

# Greater Sydney customer drought update

5 February 2019



## Key messages

As of 4 February, Sydney's dam levels are at 59.6%, a decrease of 0.3% since last Sunday.

The decrease was due to the combination of low rainfall in the catchments and heatwave conditions (which increased demand).

The 60% drought trigger was reached on 27 January 2019.

Whilst parts of the system are showing signs of recovery, drought conditions remain throughout the Sydney catchments. A return to average rainfall over the last few months has been offset by several heatwaves rapidly drying out the catchments. As a result, inflows have remained at low levels.

The current BoM outlook indicates no strong swing towards either wetter or drier than average conditions this February through April. In February, parts of Victoria and NSW over and near the Great Dividing Range have an increased chance of being wetter than usual. ENSO outlook status is currently at El-Nino WATCH.

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.

**More details are outlined below.**

## Inflows to WaterNSW storages

Rainfall recorded in the catchment was moderate this week. Storage inflows remain at low levels.

## Supply

Although still hot and mainly dry, conditions were less extreme. This has resulted in a decrease in the volume supplied to Sydney Water this week, with average daily supply decreasing 42ML/d (to 1,660ML/d from the previous weekly average of 1,702ML/d).

## Water Storages

WaterNSW storages in the Sydney catchment decreased by 0.3% (-8,181 ML) in the past week.

## Shoalhaven pumping

During the last week, no transfers were made from Shoalhaven due to the unavailability of 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. Sydney Water are reviewing plans for both short and long-term upgrades at Nepean WFP which could significantly reduce the risks associated with changing water quality and increasing demand.

## This week's weather forecast

The forecast is for moderate rain during the week. Temperatures in the west are forecast to reach low 30's to high 30's. Supply to Sydney Water is expected to remain high.

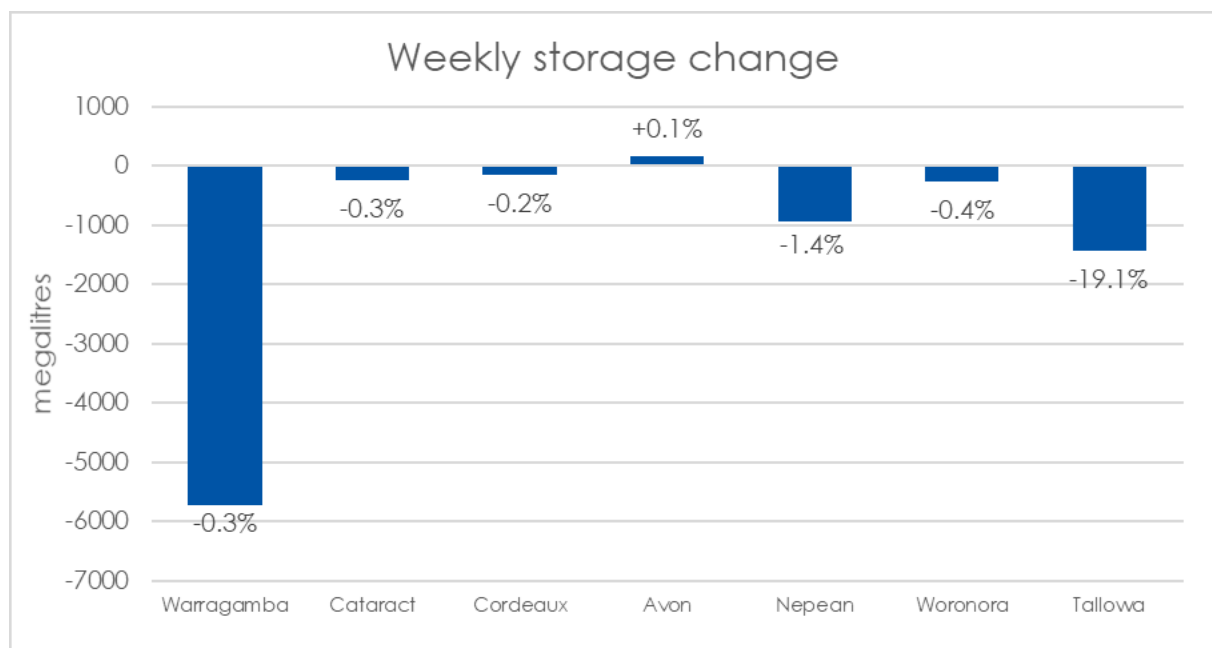
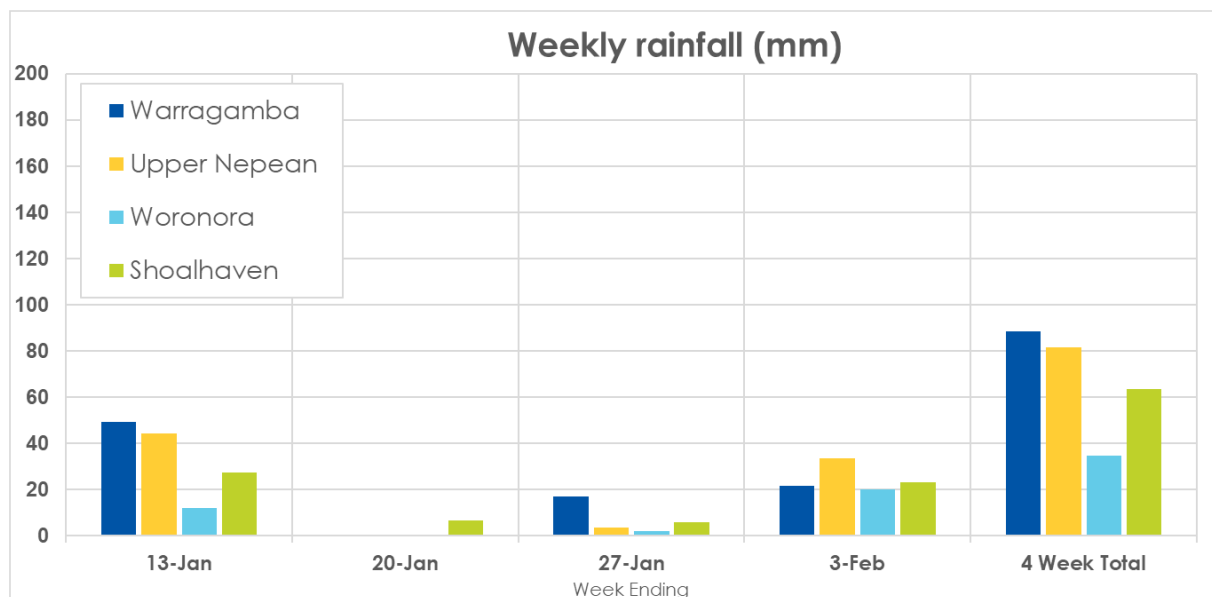
## Details

### Storage situation

Sydney's dam levels are at 59.6%, a decrease of 0.3% 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
11,618 ML	1,660 ML	- 8,181 ML

### More information

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