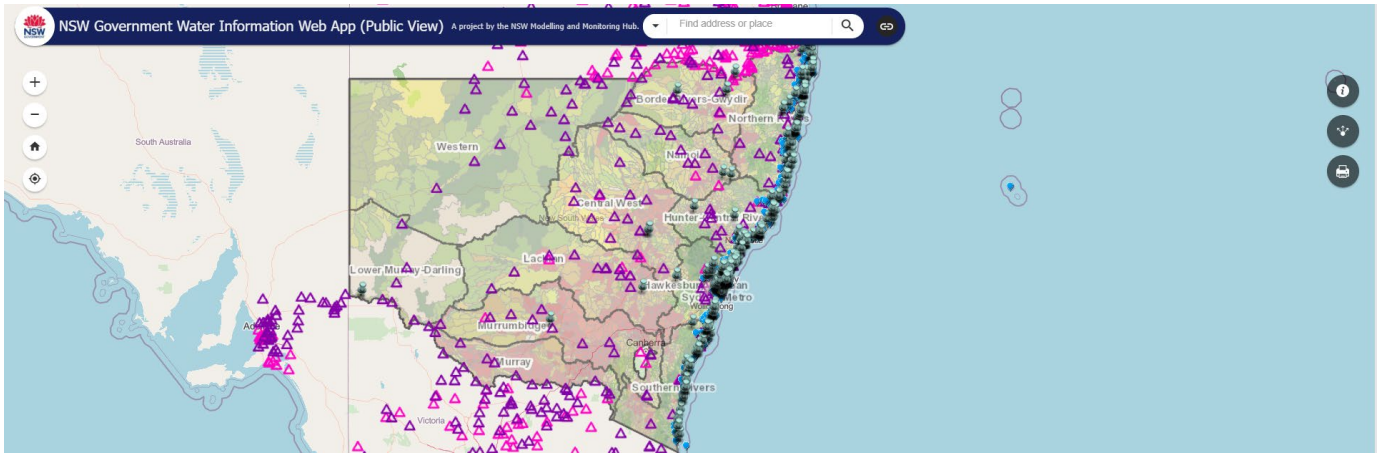
NSW water information discovery project 2023

The NSW Government water information web application enables water information discovery from multiple government sources at a single site.



Background

NSW water information is stored in many different locations and by different government organisations. No single website, source or tool collates all NSW government water data sources. The challenge is to be able to discover what government water information is available in any given area in NSW to facilitate access to data sources.

The aim of this NSW Modelling and Monitoring Hub (MaMH) project is to support the **discovery** and sharing of all NSW water information and promote **collaboration** across NSW Government organisations. Tools to federate[1] data from multiple data sources have been assessed and tested. NSW Government's existing Spatial Collaboration Portal (SCP/Portal) was selected as the most suitable platform. Contributing organisations are now being trained how to add their own water information metadata[2] via a purpose built web application (app) for both public and/or shared[3] groups.

[1] Data federation is the process of querying data from different sources and linking into a single virtual format.

[2] Metadata is information that describes and explains data. It provides context with details such as description, location, owner and contacts.

[3] Only available to members of the NSW Government water information group.

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Water information types and contributors

The types of georeferenced water information metadata available in the web app includes current and historical monitoring stations, model extents, water modelling stochastic climate data, water information report libraries, water-related planning maps and tidal limits. The minimum required metadata for discoverability includes description, owner, contact details (email and/or weblink) and geo-reference.

The MaMH project team has presented the web app to more than 25 government organisations and invited them to participate.

Current web app metadata contributors:

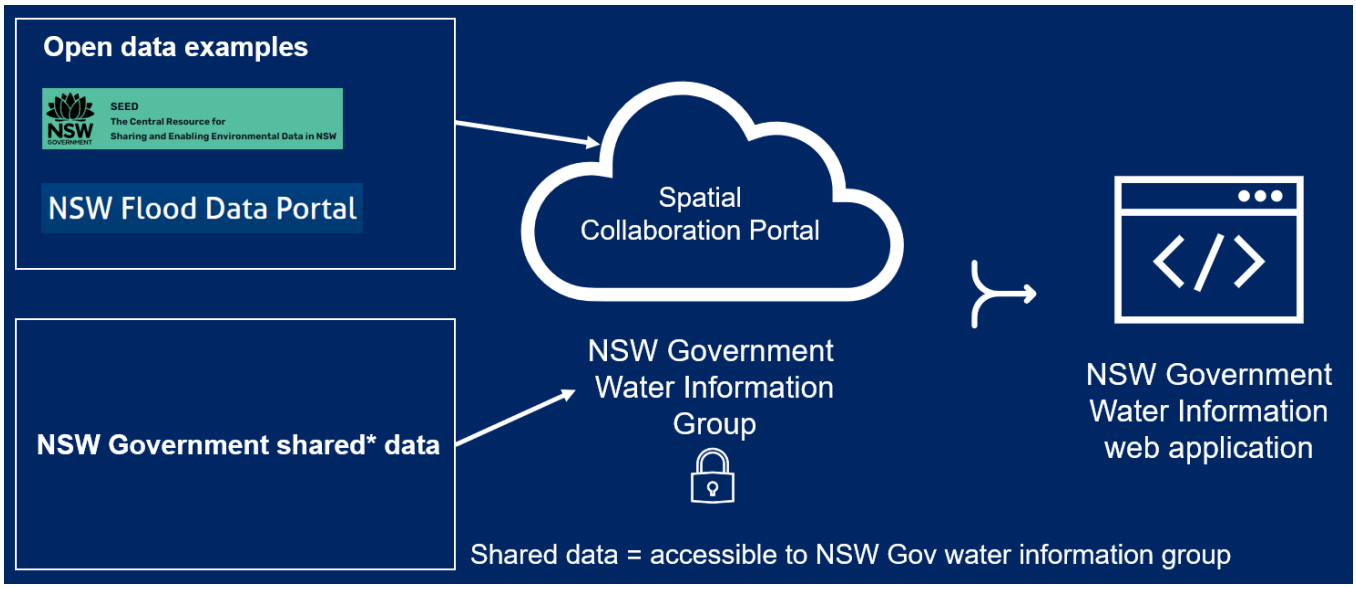
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
- Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Environment and Heritage Group
- DPE Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (MHL)
- DPE Water
- Hunter Water
- Sydney Water
- WaterNSW

