

# Greater Sydney customer drought update

30 January 2019



## Key messages

As of 28 January, Sydney's dam levels are at 60.09%, a decrease of 0.5% since last Sunday.

The decrease was due to the combination of low rainfall in the catchments and high demand due to heatwave conditions.

The <60% drought trigger was reached on 27 January 2019. As part of the Metropolitan Water Plan, when total storage levels fall below 60% the Sydney Desalination Plant (SDP) is notified to enter start-up mode.

While parts of the system are showing signs of recovery, drought conditions remain throughout the Sydney catchments, with ongoing predictions of a warmer than average summer.

The current BoM outlook indicates February to April is likely to be drier than median. ENSO outlook was lowered to El-Nino WATCH on 22 January.

WaterNSW continues to work closely with Sydney Water and other customers to manage water quality risks associated with low storage levels and transfer of water from the Shoalhaven.

**More details are outlined below.**

## Inflows to WaterNSW storages

Rainfall recorded in the catchment areas was low this week, despite thunderstorms in the catchments on a number of afternoons. Storage inflows remaining at low levels. However, this is an increase in comparison to inflows recorded over much of the last 20 months where inflows were at or near zero.

## Supply

Although still hot and mainly dry, conditions were less extreme than last week which has resulted in a decrease in the volume supplied to Sydney Water this week, with average daily supply decreasing 101ML/d (to 1,702ML/d from the previous weekly average of 1,803ML/d).

## WaterNSW storages

WaterNSW storages in the Sydney catchment decreased by 0.5% (-11,566 ML) in the past week.

## Shoalhaven pumping

During the last week, approximately 0.5 GL was transferred from the Shoalhaven. Further pumping is scheduled for next week to transfer the remaining 0.5 GL of available stored water in Tallowa Dam. More than 29 GL has been transferred since reaching the trigger to commence transfers in April 2018.

WaterNSW is continuing to release transfers from the Shoalhaven to the Upper Nepean System. The release from Wingecarribee to Nepean is continuing at 50ML/d. Transfers have resulted in a steady rise in Nepean Dam, providing much needed relief to 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.

As releases to Nepean continue, WaterNSW is transferring water from Nepean to Avon via the Nepean Deep Water Pump Station. This is in line with standard operating protocols to maximise supply security to the Illawarra and minimise the risk of spill at Nepean.

WaterNSW is working closely with Sydney Water to manage anticipated changes to water quality as a result of transfers from the Shoalhaven.

## This week's weather forecast

The forecast is for minor rain during the week with a medium chance of showers today. There is the chance of thunderstorms on most afternoons. Temperatures in the west are forecast to reach the high 20's to high 30's. Supply to Sydney Water is expected to remain high.

