

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

Pulse flow of water implemented to address deteriorating water quality conditions

Monitoring has shown deteriorating water quality conditions between Lake Pamamaroo and Weir 32 due to extremely hot weather conditions. To help improve water quality and reduce the potential for a large fish kill event, a pulse flow of 1000 megalitres per day will be released from Lake Pamamaroo for two days – Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 December. On 15 and 16 of December flows from Lake Pamamaroo will drop to 750 megalitres per day. After this, on the 17 December, flows from Lake Pamamaroo will return to 100ML/day.

Coinciding with the increased releases from Lake Pamamaroo, releases from Lake Menindee will be scaled back from 1000 megalitres per day to 100 megalitres per day, on Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14, and then to 350ML/day on 15 and 16 December, to ensure the pulse successfully flushes water all the way through the system to Weir 32. Flows from Lake Menindee will be increased back to 1000 megalitres per day on Sunday 17 December.

The last pulse which was sent through on 6 and 7 December to disrupt destratification proved successful.

As mentioned in the previous community update, given the dynamic nature of water quality in this stretch of river due to current weather conditions, we have needed to act rapidly by altering flow rates from both Lake Pamamaroo and Lake Menindee to prevent or lessen the water quality impacts and risk of fish deaths. This means we have been unable to provide three days' notice of any possible changes to flows rates.

NSW Government staff in Menindee to progress preparations to respond to fish deaths if they occur

This week and next you will see staff from WaterNSW, the EPA, DPI Fisheries and others, who are on site to inspect the best locations to access the river for fish removal. Staff are also in Menindee to undertake periodic water quality testing.

Anticipated inflows to the Menindee Lakes

Increased flows from upstream, as a result of recent rain across the top of the Murray-Darling Basin, are expected towards the end of December or early January 2024. These inflows will not only help improve water quality but provide increased drought security as we head into summer.

For more information [visit our website](#).