



Swan Canning Estuary Water Quality Monitoring Project

Weekly Water Quality Report

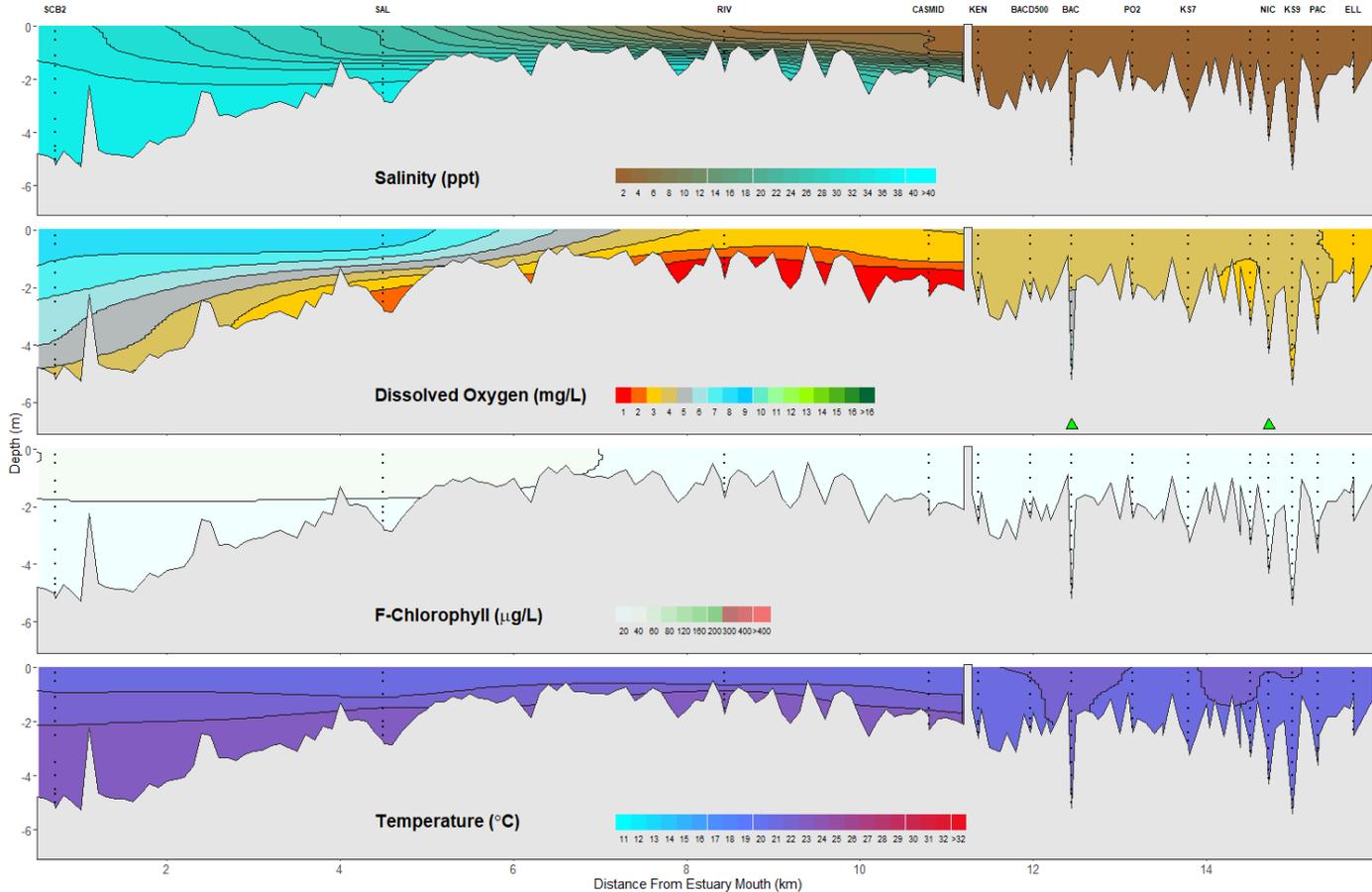
Canning Estuary and Lower Canning River

31 March 2026

Prepared by

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

Canning Estuary and Lower Canning River - Water Quality Profiles – 31 March 2026



Date: 31 March 2026

Weather & tide conditions: Conditions were overcast with a westerly breeze of up to 10.3 knots. The predicted tides at Barrack St were 0.78 m at 5:48 am (low tide) and 0.98 m at 12:07 pm (high tide). Perth recorded 72.6 mm 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 from saline at SCB2, brackish over saline at SAL, fresh over saline at RIV and fresh over brackish at CASMID. Waters were oxygenated at SCB2 and in surface waters at SAL, with hypoxia in the bottom waters of SAL. From RIV to CASMID there was low oxygen surface waters with hypoxic and anoxic bottom waters. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low throughout and water temperatures ranged from 20.2 to 22.7 °C.

Lower Canning River (KEN to ELL): The Lower Canning River was fresh and low in oxygen at all sites throughout the water column, except for bottom waters at BAC which were oxygenated. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low and water temperatures ranged from 20.3 to 21.7 °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
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