

Greater Sydney drought update

18 June 2019



Key messages

- As of 16 June, Sydney's dam levels are at 52.6%, a decrease of 0.4% since last week.
- Level 1 Water Restrictions are currently in place for Greater Sydney.
- Drought conditions remain throughout the Sydney catchments. Although moderate rainfall fell across the greater Sydney catchments over the weekend, storage inflows remain low.
- Last month recorded one of the lowest May rainfall totals over the last 16 years. Rainfall over the Upper Nepean Catchment was the driest since commencement of the millennium drought in the early 2000's. Correspondingly, rainfall over the Warragamba and Shoalhaven catchments this month was the 4th driest May over the last 16 years.
- 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.
- The planned outage of the Shoalhaven Scheme has been extended until 12 July. Origin Energy have encountered some major issues in the final stages of commissioning. The manufacturer R&D team from Germany are carrying out investigations. Origin Energy and WaterNSW are exploring options to minimise the impact of the outage extension. The scheme is critical to the business needs of Origin Energy as well as for the Greater Sydney drought response and as such Origin Energy are doing all they can to return the station to service. Tallowa Dam is currently 0.24m below FSL with approximately 6,000ML of storage available in Tallowa to pump. At present there is minimal risk of lost transfer opportunity.

More details are outlined below.

Inflows to WaterNSW storages

At the start of the week, moderate rainfall generated across south east coast of new south wales. This has brought around 2,000 ML inflows into Tallowa dam and minor/negligible inflows into metro dams. All other storage inflows remain at low levels.

Supply

Ongoing mild temperatures have resulted in decrease to the volume supplied to Sydney Water this week. Average daily supply decreased by 202 ML/d (to 1,295 ML/d from the previous weekly average of 1,497 ML/d).

WaterNSW storages

WaterNSW storages in the Sydney catchment decreased by 0.2% (-5,129 ML) in the past week.

Shoalhaven pumping

More than 33 GL has been transferred since reaching the trigger to commence transfers in April 2018. No transfers have been made from the Shoalhaven since 18th March due to the first of

several system outages scheduled to facilitate major maintenance works by both Origin Energy and WaterNSW. The outage is to address both statutory requirements and key process safety issues. WaterNSW continues to work closely with Origin Energy to minimise the impact of planned works on system availability and assess the risks to drought response against the asset reliability risks associated with not going ahead with the works.

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 500,000) 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 7-day rainfall forecast indicates further rain expected on Monday (up to 18mm) and from Friday to Sunday (up to 20mm daily) over Greater Sydney Catchments. Temperatures in Greater Sydney are forecast to reach a minimum of 9 degrees and a maximum of 20 degrees across next week. This is expected to result in below average supply levels to Sydney Water.

