

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

Precautionary pulse flow commencing to support river and fish health

The dissolved oxygen levels in the Menindee weir pool remain at an optimum level for fish health with a flow of 800ML/day that has been maintained over the past week, comprising 750ML/day from Lake Pamamaroo, and 50ML/day from Lake Menindee.

However, a small number of dead golden perch have been reported in the Menindee weir pool. It is not believed that a lack of oxygen is a contributing factor but we are taking precautions and releasing a pulse flow of 1500M/L (1450M/L from Lake Pamamaroo and 50M/L from Menindee) which commenced on the evening of 10 February 2024.

NSW Fisheries are aware of the report of dead fish and are investigating. Dead fish are being bagged and provided to NSW Fisheries for testing.

Please always remember to report any fish death incidents or observations to the Fishers Watch Phonenumber on 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>

NSW Government and Commonwealth agencies are continuing to carefully monitor the situation and adjusting releases as required.

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 have not been able to provide 3 days' notice of any changes to flow rates.

Emergency Operations Centre notified and ready to act

The Emergency Operations Centre led by NSW Police have been notified and they are on standby should a mass fish death event occur. 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 Phoneline 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>