Swan Canning Estuary Water Quality Monitoring Project

Weekly Water Quality Report

Canning Estuary and Lower Canning River

6 January 2026

Prepared by

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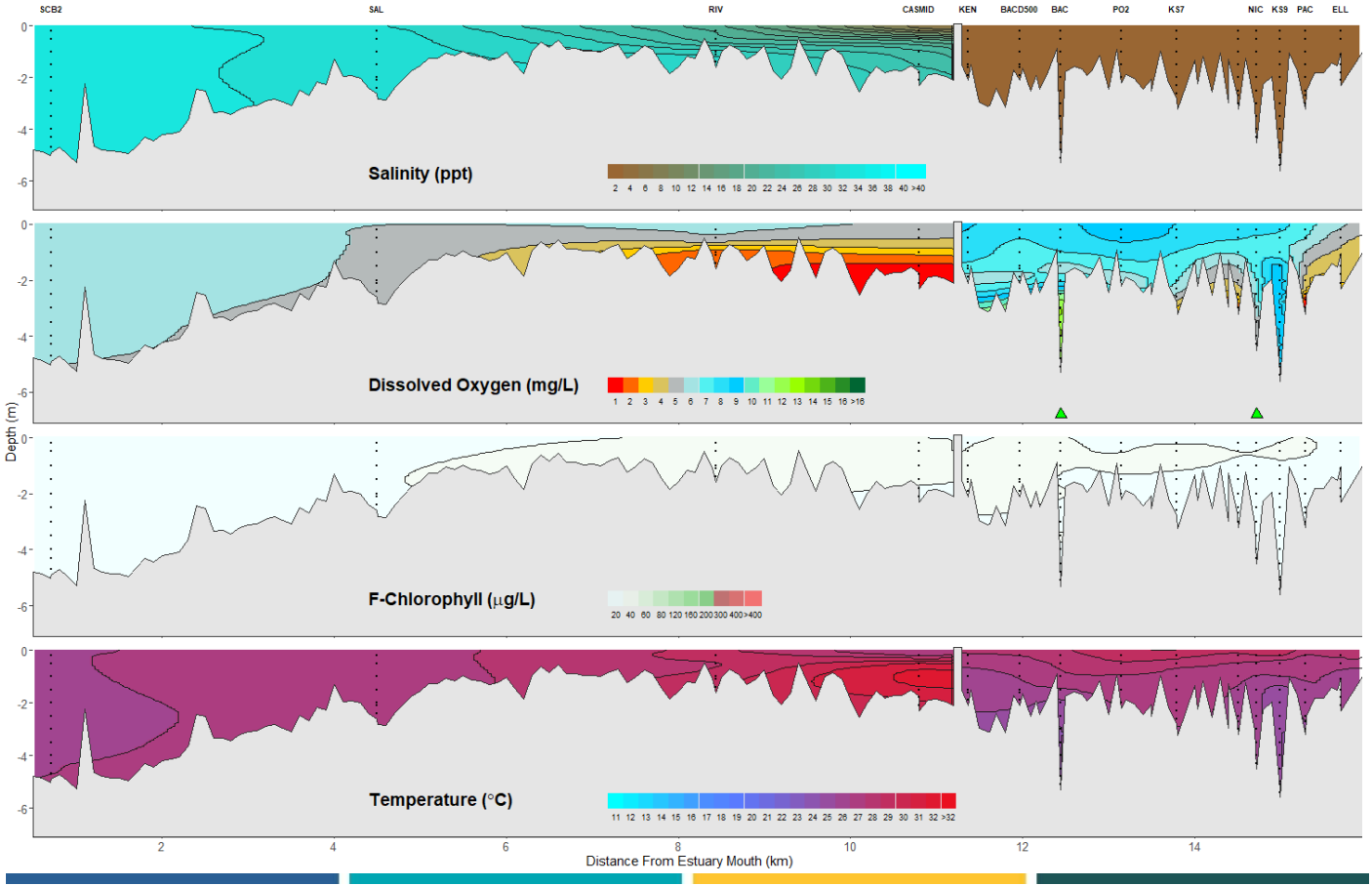
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Biodiversity and Conservation Science

Canning Estuary and Lower Canning River - Water Quality Profiles – 6 January 2026



Date: 6 January 2026

Weather & tide conditions: Conditions were clear with a south-easterly breeze of up to 7.6 knots. The predicted tides at Barrack St were 1.17 m at 12:34 am (high tide) and 0.57 m at 10:54 am (low tide). Perth recorded 0 mm of rainfall in the week prior to sampling (Bureau of Meteorology).

Oxygenation: The Bacon St and Nicholson Rd oxygenation plants were operating and providing oxygen in the 24 hours prior to sampling.

Canning Estuary (SCB2 to CASMID): The Canning Estuary was saline at SCB2 and SAL and brackish over saline at RIV and CASMID. Waters were oxygenated, except for the bottom waters of RIV and CASMID which were hypoxic and anoxic, respectively. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low throughout, and water temperatures ranged from 25.9 to 31.2 °C.

Lower Canning River (KEN to ELL): The Lower Canning River was fresh. Waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated, except for the bottom waters of NICIN and PAC which were hypoxic, and those of NIC and ELL which were low in oxygen. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low throughout, and water temperatures ranged from 24 to 28.5 °C.

NB: Profile plots are visual interpolations of measured parameters only. Detailed data are available at wir.water.wa.gov.au.

Oxygenation Plant Operational Status:
- Operating for part or all of the 24 hours prior to sampling
- Operable but not triggered to operate in the 24 hours prior to sampling
- Inoperable for part or all of the 24 hours prior to sampling

Definitions:
Salinity – fresh <5, brackish 5-25, saline 25-35, hypersaline >35
Dissolved oxygen – well oxygenated >6 mg L^{-1}, oxygenated >4-6 mg L^{-1}, low oxygen >2-4 mg L^{-1}, hypoxic 0.5-2 mg L^{-1}, anoxic <0.5 mg L^{-1}
Chlorophyll fluorescence (low flow): low < 50 µg L^{-1}, moderate 50-150 µg L^{-1}, high 150-400 µg L^{-1}, extreme > 400 µg L^{-1}

Recommended reference: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2026. *Swan Canning Estuary water quality profile report, Canning Estuary and Lower Canning River 6 January 2026.* Rivers and Estuaries Science (https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/swan-canning-riverpark)