

# Greater Sydney drought update

10 September 2019



## Key messages

- As of 8 September, Sydney's dam levels are at 49.4%, a decrease of 0.3% 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. Minor rainfall was received across the Greater Sydney catchments during the week. Storage inflows still remain low.
- Changes to system operating rules commenced on 27 August 2019 to allow WaterNSW to access an additional 14.5GL in Tallowa Dam. The additional 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.watarnsw.com.au/about/newsroom/2019/watarnsw-resumes-transfers-from-shoalhaven-to-bolster-sydney-supply>
- The water transferred from Tallowa to Wingecarribee Reservoir over the past 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 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

2mm to 10mm 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 1,199 ML/d. The previous weekly average was 1,141 ML/d.

### WaterNSW storages

WaterNSW storages in the Sydney catchment decreased by 0.3% (-9,884 ML) in the past week.

### Shoalhaven pumping

More than 44 GL has been transferred since reaching the trigger to commence transfers in April 2018. Approximately 1.2 GL was transferred from Tallowa to Wingecarribee Dam and 1.9 GL onto the Upper Nepean system over the last week.

The transfer system is offline from 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 4 degrees and a maximum of 27 degrees across next week. This is expected to result in supply levels to Sydney Water that are above average for this time of year.

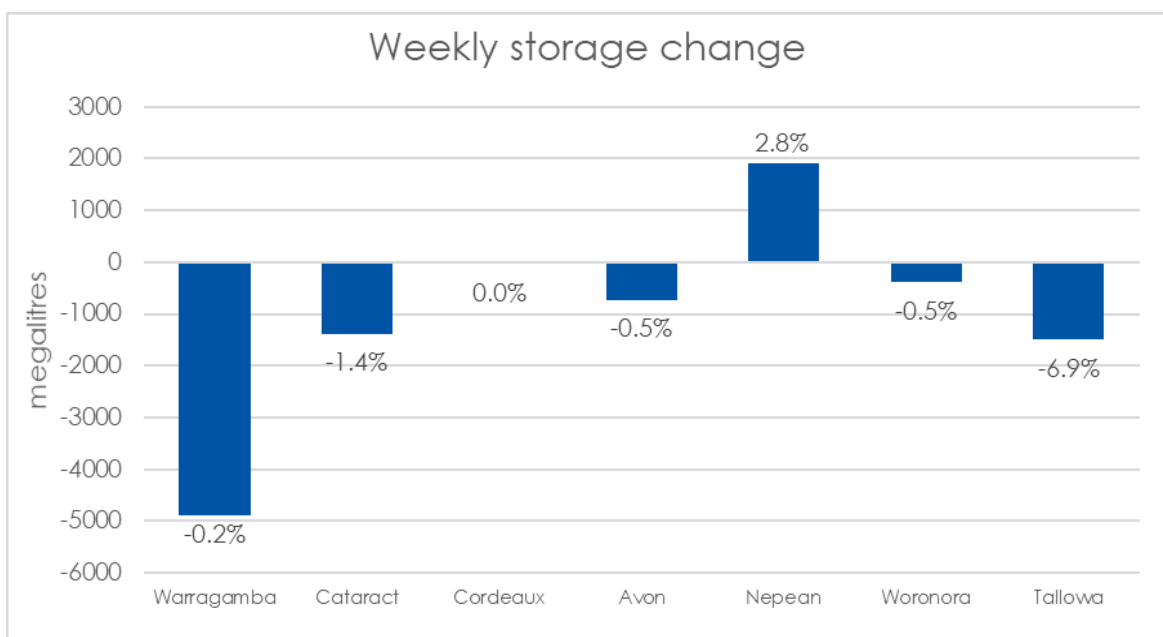
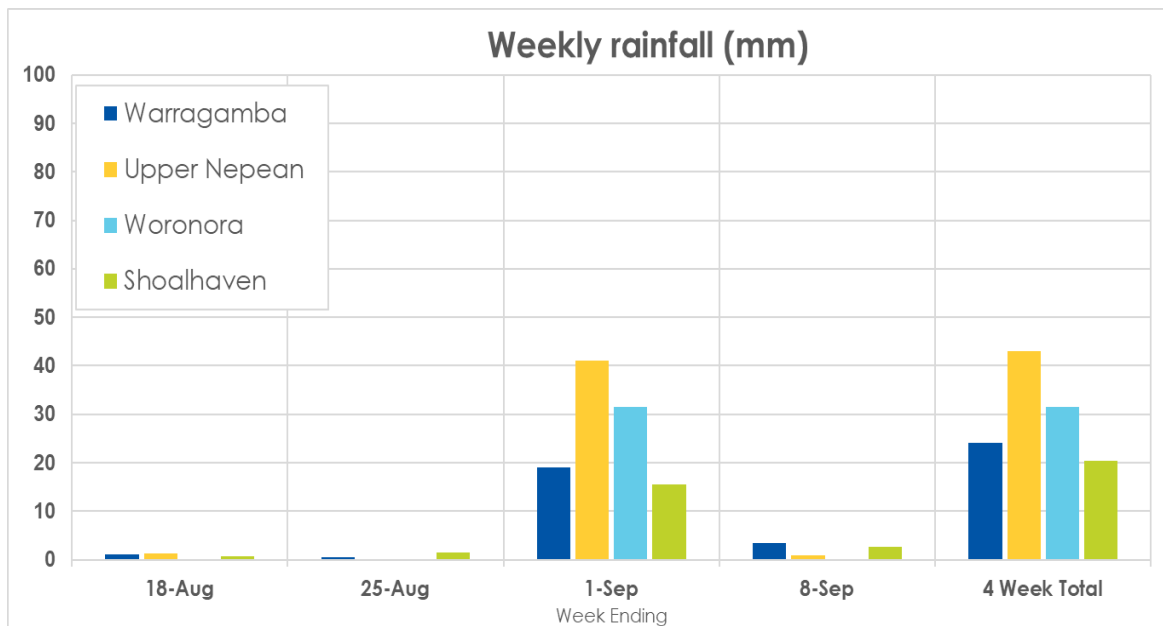
# Details

## Storage situation

Sydney's dam levels are at 49.4%, 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
8,392 ML	1,199 ML	-9,884 ML

### More information

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