

What is happening?

Floodwaters continue to make their way downstream along the Darling River, with the main peak expected to reach Menindee around the 21st of February, 2022.

Releases from the lakes – which currently sits at 92% of capacity, were to increase from 18 gegalitres per day (GL/day) this week, following public meetings held in Menindee and Pooncarie last week.

While the intention of the proposed increase was to enhance downstream environmental benefits, WaterNSW will not proceed with a planned increase to water releases from Menindee lakes after on the ground monitoring raised concerns of an increased risk of inundating properties in and around Menindee.

As a result, releases will be held at 18 GL/day with the river expected to remain near the minor flood level (8.50 metres) at the Menindee Town gauge. WaterNSW Executive Manager System Operations, Adrian Langdon, said safeguarding local properties must take priority.

Notice to all Boat Owners

Vessel operators are advised that due to continuing high river levels there was a change to the waterway operating conditions on the Darling River at Menindee, from Monday, 10th January 2022 until further notice.

Transport for NSW has declared a four (4) knot speed restriction and minimise wash zone on all waters of the Darling River at Menindee, from the Railway Bridge downstream to the Menindee Lakes Outlet in order to protect the saturated riverbanks and adjacent properties, many of which are relying on levy banks for protection.

A maximum speed of 4 knots applies to all vessels under power navigating within the zone, and operators are to minimise their vessel's wash.

The zone will be clearly marked by signage and will be monitored by control vessels from time to time. Failure to comply with any such direction is an offence (Marine Safety Act 1998, s.11(4)(b) - Maximum Penalty \$1,100.00).

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/topics/using-waterways/restrictions-and-closures/marine-notices/so2214-menindee>

NSW SES would like to remind all vessel operators to keep to a low speed whilst traveling along the Darling River at Menindee, to avoid excess bow waves from entering residential properties and damaging private levees.

Concerns regarding excessive speed on the river should be referred, in the first instance, to local police as the NSW SES do not manage waterway traffic regulations.

If you need emergency assistance, call the NSW SES on **132 500**.

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How can I stay safe?

Never drive, walk or play in floodwaters. Floodwater may be deep, fast flowing and may contain hidden snags and debris.

Simple things you can do now:

- Stay up to date with information. Listen to your local radio station for information, updates and advice.
- Listen to flood warnings and follow advice on how to protect yourself, family, and property.
- Have a plan to minimise damage to your property and possessions.

If you are at risk of flooding:

- Decide if you will stay or leave should the situation worsen.
- Ensure you have adequate supplies of drinking water and food for the expected duration.
- Stack personal possessions and documents on top of benches and tables, place electrical items on top.
- Relocate waste containers, chemicals and poisons at least 1m above floor level.
- Relocate livestock, pumps, chemicals, equipment, vehicles and machinery to higher ground.
- Share this information with your family, friends and neighbours and help others to prepare where possible.

If you decide to leave:

- Take pets, clothing, medicines, essential items, insurance documents and valuables with you.
- Turn off the electricity and gas at the mains before you leave.
- Take drinking water and food with you for the expected travel time.
- Leave as early as possible to avoid road closures.

Mosquito-Borne Diseases

Flood conditions and long periods of high rainfall may promote an increase in mosquito numbers, and they can transmit a variety of diseases. The best protection against mosquitoes (and the diseases that they transmit) is to:

- Avoid being outside unprotected before dawn and dusk.
- When outside, wear loose-fitting, light-coloured clothes that cover arms and legs.
- Use an insect repellent that contains the chemical DEET or picaridin on exposed skin.
- If mosquitoes are inside, use a knockdown insecticide.

For more information visit: www.health.nsw.gov.au

Contact Information and Support

For emergency help in floods and storms, call the NSW State Emergency Service on 132 500.

In life threatening situations call triple zero (000) immediately.

NSW SES For assistance in floods and storms (resupply to isolated properties, sandbag requests, flood assistance)	132 500 www.ses.nsw.gov.au www.facebook.com/NSW.SES/
Bureau of Meteorology For the latest Weather, Warnings, Rainfall and River heights	1300 945 108 www.bom.gov.au
Central Darling Shire Council For local road closures and information	(08) 8083 8800 https://www.centraldarling.nsw.gov.au/
Transport for NSW For State Road, Highway and River closures	132 701 https://www.livetraffic.com/
Local Land Services For rural animal and livestock assistance	1300 795 299 www.lls.nsw.gov.au
NSW Health If you become ill or require assistance from a health care professional, contact your local GP or NSW health medical centre.	In an emergency call triple zero (000) Menindee Hospital (08) 8083 2700
NSW Welfare Services If you are required to evacuate and have no other means of support and require emergency accommodation	1300 306 548
Service NSW If you have been impacted by the floods and suffering hardship	13 77 88