



New South Wales  
Government

# ALGAL ALERT BULLETIN

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## Barwon Regional Algal Coordinating Committee

11 April 2008

LOCATION: Chaffey Dam, Tamworth

This Week: RED

Last Week: RED

Trend: No Change

LOCATION: Copeton Dam, Inverell

This Week: RED

Last Week: RED

Trend: No change

LOCATION: Keepit Dam, Gunnedah

This Week: AMBER

Last Week: AMBER

Trend: No change

LOCATION: Pindari Dam, Ashford

This Week: RED

Last Week: RED

Trend: Decreasing

LOCATION: Split Rock Dam, Manilla

This Week: AMBER

Last Week: AMBER

Trend: No change

LOCATION: Namoi River, Walgett

This Week: AMBER

Last Week: AMBER

Trend: N o Change

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## **COMMENTS:**

There have been no changes to blue-green algae alerts for Chaffey, Copeton and Pindari Dams both remaining on Red alert. People should continue to avoid activities where they may come into direct contact with the water in these two dams due to the risks of skin and eye irritations. Drinking untreated or boiled water can result in stomach upsets. Dogs should also be kept away from red alert areas. Algae may tend to concentrate along the shorelines and in protected bays.

Keepit and Split Rock Dams are on amber alert, as well as, the Namoi River at Walgett. These remain suitable for swimming and fishing.

## **ALERT DEFINITIONS**

### RED (HIGH) ALERT:

Algae may be toxic to humans and animals. Contact with, or use of the water from a red algal alert area should be avoided. Alternative water supplies should be sought.

People are advised not to enter high alert areas, or to drink untreated or boiled water from the water body because of the risk of eye and skin irritations and stomach upsets.

People are advised not to consume mussels, crayfish or shrimp in high alert areas. People should not fish when algal scum is present.

Dogs and stock are particularly at risk and owners should keep dogs away from red alert areas and provide alternative watering points for stock.

### MEDIUM (AMBER) ALERT:

Blue-green algae may be multiplying and the water may have a green tinge and musty or organic taste and odour. Alternative drinking and livestock water supplies should be sought.

Generally suitable for water sports, however people are advised to exercise caution in these areas, as blue-green algal concentrations can rise quickly in warm, calm weather conditions to high alert levels.

### LOW/NIL (GREEN) ALERT:

Blue-green algae occur naturally at low numbers. At these concentrations, algae do not pose any problems for recreational, stock or household use.

This weekly report is based on the results from samples collected during routine monitoring. These alert levels at the time of sampling, however levels can change rapidly under favourable weather conditions.

For further information on blue-green algal blooms within the Barwon Region contact either the Tamworth Office on (02) 67019600 or the toll free blue-green algae information line on 1800 999 457.

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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