

# Greater Sydney Operations Report

December 2021

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## Key messages

- On Friday 31 December 2021 the total available water held in Greater Sydney dams was **94.8%**, a decrease of 1.8% from the previous month. The Greater Sydney catchments experienced well above average rainfall for the month of December.
- Approximately 700 GL of water flowed into our dams this month compared to 67 GL for the same time last year. Total inflows for the calendar year reached 5,505 GL, which is more than double the annual long-term average.
- With our dams exceeding 75%, there were no transfers from the Shoalhaven System and Water Wise Guidelines are in place across Greater Sydney.
- As total system storage declines with normal supply, it is expected we will reach 75% (the trigger to re-commence Shoalhaven Transfers) in October 2022 at the earliest.

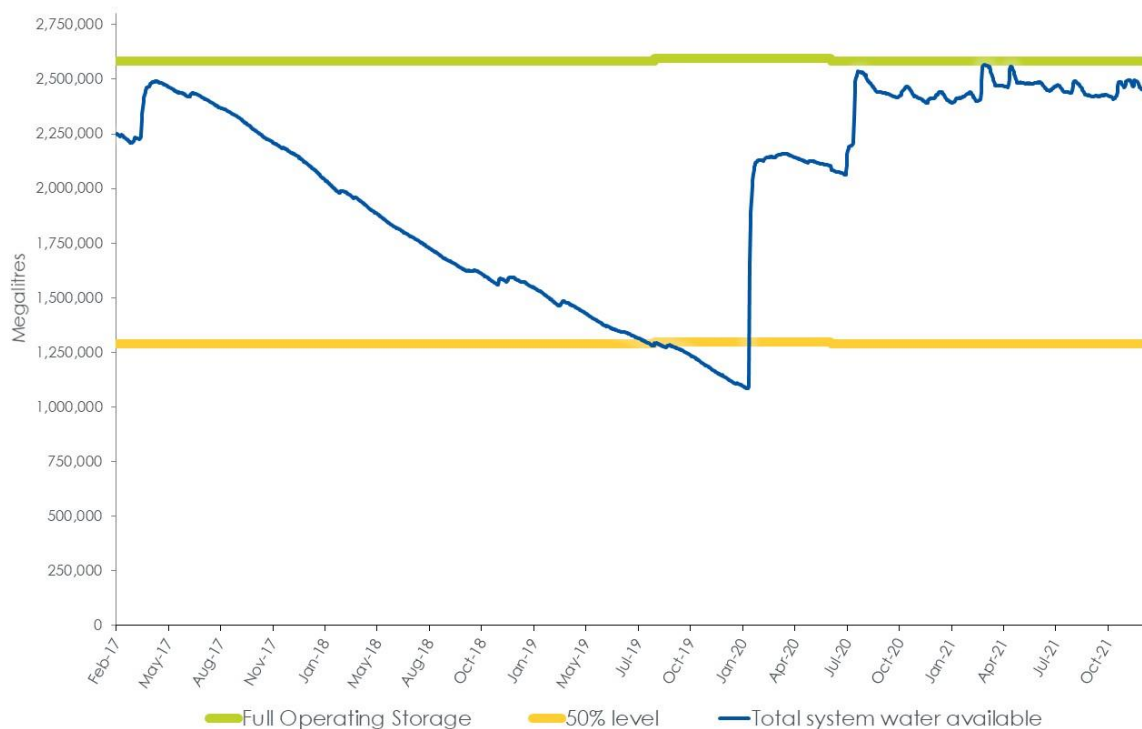


## Storage Levels

On Friday 31 December 2021 the total available water held in Greater Sydney storages was **94.8%**, a decrease of 1.8% from the previous month.

