

# Greater Sydney drought update

23 July 2019



## Key messages

- As of 21 July, Sydney's dam levels are at 51.4%, a decrease of 0.3% since last week.
- Level 1 Water Restrictions are currently in place for Greater Sydney.
- Drought conditions remain throughout the Sydney catchments. Storage inflows remain low as the Greater Sydney catchments received no rainfall during the week.
- A return to near average rainfall in June had little impact on inflows following one of the lowest May rainfall totals over the last 16 years.
- After a prolonged outage the Shoalhaven Scheme returned to service on Monday 15 July. After many weeks of hard work Origin Energy successfully overcame technical issues associated with a major asset replacement at the Bendeela Pumping and Power Station. WaterNSW has since transferred approximately 6.5GL from Tallowa to Wingecarribee Reservoir. This water is currently being released from Wingecarribee to Nepean Dam with plans to transfer limited volumes from Nepean to Avon Dam. This will provide 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 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.

**More details are outlined below.**

### Inflows to WaterNSW storages

Light to moderate rainfall was recorded in parts of the Greater Sydney catchments during the week. Storage inflows remain at low levels.

### Supply

Ongoing mild temperatures have resulted in a decrease to the volume supplied to Sydney Water this week. Average daily supply was 1,274 ML/d. The previous weekly average was 1,319 ML/d.

### WaterNSW storages

WaterNSW storages in the Sydney catchment decreased by 0.2% (-5,271 ML) in the past week.

### Shoalhaven pumping

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 forecast indicates no rain expected over the catchment areas this week. Temperatures in Greater Sydney are forecast to reach a minimum of 1 degree and a maximum of 20 degrees across next week. This is expected to result in supply levels to Sydney Water that are typical for this time of year.

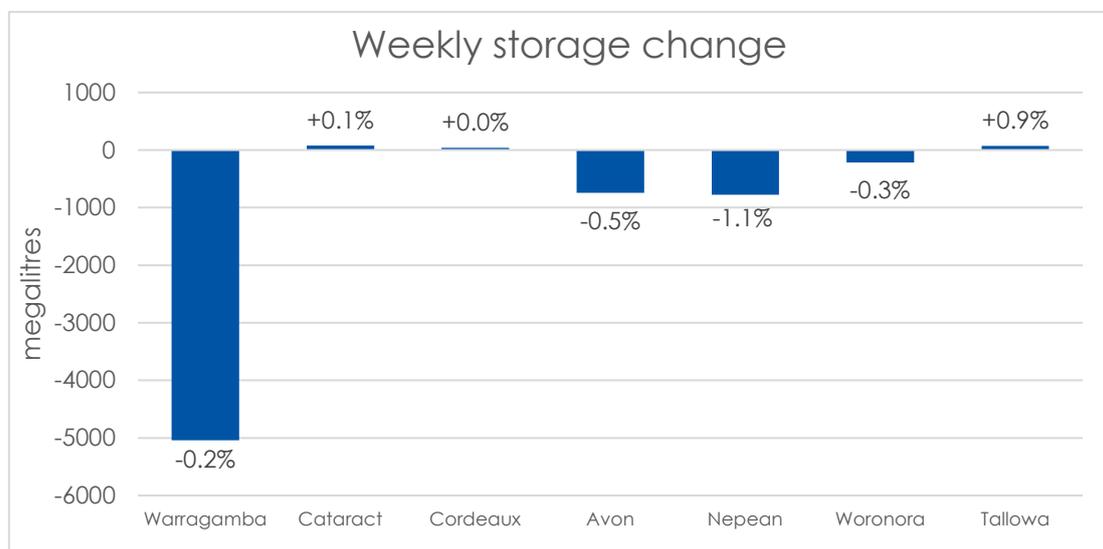
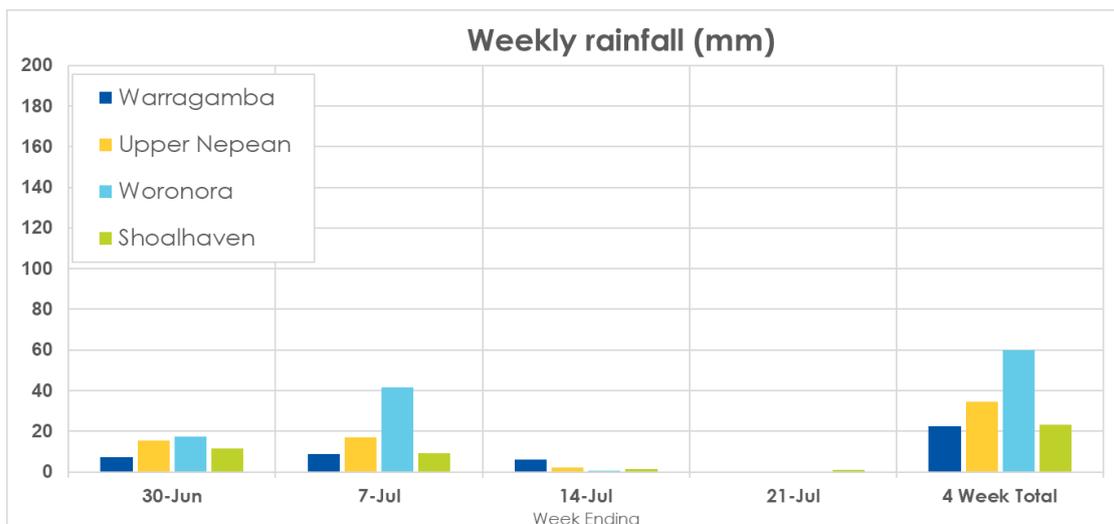
## Details

### Storage situation

Sydney's dam levels are at 51.4%, 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 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 8,342 ML                    | 1,192 ML                      | -8,554 ML                 |

### **More information**

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