



New South Wales
Government

ALGAL ALERT BULLETIN

Barwon Regional Algal Coordinating Committee

1 August 2008

LOCATION: Chaffey Dam, Tamworth

This Week: GREEN

Last Week: GREEN

Trend: No change

LOCATION: Copeton Dam, Inverell

This Week: RED

Last Week: AMBER

Trend: Increasing

LOCATION: Keepit Dam, Gunnedah

This Week: GREEN

Last Week: GREEN

Trend: No change

LOCATION: Pindari Dam, Ashford

This Week: AMBER

Last Week: RED

Trend: Decreasing

LOCATION: Severn River downstream of Pindari Dam

This Week: AMBER

Last Week: GREEN

Trend: Increasing

LOCATION: Split Rock Dam, Manilla

This Week: AMBER

Last Week: AMBER

Trend: No change

COMMENTS:

Concentrations of blue-green algae in Copeton Dam have increased to the Red Alert range, with the highest numbers in the Wonulla Bay and Sepoy areas. People should avoid

activities in Copeton Dam where they may come into direct contact with the water due to the risks of skin and eye irritations. Dogs are also at risk and should be kept away from Red Alert areas. Any fish caught should be cleaned and rinsed thoroughly in uncontaminated water before eating.

Pindari has joined Split Rock Dam on Amber Alert. Both reservoirs are suitable for water sports. Chaffey and Keepit Dams are on Green Alert, and pose no threat to users.

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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