

Community update on response to fish deaths in Menindee and Lower Darling-Baaka

Current situation

In positive news, our water monitoring is showing dissolved oxygen levels throughout the water column in the Darling River at Menindee have been remaining above the critical thresholds for fish health (above 4 mg/L).

The environmental release for the lower Darling-Baaka is continuing and is designed to support the recovery of native fish populations that were hard-hit by hypoxic conditions in autumn 2023. The environmental flows have been specifically timed to support Murray Cod breeding and are being maintained at 550 ML/day at Weir 32.

In response to the low dissolved oxygen levels and increasing risks to fish health last week, a pulse of water in addition to the environmental flow was released from Lake Pamamaroo. Monitoring showed the increase in flow from Lake Pamamaroo resulted in improved dissolved oxygen levels near the riverbed. The higher flows combined with a drop in air temperature overnight resulted in the complete mixing of the water column on the morning of 12 November and further improvement in dissolved oxygen levels. The environmental release will continue from 16 November.

Please note that the water quality conditions continue to be dynamic. We are monitoring conditions in the river regularly and will act rapidly to prevent fish deaths if conditions deteriorate.

We will continue to keep you updated and you can find more information [visit our website](#).

Where else can I find information?

Information about the monitoring, management and maintenance of water quality, including detailed community updates from the Department of Planning and Environment, is available online: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/droughtupdate/managing-drought-recovery/blackwater

www.water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/menindee/community-updates-and-frequently-asked-questions

Observations of changes to water, including struggling fish or deaths can be reported directly to DPI Fisheries on 1800 043 536. For more information about fish kills, as well as recent reports of observations and causes, visit: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/habitat/threats/fish-kills