

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

## Dissolved oxygen and update on

Dissolved oxygen (DO) results in the Darling River at downstream of Menindee Main Weir are above 8mg/L which is well above critical levels for fish health. Upstream of Menindee town, DO levels remain above 6mg/L. While releases from Lake Pamamaroo outlet were decreased to 1,100 ML/day, as well as a small decrease to Lake Menindee releases to 100 ML/day on 17 February, DO results remain positive. Note that flows from Lake Menindee will naturally reduce as the water volume in Lake Menindee draws down. MDBA are currently maintaining their call on water at 1200 ML/day at Weir 32.

## Maximising storage in Lake Pamamaroo

Commencing 20 February, you will have seen an increase of 250 ML/day in releases between lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo to reach a total of 1350 ML/day.

The decision to increase flows through the Lake Pamamaroo inlet has been taken to help balance the lake levels and protect the inlet infrastructure until it can be repaired when water levels are low for an extended period. Increased flow into Lake Pamamaroo from Lake Wetherell will also help to maximise water held in Pamamaroo for water security.

By the end of March, inflows of approximately 20-30 GL are expected to have arrived in the top lakes.

## Upcoming agency trips to the area

Below is a table outlining the dates and times our agencies will be visiting Menindee and the surrounding areas. Each agency will provide notice to the community if needed.

Agency	When	Reason for visit / Activity	Location
The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	Week of 24 Feb	maintenance of smart buoys	Darling River Menindee

## 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](mailto: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.waternsw.com.au/12104-lower-darling-regulated-river/river-data>