

Derbal Yirragan

Swan waterway

Weekly water quality report

24 August 2026

Monitoring conducted on Whadjuk Noongar Country

Prepared by:

Rivers and Estuaries Science

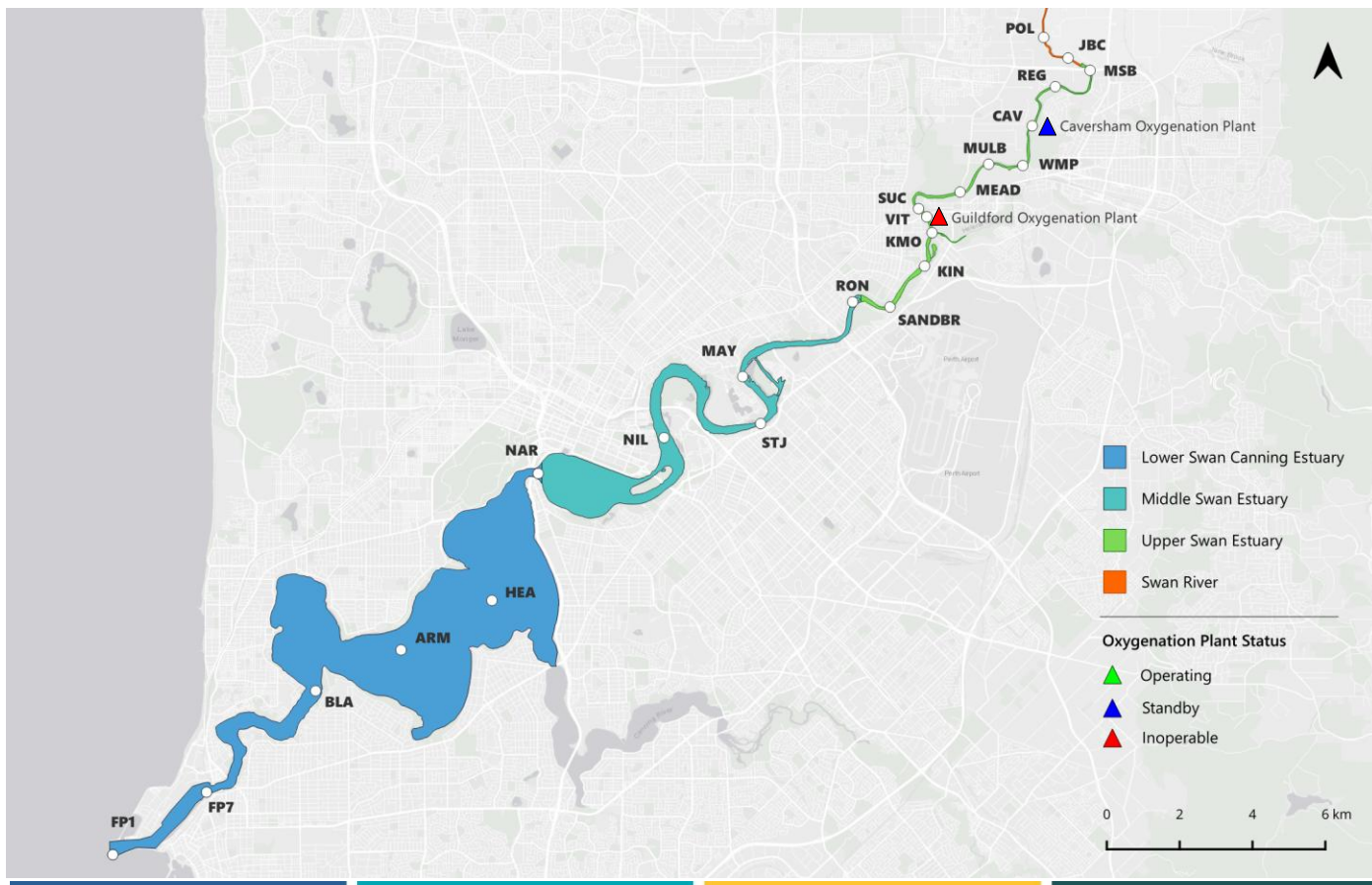