For more information on Greater Sydney Dam levels please visit [www.watarnsw.com.au/sydneydamlevels](http://www.watarnsw.com.au/sydneydamlevels)

Available storage 94.8% on 31 December 2021

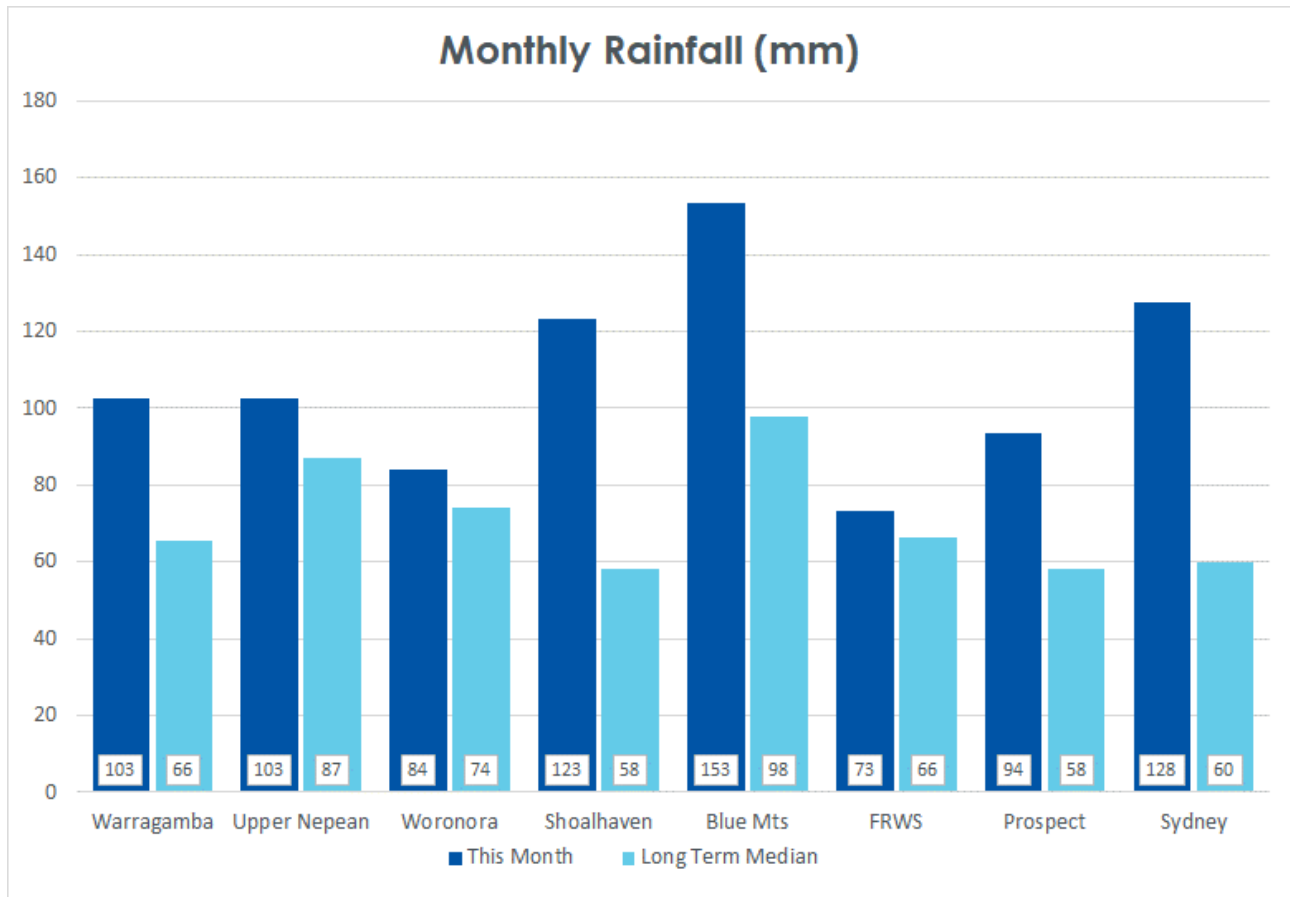


Storage	Capacity (ML)	Friday 31 December 2021			Tuesday 30 November 2021		
		Level (m)	Available (ML)	Available (%)	Level (m)	Available (ML)	Available (%)
Cataract	97,190	-5.36	58,291	60.0	-5.33	58,478	60.2
Cordeaux	93,640	-1.05	85,767	91.6	-0.75	87,910	93.9
Avon	146,700	-1.51	131,132	89.4	-1.34	132,734	90.5
Nepean	67,730	-1.10	64,265	94.9	-1.59	62,804	92.7
Woronora	71,790	-5.02	54,848	76.4	-4.95	55,060	76.7
Warragamba	2,027,000	-0.55	1,985,981	98.0	0.06	2,027,000	100.0
