



Swan Canning Estuary Water Quality Monitoring Project

Weekly Water Quality Report

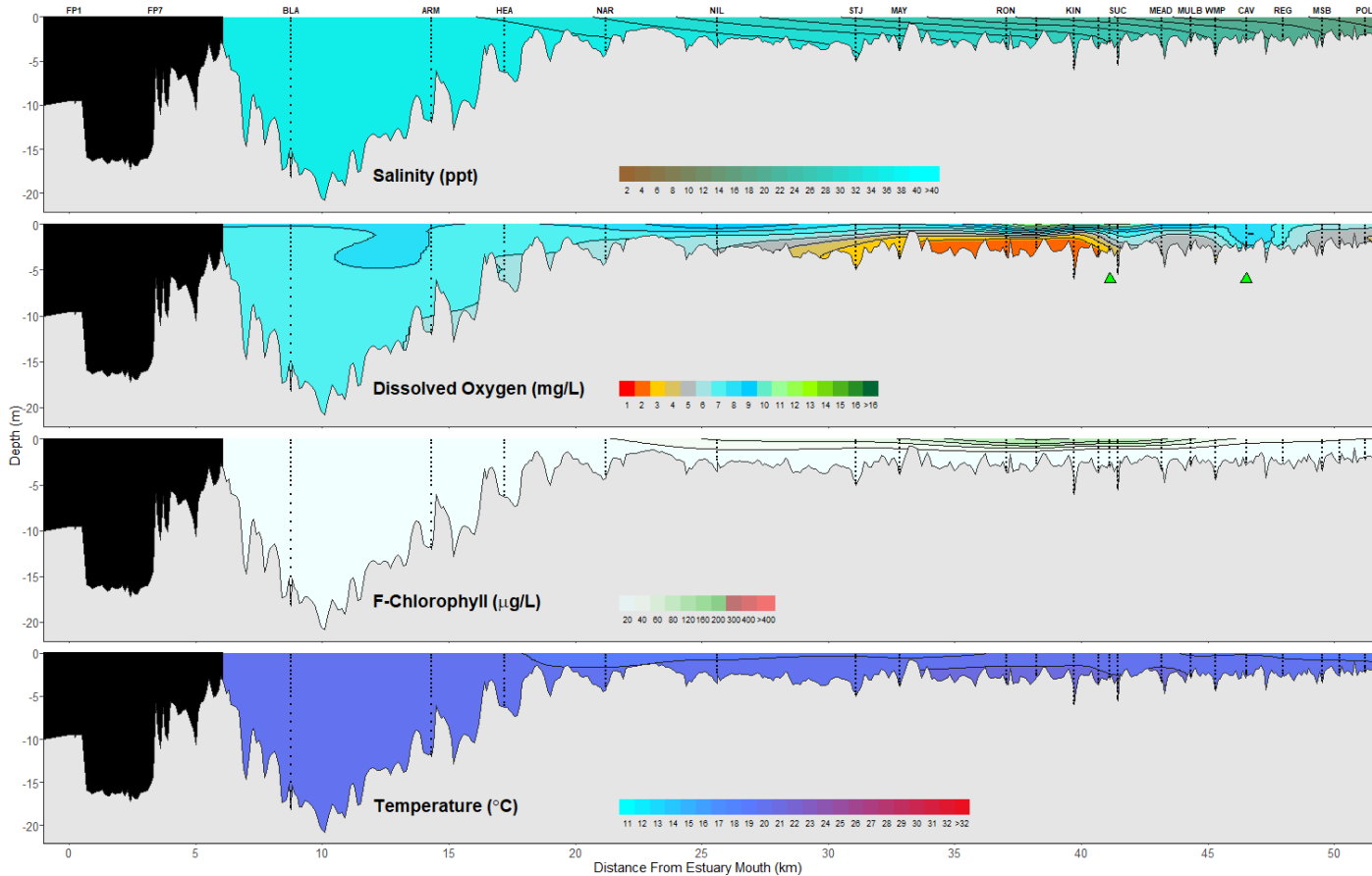
Lower Swan Canning Estuary to Upper Swan Estuary

