

Operations update



Update on Releases from Menindee lakes

24 March 2020

WaterNSW has today, Tuesday 24 March commenced diversion into Lake Pamamaroo. This action has been necessary for 2 reasons:

- We are now forecasting to have inflows that will not be capable of being stored in Lake Wetherell – current forecast is for 60 - 100 GL to be transferred to Lake Pamamaroo.
- With water now on the floodplain in Lake Wetherell, dissolved oxygen levels have fallen. As such drawing water into Pamamaroo is aimed to improve mixing within Wetherell.

Releases from Lake Wetherell are continuing at approximately 250 ML/day. The level in Weir 32 is rising steadily and is currently at 0.92m – Weir 32 sill level is 1.04m.

WaterNSW is planning to increase releases from Lake Wetherell on Thursday 27 March. Release will be increased to target a rate of 3,000 ML/day. Releases will be held at 3,000 ML/day for 7 days, when releases will then be reduced by 250 ML/day back to a flow of 300 ML/day. The planned release rates and forecast river level at Weir 32 are:

	Target Release Rate	Level at Weir 32
27-Mar-20	500	1.56
28-Mar-20	1000	1.78
29-Mar-20	2000	2.04
30-Mar-20	3000	2.23

Customers and landholders are advised to monitor river levels closely and to make necessary arrangements to ensure infrastructure and livestock are not impacted by the changing river levels.

Water quality monitoring will continue through the release process so that risks to remaining native fish can be reviewed.

The removal of Karoola block bank is complete and works to remove Court Nareen bank commenced Monday 23 March as per the works schedule. It is expected that the works to remove Court Nareen will be completed on 27 March.

The contractor will then mobilise to Jamesville bank, where it is expected that works will commence 30 March. Removal of the Ashvale bank is planned to commence 6 April. Releases are planned to commence from Weir 32 prior to all banks being removed, however, it is expected that travel time

for the water moving downstream will provide sufficient time to complete the removal of the remaining banks. WaterNSW is expecting a travel time between Weir 32 and Pooncarrie of approximately 12 days, with an additional 3 days to Burtundy.

The removal of Copi Hollow bank has commenced. The removal process is now approximately 40% complete at this location.

WaterNSW is working with MDBA to manage a drawdown of Wentworth Weir to assist in moving poor quality water through the weir pool as quickly as possible. MDBA has commenced consultation with key stakeholders and more information will be provided as the plan for drawdown is developed.

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Authorised by

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