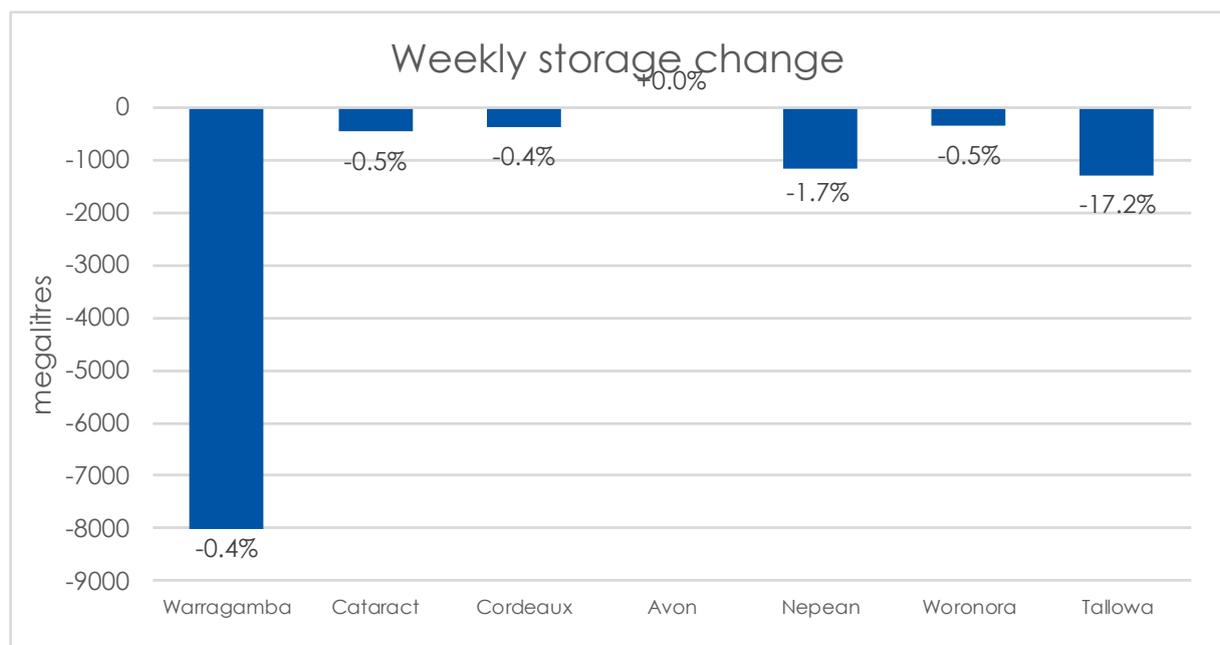
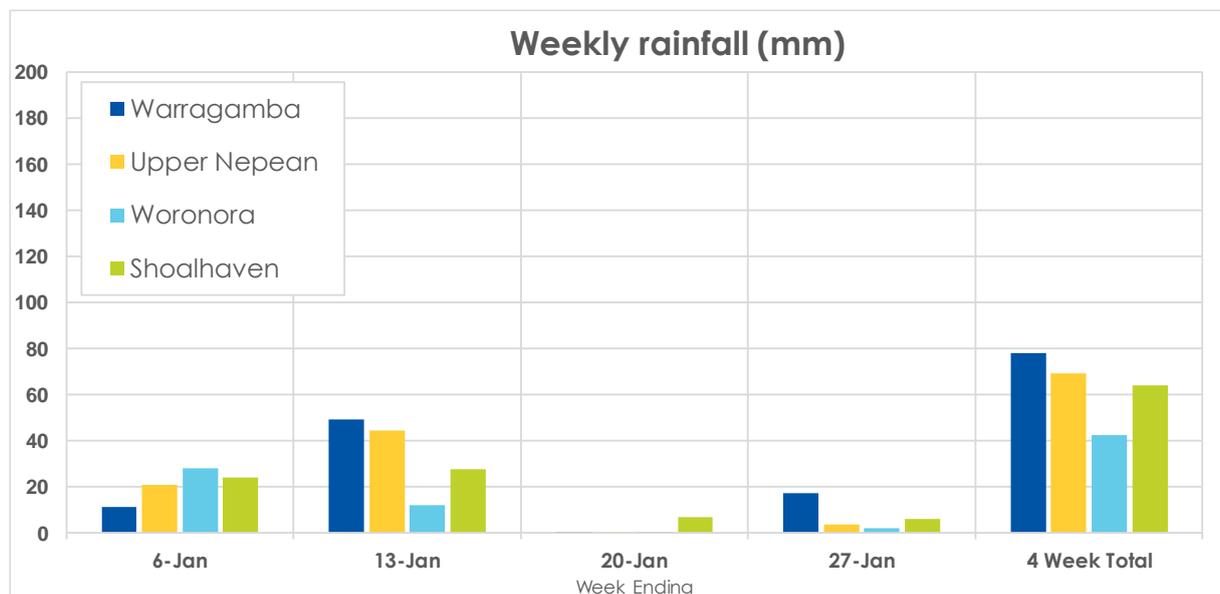
## Details

### Storage situation

Sydney's dam levels are at 59.9%, a decrease of 0.5% since last Sunday.

### 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
11,094 ML	1,702 ML	- 11,566 ML

### More information

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