

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

Temporary shutdown of flows from the Top Lakes tomorrow

From 9 am until approximately midday on Thursday 25 September 2025, there will be a temporary shutdown of releases from the top lakes of Pamamaroo and Wetherell to enable NSW Fisheries and contractors to secure the fishheart unit. The aim is to secure the unit in readiness for Year 2 of the temporary tube fishway trial. Flows will be returned as soon as possible and could start to increase from 10 am. The reduction of flows will result in a temporary lowering of the water level in the weir pool. Community should consider pump heights to avoid damage to property.

NSW Fisheries are working closely with WaterNSW and the Water Group to reduce risks and will have normal operations restored as soon as possible. The temporary tube fishway trail is part of the NSW Government's Restoring the Darling–Baaka program.

Releases from Menindee Lakes rising to 9,000 ML/day

Current releases from Menindee Lakes began rising to a target of 9,000 ML/day yesterday, Wednesday 24 September 2025. This rise has been impacted by the temporary shutoff from the upper lakes, however once the fishheart unit is secured, WaterNSW will begin increasing to the target of 9,000 ML/day. The water level at Weir 32 for releases at 9,000 ML/day is expected to increase to around 3.25 metres in coming days. WaterNSW advises users in the weir pool and downstream of Weir 32 that flows will fluctuate over the next few days and are advising customers and landholders to monitor warnings and river levels closely to make necessary arrangements to ensure infrastructure and livestock are not impacted.

The increase in the MDBA call is due to ongoing dry conditions within the Murray system. MDBA intend to reduce their call on water as inflows from the northern Basin reduce and are working with the department to leave the upper lakes of Pamamaroo and Wetherell full. If dry conditions persist, expect the MDBA call on water to reduce to Menindee Outlet Capacity, with the department managing releases from the top lakes for weir pool quality. Community updates will continue to keep the Menindee community informed of further changes.

Current conditions

Total storage at Menindee Lakes is currently at 84.6%, holding 1,4165 GL with a further 230–430 GL expected to enter the lakes to the end of October. Since the start of August 2025, around 320 GL has passed Wilcannia. As of today, flows at Wilcannia remain above 14,000 ML/day and upstream at Bourke are above 11,000 ML/day.

WaterNSW inflow forecasting is undertaken using the best available data at the time. There are several variables which may impact the final volume, with uncertainty of the final volume reducing as water flows toward the Lakes.

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 or other water matters **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.watnsw.com.au/12104-lower-darling-regulated-river/river-data>