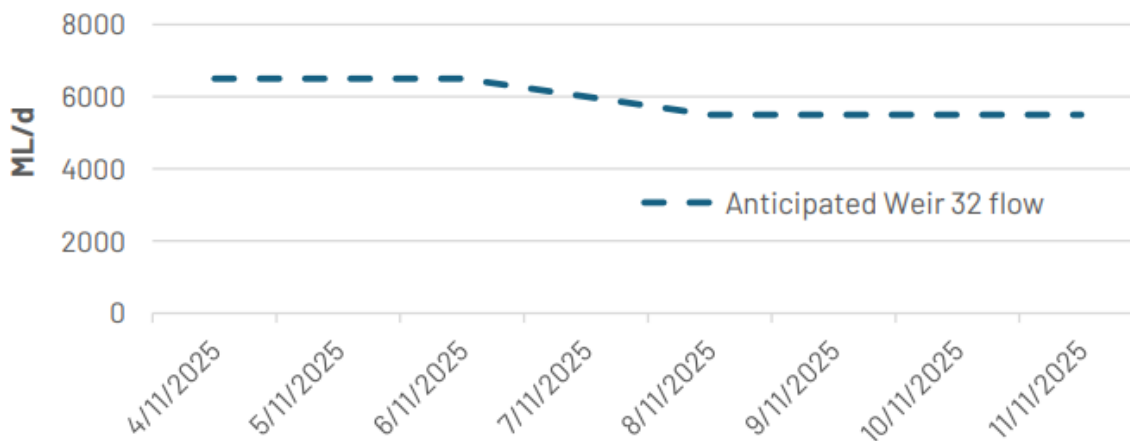


# Community update for Barwon–Darling, Menindee Lakes and Lower Darling–Baaka river

## Current conditions

The Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) call on water at Menindee will reduce from 7,000 ML/day to 5,500 ML/day this week. The first reduction of 500 ML/day, to 6,500 ML/day commenced on Monday, 3 November. The water level at Weir 32 for releases at 6,500 ML/day is 2.6 metres. Flows at Weir 32 will further decrease from Friday, 7 November to a new flow target 5,500 ML/day. The water level at Weir 32 for releases at 5,500 ML/day is 2.43 metres. WaterNSW advises users in the weir pool and downstream of Weir 32 that flows will change in coming days and should be considerate of the variable conditions as the change moves downstream.

Figure 1. Forecast hydrograph for Weir 32 (subject to change)



The Lake Menindee outlet is currently fully open, releasing approximately 3,700 ML/day, and this will continue with the remainder of the water being released from Lake Wetherell. The decrease in the MDBA call on water is to support management of resources across the Murray-Darling Basin. Water quality within the Menindee weir pool is currently good with the department continuing to closely monitor any changes and ready to alter the release strategy if required.

Menindee Lakes currently holds 1,390 GL (80% of the total capacity). Operations have prioritised maintaining Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo at full supply level for as long as possible, however releases from these top lakes have now exceeded inflows. Consequently, expect to see the level of these lakes decline moving forward unless there are more rain events in the northern Basin.

The MDBA are continuing to monitor conditions in both the northern and southern Basins and have advised in their latest [weekly update](#) on 29 October that further reductions are possible in coming weeks.

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## Inflows

Flows from the northern Basin has receded considerably in recent weeks. At this stage, there are no significant inflows forecast. As such, updated forecasting only indicates a further 40 - 80 GL is expected to enter the Menindee Lakes to the end of November. Since the start of August, around 650 GL has passed Wilcannia.

As at 3 November, flows at Wilcannia are around 1,700 ML/day and at Bourke flows have reduced to less than 900 ML/day.

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## Fish Passage: Reconnecting the Northern Basin Project

The NSW Government invites community members to an upcoming webinar about the [Fish Passage: Reconnecting the Northern Basin Project](#) on Wednesday 5 November 2025 (11:30am – 12:30pm).

The project aims to address barriers to fish passage by installing fishways on infrastructure within our river systems. The NSW Government recognises the communities of Louth, Tilpa, Collarenebri and Walgett do not want any reduction in local weir height. The new design includes a small capping sill across part of the weir crests that will allow the fishways to operate effectively and maintain the current full supply level.

The webinar will be a chance learn more about the revised fishway designs, asks questions directly to the project team and provide feedback to the department. Sign up [here](#).