Prospect	33,330	-0.65	29,908	89.7	-0.60	30,261	90.8
Wingecarribee	24,130	-0.83	20,513	85.0	-0.75	20,852	86.4
Fitzroy Falls	9,950	-0.49	7,611	76.5	-0.21	8,941	89.9
Tallowa	7,500	0.13	7,500	100.0	0.43	7,500	100.0
Blue Mountains	2,890	-	2,595	89.8	-	2,627	90.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,581,850</b>		<b>2,448,411</b>	<b>94.8</b>		<b>2,494,167</b>	<b>96.6</b>

Note: The weekly percentage change is based on the total variation in volume measured in megalitres. Percentages are rounded to the nearest 0.1 percent.

## Rainfall

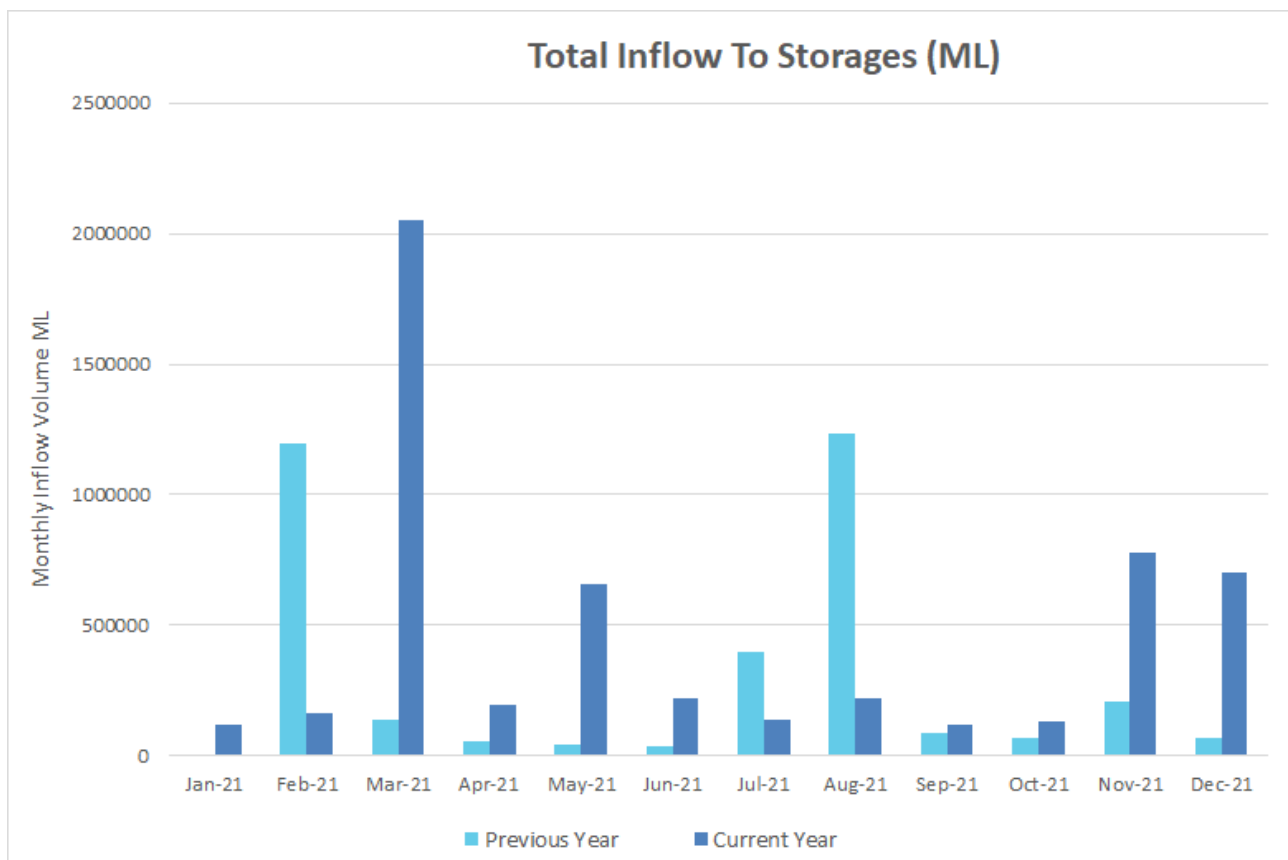
During December 2021, rainfall was well above the December long-term median for all catchment areas.



