

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

Current conditions

Flows in the Darling River around Menindee will again rise as part of MDBA's call on shared resource to meet water resource demands in the River Murray. The planned releases will result in a pulse of 7,000 ML/day being released from the lake system starting today (29/8/25). This includes the 3,000 ML/day Additional Dilution Flows (ADF) to South Australia triggered while the Menindee storage remains above the 1,300 GL trigger. The expected water level at Weir 32 for releases at 7,000 ML/day is approximately 2.7 metres.

Due to installation of the Fishheart unit, flows over the weekend will be split between Lake Menindee and Lake Wetherell to allow for installation. On Monday or Tuesday, once the unit is in place, releases from Lake Menindee will cease and 7000 ML/day will be the combined release from both Wetherell and Pamamaroo.

Normally, release would be made from Lake Menindee. While this is a shift from normal release operations, water agencies, with input from the community have discussed the opportunity to have a high-volume flush through the town weir pool.

Wilcannia flows are increasing steadily with more than 6,800 ML/day currently passing. Most recent forecasting by Water NSW expects 500-600 GL to enter the lakes by October.

NSW DCCEEW is working closely with Water NSW on resource management with our priority to ensure inflows result in full supply levels of the upper two lakes. Lake Pamamaroo and Lake Menindee Inlet Regulators are currently closed, however as further inflow arrives to Menindee Lakes these will be opened, shifting water within and between the Menindee Lakes.

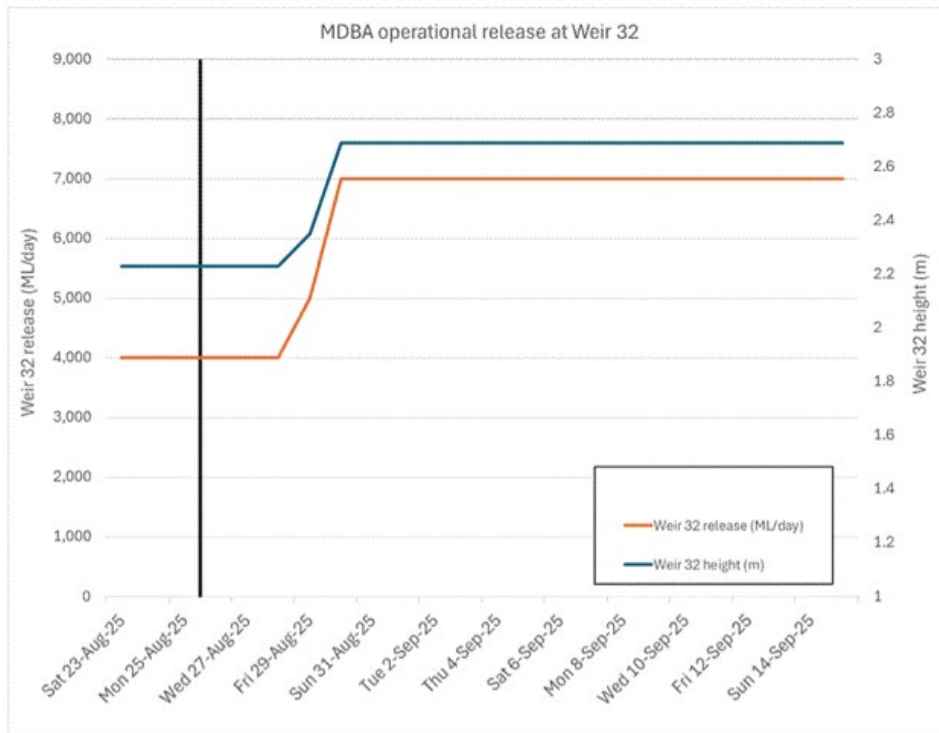
MDBA update

In managing the River Murray System, the MDBA is currently operating to optimise the use of water in the Darling system to conserve water stored in the upper Murray storages and preserve water in Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo at the end of the current inflow event to maximise water availability for River Murray users and the Baaka/lower Darling system.

The MDBA has instructed the increase in Weir 32 releases up to 7,000 ML/day, starting today. Following the normal rates of rise at Weir 32, the release will initially increase to 5,000 ML/day

(approximately 2.35m) today (Friday), then reach 7,000 ML/day (approximately 2.69 m) on Saturday. This rate will continue to be targeted until further notice. This release is being made to transfer water to Lake Victoria and meet demands to South Australia while conditions remain drier on the Murray. Future release decisions will be made depending on downstream requirements.

Further updates are provided in The [River Murray weekly reports | Murray–Darling Basin Authority](#)



DPIRD Fisheries update

Year 2 - Fishheart launch

The Fishheart team are back in Menindee getting ready for the next season of operations for the temporary fishway trial. The team are on country this week with installation plans progressing today and over the weekend to get the fishway back in the water and connecting the Baaka River at Lake Wetherell Outlet Regulator. Operational releases are being managed over the weekend and on Monday to help with the installation and reduce any water delivery impacts.

Following the installation and initial commissioning phase, we will be all systems go for the official launch for Year 2 of the temporary fishway trial for September 2025. We are having another community open day on September 20 (which is also the local government election day) so come along, bring the family, we're going to put a feed on and chat about all things fish and the Fishheart unit for the season ahead.

Fish movement opportunities

The current flows in the Northern Basin and Baaka River provide a significant opportunity to enhance native fish movement and connectivity outcomes. Native fish will respond to increasing flows and warmer water temperatures and want to move upstream to feed, breed and find new homes.

Operational releases from the top lakes will help attract fish upstream along a connected Baaka River, providing opportunities to move fish into the Northern Basin via the Fishheart fishway and contribute to longer term native fish recovery.

Future planning for operational releases will also explore opportunities for fish movement into and out of the Menindee Lakes System, maximising the ecological outcomes from these flows and critical native fish nursery grounds.

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
DPIRD Fisheries	20 September	Temporary Tube Fishway Trial – Year 2 Launch	Lake Wetherell Outlet Regulator (Main Weir Road)

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 water.nsw.gov.au/menindee-updates

If you've got any questions regarding this update contact your local implementation officer, Kate McBride on 0458 945 149 or kate.mcbride@dpie.nsw.gov.au

To report dead fish, fish struggling or gasping at the water surface, or crayfish leaving the water please call the **NSW Department of Primary Industry Fisheries Phonenumber 1800 043 536** or fill in a

fish kill protocol and report form at: 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 department's website at: water.nsw.gov.au/hypoxic-blackwater

Additional information is also available on the Murray–Darling Basin Authority website at: www.mdba.gov.au/climate-and-river-health/water-quality/fish-deaths www.mdba.gov.au/water-management/infrastructure/menindee-lakes

WaterNSW operational updates are available in [WaterInsights](#)

Water quality data collected after the fish deaths at Menindee is available on the Environment Protection Authority web page at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/community-engagement/updates-on-issues/menindee-fish-kill

Real-time water quality data from DCCEEW-CPHR monitoring buoys can be accessed from the [Darling–Baaka River Health Project dashboard](#)

Data from the WaterNSW gauging network can be found in WaterInsights at: <https://waterinsights.waternsw.com.au/12104-lower-darling-regulated-river/river-data>