



Swan Canning Estuary Water Quality Monitoring Project

Weekly Water Quality Report

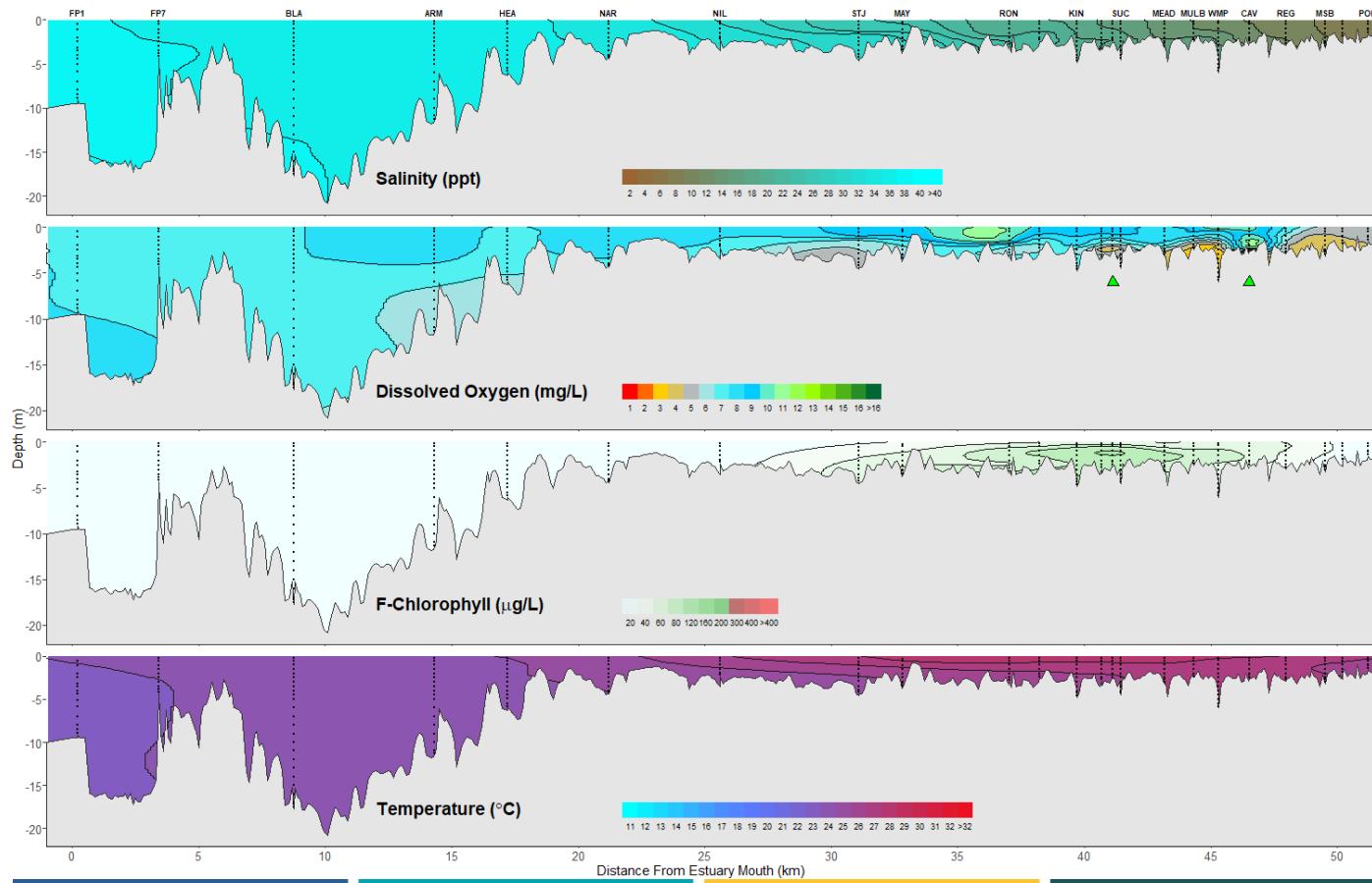
Lower Swan Canning Estuary to Upper Swan Estuary

