

Greater Sydney drought update

20 August 2019



Key messages

- As of 18 August, Sydney's dam levels are at 50.0%, a decrease of 0.3% since last week.
- Level 1 Water Restrictions are currently in place for Greater Sydney.
- Drought conditions remain throughout the Sydney catchments. Storage inflows remain low as the Greater Sydney catchments received negligible rainfall during the week.
- The water transferred from Tallowa to Wingecarribee Reservoir over the last few weeks was released to Nepean Dam, with limited volumes also transferred from Nepean to Avon Dam via the Nepean Deep Water Pumping Station. This has provided a boost to the security of supply for the Nepean, Macarthur and Illawarra supply zones.
- WaterNSW continues to work closely with Sydney Water and other stakeholders to manage water quality risks associated with low storage levels and transfer of water from the Shoalhaven.
- WaterNSW is working with Sydney Water to utilise Duckmaloi Weir to supplement supply to the Blue Mountains system when enough flow is available. Use of the Duckmaloi water source is outlined in the Water Management Licence and is key to providing security of supply to the Blue Mountains, Oberon Council, Lithgow City Council and Energy Australia. Given Duckmaloi is essentially a run of river system the variable water quality will need to be carefully managed to ensure there are no risks to either water supply or energy generation.

More details are outlined below.

Inflows to WaterNSW storages

Light (0-5mm) rainfall was recorded over the Greater Sydney catchments during the week. Storage inflows remain at low levels.

Supply

The continuation of cool and dry conditions this week has resulted in a similar volume supplied to Sydney Water as the previous week. Average daily supply was 1,205 ML/d. The previous weekly average was 1,198 ML/d.

WaterNSW storages

WaterNSW storages in the Sydney catchment decreased by 0.4% (-9,615ML) in the past week.

Shoalhaven pumping

More than 39 GL has been transferred since reaching the trigger to commence transfers in April 2018. After an extended outage the system returned to service on Monday 15 July with approximately 7.2 GL transferred from Tallowa to Wingecarribee Dam and on to the Upper Nepean system over the last four weeks.

Transfers to date have resulted in improved supply security for the Upper Nepean system which supplies Nepean, Avon and Macarthur WFPs (a population of over 600,000) as well as supplementing supply to Prospect WFP via the Upper Canal when sufficient storage is available.

WaterNSW is working closely with Sydney Water to manage anticipated changes to water quality as a result of transfers from the Shoalhaven. Sydney Water are progressing with short term treatment plant upgrades at Nepean WFP to reduced risks during the current drought. Longer term upgrades are also being planned to ensure the WFP has the capability to meet increasing demand.

This week's weather forecast

The forecast indicates nil rain over the catchment areas this week. Temperatures in Greater Sydney are forecast to reach a minimum of 7 degrees and a maximum of 23 degrees across next week. This is expected to result in supply levels to Sydney Water that are typical for this time of year.

