

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

Responding to ongoing fish deaths in the Darling-Baaka at Menindee

DPI Fisheries are continuing to investigate the cause of death of the hundreds of fish that have died in the Menindee weir pool in recent weeks. We are completing the assessment of possible causes of death as quickly as possible so that we can then determine if there are any actions we can take to respond to the current issues.

Menindee Lakes system forecast inflow

Ongoing rainfall in parts of the northern Murray-Darling Basin over the past 3-6 months has resulted in continued inflows to Menindee Lakes. Since the start of 2024 approximately 109 GL of water has entered Menindee Lakes to date, which are currently holding 955 GL (55.2 %).

Significant rainfall in January - February across the Northern catchments have shown strong streamflow responses. Updated flow forecasting indicates that the Menindee Lakes may receive additional inflows of around 75 – 125 GL over the next 2 months. (Please note that inflow forecasting is undertaken using the best available data at the time. There are several variables which may impact the final volume).

Pamamaroo Inlet Regulator is currently open

The Pamamaroo Inlet Regulator is being actively managed to maintain the water level within a safe operational range for this structure as inflows from the north enter Lakes Tandure and Wetherell.

NSW Government agencies are monitoring the water quality as the water from Lake Wetherell passes through Lake Pamamaroo and into the Weir Pool. NSW Government agencies are prepared in the event that the regulator needs to be closed at short notice.

Dissolved oxygen levels in the Menindee weir pool remain at good levels

The dissolved oxygen levels in the Menindee weir pool remain at good levels for fish health. Our series of in-river buoys installed between Lake Pamamaroo and Weir 32 provide 'real-time' enhanced water quality data and show that the dissolved oxygen is well within the healthy range. NSW Government and Commonwealth agencies are continuing to carefully monitor the situation and adjusting releases as required.

Is the drinking water safe?

Yes. Essential Water conducts sampling and testing of drinking water to ensure it continues to meet the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. Essential Water use laboratories certified to Australian standards and NSW Health reviews the results. Essential water delivers a secure water supply for drinking.

Keeping up to date

Anyone wishing to receive this and other related updates from NSW Government can subscribe by emailing water.enquiries@dpie.nsw.gov.au and mention you would like Menindee updates.

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 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/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>