## Inflows

Sydney's storages received significant inflows during December 2021. The annual inflows to Warragamba Dam and Tallowa Dam were more than double their respective annual long-term average.

Monthly Inflow (ML)	Warragamba	Upper Nepean	Woronora	Tallowa	TOTAL
	319,631	14,148	1,329	364,963	700,070

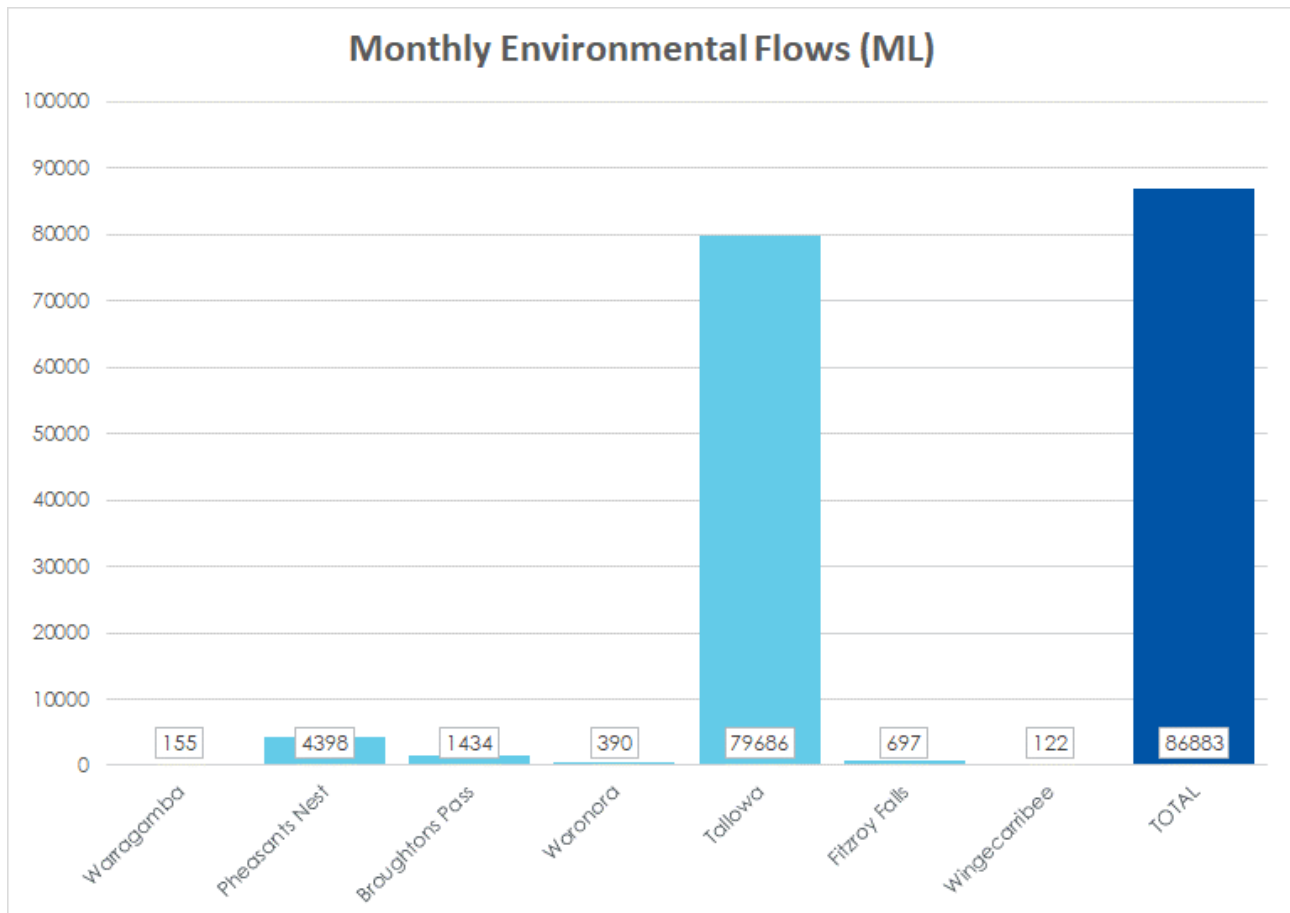


Calendar Year	Warragamba Inflow (ML)	Upper Nepean Inflow (ML)	Woronora Inflow (ML)	Tallowa Inflow (ML)	TOTAL
Average Annual	1,069,000	316,000	30,000	1,071,000	2,486,000
2018	103,234	32,199	2,433	136,559	274,425
2019	50,350	35,828	2,755	78,024	166,956
2020	1,745,619	276,838	34,570	1,487,432	3,544,459
<b>2021 to 31 Dec</b>	<b>2,606,402</b>	<b>282,502</b>	<b>17,907</b>	<b>2,597,847</b>	<b>5,504,658</b>

Note: The tables above do not include smaller inflows into storages such as Wingecarribee, Fitzroy Falls, Prospect and the Blue Mountains Dams

## Environmental releases

During December, a total of 86,883 ML was released from Sydney water sources for the environment.

