



# **Media Statement**

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**Monday, 18 November 2019**

## **Extended dry season cause of fish kill incident at Snake Creek**

The recent fish kill incident at Snake Creek in the Kimberley has been found to be caused by conditions from the extended dry season.

On 26 September 2019, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) officers investigated a fish kill reported by a member of the community.

DWER Scientific Officer Tim Storer said investigations found 42 dead adult barramundi along approximately three kilometres of the creek and one dead crocodile. .

“Water quality investigations found low oxygen levels from the bottom of Durack Pool created by the extended dry season had been stirred up by recent rains,” Dr Storer said.

“Large and sensitive fish, such as barramundi, are known to be particularly susceptible to low dissolved oxygen.”

The crocodile was found in an advanced state of decay indicating it had been dead for considerably longer than the barramundi and was unlikely related to the extended dry season.

Dr Storer said apart from the barramundi, there were no other affected species.

“The fact this event only impacted on adult barramundi and not younger fish or other species, it was most likely relatively moderate and short-lived,” he said.

Dr Storer said the Department would continue to monitor sites at Uralla Creek, including pools upstream and downstream of floodgates.

“The Department will reassess conditions from Durack Pool following poor wet seasons as part of its regular monitoring review for Liveringa Station to ensure environmental risks are minimised,” he said.

“The Department is also considering further research to better understand fish movement and ecosystems in the region’s waterways.”

Members of the public are asked to report any fish deaths or fish strandings by ringing the DPIRD [Fishwatch hotline](https://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/fishwatch) on 1800 815 507.

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