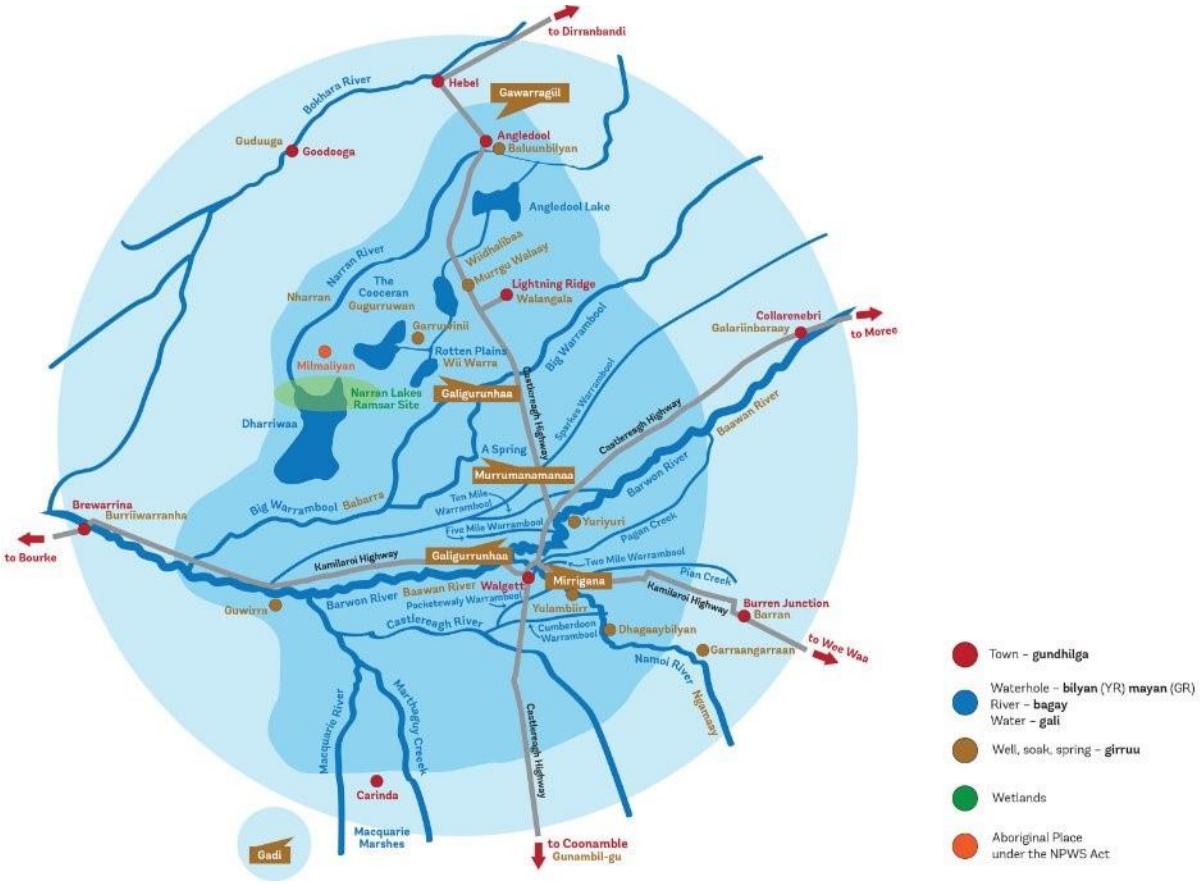
Water Quality Monitoring Report

26th May 2026

Introduction

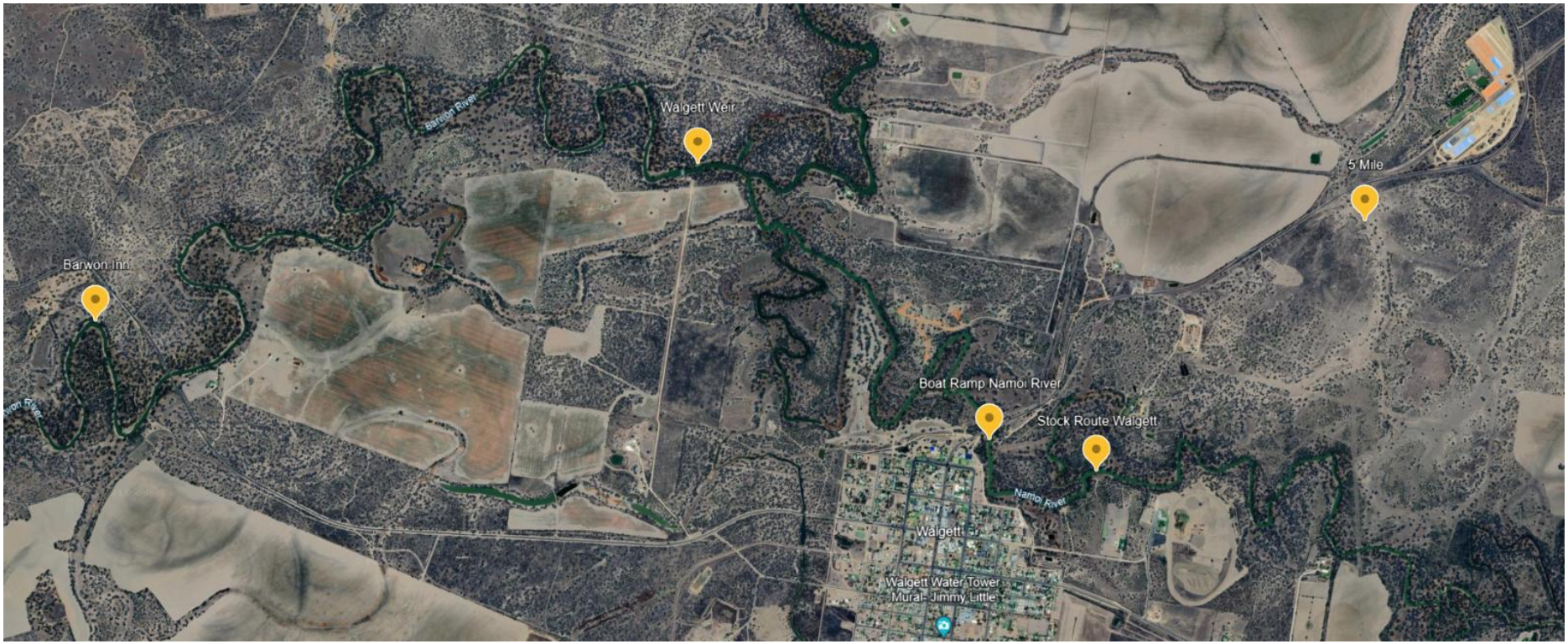
This data was collected on Tuesday 26th May 2026 between 10am and 1pm on the Ngamaay (Namoi) and Baawan (Barwon) River.

The Dharriwaa Elders Group River Rangers are conducting weekly water quality testing, measuring a range of factors that affect the quality of the river water. Different results affect the health of native animals and plants, and the health of the people that rely on the river for food and water.