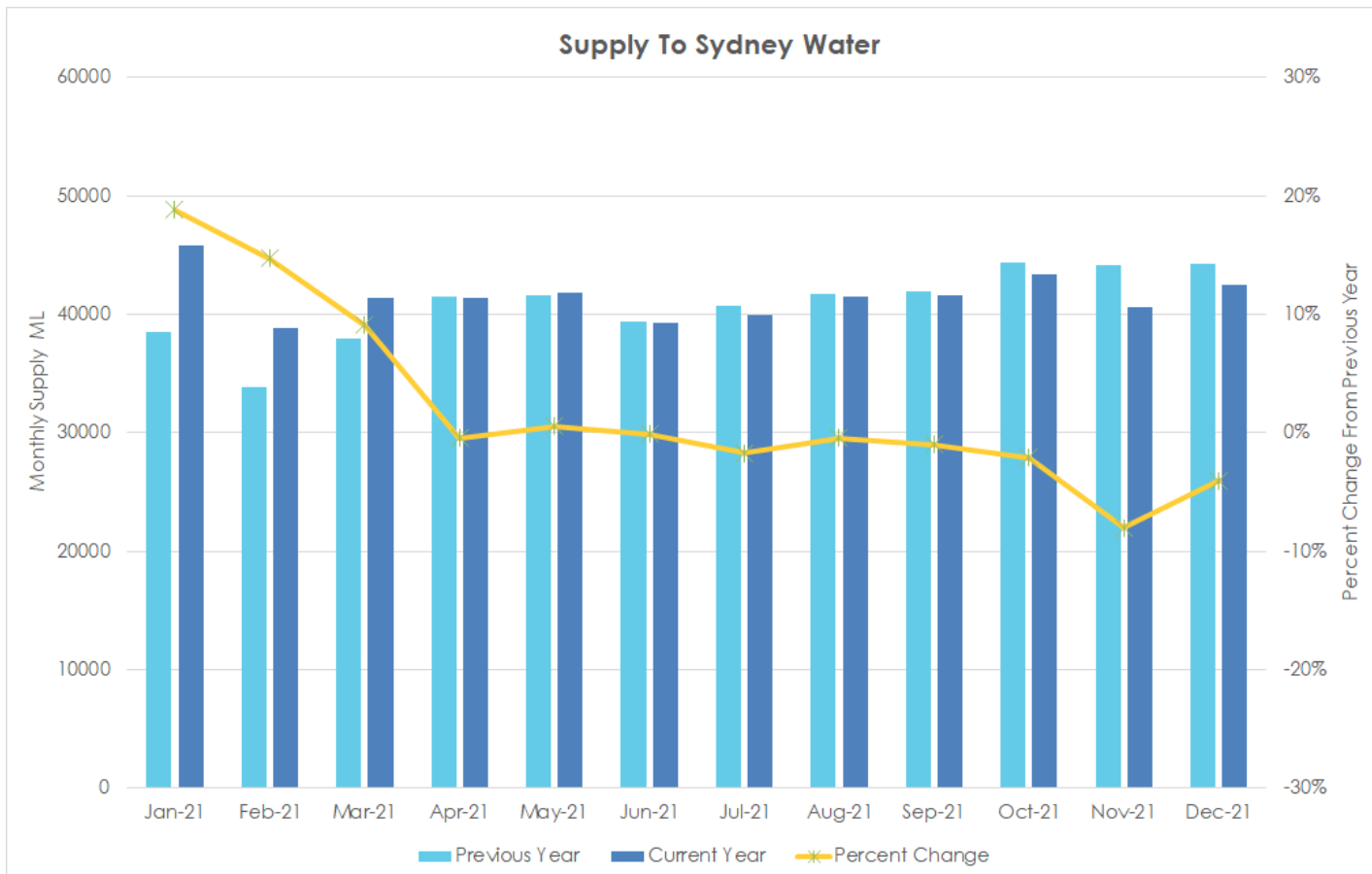


## Water supplied to our customers

In the Greater Sydney area, WaterNSW supplies raw water to over 60 customers including Sydney Water Corporation, Wingecaribee Shire Council, Shoalhaven City Council, Goulburn Mulwaree Council and other minor customers.

Sydney Water supplies treated drinking water to the people of Sydney, Illawarra and the Blue Mountains and is our largest customer accounting for more than 99% of the total volume supplied from the Sydney system.

The volume supplied to Sydney Water this month was 42,427ML with a daily average supply of 1,369ML/D, which is 4% less than the same time last year (demand reduced due to seasonally high rainfall).



