

# Operations update

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## Operations Update on Menindee Lakes System (forecast inflow)

23 April 2025

Following substantial rainfall events in the Northern Basin throughout late March / early April, floodplain inundation and river flows occurred across several Darling River tributaries. As flows progress downstream, peak flows are now being observed moving past key points down the Barwon and Darling Rivers. Flow from the event have started to arrive at Menindee Lakes. Current forecasting indicates approximately 800 -1200 GL is expected to enter the Menindee Lakes from this event.

The flow is expected to peak shortly at Brewarrina, with the peak extending toward Wilcannia into May. Further downstream, the peak is currently expected to arrive at Menindee Lakes from late May to early June, with the peak flows to be clearer once the peak has passed Bourke. As floodwater in the Paroo River continues to make its way through this unregulated system, WaterNSW are continuing to work closely with other agencies including the Bureau of Meteorology and NSW State Emergency Service to monitor and assess any potential additional inflows this event may contribute to the Menindee Lake System over the coming months.

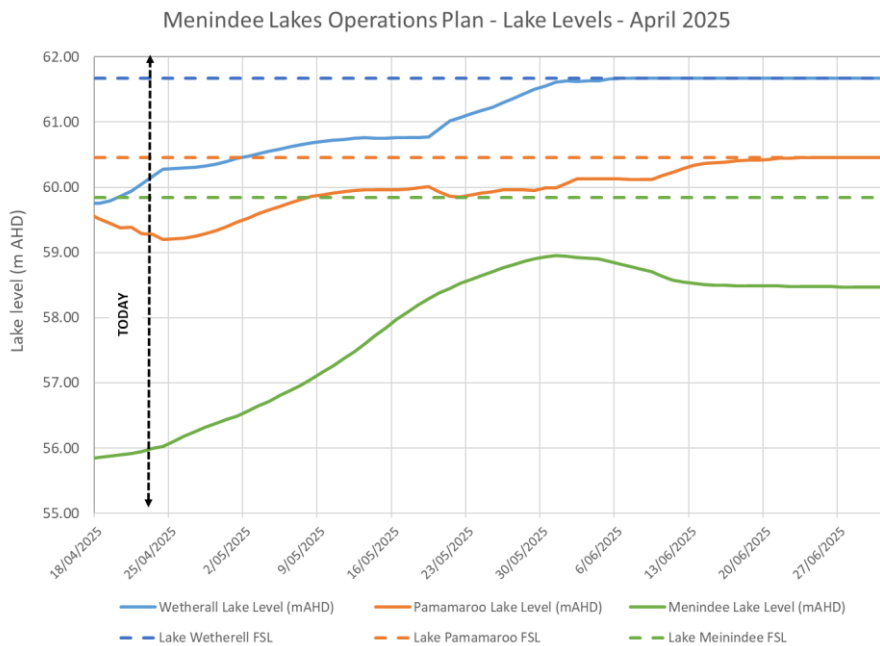
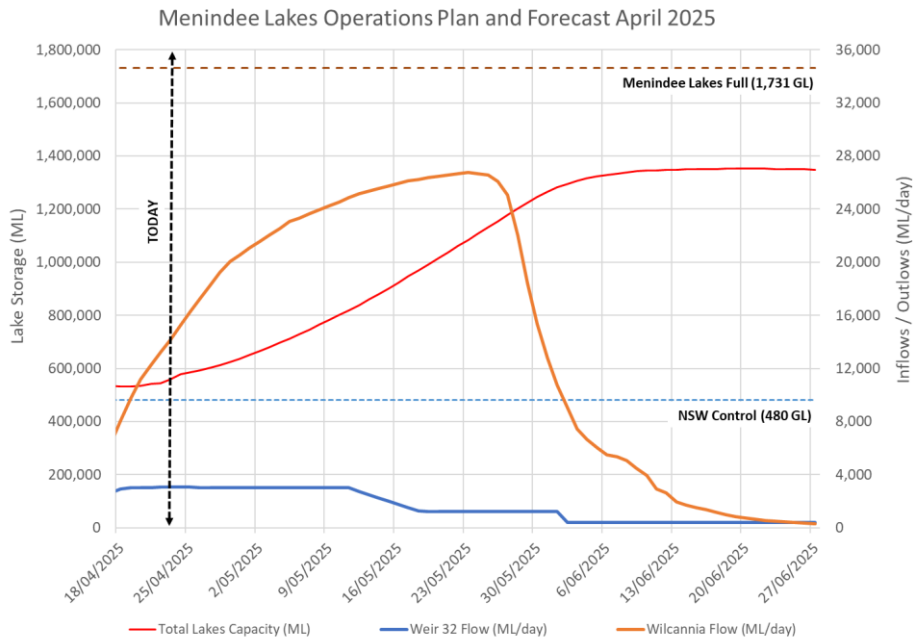
Please note that inflow forecasting is undertaken using the best available data at the time. There are several variables which may impact the final volume, with uncertainty of the final volume reducing as water flows toward the Lakes.

The Menindee Lakes currently hold 550 GL (31.5%). Currently, sufficient airspace is available within Menindee Lakes to safely capture the forecast inflows. Management of the inflows will be undertaken to ensure the upper lakes are filled to Full Supply Level at the completion of the inflow event, with the volume surplus to this requirement passed into Lake Menindee.

The Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) is currently calling on water from Menindee Lakes as part of management of the shared resource across the Basin. Release strategies for Menindee Lakes are currently being coordinated by MDBA and WaterNSW, including other key stakeholders as required.

Based on the current forecast inflows (subject to change), the following proposed operating plan (below) has been developed for Menindee Lakes. This will be continually assessed as forecasting of inflow volumes and timing is refined.

WaterNSW provide the latest operational information and announcements, which are made available on WaterNSW [Water Insights portals](#). You are able to [sign up](#) to this service which allows you to set up and receive alerts when the latest updates are released.



Community members and river users should refer to the Bureau of Meteorology website for river heights, weather forecasts and warnings <http://www.bom.gov.au>

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