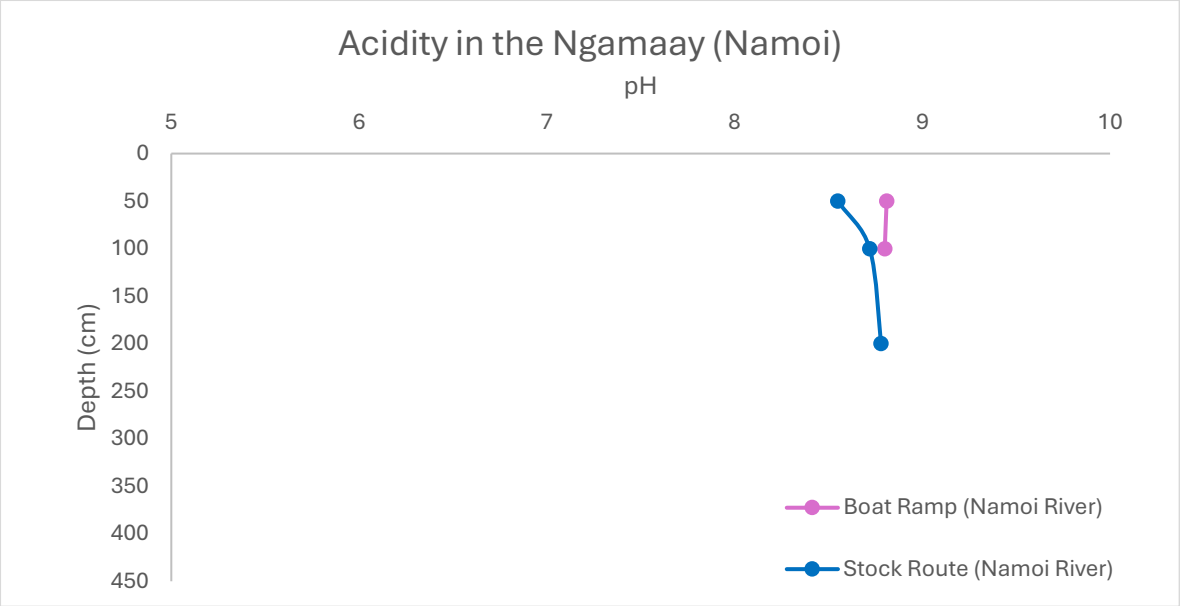


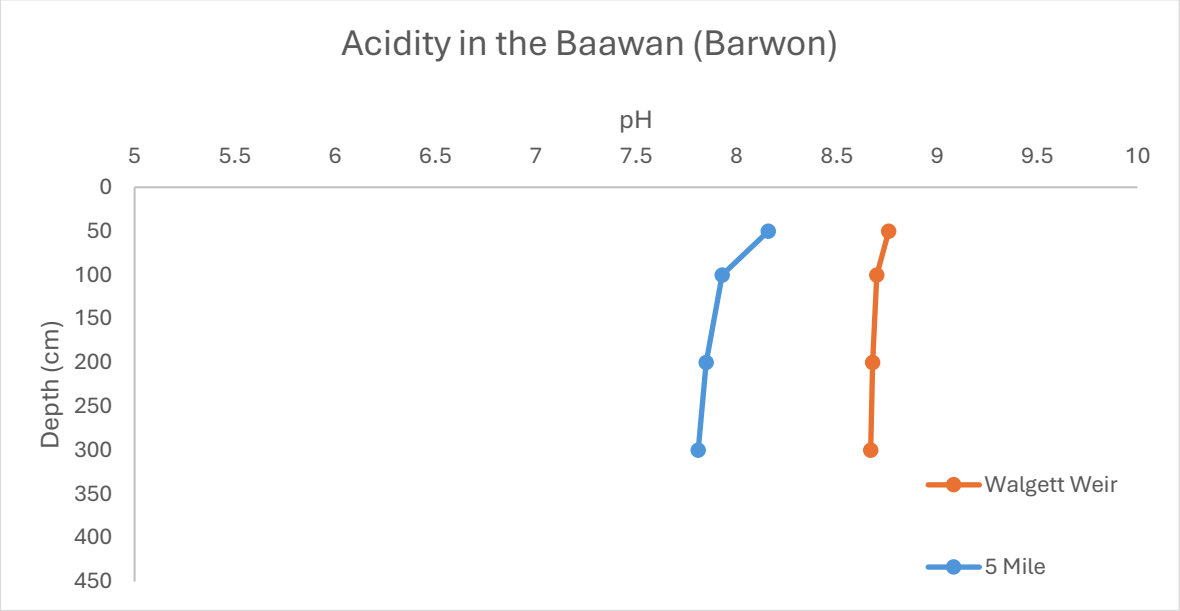
(Picture: Dharriwaa Elders Group area of interest)

Picture: Map of the Baawan (Barwon) River and Ngamaay (Namoi) River where the DEG River Rangers do their water quality monitoring.



