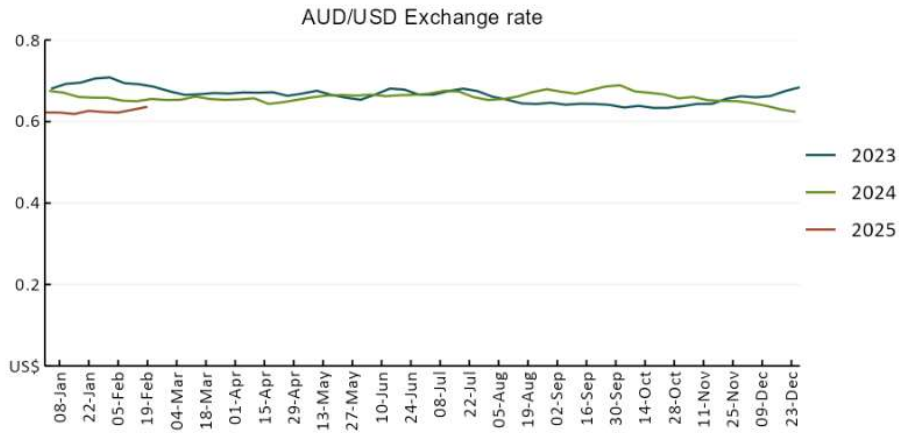
[https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly\\_update/weekly-update-200224](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-200224)

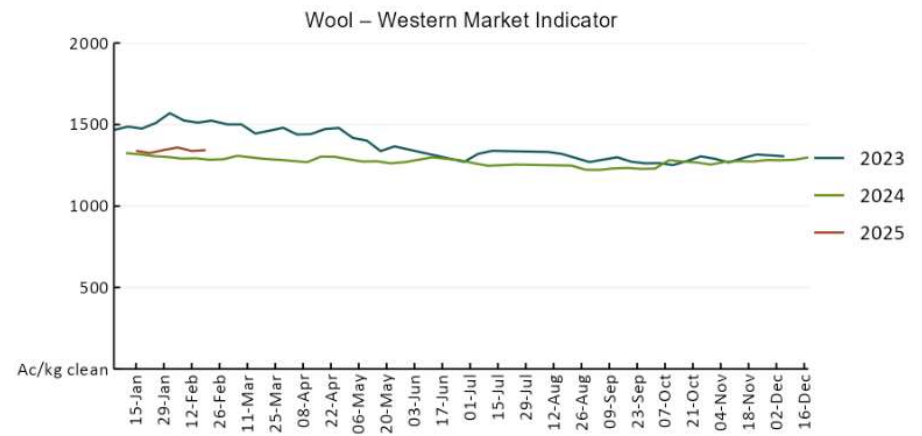
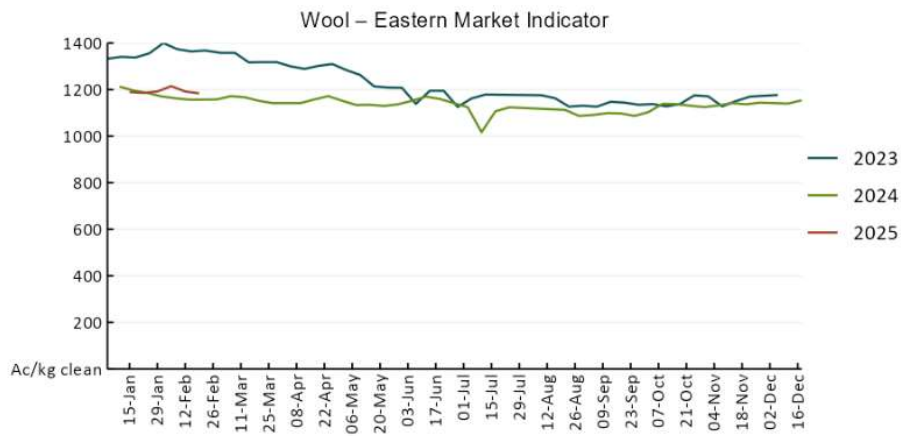
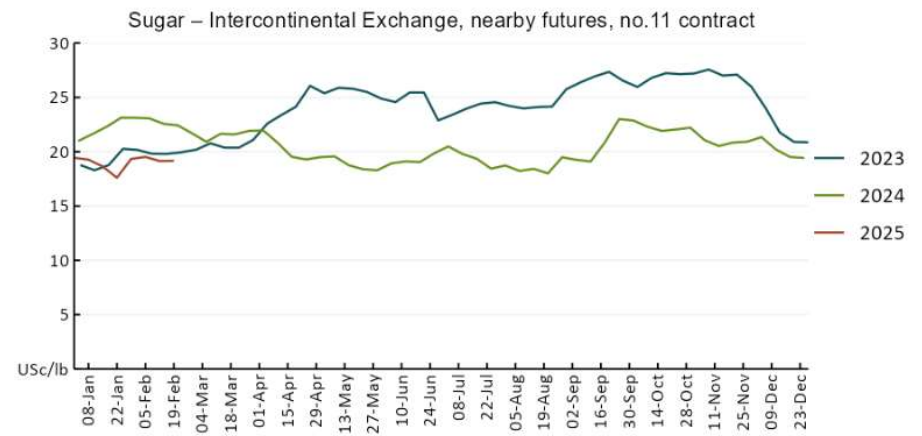
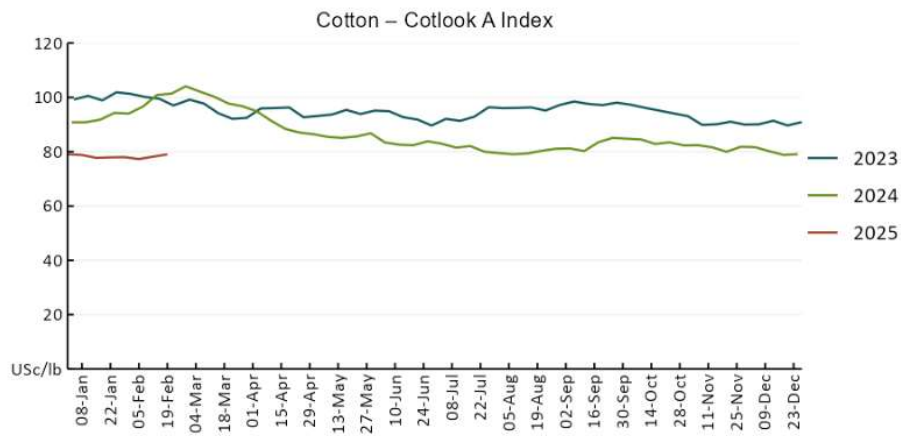
### 3. Commodities

