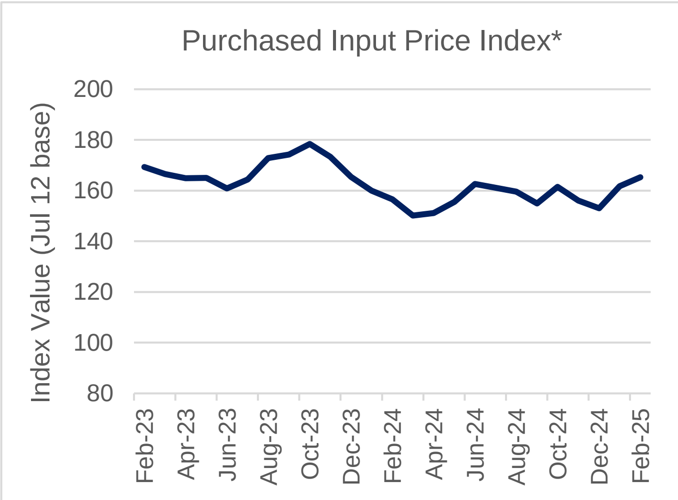
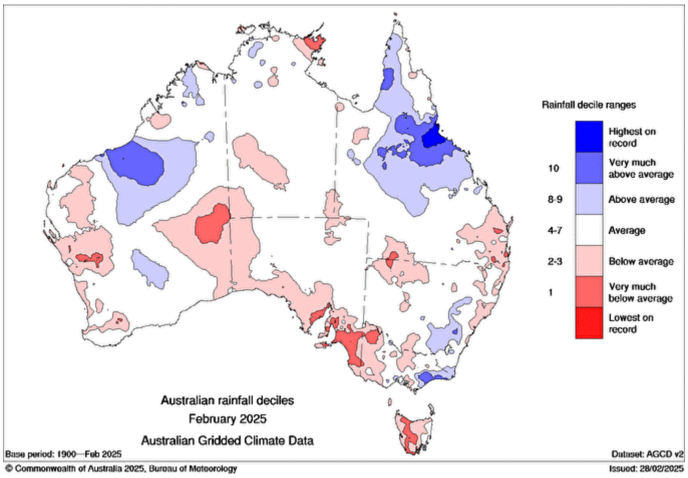
Production Inputs Monitor

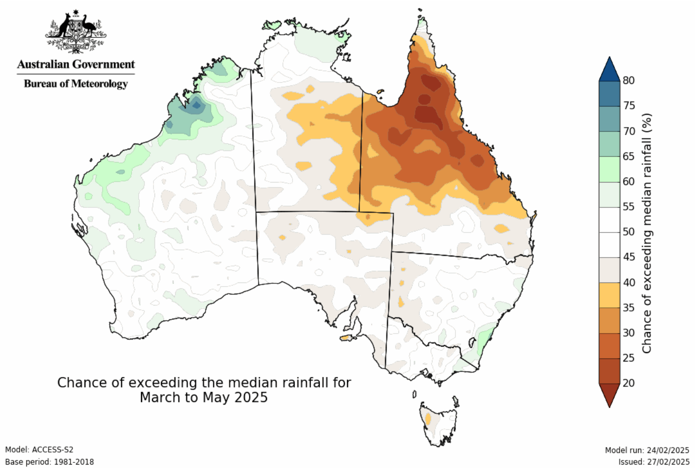
February 2025

Australia's dairying regions faced variable conditions through February. Southern dairying regions experienced above-average temperatures and the lowest February rainfall totals on record in some regions, while Queensland experienced slightly below-average temperatures, and regions such as the Atherton Tablelands saw record-high rainfall. Input costs continued to rise in February; drier conditions across several regions supported higher feed demand, and temporary water prices increased in both northern Victoria and Murray Irrigation systems, though they remain well below the peaks recorded in the 2019/20 season. Globally, reduced grain supplies from the northern hemisphere are expected to drive increased export demand for Australian grain over the coming months, further increasing grain prices. In the fertiliser market, urea, potash (MOP), and diammonium phosphate (DAP) prices all increased. Iranian urea production remained offline for longer than expected, tightening supply, while concerns over potential United States tariffs pushed MOP and DAP prices higher. The latter was additionally pressured by India securing a phosphate contract with Morocco.



The number of cull cows passing through the saleyards increased in February, despite the shorter month, with challenging weather conditions potentially contributing to higher culling rates. Cull cow prices remain above last year, after the impact of lower beef prices last season.