Biodiversity and Conservation Science

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Photo – DBCA

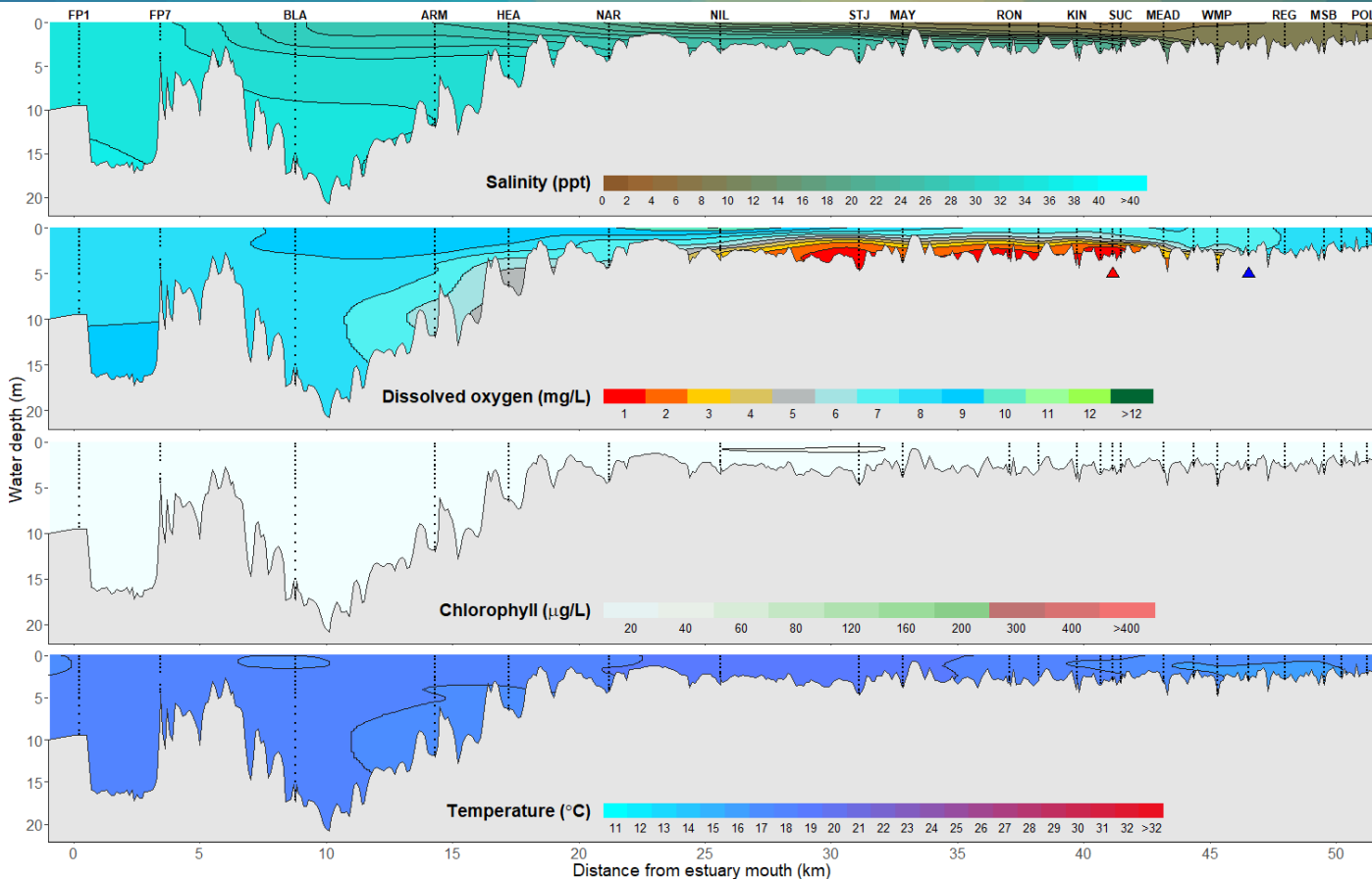
Derbal Yirragan water quality monitoring sites