28 April 2026

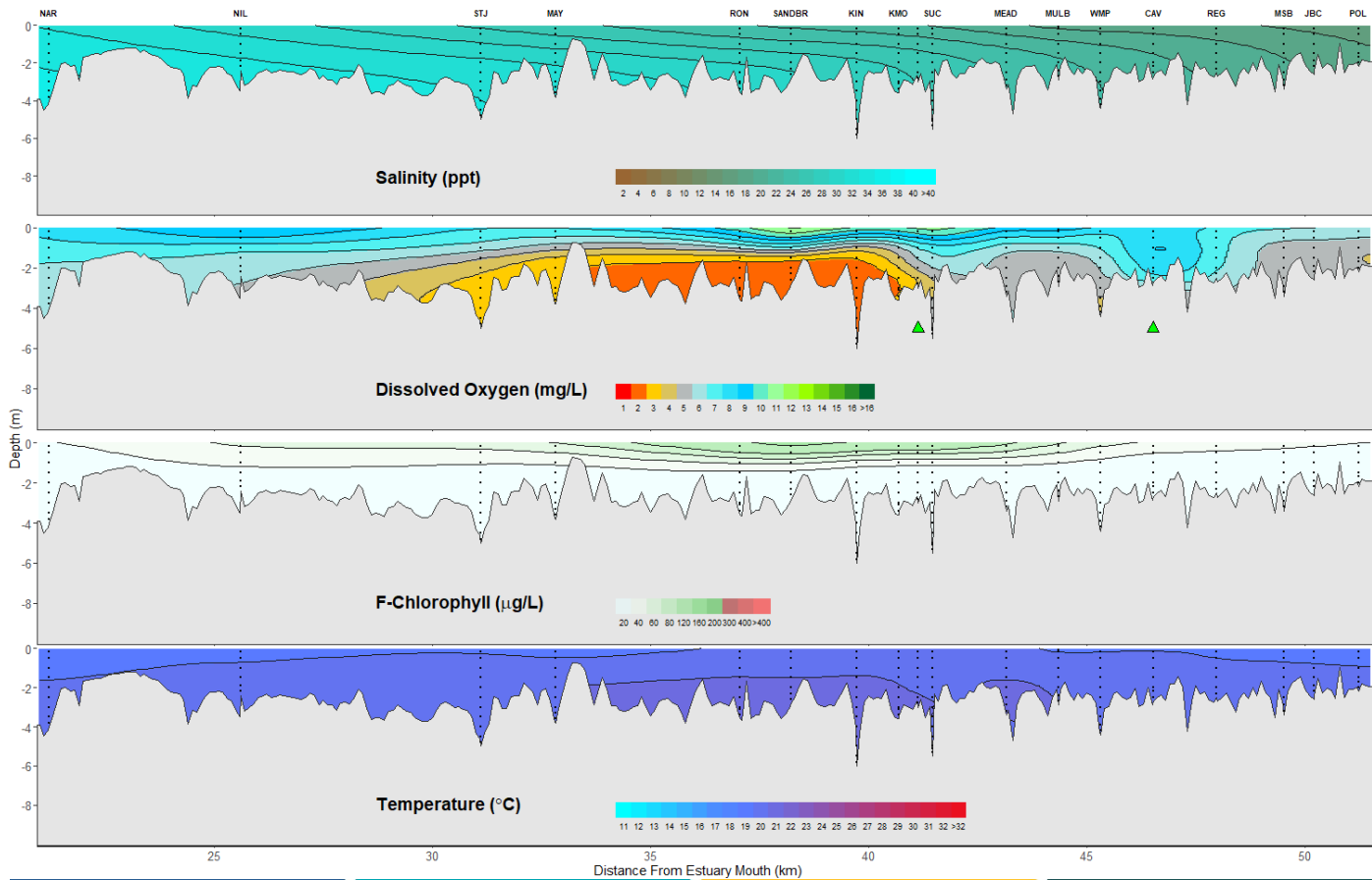
Prepared by

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

Swan Canning Estuary - Water Quality Profiles – 28 April 2026



Middle and Upper Swan Estuary - Water Quality Profiles – 28 April 2026



Date: 28 April 2026

Weather & tide conditions: Conditions were overcast with a variable breeze of up to 5.5 knots. The predicted tides at Barrack St were 0.85 m at 3:48 am (first low tide), 1.09 m at 10:44 am (high tide) and 0.91 m at 5:49 pm (second low tide). Perth recorded 13.4 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 (BLA to NAR): The Lower Swan Canning Estuary was saline from BLA to NAR. Waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated throughout and chlorophyll fluorescence was low. Water temperatures ranged from 18.6 to 19.9 °C.

Middle Swan Estuary (NIL to RON): The Middle Swan Estuary was saline throughout with brackish surface waters from MAY to RON. Waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated, with low oxygen bottom waters from STJ to RON. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low, except for moderate levels detected in the surface waters at RON. Water temperatures ranged from 18.5 to 20.3 °C.

Upper Swan Estuary (SANDBR to POL): The Upper Swan Estuary was brackish over saline at from SANDBR to SUC, and brackish from MEAD to POL. Waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated, except for hypoxic bottoms waters from SANDBR to KMO and low oxygen bottom waters at VIT and WMP. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low, with high levels detected in the surface waters at SANDBR and from VIT to SUC, and moderate levels detected in surface waters from KIN to KMO and MEAD to MULB. Water temperatures ranged from 18.7 to 20.3 °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 28 April 2026*. Rivers and Estuaries Science (<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/swan-canning-riverpark>)