



New South Wales
Government

ALGAL ALERT BULLETIN

Murrumbidgee Regional Algal Coordinating Committee

16 January 2008

Red Alert Lake Albert

Wagga Wagga City Council has issued a red alert for blue-green algae in Lake Albert and advises that from 16 January 2008, Lake Albert will be closed.

High numbers of toxic blue-green algae have been detected in Lake Albert. Tests have shown that the bloom is made up of toxic algae, which are present in sufficient numbers to pose a hazard to public health.

Blue-green algal blooms generally occur in waters rich in nutrients, particularly phosphorus. These nutrients originate from activities within the Lake Albert catchment, particularly after rainfall events.

The Murrumbidgee Regional Algal Contingency Plan has been activated. The Lake is closed to all recreational uses such as swimming, boating, fishing and yabbying. The water is not suitable for drinking or cooking.

Residents and pet owners are advised to keep stock and animals from drinking the water while the red alert is in place. Affected water should not be used to water leafy vegetable crops. However, if this is unavoidable, vegetables should be well rinsed with water from a treated supply.

Weekly monitoring will continue and the Lake will be re-opened as soon as possible.

For the latest information on blue-green algae in your area, ring toll free 1800 999 457 or contact Wagga City Council on 6926 9100.