Acidity in the Ngamaay and Baawan Rivers

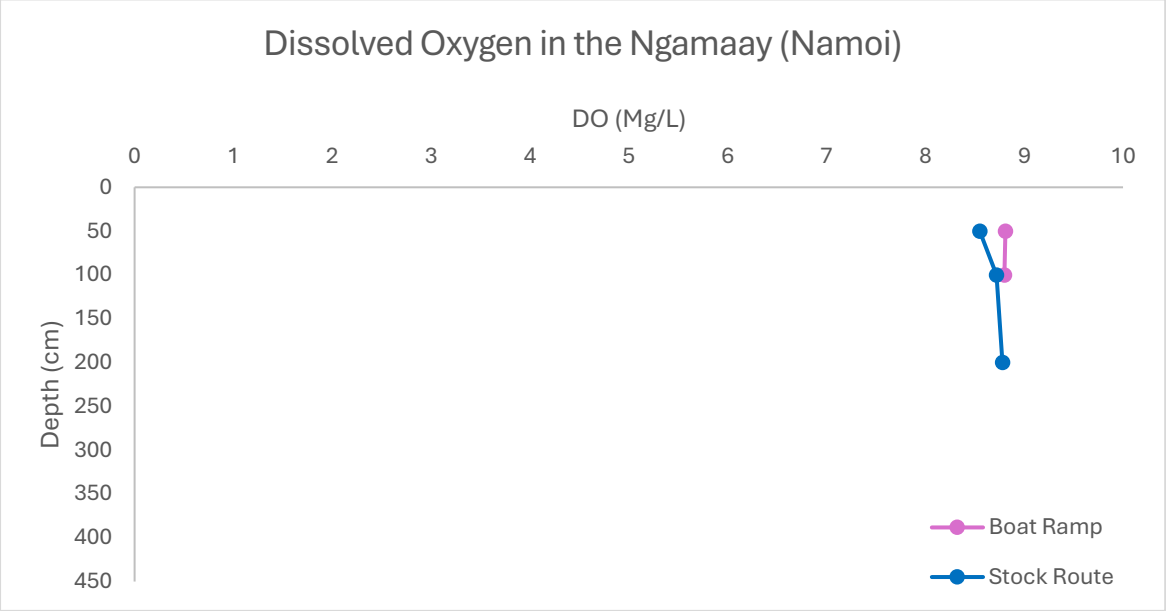


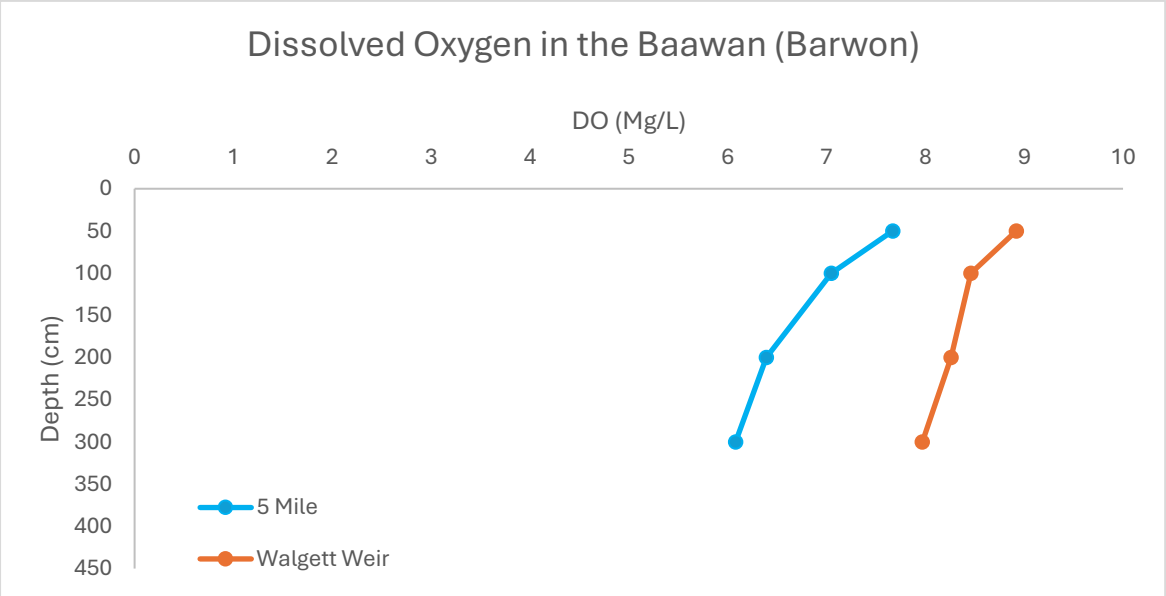


The pH at the 5 Mile (Baawan River) is within the healthy range. At the Walgett Wier (Baawan River), Boat Ramp and Stock Route (Ngamaay River) the pH is just outside the healthy range. The highest reading is 8.81 which is at the Boat Ramp in the Ngamaay River. The lowest reading is 7.81 which is at the 5 Mile in the Baawan River.