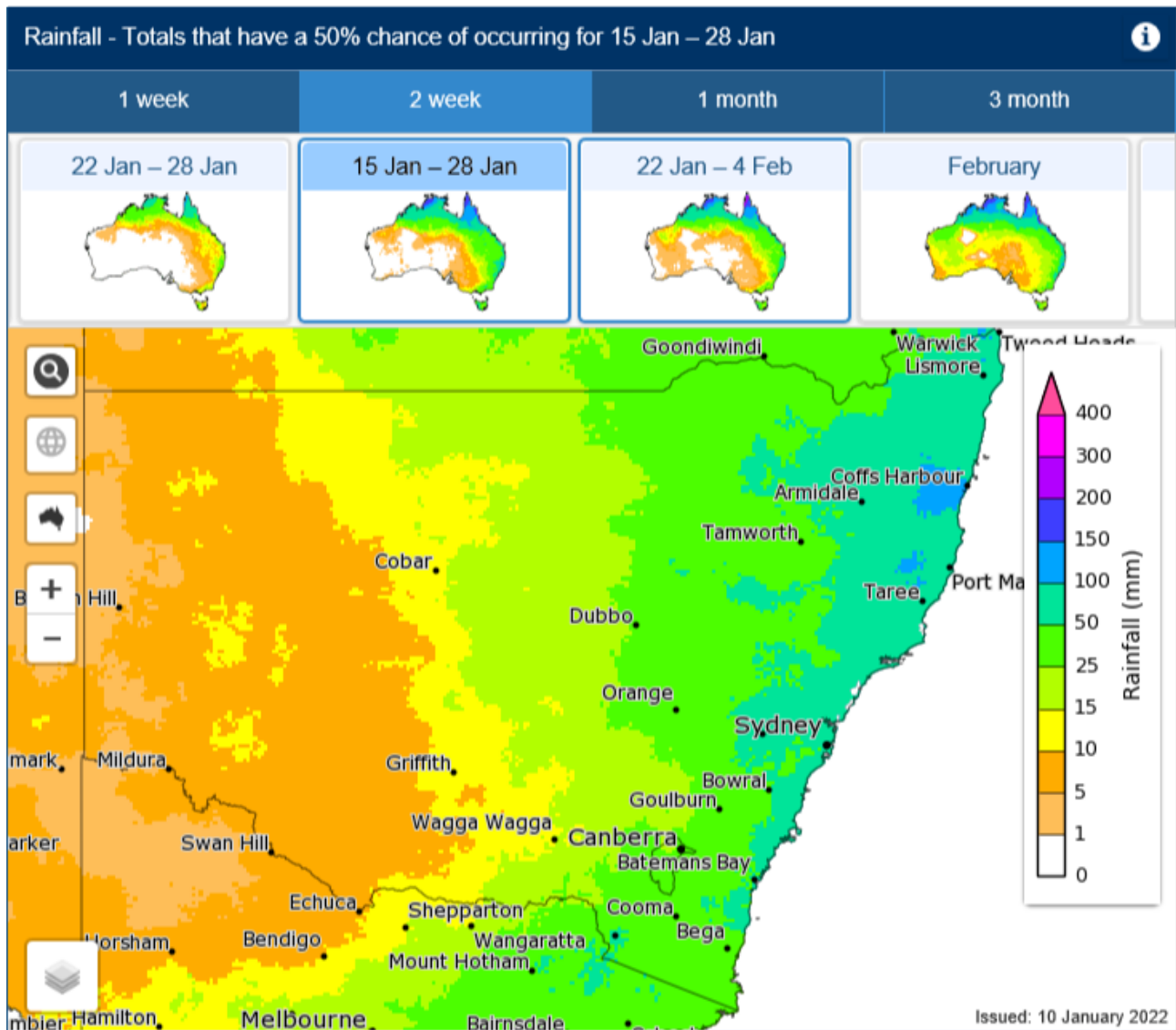
WaterNSW supplies raw, untreated water from our dams to the water filtration plants below:

Filtration Plant	Monthly Supply (ML)	Average Daily Supply (ML)
Cascade	544	18
Illawarra	2680	86
Macarthur	2695	87
Nepean	388	13
North Richmond	524	17
Orchard Hills	1734	56
Prospect	32566	1051
Warragamba	103	3
Woronora	1193	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42427</b>	<b>1369</b>



## Forecast

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, the remainder of January is likely to be wetter than average for Sydney's catchment areas. BOM forecast rainfall amounts are shown below:



For more information on weather in NSW please visit the BoM <http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/>

## More Information

WaterNSW is a state-owned corporation established under the *Water NSW Act 2014* and operates under an Operating License issued and monitored by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

WaterNSW operate the state's rivers and water supply systems in accordance with the rules set out by regulators. With more than 40 dams across the state, we supply two-thirds of water used in NSW to regional towns, irrigators, Sydney Water Corporation and local water utilities. We also own and operate the largest surface and groundwater monitoring network in the southern hemisphere and build, maintain and operate essential infrastructure.

The Greater Sydney system includes 15 major dams that are interconnected by a complex system of rivers, weirs, canals and pipelines. WaterNSW manages this system in the most efficient way to provide the best quality raw water to our customers, whilst also ensuring long-term security of supply is maintained for the future.

Warragamba Dam is the largest dam in the system and provides around 80% of Sydney's water supply. When the total system storage falls below 75%, WaterNSW can transfer water from the Shoalhaven system into the Upper Nepean Dams or Warragamba Dam.

The total system storage for Greater Sydney (all our Dams combined):  
2,581,850 ML (approximately 2 600 GL)

1 Kilolitre (KL) = 1000 litres

1 Megalitre (ML) = 1000 Kilolitres

1 Gigalitre (GL) = 1000 Megalitres

For more information, or to view our daily and weekly Greater Sydney catchment updates, please visit our website at <https://www.waternsw.com.au/greatersydney>