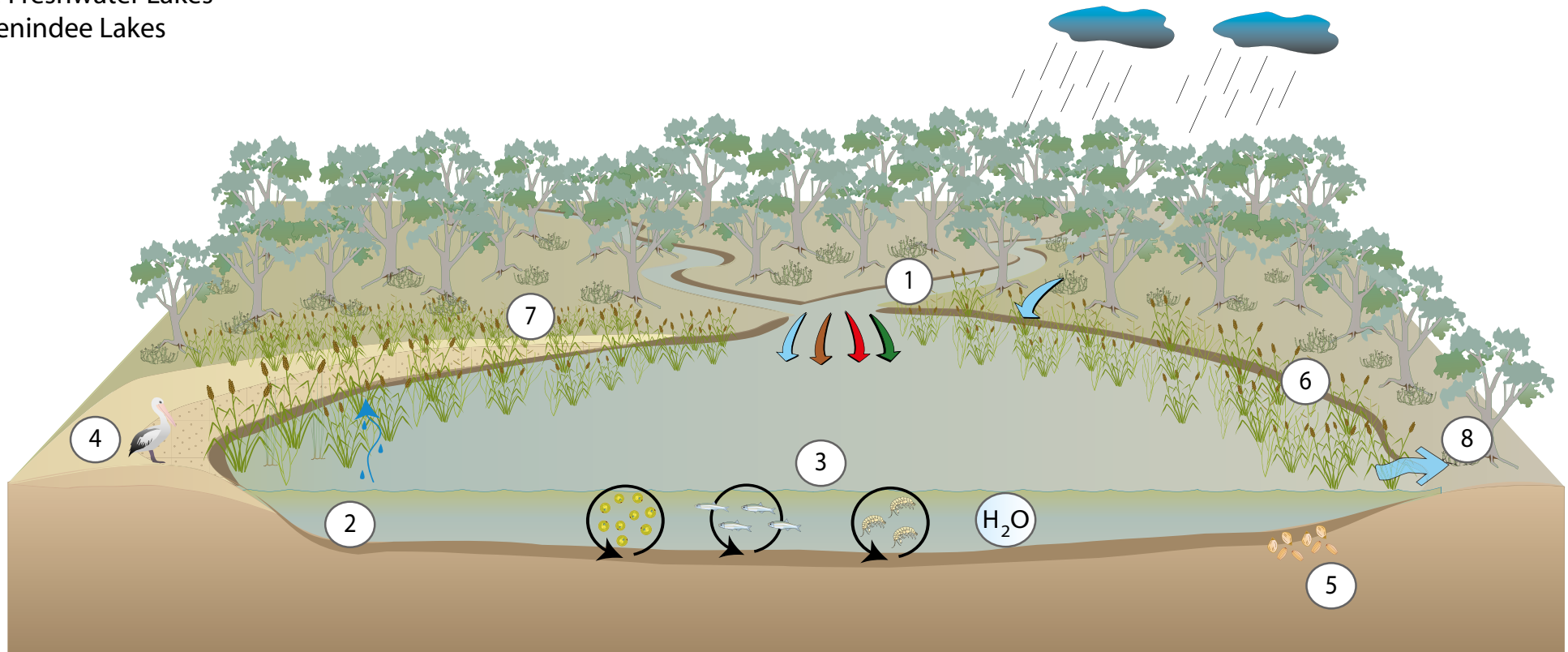



















Inland Freshwater Lakes e.g. Menindee Lakes



- 1 Rainfall , run-off and creek inflow are the major sources of water input . River inflow brings flushes of nutrients , sediments , and biota  into the lake.
- 2 Basins are generally lined with heavy cracking clays . They are large and shallow, and as a result, evaporation levels are high . Lunette dunes  may be present around edges of basins created through deflation.
- 3 Cycles of filling and drying lead to highly variable water quality H_2O , and boom and bust cycles of algae , fish  and invertebrates .
- 4 When full, lakes may provide important habitat and food sources for waterbirds .
- 5 Seed and egg banks of plants and invertebrates  persist in the soil during dry phases. They begin to grow when flooding occurs.
- 6 Dense stands of emergent macrophytes  are common, with fringing woodland, forests, shrublands or grasslands .
- 7 As lakes dry out, edges become swampy and terrestrial plants colonise .
- 8 Inland freshwater lakes usually overflow and flush with flooding , which keeps salinity levels low