

# Greater Sydney drought update

3 September 2019



## Key messages

- As of 1 September, Sydney's dam levels are at 49.7%, an increase of 0.1% since last week.
- The 50% drought trigger was reached on 18 August 2019.
- Level 1 Water Restrictions are currently in place for Greater Sydney.
- Drought conditions remain throughout the Sydney catchments. Moderate rain was received across the Greater Sydney catchments during the week. Storage inflows still remain low.
- Increased pumping for transfers commencing 27 August 2019 will allow for 14.5 GL of water to be transferred from Tallowa to Sydney's water storage. These transfers will not significantly impact water supply or energy security in the Illawarra/Shoalhaven regions and will continue only as long as sufficient water is available in Tallowa Dam. The increased operating storage in Tallowa will allow WaterNSW to capture more water during inflow events. See <https://www.waternsw.com.au/about/newsroom/2019/waternsw-resumes-transfers-from-shoalhaven-to-bolster-sydney-supply>.
- The water transferred from Tallowa to Wingecarribee Reservoir over the last week 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 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

Twenty to 40mm rainfall was recorded over the Greater Sydney catchments during the week. Storage inflows remain at low levels due to the antecedent condition of the catchment.

### Supply

The wet conditions this week has resulted in a decrease to the volume supplied to Sydney Water. Average daily supply was 1,141 ML/d. The previous weekly average was 1,203 ML/d.

### WaterNSW storages

WaterNSW storages in the Sydney catchment increased by 0.1% (+2,596 ML) in the past week. This was largely due to the increase to the Shoalhaven transfers in response to the historically low inflows to Sydney's water storage.

## Shoalhaven pumping

More than 42 GL has been transferred since reaching the trigger to commence transfers in April 2018. Approximately 3.0 GL was transferred from Tallowa to Wingecarribee Dam and 1.4 GL onto the Upper Nepean system over the last week.

The transfer system will be taken offline on 2 September 2019 to allow WaterNSW and Origin Energy to carry out essential maintenance works. These works will increase overall system redundancy and flexibility for both drought transfers and pumped hydro operations.

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 the low chance of showers over the Greater Sydney Catchment areas this week. Temperatures in Greater Sydney are forecast to reach a minimum of 5 degrees and a maximum of 29 degrees across next week. This is expected to result in supply levels to Sydney Water that are above average for this time of year.