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	19-Feb	A\$/US\$	0.64	0.63	1%	0.65	-2%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	19-Feb	US\$/t	272	266	2%	278	-2%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	19-Feb	US\$/t	225	221	2%	188	20%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	19-Feb	US\$/t	509	504	1%	472	8%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	19-Feb	USc/lb	79	78	1%	101	-22%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	19-Feb	USc/lb	19	19	0%	22	-15%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	19-Feb	Ac/kg clean	1,184	1,192	-1%	1,159	2%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	19-Feb	Ac/kg clean	1,343	1,338	0%	1,289	4%
<b>Selected Australian grain export prices</b>							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	19-Feb	A\$/t	411	409	1%	434	-5%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	19-Feb	A\$/t	401	399	1%	412	-2%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	19-Feb	A\$/t	372	369	1%	360	3%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	19-Feb	A\$/t	864	865	0%	723	20%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	19-Feb	A\$/t	413	412	0%	461	-10%
<b>Selected domestic livestock indicator prices</b>							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	19-Feb	Ac/kg cwt	660	648	2%	644	2%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	19-Feb	Ac/kg cwt	348	353	-1%	265	31%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	19-Feb	Ac/kg cwt	766	762	0%	650	18%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	05-Feb	Ac/kg cwt	451	453	0%	419	8%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	19-Feb	Ac/kg lwt	355	355	0%	329	8%
<b>Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices</b>							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	19-Feb	US\$/t	4,153	4,169	0%	3,426	21%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	19-Feb	US\$/t	2,754	2,835	-3%	2,773	-1%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	19-Feb	US\$/t	4,862	5,025	-3%	4,306	13%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	19-Feb	US\$/t	6,723	6,766	-1%	6,293	7%

