



Swan Canning Estuary Water Quality Monitoring Project

Weekly Water Quality Report

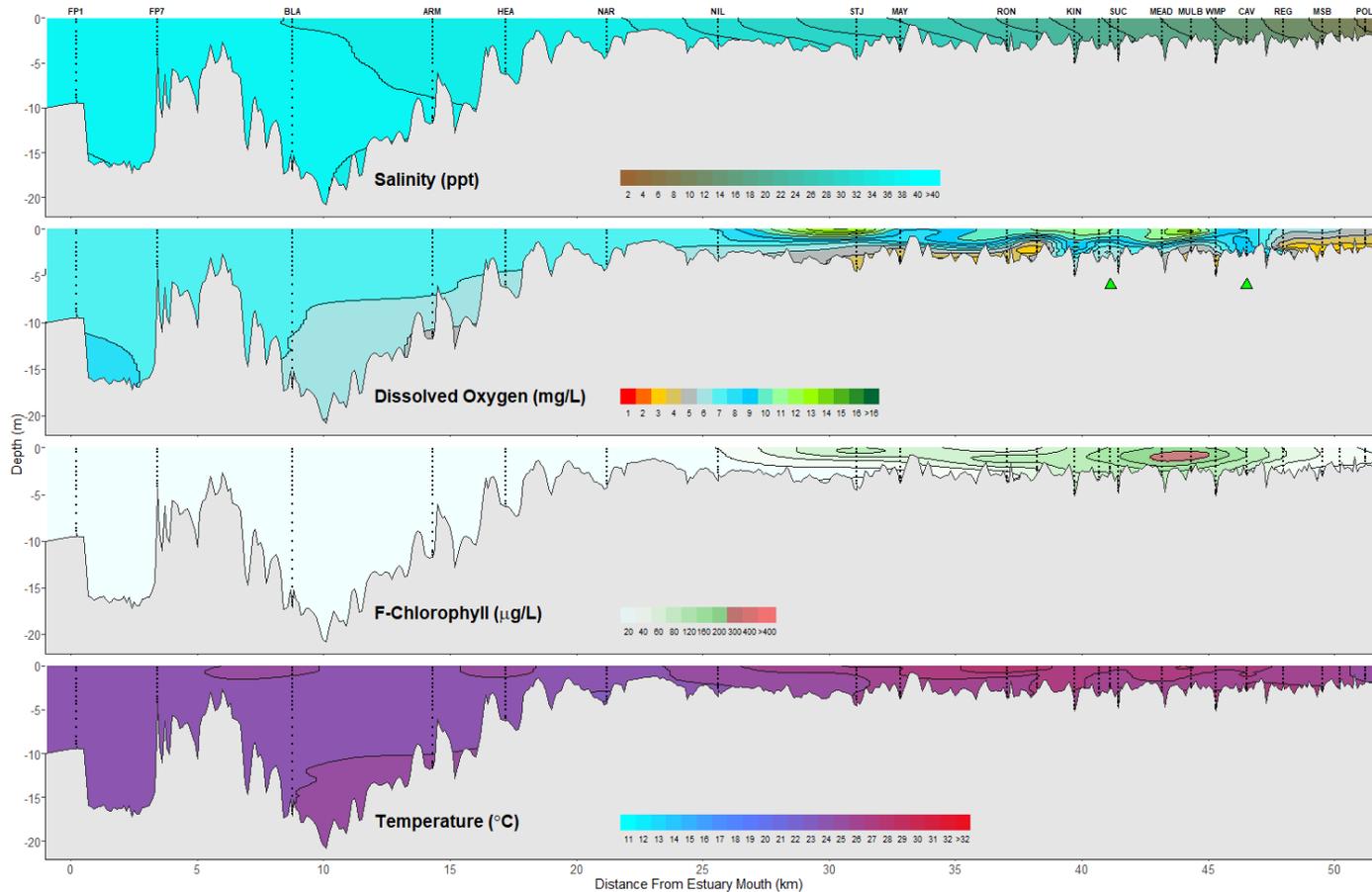
Lower Swan Canning Estuary to Upper Swan Estuary