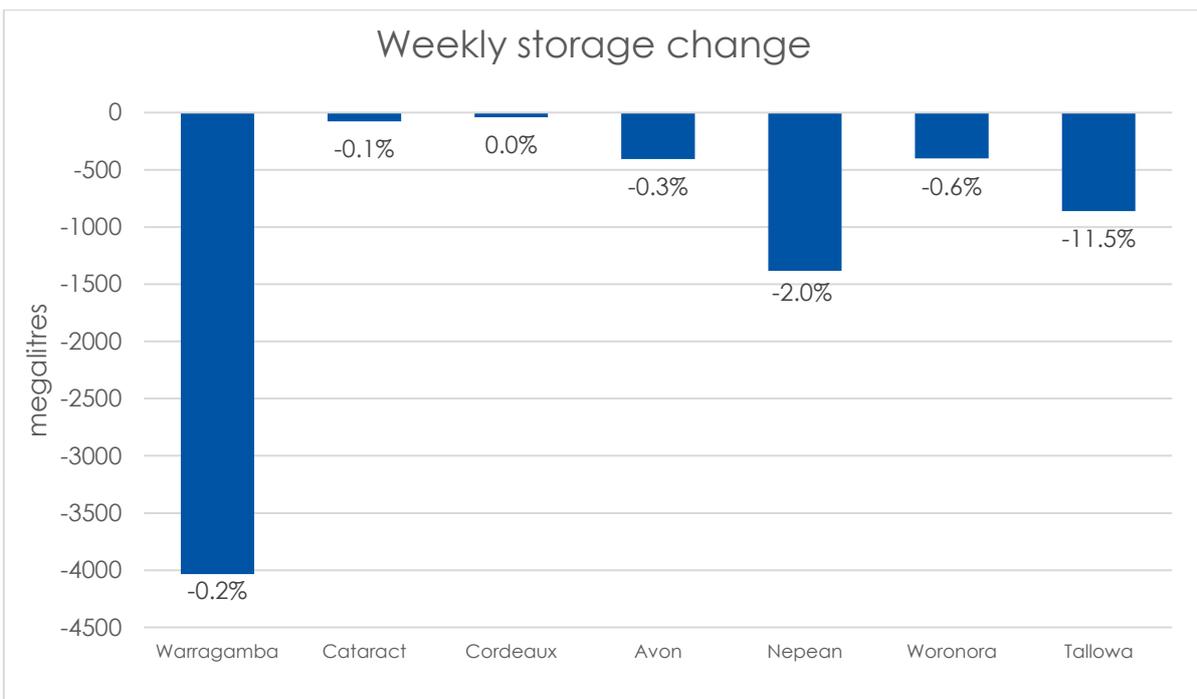
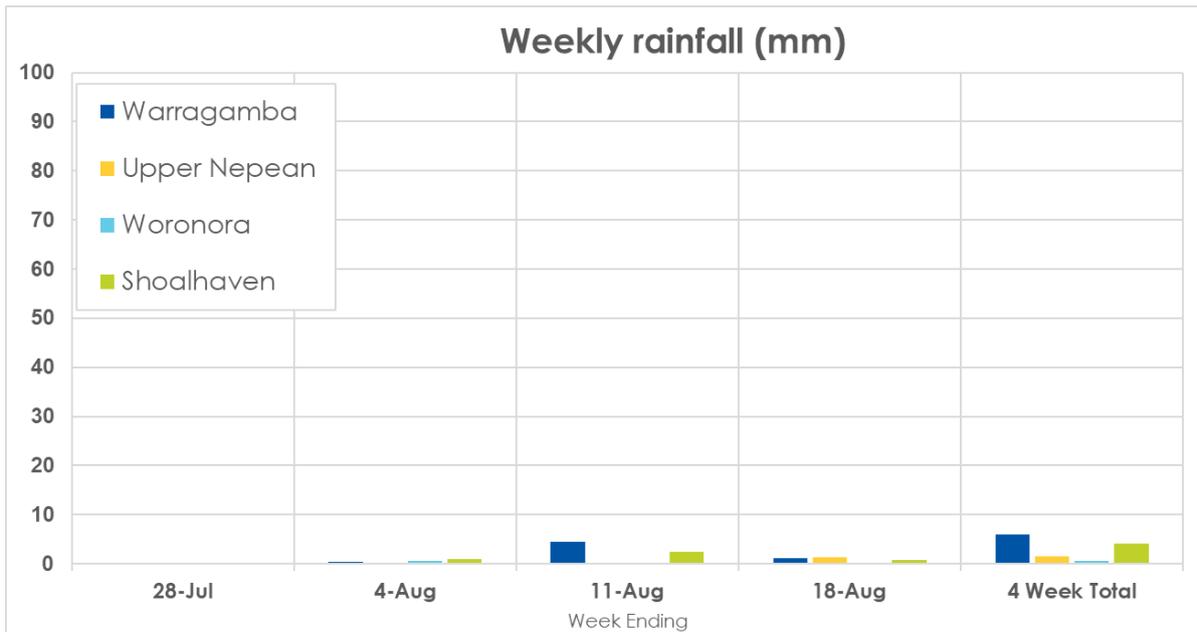
Details

Storage situation

Sydney's dam levels are at 50.0%, a decrease of 0.3% since last week.

Rainfall

Rainfall over the last 4 weeks:



Water supplied to Sydney Water

Total water supply (7 days)	Average daily supply (7 days)	Net weekly storage change
8,536 ML	1,219 ML	-8,746 ML

More information

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