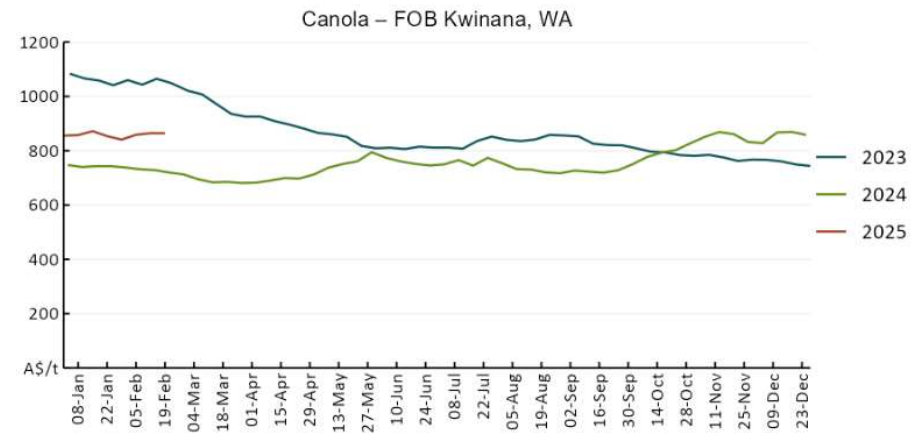
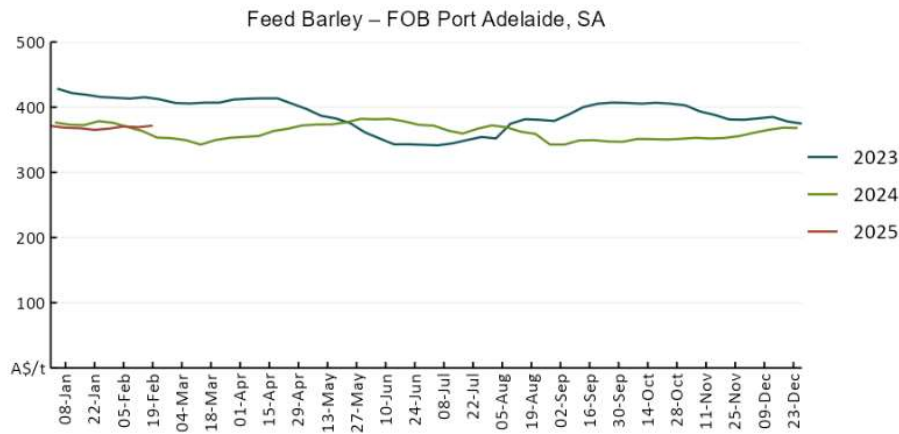
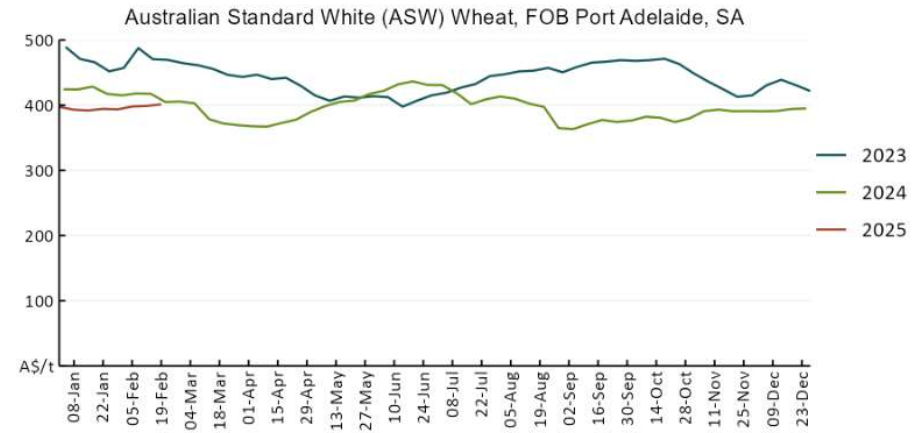
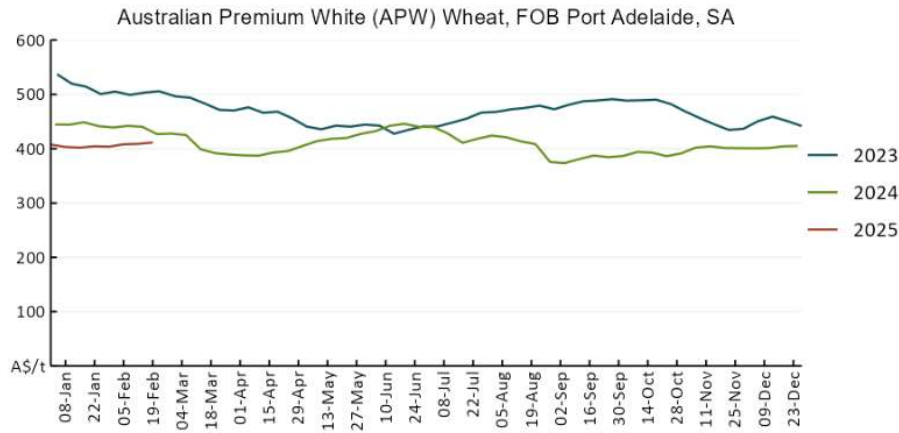


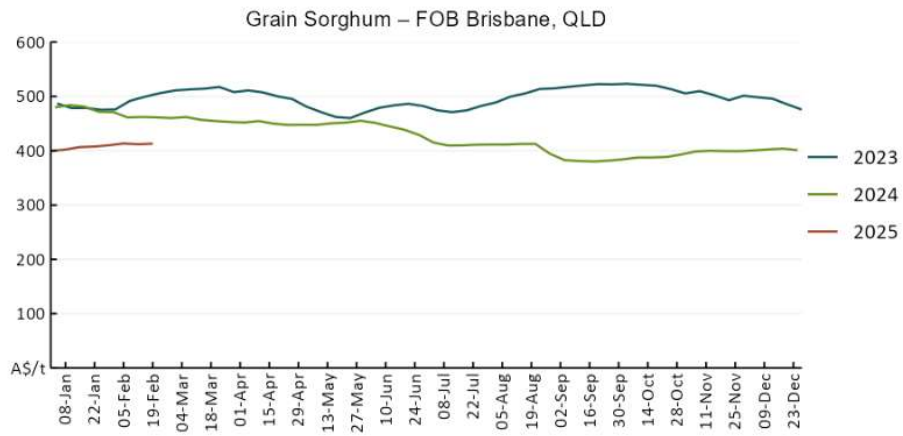
**3.1. Selected world indicator prices**