24 August 2026



Derbal Yirragan water quality profile

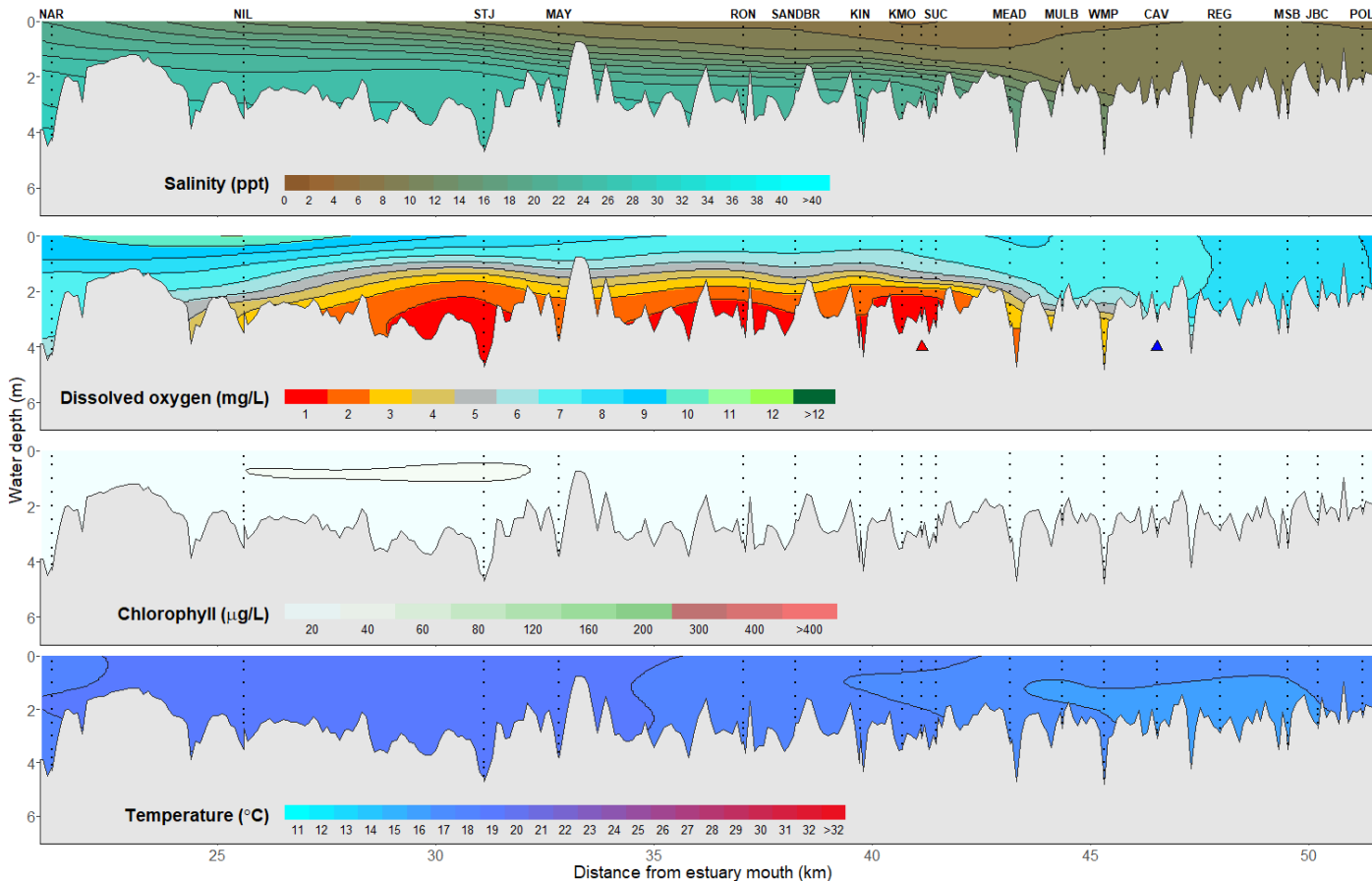
24 August 2026



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

Derbal Yirragan water quality profile

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Derbal Yirragan water quality summary

24 August 2026

Lower Swan Canning Estuary: Salinity in this zone was predominately euhaline, with polyhaline surface waters from BLA to NAR. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low throughout, indicating low phytoplankton activity. Waters were oxygenated or well-oxygenated and water temperatures ranged from 16.7 to 18.3 °C.

Middle Swan Estuary: There was significant stratification across this zone from recent riverine flow. Waters were polyhaline with mesohaline surface waters throughout. NIL recorded low oxygen bottom waters, and STJ to RON had hypoxic bottom waters. Elsewhere was oxygenated or well oxygenated. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low throughout, and water temperatures ranged from 17.2 to 18.8 °C.

Upper Swan Estuary and Swan River: The river was flowing and sites were predominately mesohaline with oxygenated to well oxygenated waters. MEAD and WMP recorded low oxygen bottom waters, and the more stratified sites SANDBR to SUC experienced polyhaline and hypoxic bottom waters. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low throughout, and water temperatures ranged from 15.7 to 18.4 °C.

Season			
Djilba		First spring	
Predicted tides ¹			
High Tide		Low Tide	
1.12 m	8:41 am	0.67 m	6:56 pm

Recorded weather conditions	
Skies	Cloudy
Wind direction	SW
Wind speed (max)	4.8 knots
Air temperature ² (max)	20 °C
Rainfall ² (within week prior)	10.2 mm

Definitions

Salinity (ppt)³ – fresh: <0.5; oligohaline: 0.5 – 5; mesohaline: >5 – 18; polyhaline: >18 – 30; euhaline: >30 – 40; hyperhaline: >40.

Dissolved oxygen (mg/L)⁴ – anoxic: 0; hypoxic: >0 – 2; low oxygen: >2 – 4; oxygenated: >4 – 6; well oxygenated: >6.

Chlorophyll fluorescence (µg/L)⁵ – low: <50; moderate: 50 – 150; high: >150 – 400, very high: >400.

References

1. DTMI (Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure) (2025) [Tide predictions](#), DTMI, accessed 24 August 2026.
2. BOM (Bureau of Meteorology) (2026) [Perth Western Australia Daily Weather Observations](#), BOM, accessed 24 August 2026.
3. (2003) 'The Venice System for the Classification of Marine Waters According to Salinity', *Limnology and Oceanography*, 3, [doi: 10.4319/lo.1958.3.3.0346](#).
4. DWER (Department of Water and Environmental Regulation) (2018) [Oxygenating the Vasse estuary exit channel: the results of a two year trial 2025 - 2017](#), DWER, Government of Western Australian.
5. Chlorophyll definitions were internally developed from historical trends within the Swan Canning Riverpark.

Recommended reference for this report

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 2026. *Swan Water Quality Report, 24 August 2026*. Rivers and Estuaries Science (<https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/management/swan-canning-riverpark/swan-canning-riverpark-water-quality-monitoring>)