



Swan Canning Estuary Water Quality Monitoring Project

Weekly Water Quality Report

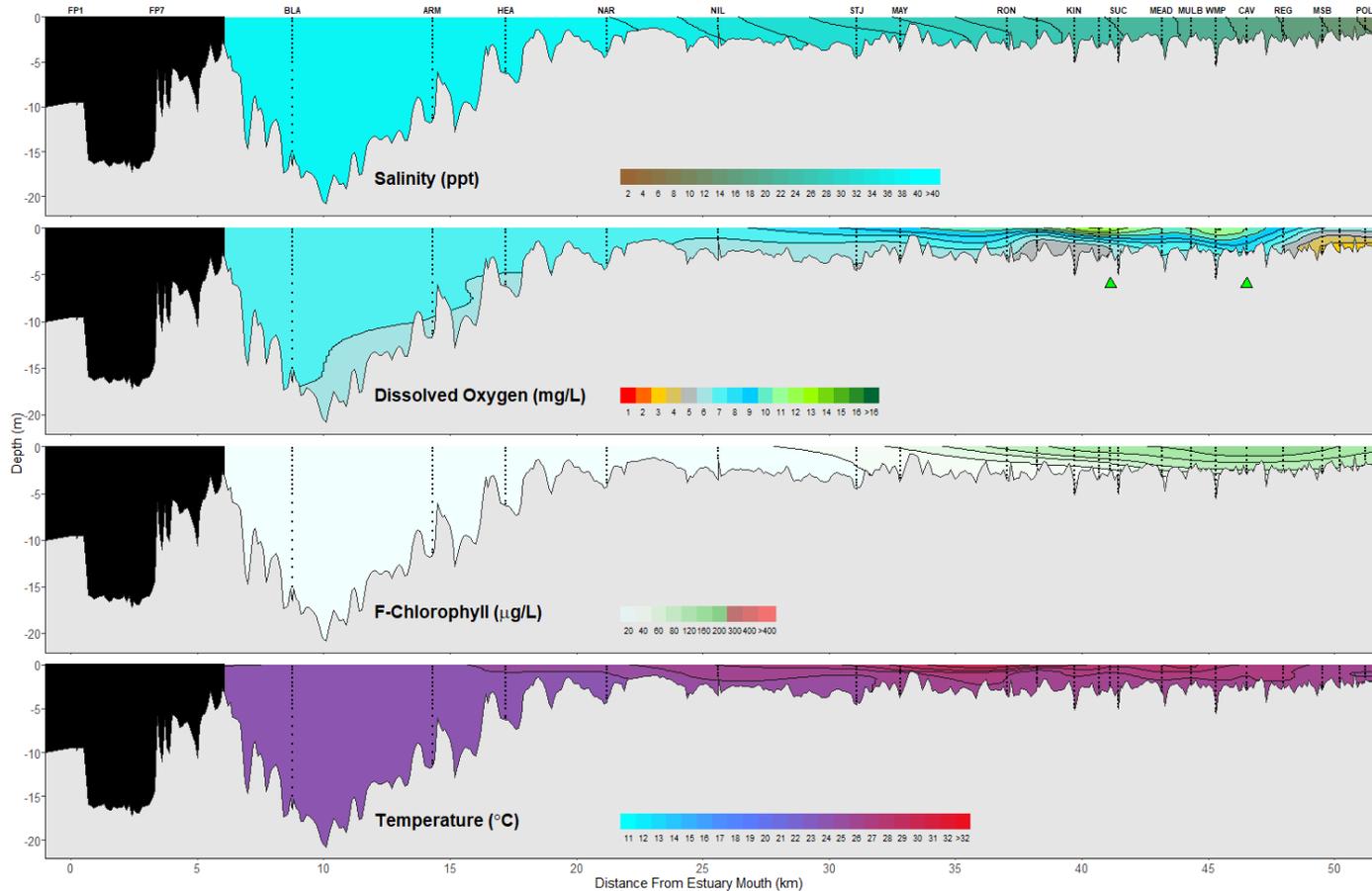
Lower Swan Canning Estuary to Upper Swan Estuary