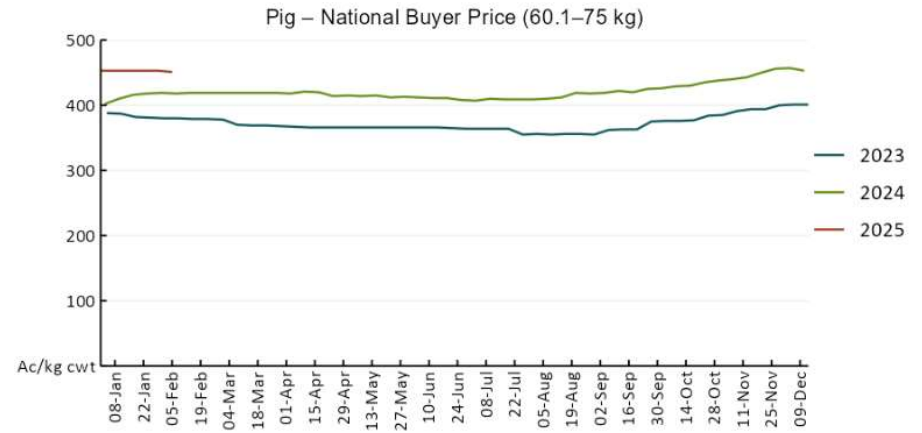
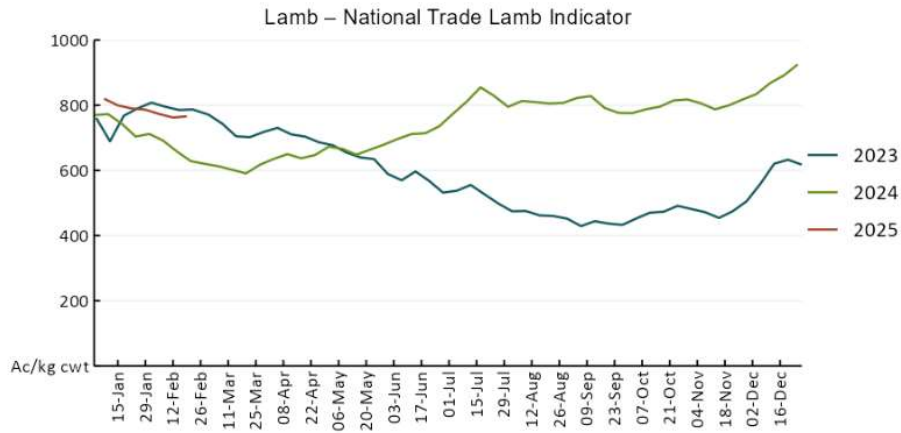
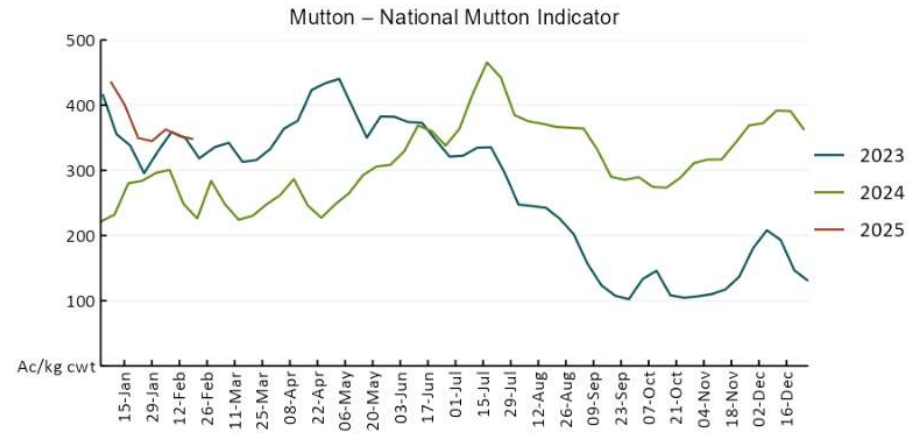
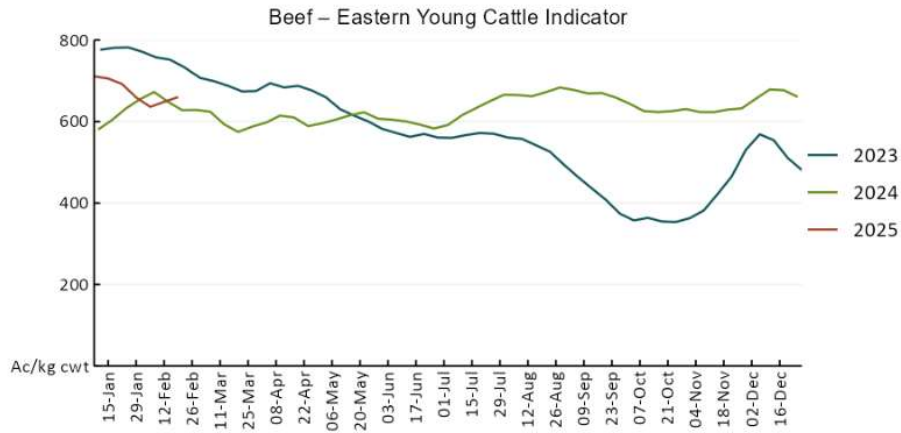


