

Community update for Barwon-Darling, Menindee Lakes and Lower Darling-Baaka river

Managing the dissolved oxygen levels in the Darling River

Dissolved oxygen (DO) at most monitoring sites has improved as higher DO water from Lake Pamamaroo moves down the Weir Pool. DO at Weir 32 has increased to 5.2mg/L as of 16 January. DO levels at other sites in the weir pool have stabilised at levels that support fish. Water quality will continue to be monitored daily.

WaterNSW undertook maintenance and cleaning of their DO sensors at Menindee on 13 January. There was minimal change in the dissolved oxygen readings following the cleaning of the sensors at all sites.

Flows will remain at 1500 ML/Day from Lake Pamamaroo as part of the MDBA call on water. Flows will continue to be monitored and updated as required.

Algae Update

WaterNSW continues to monitor algae levels across the Menindee Lakes system, with recent samples showing generally low levels of algal activity. Satellite imagery and water quality testing have highlighted some increases in algae in Lake Wetherell following flow adjustments, but these are being closely monitored as part of ongoing efforts to maintain water quality. [You can check alerts online on the WaterNSW website.](#)

Lower Darling-Baaka Tube Fishway Trial - site work update

Access will be restricted to the site from Wednesday 15 January to Thursday 23 January during placement of the Fishheart unit, with access to the nearby boat ramp closed during this period. Vehicle access on Main Weir Road will not be impacted, but please be aware of changed traffic conditions.

Progress continues to be made on the Lower Darling-Baaka Tube Fishway Trial project out at the Lake Wetherell Outlet Regulator near Menindee. The Fishheart team and contractors have worked through the summer to connect pipes, construct road crossings and secure equipment onsite. Plans are in place to have the Fishheart unit in the water before the end of January, with testing and calibration to follow.

Please see the indicative map of the construction footprint for your reference and more information on the project can be found [here](#).

Additional information

- To notify the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water of potential blackwater events email: water.enquiries@dpie.nsw.gov.au
- To view community updates issued, visit [Community updates and frequently asked questions | Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- To report dead fish, fish struggling or gasping at the water surface, or crayfish leaving the water please call the **NSW DPI Fisheries Phonenumber 1800 043 536** or fill in a fish kill protocol and report form at: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/habitat/threats/fish-kills-2019-2020/info-sheet>
- Information on recent fish deaths is available at: [Fish kills in NSW](#). When reporting, please include the name of the river/waterbody, location and date of your observation and provide photographs. If possible, please also record what species are affected and an estimate of number of each species observed.
- Further information on blackwater events can be found at the DCCEEW Water website at: [Hypoxic blackwater | Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- Additional information is also available on the Murray-Darling Basin Authority website at: <https://www.mdba.gov.au/climate-and-river-health/water-quality/fish-deaths>
<https://www.mdba.gov.au/water-management/infrastructure/menindee-lakes>
- WaterNSW operational updates are available at: [WaterInsights - WaterNSW](#)
- Water quality data collected after the fish deaths at Menindee is available on the Environment Protection Authority web page at: <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/community-engagement/updates-on-issues/menindee-fish-kill>
- Real-time water quality data from DCCEEW-BCS monitoring buoys can be accessed from the [Darling-Baaka River Health Project dashboard](#).
- WaterNSW buoy data can be found here <https://waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au/12104-lower-darling-regulated-river/river-data>