12 January 2026

Prepared by

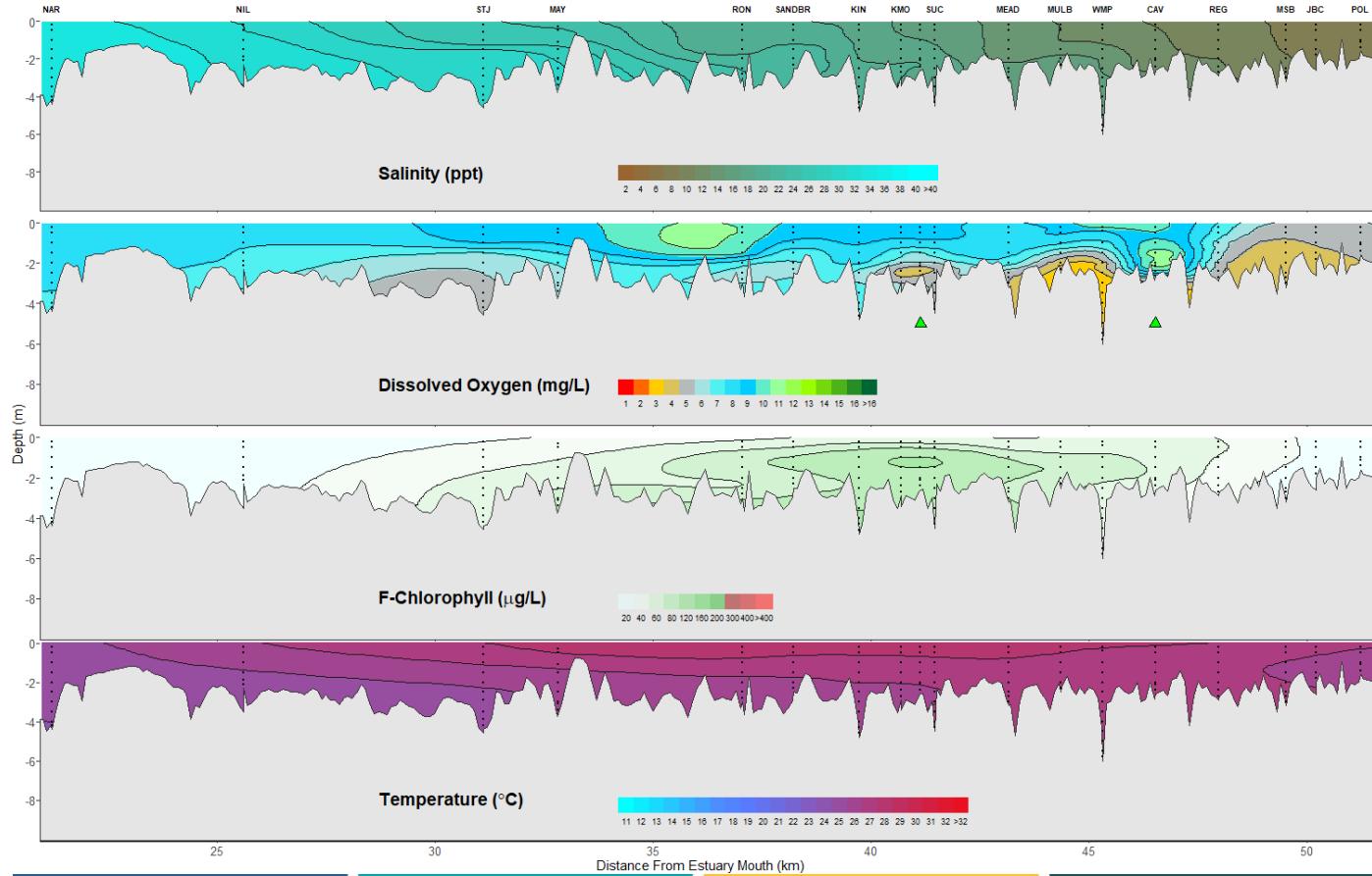
Rivers and Estuaries Science
Biodiversity and Conservation Science
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Swan Canning Estuary - Water Quality Profiles – 12 January 2026





Middle and Upper Swan Estuary - Water Quality Profiles – 12 January 2026



Date: 12 January 2026

Weather & tide conditions: Conditions were clear with a south-westerly breeze up to 12.5 knots. The predicted tides at Barrack St were 0.61 m at 7:25 am (low tide) and 1.09 m at 6:57 pm (high tide). Perth recorded 0.4 mm of rainfall in the week prior to sampling (Bureau of Meteorology).

Oxygenation: The Caversham and Guildford oxygenation plants were operable and triggered to provide oxygen in the 24 hours prior to sampling.

Lower Swan Canning Estuary (FP1 to NAR): The Lower Swan Canning Estuary was hypersaline at FP1, saline over hypersaline from FP7 to NAR, and saline throughout the remainder of sites. Waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated with low chlorophyll fluorescence. Water temperatures ranged from 22.6 to 24.5 °C.

Middle Swan Estuary (NIL to RON): The Middle Swan Estuary was saline at NIL, brackish over saline through STJ - MAY, and brackish at RON. Waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated. Chlorophyll fluorescence was moderate throughout STJ to RON. Water temperatures ranged from 24.5 to 27.8 °C.

Upper Swan Estuary (SANDBR to POL): The Upper Swan Estuary was brackish throughout. Bottom waters were low in oxygen at the following sites: MULB, WMP, MSB, and JBC. High chlorophyll fluorescence was present at KMO, VIT, and SUC and moderate elsewhere from SANDBR to REG. Water temperatures ranged from 25.4 to 27.7 °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 >36 ppt
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, Lower Swan Canning Estuary to Upper Swan Estuary 12 January 2026*. Rivers and Estuaries Science (<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/swan-canning-riverpark>)