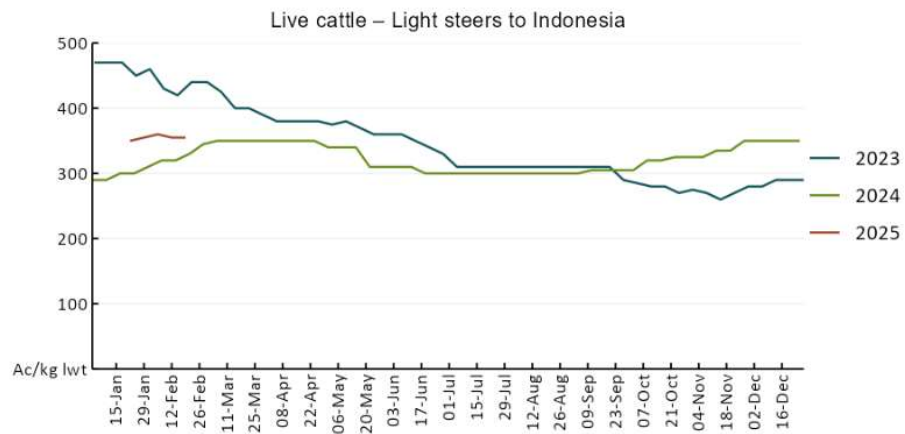
### 3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices





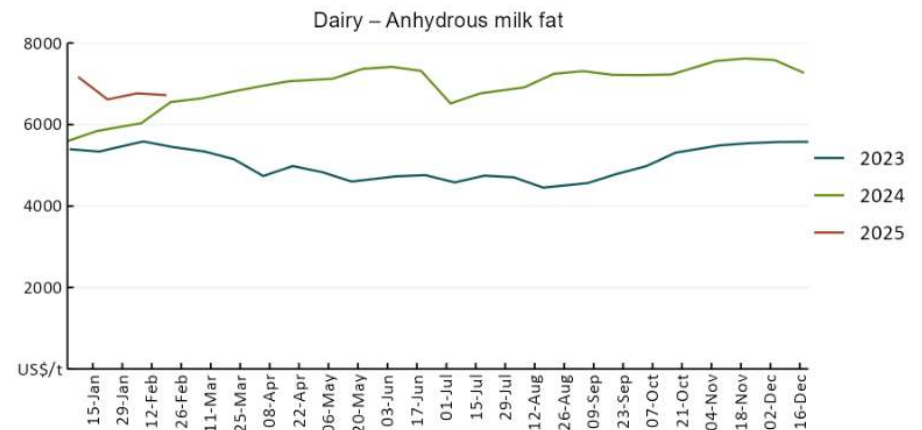
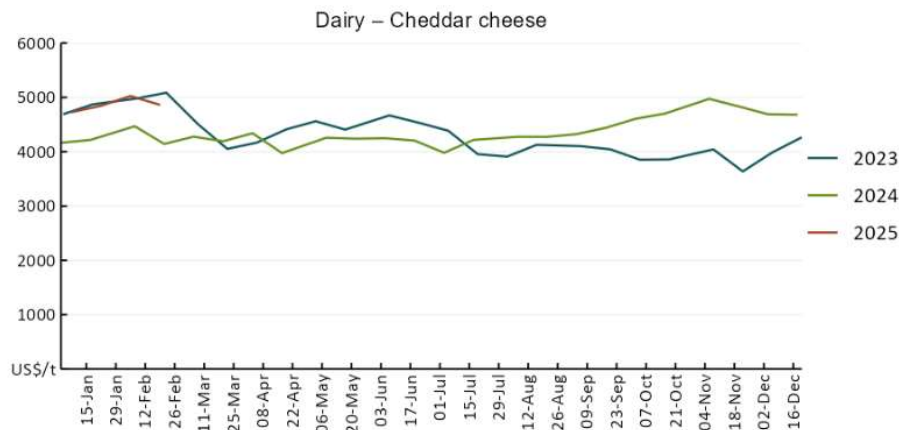
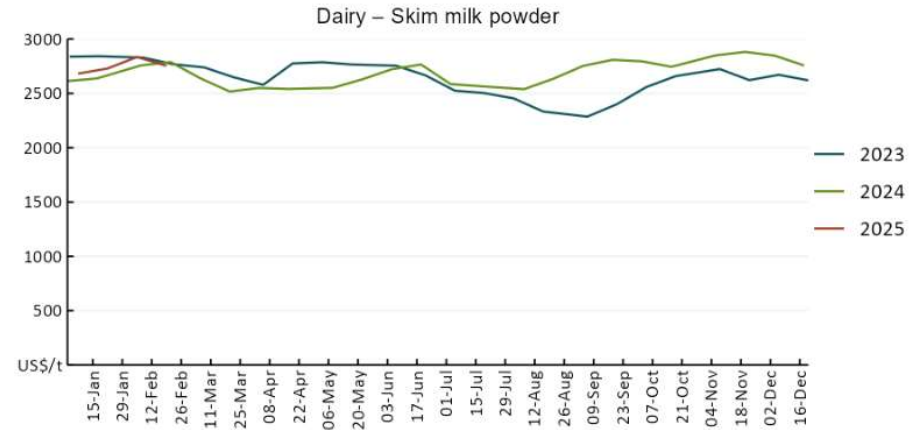
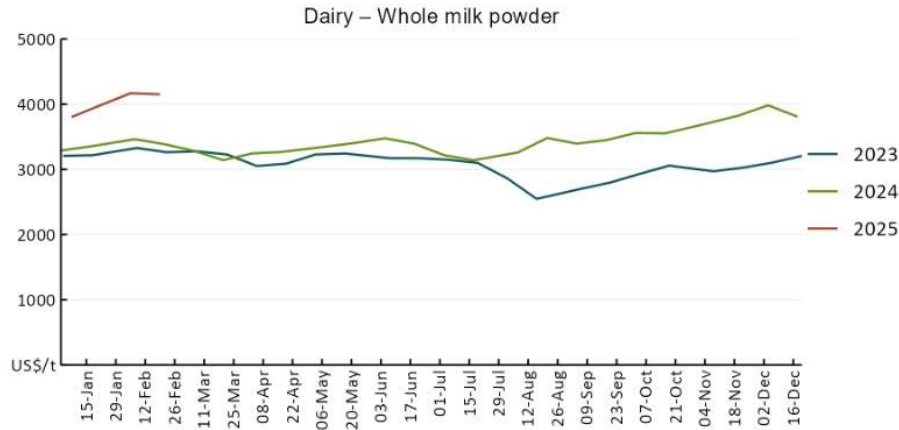
**3.3. Selected domestic livestock indicator prices**



