

# Community update for Menindee and Lower Darling-Baaka

## Update on current environmental water flush

The flush of 45 GL from the upper Menindee Lakes through the lower Darling-Baaka River, as part of a trial to improve river connectivity between the Northern and Southern basin, has been completed, but its positive impacts are still being felt in the Murray River. The flush also helped to clear the persistent algae bloom, and the results show a significant decrease in blue green algae. The red alert warnings for high levels of potentially toxic blue-green algae have been lifted for Lake Tandure, Lake Pamamaroo, Tapio, Upstream Pomona, and Pomona at Boat Ramp. All sites are now on Green alert.

## Tracking the pulse flows down river

The peak reached the Weir 32 flow gauging station on 5 June (3,857 ML/day), and then the Great Darling Anabranche offtake on 7 June (3,289 ML/day), Pooncarie on 10 June (3,167 ML/day) and Burtundy on 11 June (2,752 ML/day) (Figure 1 below).

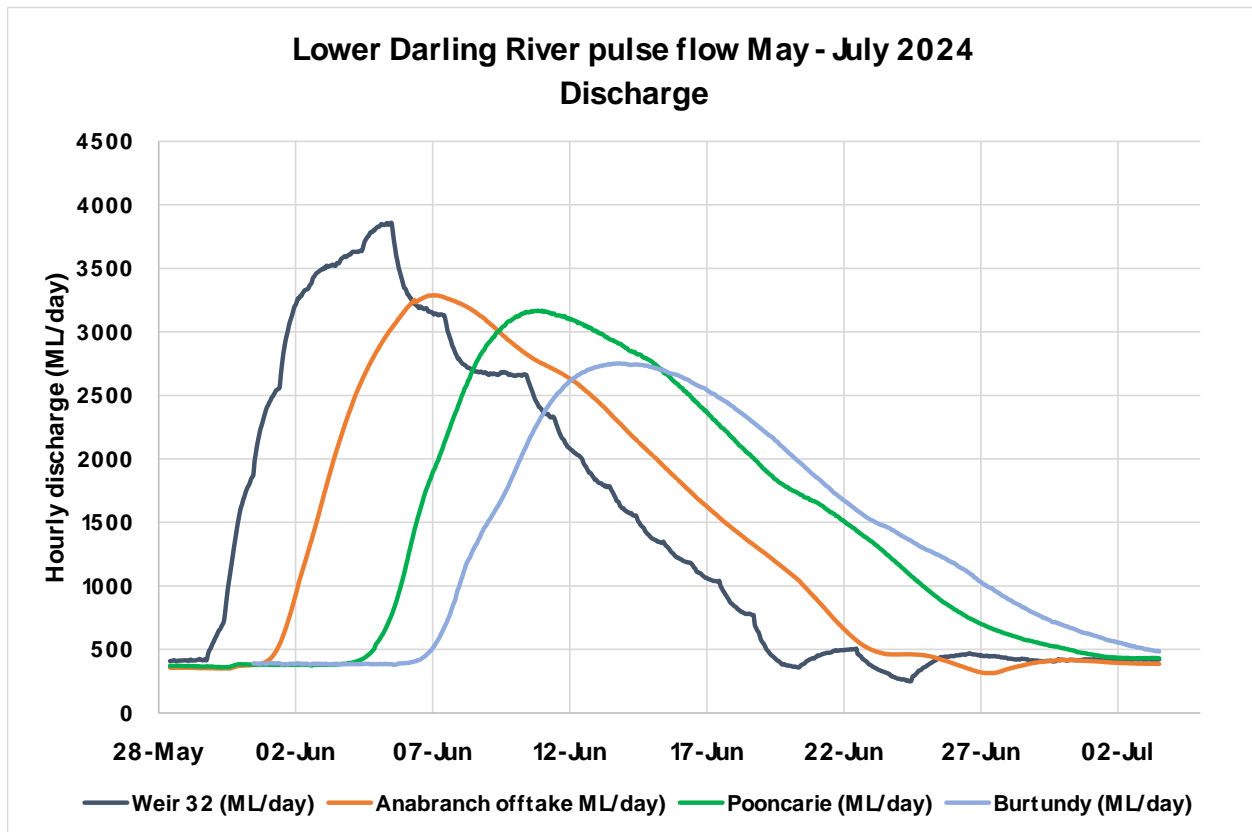


Figure 1  
Satellite images

The latest Planet satellite imagery from 4 July highlights the turbid water from the Darling River mixing with Lake Victoria. At the bottom of Figure 2 the turbid water is also progressing down the Murray River and has almost reached Lock 7.

