

Media Release

Blue-green algae Red Alert for Bogan River at Gongolgon

5 February 2019

A red alert level warning (high alert) for potentially toxic blue-green algae has been issued for the Bogan River at Gongolgon.

A red alert level warning indicates that people should not undertake recreational activities where they may come into direct contact with the water. Contact with the water may also pose a threat to livestock, pets and domestic users that pump directly from the river.

It is recommended that alternate water supplies be provided for stock and stock access restricted to the river where possible, as the algae species detected is known to be potentially toxic.

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

Blue-green algae usually appear as green paint-like scums on the water, near the edges, or as greenish clumps throughout the water. It makes the water appear dirty, green or discoloured and generally has a strong musty or earthy odour

Blue-green algae occur naturally and can reproduce quickly in favourable conditions where there is still or slow-flowing water, abundant sunlight and sufficient levels of nutrients. It is not possible to predict how long the algae will remain at high levels. Regular monitoring will continue, and the alert will be lifted as soon as the high levels of algae dissipate.

People who believe they may have been affected by blue-green algae are advised to seek medical advice.

Updates about blue-green algae blooms and red level warning areas can be obtained by calling **1800 999 457** or visiting – <http://www.waternsw.com.au/water-quality/algae>

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