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## Darling Baaka River Health- Community event

The Darling Baaka River Health Project is a research and monitoring program, led by DCCEEW- Science and Insights division, that assessed the health of the lower Darling Baaka between Wilcannia and Wentworth following the 2023 fish deaths. Recently released findings highlight a river system under stress, with most of the lower Darling Baaka characterised by poor water quality, poor biological condition and high levels of hydrological stress. The Darling Baaka River Health report card available [here](#). Figure 1 shows a snapshot of the report card – checkout the [report card](#) to find out what the condition scores mean.

This month the department’s science and insights division will be holding a community event and lunch to talk about the findings of the Darling Baaka River Health Project.

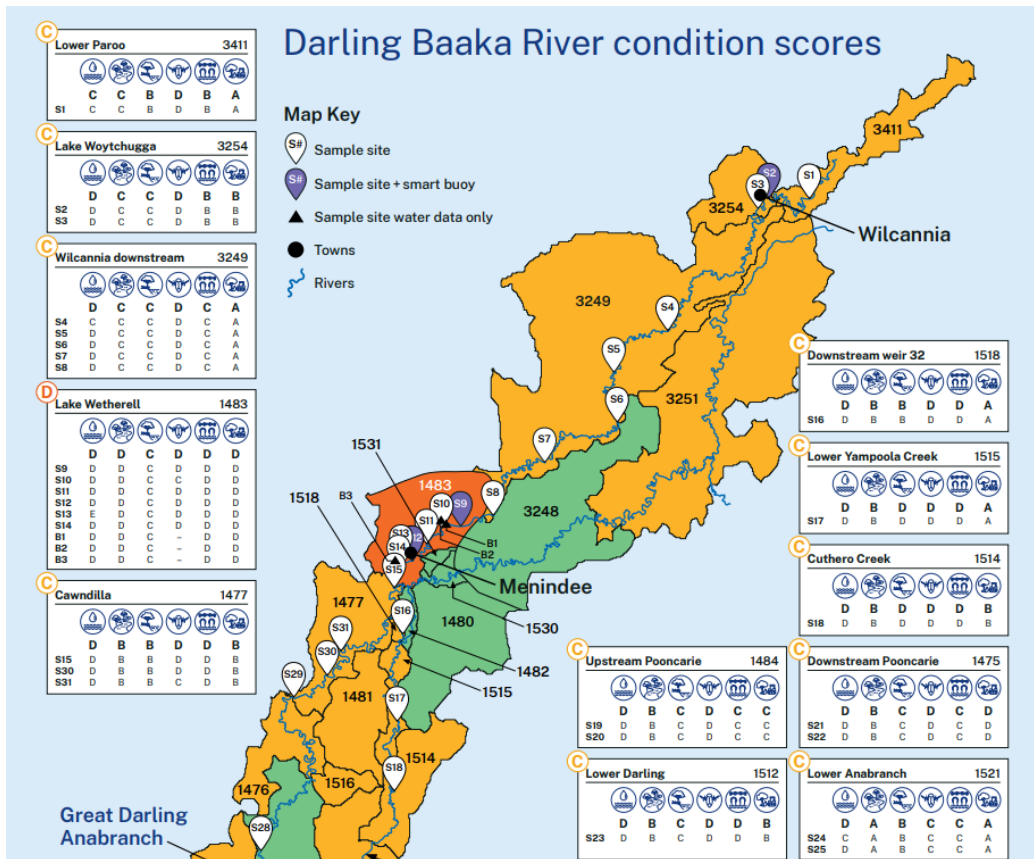
We'll be visiting both Wilcannia and Menindee with the project scientists and partners.

**Wilcannia, Baker Park: Monday 17th November 11am- 2pm (lunch provided)**

**Menindee, CWA Hall: Tuesday 18th November 11am – 2pm (lunch provided)**

For all enquiries please email: [zacchary.larkin@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:zacchary.larkin@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Figure 1: Snapshot of the Darling Baaka River condition scores from the Darling Baaka River Health Project. Full scorecard available [here](#).



## 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- SPSE	17 <sup>th</sup> November 11am-2pm	Darling Baaka River health report card community event and lunch	Wilcannia - Baker Park
The department- SPSE	18 <sup>th</sup> November 11am-2pm	Darling Baaka River health report card community event and lunch	Menindee- CWA Hall

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## 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 [water.nsw.gov.au/menindee-updates](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://www.mdba.gov.au/climate-and-river-health/water-quality/fish-deaths)  
[www.mdba.gov.au/water-management/infrastructure/menindee-lakes](http://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](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/community-engagement/updates-on-issues/menindee-fish-kill)
- Real-time water quality data from DCCEEW–SPSE 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>