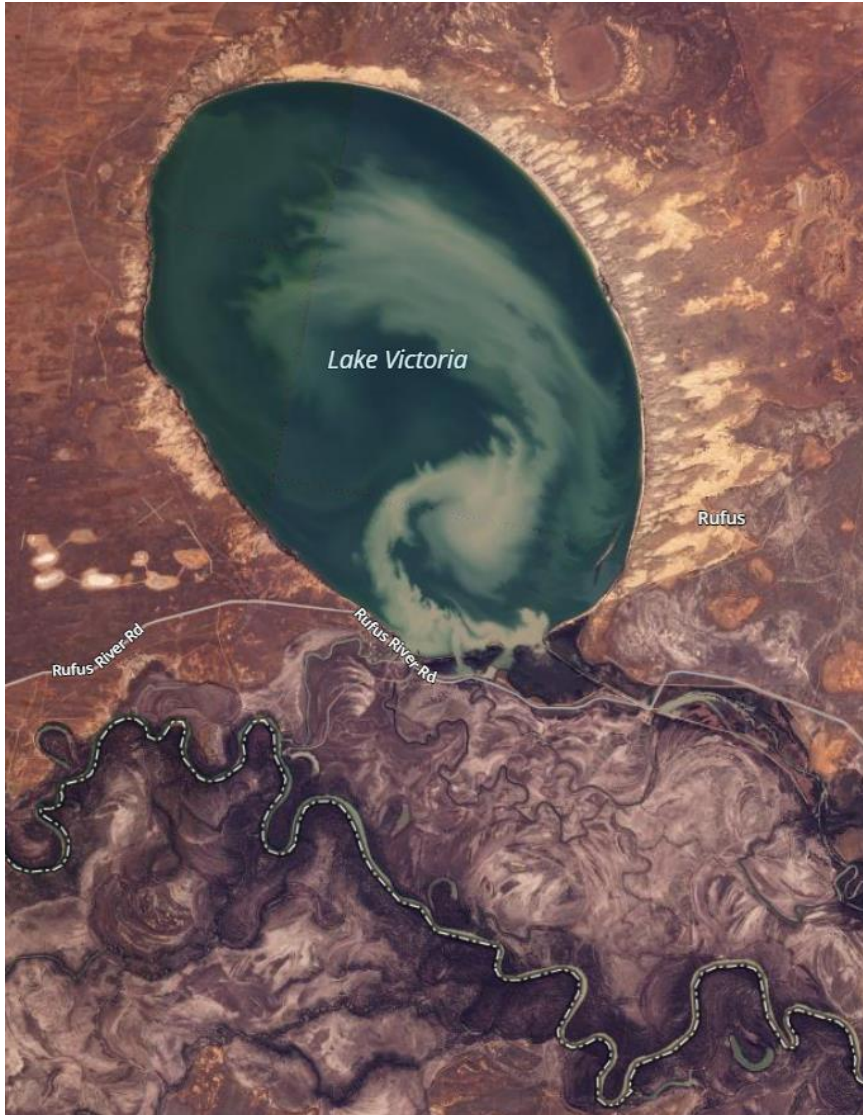


Figure 2

## Current flows

NSW environmental water is currently being used to maintain a flow target of 400ML/day in the Darling at Weir 32. This is double the required minimum of 200ML/day for this time of year. The higher baseflow aims to maximise native fish recruitment particularly for Murray cod and maintain basic ecosystem functions.

509 GL of inflows have already been received into the Lakes since the start of 2024. 30 – 50 GL is expected in the next 2 months. You can find the complete WaterNSW operations update [here](#).

## Old Town Weir Removal

The remaining sections of the Menindee Old Town Weir are scheduled to be removed from 15 July 2024. Removing the remaining sections of the weir will improve boat safety and the recreational amenities at this

location by eliminating unseen and potentially dangerous barriers below the surface. The works are expected to take approximately two weeks to complete if water flows remain suitable and weather permits.

Earthmoving equipment (e.g. excavators and dump trucks) will be used to deconstruct and remove the remaining sections of the old weir to the target level. The community will begin to see equipment and materials arriving at the site ahead of the works commencing.

## Thank you

The NSW Environment Protection Authority would like to thank the Menindee community for welcoming government agencies to test the current emergency management arrangements for a Mass Fish Death Event last week at the CWA Hall. It was a great opportunity for government agencies to come together and discuss improving future responses to mass fish death events.

The NSW EPA also thanks those community members who attended our community drop-in session at the CWA Hall. You were generous with your time and we learned a lot from you about changes to the health of the environment in Menindee which we understand is deeply concerning.

A special mention also goes to the ladies at the CWA Hall who looked after us all with a fantastic morning tea and lunch.

We look forward to continuing to build our relationships with the Menindee community.

## Vertical profiling buoys

There are now 7 multi-depth monitoring buoys installed in the Darling River and Menindee Lakes area. Access to map and data for all BCS buoys can be found here [Dashboard - Darling Barka River Health Program](#) (tago.run). Access to WaterNSW buoy and gauge data, and Operations updates can be found here [WaterInsights - WaterNSW](#).

## Additional information

- To notify the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water of potential blackwater events email: [waterqualitydata@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:waterqualitydata@dpie.nsw.gov.au)
- To view community updates issued, visit [Community updates and frequently asked questions | Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- To report dead fish, fish struggling or gasping at the water surface, or crayfish leaving the water please call the **NSW DPI Fisheries Phonenumber 1800 043 536** or fill in a fish kill protocol and report form at: <https://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 DCCEE Water website at: [Hypoxic blackwater | Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- Additional information is also available on the Murray-Darling Basin Authority website at: <https://www.mdba.gov.au/climate-and-river-health/water-quality/fish-deaths>  
<https://www.mdba.gov.au/water-management/infrastructure/menindee-lakes>
- Operational updates are available at: [WaterInsights - WaterNSW](#)
- Water quality data collected after the fish deaths at Menindee is available on the Environment Protection Authority web page at: <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/community-engagement/updates-on-issues/menindee-fish-kill>