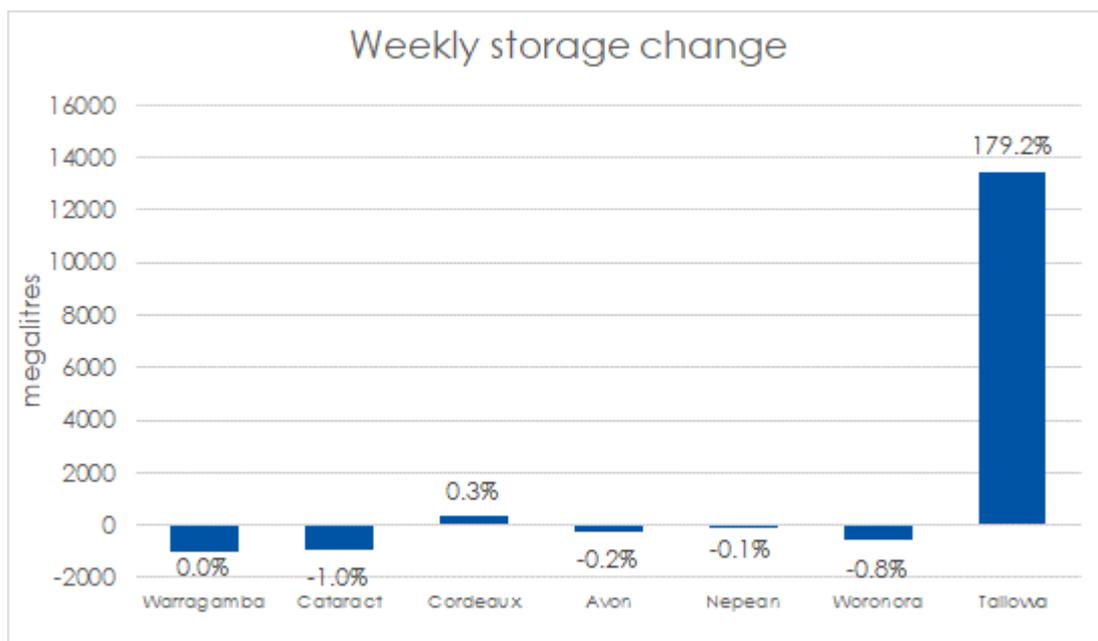
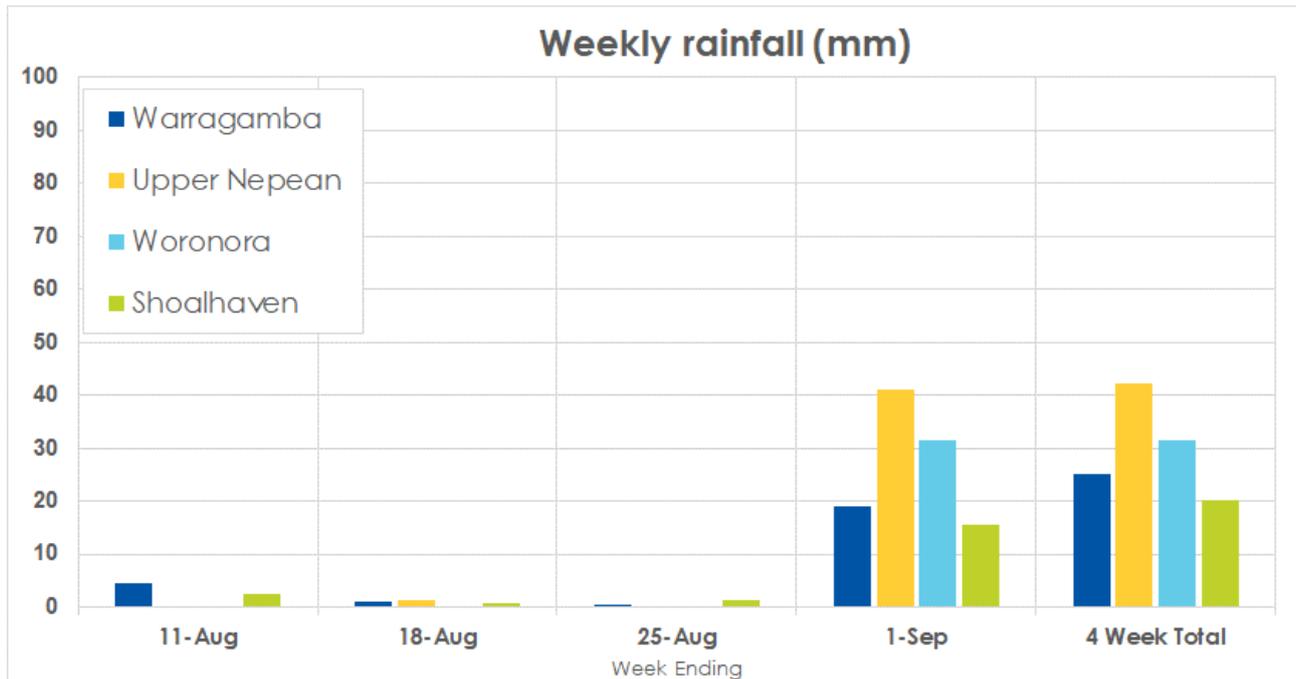
## Details

### Storage situation

Sydney's dam levels are at 49.7%, an increase of 0.1% 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
7,986 ML	1,141 ML	+2,596 ML

### More information

Are you receiving our publications? Stay up-to-date with storage levels, system risks and climate conditions across NSW. You can also find valley-specific information about storage status, predicted release patterns and operating conditions.

Subscribe to have the report emailed to you each week. Please visit our website at [watnsw.com.au/subscribe](http://watnsw.com.au/subscribe) for more information.