

Barwon Regional Algal Coordinating Committee

03 April 2012

Blue-green algae warning lifted at Copeton Dam

The Barwon Regional Algal Coordinating Committee today announced that the previously issued red level algal warning (high alert) at Copeton Dam has been downgraded to amber level (medium alert).

Monitoring conducted by State Water Corporation has shown that concentrations of blue-green algae have declined to medium levels prompting the lifting of the red alert.

While medium algae levels are still in place Copeton Dam is suitable for recreation and water sports, however people are advised not to drink untreated or boiled water from the dam due to the risk of stomach upsets. Boiling the water does not inactivate algal toxins.

Local residents and visitors are reminded that Pindari Dam remains on a red level algal warning (high alert).

Please avoid any water that appears bright green, where obvious green scums are present, or a distinctive odour is noticeable. Blue-green algae are usually very obvious, appearing as clumps or specs in the water and are often associated with a strong musty or earthy odour.

People are advised not to enter the water, and are further advised not to drink untreated water whilst a red level warning is in place.

Any fish caught should be cleaned and washed thoroughly in uncontaminated water and any internal organs disposed of before consumption.

People should continue to use personal discretion at all times before entering a water body and be aware that algal blooms can develop quickly under favourable weather conditions.

The NSW Office of Water and State Water will continue routine water quality monitoring and advise any change as new results are received.

Information updates about blue-green algae blooms and red level warning areas can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee freecall Algal Information Hotline on 1800 999 457 or visit www.water.nsw.gov.au

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