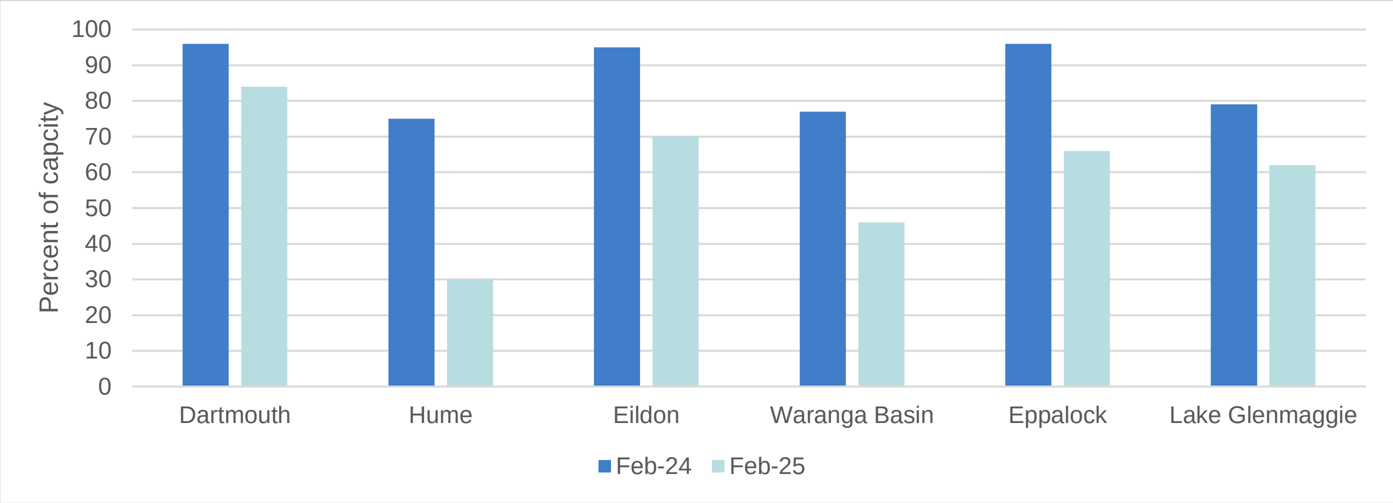




** The PIPI is created using data collected from the Dairy Farm Monitor Project (DFMP) alongside our monthly reporting and reflects the cost movement of the following grouped inputs: fodder, feed concentrates, fertiliser, and fuel.*

PIPI inputs price change	Cereal grain ($/t)	Protein conc. ($/t)	Cereal hay ($/t)	Protein hay ($/t)	Fertiliser ($/t)	Fuel (c/L)
Feb-25	345	463	298	405	693	175
Feb-24	↑4%	↓11%	↑3%	↑10%	↑29%	↓8%
Feb-20	↓2%	↑14%	↓8%	↓40%	↑116%	↑37%

Water storage levels



Irrigation allocations (2024/25 at 3rd March)

Victoria	HRWS	Change (HRWS)	LRWS
Murray	100%	-	0%
Broken	100%	-	100%
Goulburn	100%	-	0%
Campaspe	100%	-	48%
Loddon	100%	-	0%
Bullarook Creek	12%	-	0%
MID	100%	-	50%
NSW – Murray Irrigation Ltd	Allocation		Change
Class C-General Security	110%		+48%
Further details www.g-mwter.com.au, www.srw.com.au , or https://www.murrayirrigation.com.au/.			

Temporary water trades	Feb-25	Jan-25	Dec-24	Nov-24	Feb-24	% Change LY
Northern Victoria		*Source: Victorian Water Register*				
1A Greater Goulburn	$95	$100	$95	$108	$30	+217%
6 Hume to Barmah	$130	$128	$110	$130	$30	+333%
7 Barmah to Nyah	$165	$155	$137	$145	$32	+416%
Volume traded (ML)	171,683	143,023	157,819	361,823	160,545	+7%
Average price ($/ML)	$131	$133	$124	$133	$31	+323%
Murray Irrigation System		*Source: Murray Irrigation Ltd*				
Volume traded (ML)	43,968	26,136	34,923	15,650	30,744	+43%
Average price ($/ML)	$99	$108	$60	$112	$16	+521%

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Acknowledgement
Dairy Australia acknowledges the funding from levy payers and contribution by Commonwealth Government.

		Monthly % change	Jan-25	Dec-24	Nov-24
Cereal hay					
Northern Australia ($/tonne)	340	+3%	330	313	313
Southern Australia ($/tonne)	298	+3%	290	286	308
Western Australia ($/tonne)	296	-6%	315	315	317
Wheat					
Northern Australia ($/tonne)	331	+3%	322	316	315
Southern Australia ($/tonne)	345	+1%	340	339	335
Western Australia ($/tonne)	359	+1%	349	343	346
Futures prices (ASX)					
Wheat (av. $/t Jan-26 east coast)	403	+10%	366	347	325
Barley (av. $/t Jan-26 east coast)	315	+1%	311	283	280
Fertiliser					
DAP (A$/tonne)	959	+2%	936	989	882
Urea (A$/tonne)	693	+13%	611	556	541
MOP (A$/tonne)	506	+4%	485	462	432
Relative soil moisture (percentile rank averaged between reference river regions listed).			Source: The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)		
Northern Australia (Clarence River, Logan Albert Rivers)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Southern Australia (Goulburn River, Murray Riverina)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Western Australia (Busselton Coast, Albany Coast)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cull Cows			Source: NLRS (saleyards within Vic, NSW, QLD, SA, WA)		
Sales volume (head)	3580	+13%	3179	2455	3498
Average price (c/kg lwt)	244	-2%	249	237	223
	YTD 2024/25	% change	YTD 2023/24	YTD 2022/23	YTD 2021/22
Sales volume (head)	30,920	-4%	32,048	36,992	44,005
Average price (c/kg lwt)	244	+38%	177	285	295

To access more information on the Hay and Grain reports, click here.

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