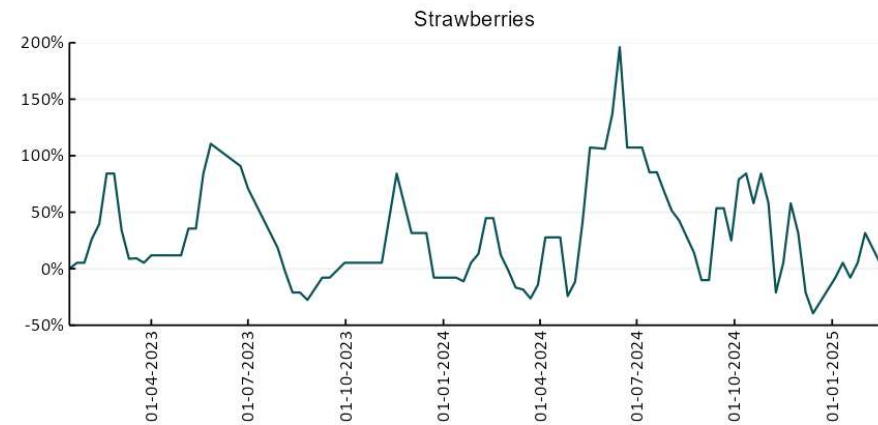
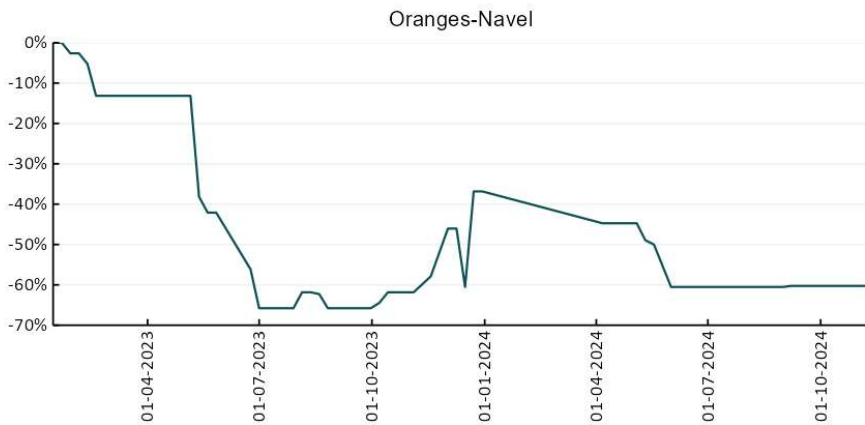
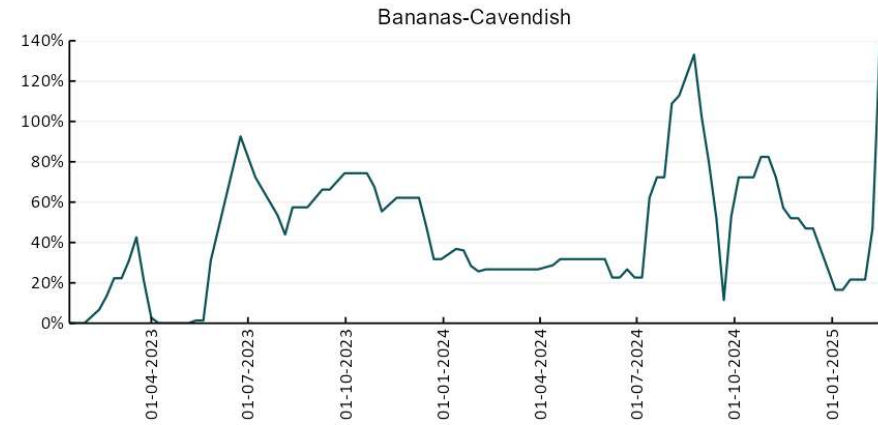
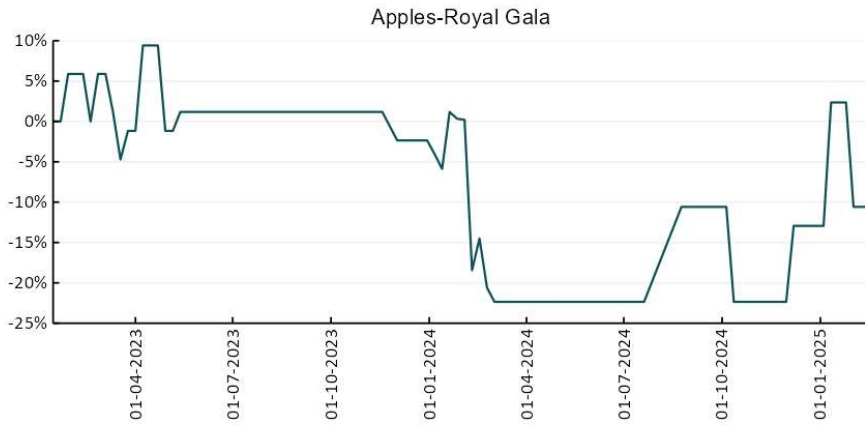


