

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

Pulse flow commencing to support river health

At present, a flow of 800ML/day is being maintained, comprising 750ML/day from Lake Pamamaroo, and 50ML/day from Lake Menindee.

However, with heat wave conditions anticipated later this week, algae, and other contributing factors, a pulse flow of 1500G/L from Lake Pamamaroo will commence on the afternoon of 23 January 2024. This will help to maintain water quality and reduce the potential for a large fish kill event.

The seven water pulses released between 10 November 2023 and 10 January 2024 have successfully improved dissolved oxygen throughout the water column and supported fish health.

NSW Government and Commonwealth agencies are continuing to carefully monitor the situation and adjusting releases as required to help prevent hypoxic conditions in the Menindee town weir pool upstream of Weir 32.

With the changes in releases, you may notice an increase in the level of the weir pools.

Given the dynamic nature of the current dissolved oxygen conditions, we may not be able to provide 3 days' notice of any changes to flow rates.

Lake Wetherell this week

Lake Wetherell is experiencing a drop in dissolved oxygen which may be further impacted by rising temperatures in the coming days. Fish are able to move upstream along the Lower Darling-Baaka and associated habitats, where dissolved oxygen is likely to be better and we are continuing to monitor the lakes, however, there does remain a risk that fish deaths may occur toward the end of this week.

Emergency Operations Centre on standby

An Emergency Operations Centre is on standby should a mass fish death event occur, and a contractor has been stood up to be available to remove dead fish from the river as soon as possible if a mass fish death event were to occur in the reach.

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
- 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 DCCEEW 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/publications/mdba-reports/water-management-101-factsheets>
- 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>