

## Fish deaths in Menindee

### Flows of oxygenated water from Lake Pamamaroo have been increased today to 2,350 megalitres per day

A small number of additional fish deaths (approx. 10s-100s) have been reported in the area between Menindee town and Menindee Creek yesterday (28 March).

Dissolved oxygen readings collected yesterday (28 March) showed oxygen levels decreasing slightly between Lake Pamamaroo and downstream of the Main Weir, this is in spite of oxygenated water being released into the Darling River from Lake Pamamaroo at the rate of 1,350 megalitres per day for the past week.

Yesterday's sampling also indicated dissolved oxygen decreased to critical levels for fish health between the Railway Bridge and Menindee Creek Junction.

As part of the active management and monitoring operations being undertaken – flows of oxygenated water from Lake Pamamaroo have been increased today to 2,350 megalitres per day in an effort to reduce the risk of further large-scale fish deaths downstream of Menindee Main Weir.

We are aware that we need to balance water releases to improve water quality for fish and aquatic health, while also maximising storage ahead of any future drought sequence. As a result, releases from Lake Menindee are being reduced to 3,000 megalitre per day.

Water NSW Operations Update [is available on the website](#).

Continued monitoring will inform any further adjustment to flows from lakes Pamamaroo and Menindee over the coming days to decrease the risk of fish deaths.

The latest Bureau of Meteorology 8-day total rain forecast (28 March to 4 April) provides some positive news, indicating light rainfall in western NSW and for maximum air temperatures at Menindee to decrease to the mid-low 20's during the week. Overnight minimums are forecast to drop to 9°C on Sunday 2 April. There are no heatwave conditions forecast.

To report any further incidents of dead fish, fish struggling or starting to gasp at the water surface, or crayfish exiting the water, please call the NSW Department of Primary Industries Fisheries' Fishers Watch 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>

More information can be found here:

- <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/managing-drought-recovery/blackwater>
- [https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/habitat/threats/fish-kills/\\_nocache](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/habitat/threats/fish-kills/_nocache)