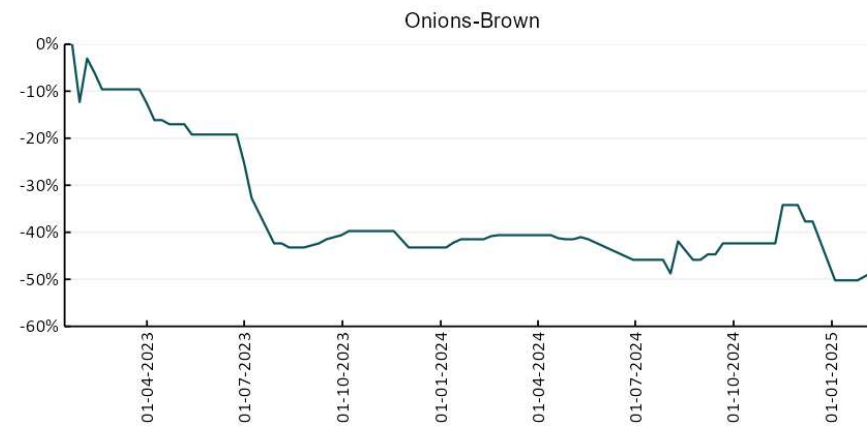
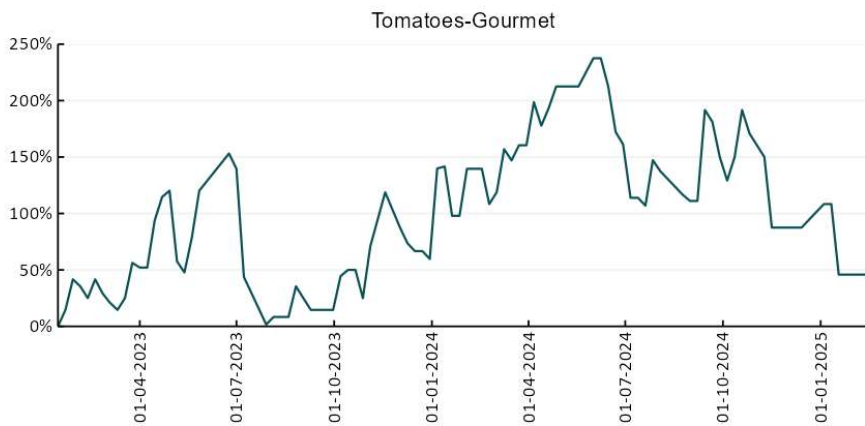
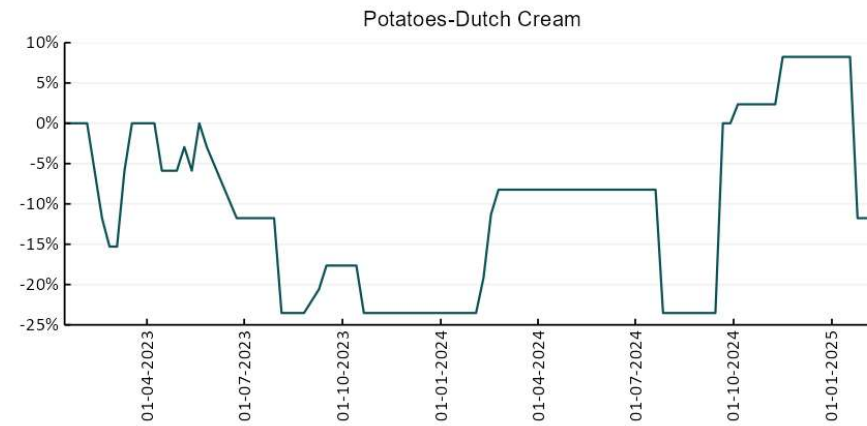
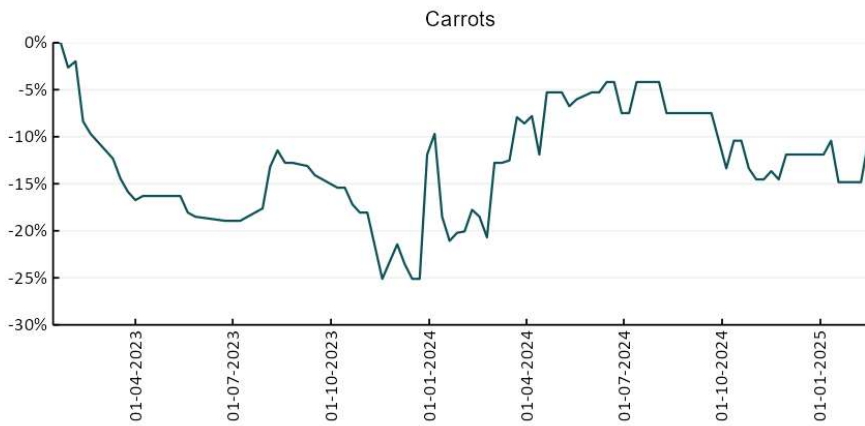