Healthy range: 6.5 - 8.5 pH

Dissolved Oxygen in the Ngamaay and Baawan Rivers

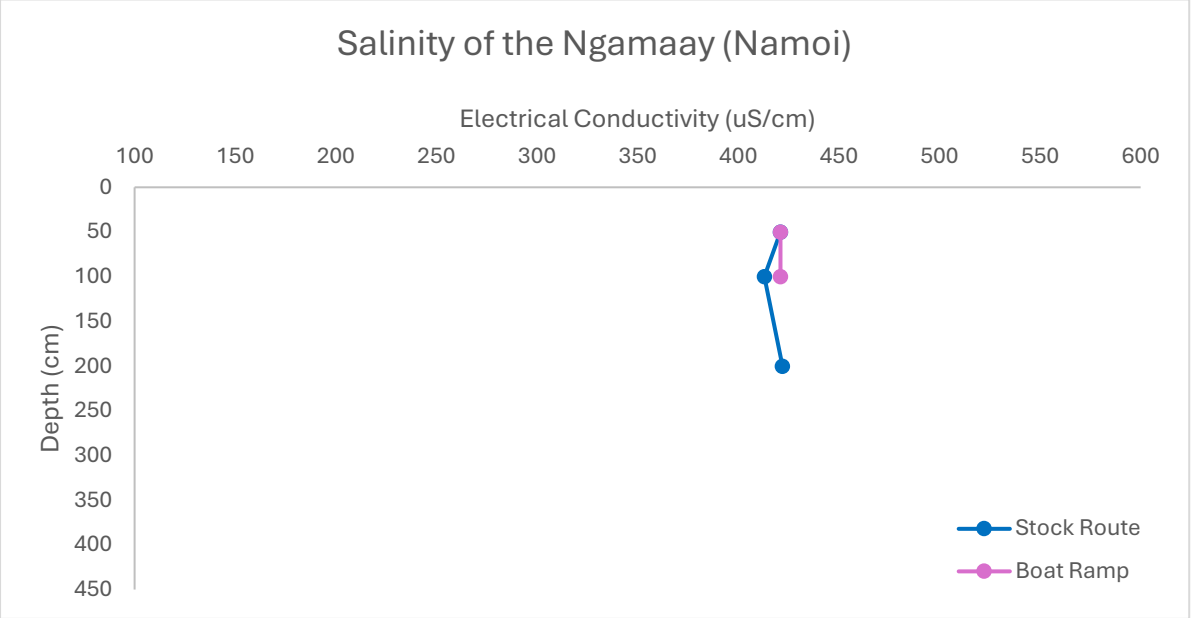


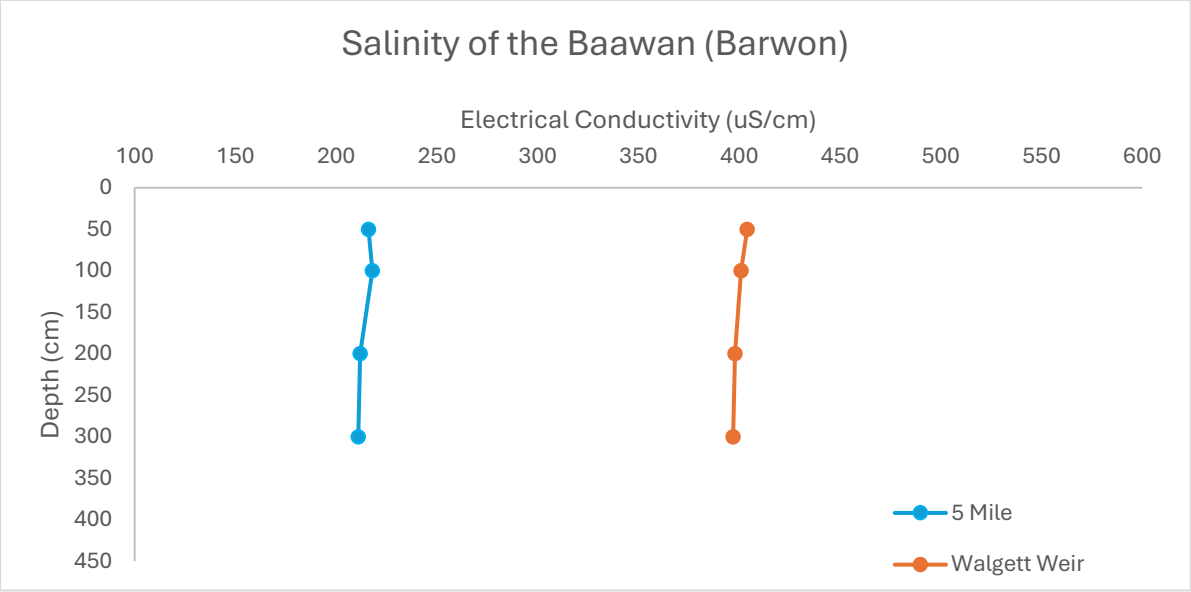


The dissolved oxygen at the 5 Mile (Baawan River) is within the healthy range. At the Walgett Weir (Baawan River), Boat Ramp and Stock Route (Ngamaay River) the dissolved oxygen is slightly outside the healthy range. The highest reading is 8.92 which is at the Walgett Weir (Baawan River). The lowest reading is 6.08 at the 5 Mile on the Baawan River as well.

Healthy Range: 6 - 8 (Mg/L)