3 March 2026

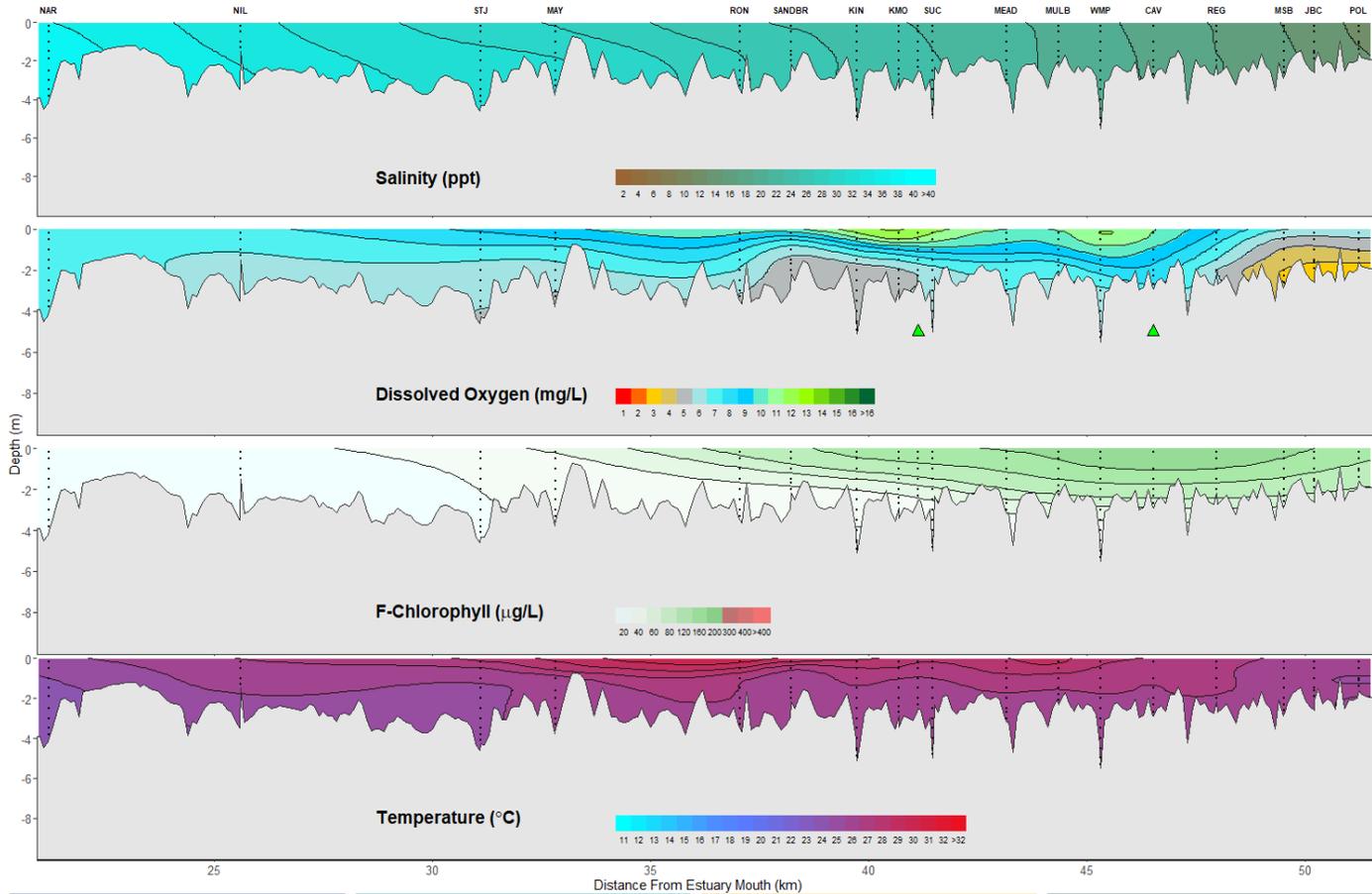
Prepared by

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

Swan Canning Estuary - Water Quality Profiles – 3 March 2026



Middle and Upper Swan Estuary - Water Quality Profiles – 3 March 2026



Date: 3 March 2026

Weather & tide conditions: Conditions were clear with a prevailing southerly breeze up to 6.7 knots. The predicted tides at Barrack St were 0.69 m at 7:59 am (low tide), 0.88m at 1:39 pm (high tide), and 0.86 m at 6:45 pm (2nd low tide). Perth recorded 3.6 mm of rainfall in the week prior to sampling (Bureau of Meteorology).

Oxygenation: The Guildford and Caversham 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 and waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low and water temperatures ranged from 23.3 to 24.6 °C.

Middle Swan Estuary (NIL to RON): The Middle Swan Estuary was saline with brackish surface waters at RON. Waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low, with moderate levels in surface waters of RON. Water temperatures ranged from 24.9 to 29.2 °C.

Upper Swan Estuary (SANDBR to POL): The Upper Swan Estuary was brackish with saline bottom waters at SANDBR. Waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated, except for low oxygen bottom waters at SANDBR and from MSB to POL. Chlorophyll fluorescence was generally low to moderate, with high levels detected at most sites and extreme levels in surface waters of WMP. Water temperatures ranged from 24.9 to 28.4 °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 3 March 2026*. Rivers and Estuaries Science (<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/swan-canning-riverpark>)