

Community update for Menindee and Lower Darling-Baaka

Current flows

Currently the MDBA is calling a flow of 810 ML/day at Weir 32 to meet Murray system demands and is likely to increase its call in the coming weeks. The flows are currently coming from Lake Wetherell and the lake inflows are still in excess of releases with the top lakes being maintained at 100%. These releases will have the added benefit of helping to maintain good water quality in the Menindee town weir pool and along the length of the river as the temperature warms up. Forecasts on inflows are updated regularly and can be found on the WaterInsights webpage - waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au/updates.

Report on the innovative trial of environmental water flush to boost river health now available

Following co-operation from joint Basin governments, a release from Lake Wetherell was commenced on 29 May 2024, increasing to a peak of 4,000 ML/day on 2 June and then tapering back down to 400 ML/day on 19 June. The total volume released under the trial, excluding the minimum flow requirement under the water sharing plan, was 41.8 GL.

The implementation of the trial to protect environmental water from the northern Basin to the southern Basin to maintain connectivity was a success. In addition to improved connectivity, the release of a large volume of better quality water from Menindee Lakes resulted in improved water quality and related ecosystem processes in the lower Darling River. The NSW report from the first trial undertaken during the 12-month trial period detailing this improvement from the lower Darling-Baaka River to the Murray River can be viewed [here](#) - [Northern to southern Basin environmental flow protection trial | NSW Government Water](#)

For more information go to: [Northern to southern Basin environmental flow protection trial | Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

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 DCCEE 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>
- 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>