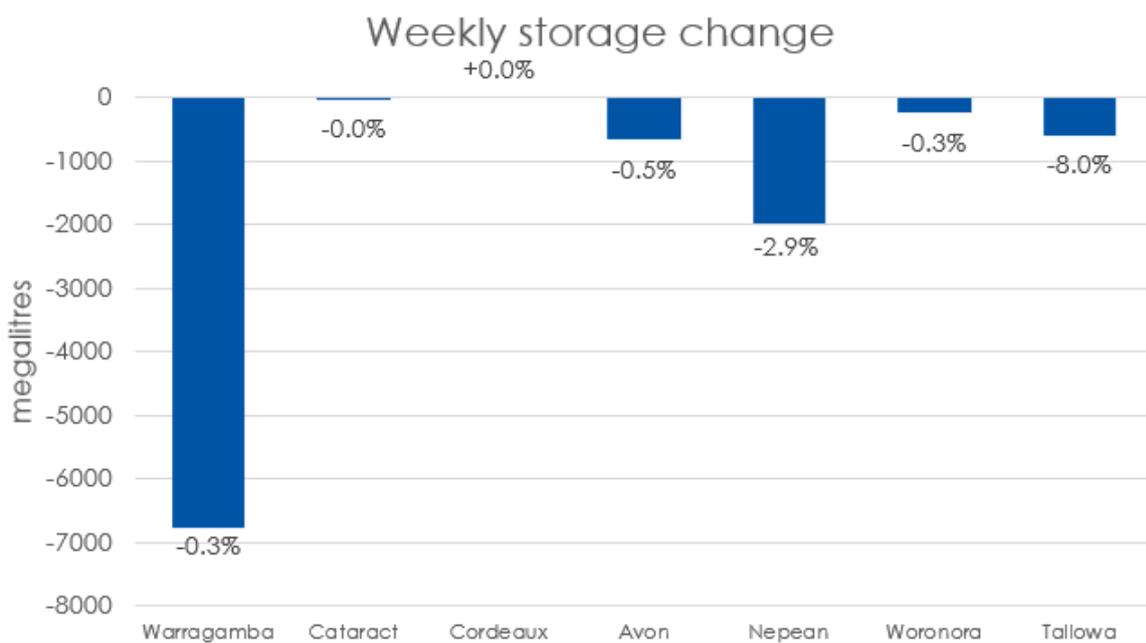
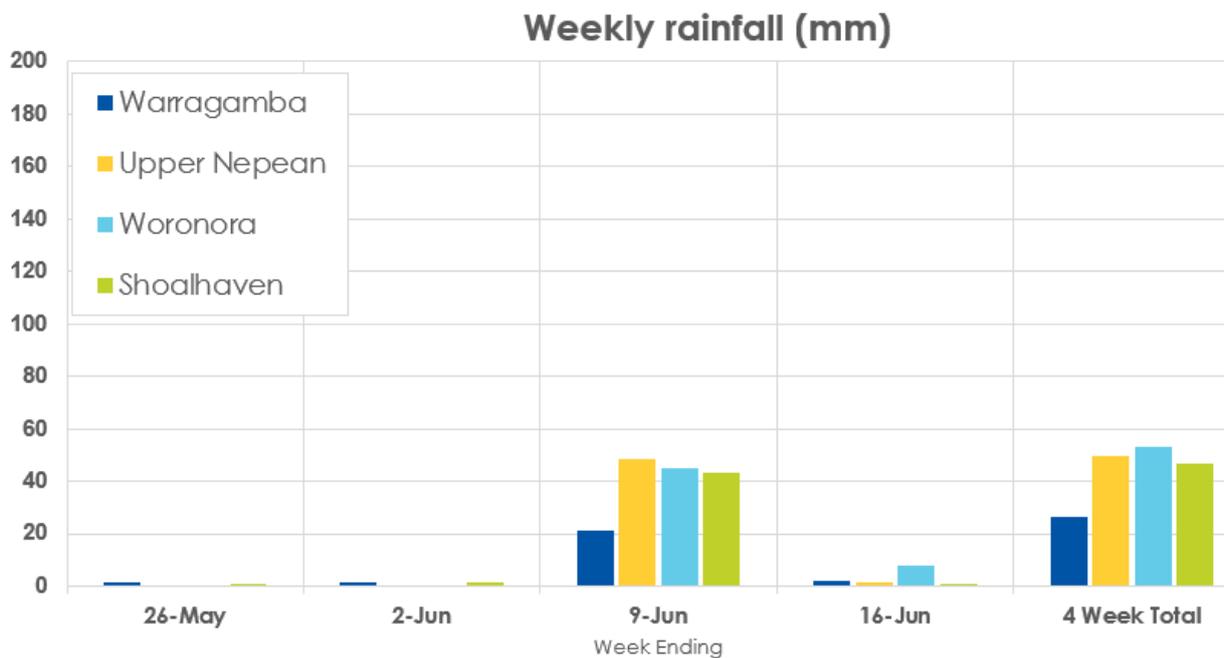
Details

Storage situation

Sydney's dam levels are at 52.6%, a decrease of 0.4% 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
9,059 ML	1,294 ML	-9,475 ML

More information

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