

## GROWER NEWSLETTER

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GET IN TOUCH WITH US

**Mal Parkhill**

**Ph: 0417 336 103**

**E: Mal@inariaustralia.com.au**

**Bridie George**

**Ph: 0479 057 699**

**E: Bridie@inariaustralia.com.au**

## INDIA EXTENDS FREE PEA IMPORTS - AGAIN

For the second time since the initial policy change (in early December 2023), Government of India extended its zero-tariff policy on yellow pea imports. Now, the exporters have time until end of June to ship their cargo to the South Asian country. The shipped peas have no restriction on the arrival date and keeping transit time in mind, we expect Indian customs to keep clearing pea cargoes until August.

As discussed in detail last month, latest change is unlikely to bring additional material to India, for the supplies are running thin in most of the origin countries. The latest move, however, still provides a continuity of imports, and it increases chances of Indian authorities to extend it into the new crop harvests across Northern Hemisphere. Remember, Russian farmers start their pea harvest in July, while Canadian crop is ready by August and if India extends it again by 2-3 months, it will be able to import bulk of the new harvest.

Indian pulses basket was short by more than five million metric tonnes in MY 2023/24 (Apr-Mar) and even after importing around 4.5 MMT of all pulses during the marketing year, inventories got depleted. We expect a repeat of last year and Indian pulses imports will remain high, particularly for yellow peas, lentils and pigeon peas.

For Aussie growers, pertinent question is whether India reduce import tariff on Australian chickpeas? This question demands an early answer, for the growers in VIC and NSW to plan and execute their seeding campaign in time.

## TWO CHICKPEA VESSELS DISCHARGE AT INDIAN PORTS

Last month, two vessels carrying Australian desi chickpeas unloaded their cargo at Indian ports.

- MV Eternity C, (carrying 33 KMT of chickpeas) which was originally destined to Karachi, discharged its cargo at Mundra
- MV Nord Yilan, (carrying 25 KMT of chickpeas) originally destined to Bangladesh, discharged its cargo in Kandla

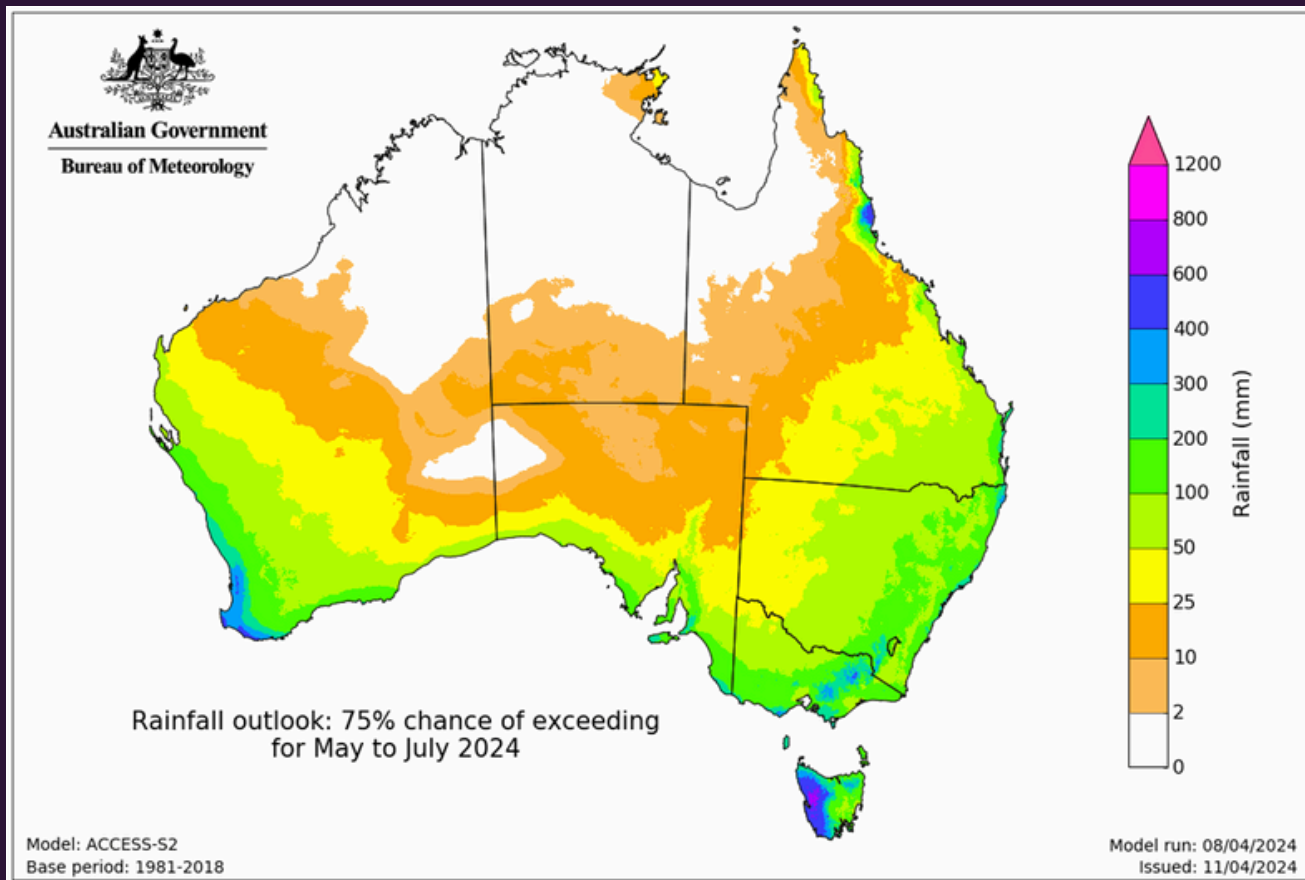
There are many possibilities that come to our mind:

