

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

Increase in Lake Pamamaroo releases

Due to the deteriorating dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in the stretch of the weir pool near Menindee Town pontoon, releases from Lake Pamamaroo will be increased slightly from 750 ML/day to 900 ML/day from today in order to elevate DO levels. This release is being done with consideration of maintaining water resource in the upper lakes, while maintaining water quality within the weir pool to avoid harm to fish.

It is expected it will take 4-5 days for this water to influence DO levels at Menindee Town, the area of concern. This release is not intended to promote destratification (mixing of the water column) but aims to deepen the oxygenated layers.

While DO levels have not hit critical levels for fish, agencies are working to proactively improve water quality conditions. Monitoring from all our equipment in the weir pool, as well as on ground sampling, is showing that there are good refuges for fish in the upstream section of the weir pool as well as down towards Weir 32.

The department will continue to monitor and adjust releases as required, however we expect to continue this flow until at least next week. Any changes to releases will be communicated through updates.

The Water Quality Working Group continues to meet weekly, and subgroups are meeting more regularly to discuss management options for the Menindee weir pool. For any queries feel free to get in touch with your local department contact, Kate McBride, whose details are on the last page.

Fish Deaths

As communicated in the update published on 3 February, agencies are continuing to respond to fish clean-up in Lake Menindee. The NSW EPA is supporting the Barkandji Rangers and the Central Darling Shire Council as they continue the clean-up at Sunset Strip. Due to the difficulty in accessing the dead fish with excavators, the clean-up has mostly been done by hand. The EPA has arranged for a specialist contractor to assist the Rangers and has a staff member on site.

Clean-up of fish on the shoreline closest to residents at Sunset Strip has been completed and it is expected the bulk of the clean-up outside the residential area will be completed by the afternoon of Friday 6 February.

Fisheries are urging community to **report dead fish, fish struggling or gasping at the water surface**, by calling the NSW DPIRD Fisheries Phonenumber on **1800 043 536**. Noting the location of the dead fish and suspected species is also important.

Upcoming agency trips to the area

The table below outlines the dates and times that agencies will be visiting Menindee and the surrounding areas or holding events. Each agency will notify the community as needed.

Murray Darling Basin Authority: webinars next week

Register now for a series of webinars to hear from experts and ask your questions on a range of topics. Anyone can make a submission during the consultation period. It kicks off soon when we release a Discussion Paper with all the details.

- **Monday 9 February, 10am-11.30am (AEDT):** Discussion Paper overview and how to make a submission.
- **Thursday 12 February, 1pm-2pm (AEDT):** Health of Menindee Lakes, Menindee Review, and Basin Plan Review.
- **Friday 13 February, 10am-11am (AEDT):** Initial Sustainable Diversion Limits (SDL) Assessments.

Register for any, or all, of these webinars now to start preparing your submission and shape the future of the Basin. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Agency	When	Reason for visit / Activity	Location
MDBA	Thursday, 12 February, 1pm	Webinar: Health of Menindee Lakes, Menindee Review and Basin Plan Review	Webinar online (Registration link above)
NSW DPIRD Fisheries	Saturday 14 March, 10am-3pm	Community Open day – Temporary tube fishway trial (Fishheart)	Lake Wetherell Outlet Regulator
NSW DPIRD Fisheries	Week of 9-14 March	Engagement with local community on the Menindee & Lower Baaka Permanent Fish Passage Business Case	Menindee (various throughout the week).




Temporary Tube Fishway Trial End of Season 2 Community Day



Join us for a free BBQ with a fun and informative day out on Country!

 Fishheart demonstration: Get a behind-the-scenes look in the control room

 Info stands & displays: Learn more about the project and the health of the Baaka!

 Community art installation: Help us paint the pipes!



 **When:** Saturday 14 March 2026 | 10 AM – 3 PM

 **Where:** Lake Wetherell Outlet Regulator (Main Weir Road)

END OF SEASON
2 COMMUNITY
DAY
14 MARCH

Additional information

- To notify the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water of potential blackwater events email: water.enquiries@dcceew.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@dcceew.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 The department – Strategic Science & Engagement 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.watarnsw.com.au/12104-lower-darling-regulated-river/river-data>