

Sydney Drinking Water Catchments Worksheet



A larger copy of this map can be found by clicking this link: [Sydney Drinking Water Catchment Map](#)

What is a catchment?

A catchment is an area where water is collected by the landscape. Rain and run-off flow from high to low places and collect in streams, rivers, lakes or oceans.

Where are Sydney's drinking water catchments?

Five main catchments provide drinking water to Sydney and surrounds:

- Warragamba
- Shoalhaven
- Woronora
- Upper Nepean
- Blue Mountains

Five million people, or about 60% of the NSW population, use water supplied by these catchments.

The places with green lines are called Special Areas. They are protected bushland. Human and agricultural activities are prohibited to protect water quality and water supply infrastructure.

1 Map Interpretation

(a) Which catchment is the largest?

(b) In what lake will the water end up at in this catchment?

(c) What major city is south of this catchment?

(d) What town is at the northern end of this catchment?

(e) What major dam stores most of the water in this catchment?

2 Analytical Questions

(a) What pollutants do the special areas prevent from entering Lake Burrangorang?

(b) Some places in the catchment do not have special areas to protect the water from being polluted. What other methods of contamination control could help keep the water clean?