Other federated data sources:

- Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED)
- Data.NSW
- Spatial Services' multiple spatial layers
- Spatial Hosting Portal
- BoM's website
- MHL's website
- WaterNSW's Real-time Water Data

Web app design

The web app was created using the Portal. The design of the web app makes the most of existing systems via federation of metadata. The Portal's ability to federate with existing government platforms and custodian websites allows it to be adaptable and fit in with the business' current data dissemination approach, saving time and money. This approach also ensures the data custodian maintains the integrity of and access to datasets.

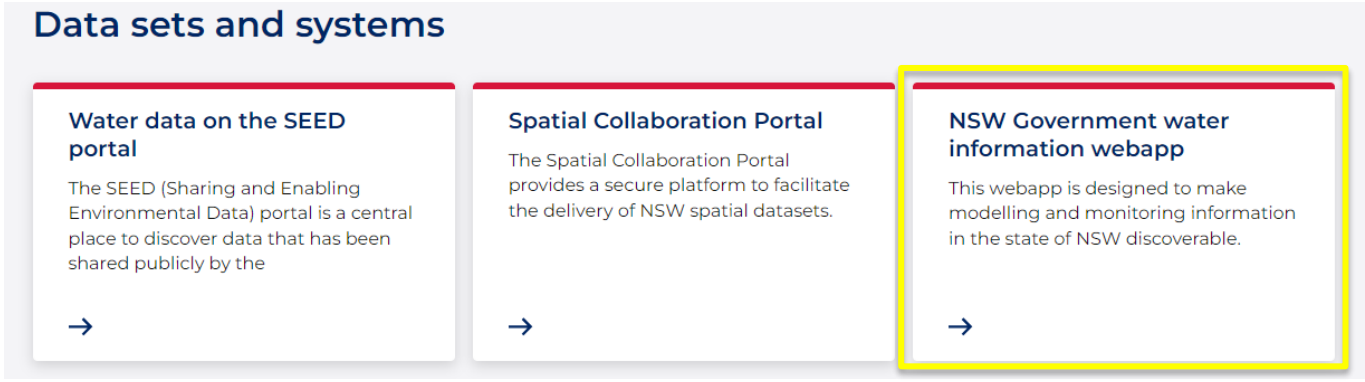


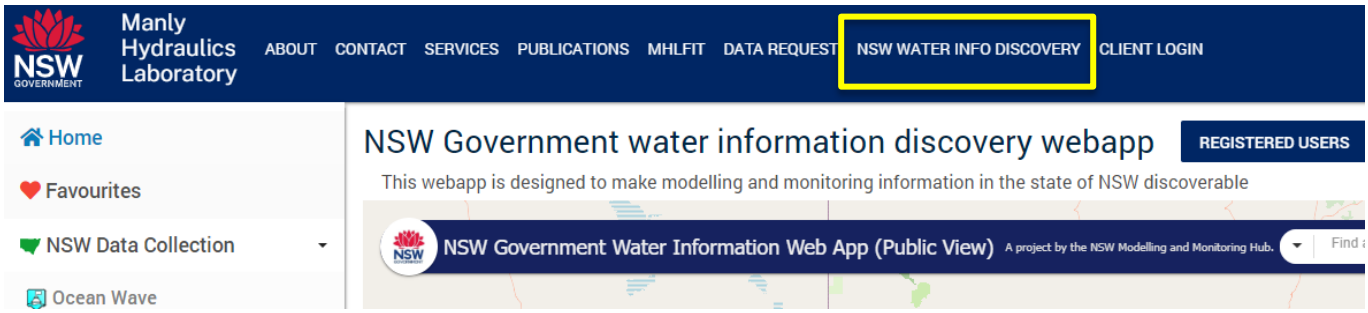
Training and support

Spatial Services and the MaMH project team have provided group session training and one-on-one support to the participating organisations of the NSW Government water information group. Trained members can now upload and manage their own metadata including updates and links to datasets.

Web app exposure

Links to the NSW Government water information web app are provided on the DPE Water and MHL public websites, and WaterNSW's Spatial Portal (intranet). Exposure is key for encouraging more organisations to participate and uptake of the advantages of the discovery site.





Invitation

Please take a look at the water information discovery portal via this link. We welcome your feedback.

All government organisations holding water information can register interest in joining. We are particularly interested in enabling new organisations including local government to participate.