

## North Coast Regional Algal Coordinating Committee

21 March 2013

### Blue-green Algae – Red alert issued for Clarrie Hall Dam

The North Coast Regional Algal Coordinating Committee today issued a red alert for blue green algae for Clarrie Hall Dam, in the Tweed catchment.

Committee Chair, Mr David Basso, said that people should avoid all contact with water under a red alert.

"The North Coast Regional Algal Co-ordinating Committee, in conjunction with Tweed Shire Council, advise all people who use Clarrie Hall Dam for recreation and farming purposes to be aware of the situation," said Mr Basso.

Mr Basso said that there was no impact on drinking water supplies to residents who are connected to the town water supply.

"Routine sampling by the Tweed Shire Council has detected high levels of blue green algae in the dam and accordingly, wishes to advise landholders in the Doon Doon Creek catchment area to avoid contact with the affected water."

#### **Warning signs have been positioned around Clarrie Hall Dam and will remain in place until the bloom subsides.**

"The residents and visitors should avoid all contact with the algal boom in Clarrie Hall Dam and ensure animals such as dogs are kept away from the bloom as well."

Livestock owners are reminded to continue to check stock water supplies for signs of blue-green algae and to remove stock from foreshores where surface scum is visible or where blue-green algae are suspected.

Blue-green algae can cause skin rashes, asthma and eye and ear irritations if contacted and diarrhoea and other health problems if ingested. Animals can become very sick as a result of drinking water affected by blue-green algae and there have been cases of animal deaths.

People should not eat mussels or crayfish from red alert warning areas. Any fin fish caught should be cleaned and washed thoroughly in uncontaminated water and any internal organs disposed of before consumption.

"Tweed Shire Council will continue monitoring this blue-green algal bloom and the community will be advised when conditions change," Mr Basso said.

For more information on algal alerts currently in place, please call the State's toll free algal information line on 1800 999 457 or visit the NSW Office of Water's website –

[www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)