











SCA's drinking water catchments



Sydney Catchment Authority
Drinking water catchments

-  Special Areas
-  Blue Mountains
-  Shoalhaven
-  Warragamba
-  Upper Nepean
-  Woronora
-  Pumping station
-  Canals and pipelines
-  Dam



Sydney's drinking water catchments

What is a catchment?

A catchment is an area where water is collected by the landscape. In a catchment, all rain and run-off water eventually flows to a creek, river, lake or ocean - or into the groundwater system.

Where are Sydney's drinking water catchments?

There are five main catchments that provide drinking water to Sydney and surrounds. They are:

Warragamba
Shoalhaven
Woronora
Upper Nepean
Blue Mountains

These catchments cover an area of more than 16,000 square kilometres. They extend from north of Lithgow in the upper Blue Mountains, to the source of the Shoalhaven River near Cooma in the south - and from Woronora in the east to the source of the Wollondilly River west of Crookwell.

More than four million people, or about 60 percent of the NSW population, consume water supplied by these catchments.

What are the Special Areas?

About 3,700 square kilometres of land within these catchments are known as 'Special Areas'. These are large areas of mostly unspoilt bushland surrounding the reservoirs that provide drinking water for Sydney, the Blue Mountains and the Illawarra.

Special Areas are vital to protect our drinking water because they help filter out unsafe nutrients and other substances before the water reaches the reservoirs.

The Special Areas are managed by the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) and the Department of Environment and Climate Change. Public access to the Special Areas is restricted to protect water quality.

Further information is available from the Sydney Catchment Authority website at www.sca.nsw.gov.au or by telephone 02 4725 2100 or 1300 SCA GOV (1300 722 468).