27 January 2026

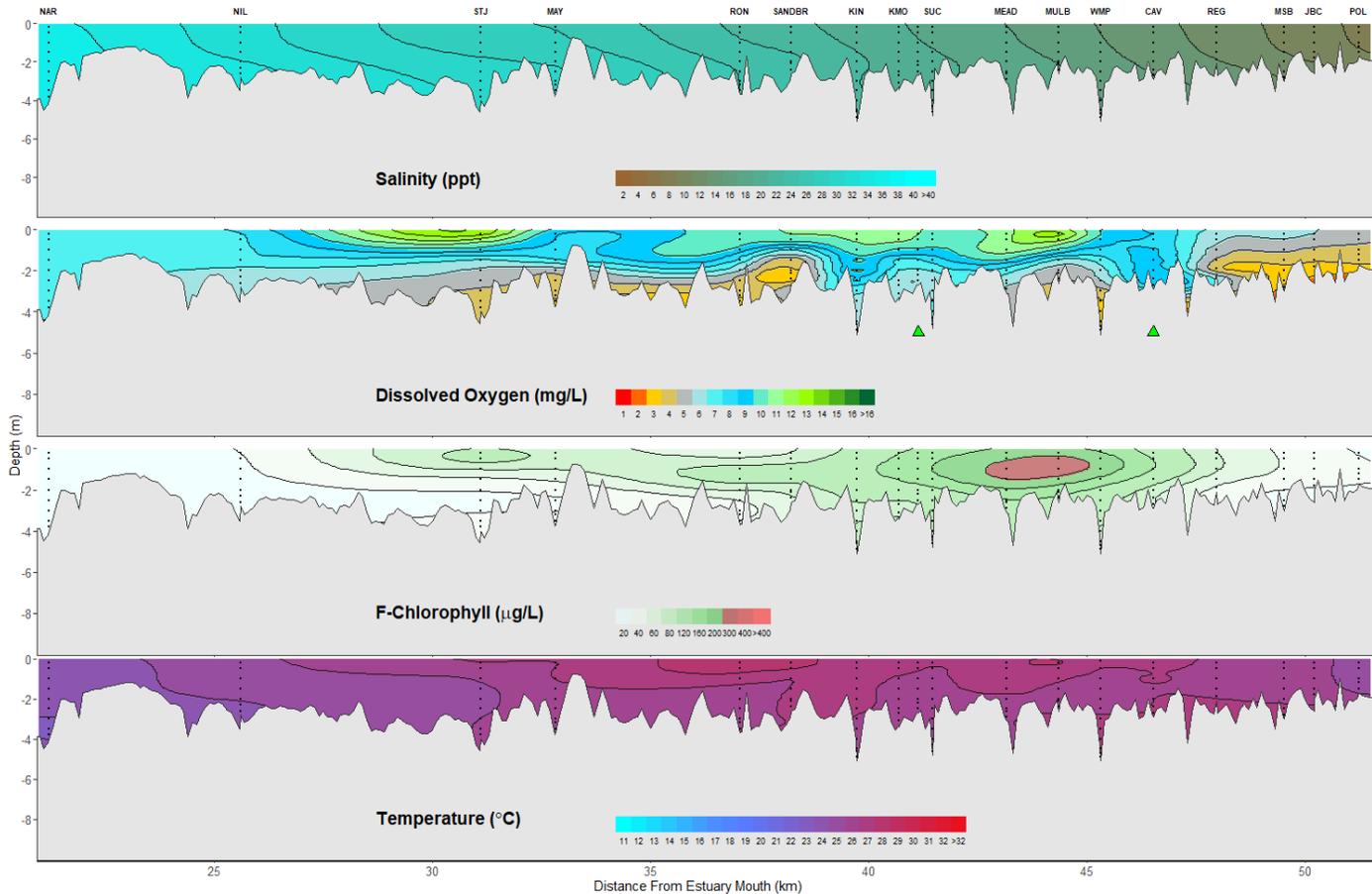
Prepared by

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

Swan Canning Estuary - Water Quality Profiles – 27 January 2026



Middle and Upper Swan Estuary - Water Quality Profiles – 27 January 2026



Date: 27 January 2026

Weather & tide conditions: Conditions were cloudy with a south-westerly breeze up to 8.6 knots. The predicted tides at Barrack St were 0.6 m at 6:36 am (low tide) and 1.14 m at 6:23 pm (high tide). Perth recorded 1.2 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 at FP1 and FP7, saline over hypersaline at BLA and ARM, and saline at HEA and NAR. Waters were oxygenated to well oxygenated throughout with low chlorophyll fluorescence. Water temperatures ranged from 23 to 24.3 °C.

Middle Swan Estuary (NIL to RON): The Middle Swan Estuary was saline from NIL to MAY and brackish at RON. Waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated, except for bottom waters from STJ to RON which were low in oxygen. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low except for high levels in sub-surface waters of STJ and RON, and moderate in surface waters of MAY. Water temperatures ranged from 23.9 to 27.4 °C.

Upper Swan Estuary (SANDBR to POL): The Upper Swan Estuary was brackish throughout. Waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated, with low oxygen bottom waters at SANDBR, WMP and REG to POL, and hypoxic bottom waters at MSB. Chlorophyll fluorescence was moderate at most sites, with high levels detected at KIN, KMO and SUC to WMP. Water temperatures ranged from 24.5 to 27.2 °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 27 January 2026*. Rivers and Estuaries Science (<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/swan-canning-riverpark>)