

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

Releases from Menindee Lakes reducing to 7,000 ML/day

Current releases from Menindee Lakes will be reduced to 7,000 ML/day starting Tuesday, 7 October 2025. The releases have been at 9,000 ML/day since Wednesday 24 September 2025. To meet the required flow target at Weir 32, flow will be released from both Lake Wetherell and Lake Menindee outlets.

The water level at Weir 32 for releases at 7,000 ML/day is expected to drop to around 2. metres following reduced releases from Tuesday. WaterNSW will follow agreed rates of reduction and will reduce the releases by about 500 ML/day until the 7,000 ML/day target is reached.

WaterNSW advises users in the weir pool and downstream of Weir 32 that flows will fluctuate over the coming 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. Table 1 shows the expected water level heights at Weir 32 but as multiple variables can impact actual height, this information should be used as a guide only.

Table 1. Weir 32 River Height. Data available from at <https://waterinsights.waternsw.com.au/download>. Site ID-425012

Weir 32 Flow Target (ML/day)	Expected Water Level at Weir 32 (metres)
9,000	3.25
8,500	3.07
8,000	2.9
7,500	2.77
7,000	2.67

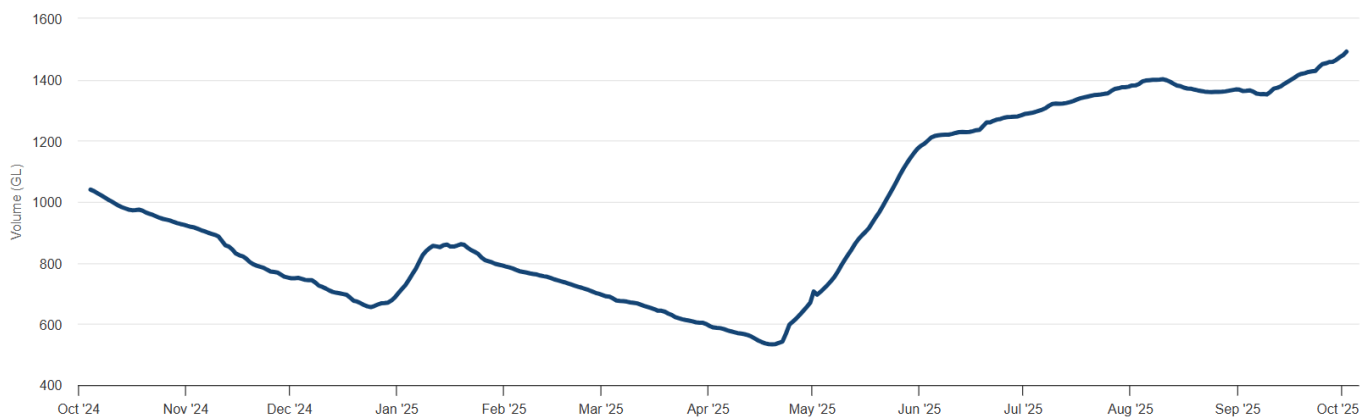
As communicated in our update on 24 September 2025, the MDBA has reduced their call on water from Menindee as the flows from the north have begun receding and to support management of resources across the Murray–Darling Basin. Water agencies, with input from the community, are coordinating plans for the months ahead and prioritising full supply levels in the upper lakes of Pamamaroo and Wetherell while inflows continue. We will continue to keep the community informed. If you've got any questions regarding this update or other water matters, please contact your local implementation officer, Kate McBride on 0458 945 149 or kate.mcbride@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Current conditions

Total storage at Menindee Lakes is currently at 82.2%, holding 1,424 GL. As of today, flows at Wilcannia have fallen to below 12,000 ML/day and upstream at Bourke have reduced to 4,400 ML/day.

Figure 1 is a graph from the MDBA showing the Menindee Lakes combined storage from October 2024 to October 2025. While conditions remain dry in the Murray catchment, releases will continue from Menindee and the MDBA are working closely with NSW water agencies to prepare for summer and consider future water quality needs for the Lower Darling–Baaka.

Figure 1. Menindee Lakes Combined Storage graph showing last 12 months of data. Available here: <https://riverdata.mdba.gov.au/list-view/menindee-lakes-combined-storage>



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.waternsw.com.au/12104-lower-darling-regulated-river/river-data>