Salinity in the Ngamaay and Baawan Rivers

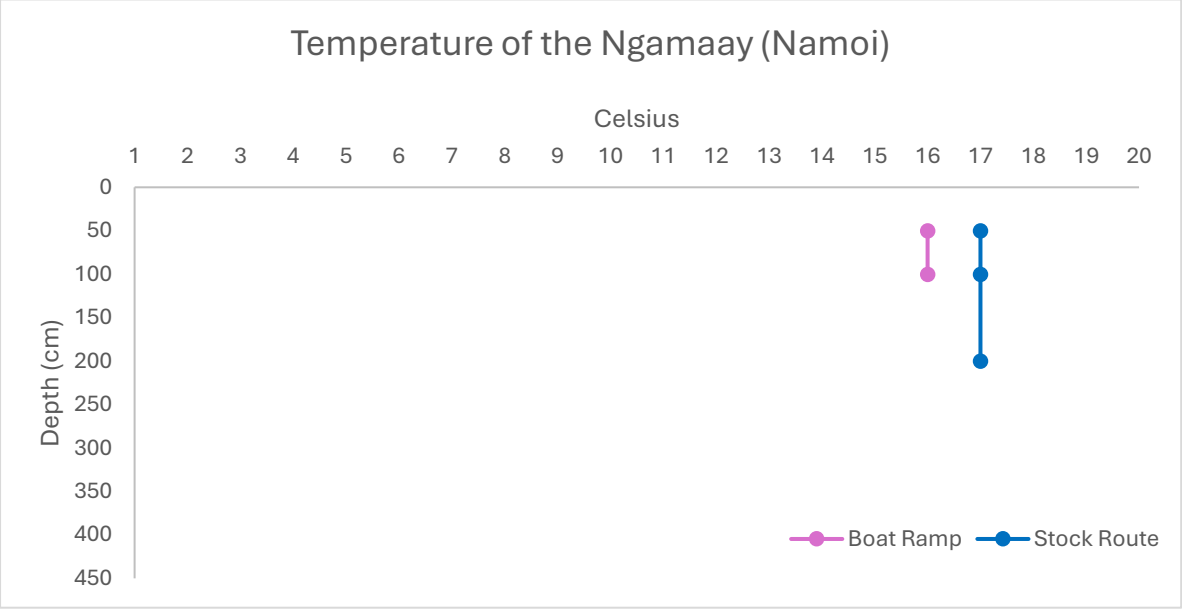


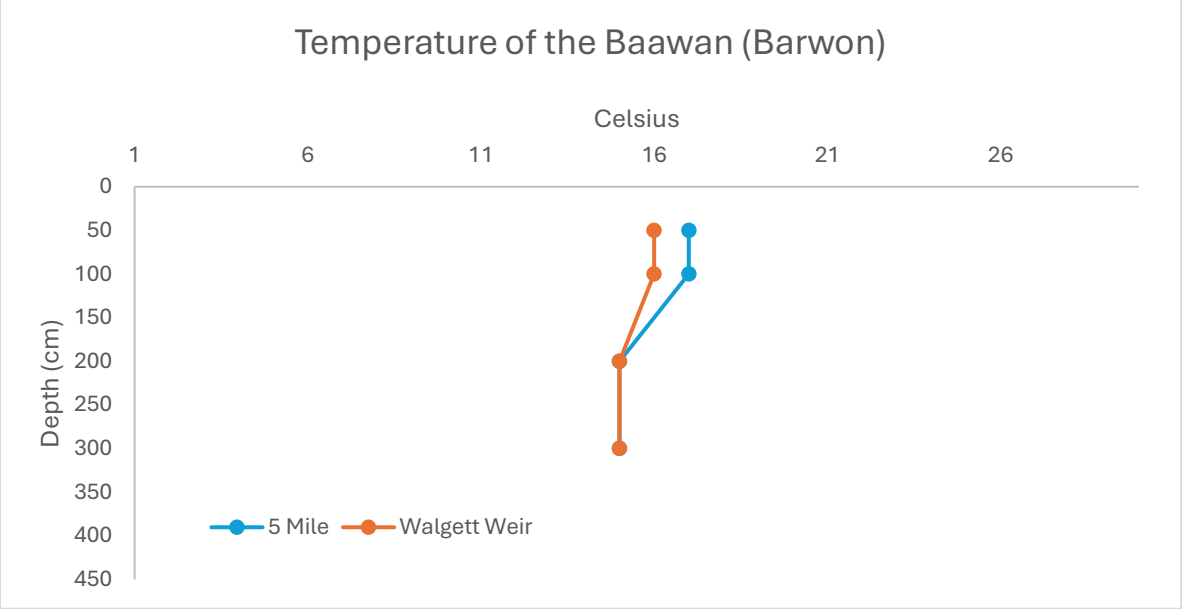


The salinity at all sites in both the Ngamaay and Baawan Rivers are within the healthy range. The highest reading is 422 at the Stock Route in the Ngamaay River. The lowest reading is 211 at the 5 Mile in the Baawan River.

Healthy Range: 125 - 2,200 uS/cm

Temperature in the Ngamaay and Baawan Rivers





The salinity at all sites in the Ngamaay and Baawan Rivers are outside the healthy range. The highest reading is 17 at the Walgett Weir (Baawan River) and Stock Route (Ngamaay River). The lowest reading is 15 at both sites on the Baawan River – Walgett Wier and 5 Mile.

Healthy Range: 18-28 degrees (Celsius)

Conclusion

Majority of the pH readings are just outside the healthy range on both ends of the pH level range. This could mean that the water can be too alkaline or too acidic.

The dissolved oxygen readings at majority of the sites are also slightly outside the healthy range. There is nothing concerning about this week's readings.

The salinity at all sites in both the Ngamaay and Baawan are within the healthy range. This is good for the freshwater aquatic life.

The temperature is just outside the healthy range the readings show that the water is cooler. This is not a concern as we go into the cooler months.