### 3.4. Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

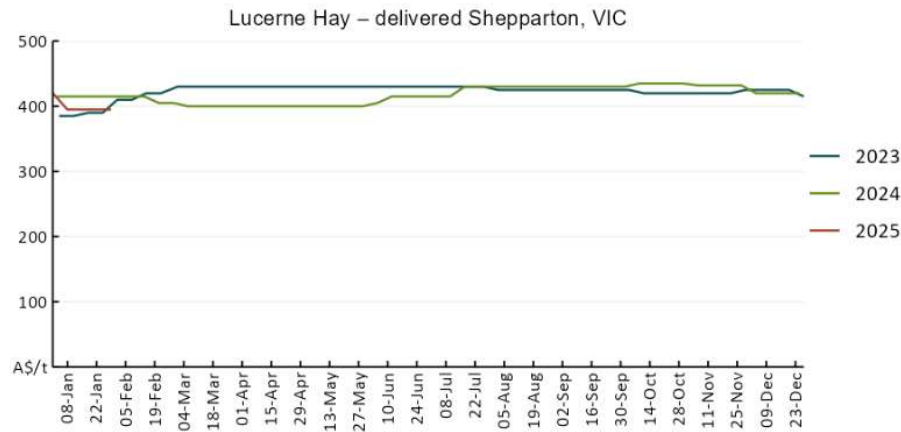
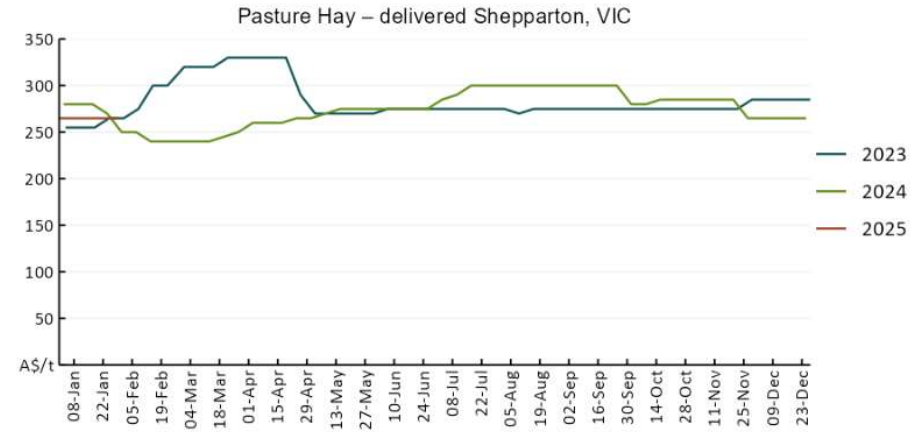
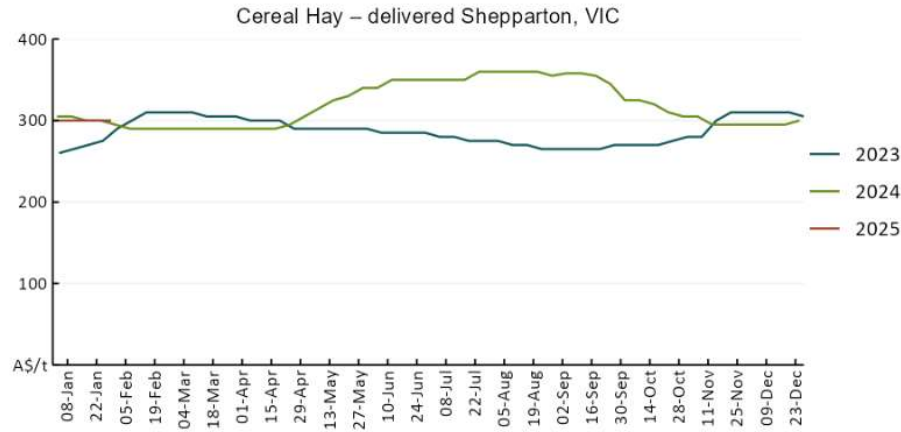


### 3.5. Selected fruit and vegetable prices





### 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: [www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/)
- Temperature anomalies: [www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/temp/index.jsp](http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/temp/index.jsp)
- 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: [www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/landscape/)
  - 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 CPTec/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://rmetsonline.library.wiley.com/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.watnsw.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
  - World coarse grains
- 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: <http://www.jumbukag.com.au/>
  - Cattle, beef, mutton, lamb, goat and live export
- Meat and Livestock Australia: [www.mla.com.au/Prices-and-market](http://www.mla.com.au/Prices-and-market)

© Commonwealth of Australia 2025

### **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](mailto:copyright@awe.gov.au).



### **Cataloguing data**

This publication (and any material sourced from it) should be attributed as:

ABARES 2025, Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra, 20 February 2025. 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](http://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 Matthew Miller.