1. Traders importing Australian chickpeas, paying hefty duties
2. These vessels are utilising cheaper rented space in Indian ports
3. Owners of this cargo are anticipating a duty cut in chickpea imports and will be the first to get their cargo cleared
4. These chickpeas are processed and reexported

There can be more possibilities, however, we believe that the second one is more probable at the moment and we may not see this movement continuing for long.

# AUSTRALIA TO RECEIVE RAINS

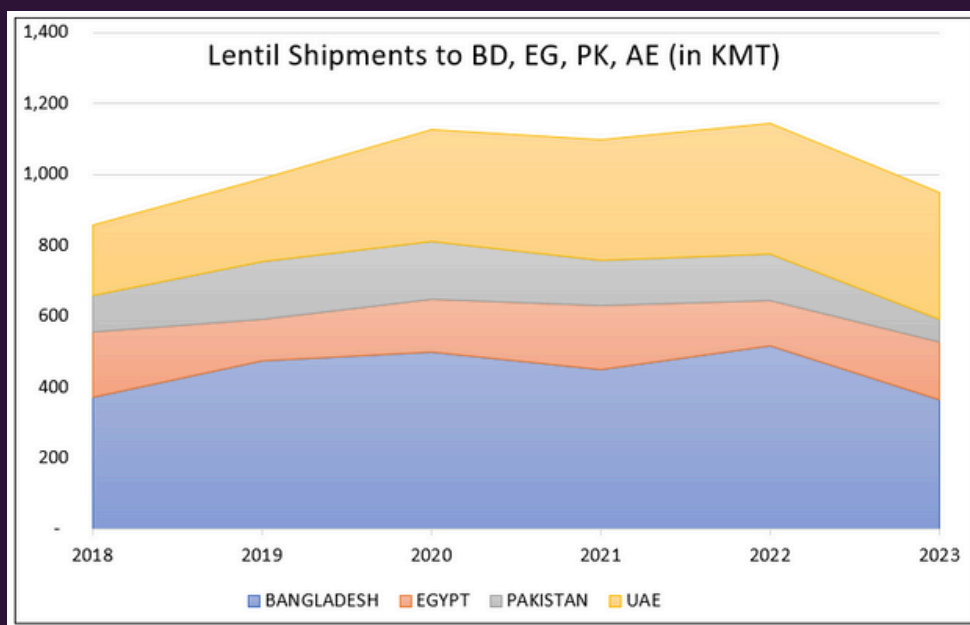
For the next three months (May to July), most of the Australian cropland has plenty rain in the forecast. Pulse growing areas in QLD, NSW and VIC are enjoying ample soil moisture right now and the shower activity in the coming weeks will keep the crops in healthy conditions. The soil moisture profile for SA and WA is not so strong during the first half of April, however, we are hopeful that the conditions will improve soon.



# LENTIL DEMAND TO SURGE AGAIN?

During 2023, lentil import coverage from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt and UAE was nearly 17% lower than 2022, despite an early Ramadan. During Ramadan also, the lentil shipments to these nations remained subpar and there can be a continuous demand from these large lentil importers for the current quarter.

As the supplies of Canadian red lentils is low and the growers' intention report indicated falling acres for red lentils, the demand is slated to come to our shores.





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