

Waterzyme Blue Green Algae treatment trial to begin in Lake Albert

Council and Waterzyme will begin work immediately to prepare Lake Albert for the treatment of blue green algae, with the first step being the removal of the existing sonar platforms.

The platforms are being removed prior to the application of the treatment during the first week in January.

Lake Albert (Lake) is a 121-hectare lake that has been a significant recreational, economic, and environmental asset to the city for more than a century.

The Lake suffers recurring periods of drying out and BGA outbreaks limiting its use during times when it contains water.

As part of its work on mitigating these ongoing issues, Council was successful in obtaining a 1.8 gegalitre specific purpose water licence for the NSW Government to support the Lake volume.

The pipeline to supply the water from the Murrumbidgee River to the lake is still in design, with funding being pursued to bring the project to fruition.

In the meantime, Council staff have been reviewing several emerging products which act as a preventative and or treatment of Blue Green Algae (BGA).

Council has committed to a trial treatment of Lake Albert for this summer only on the basis that the treatment is undertaken ASAP.

If the Lake doesn't suffer from blue green algae during the trial, then the product may be hailed a success and Council will meet to discuss any further use and how it would be funded into the future.

Waterzyme is an enzyme-based solution that has been developed in a partnership between an innovator based in Mildura and academics from Newcastle University.

It is suitable for commercial or residential use, is 100% natural, free from harmful toxins, and won't harm aquatic life.

The product is added directly to the water; its natural compounds bind to the walls of the cyanobacteria (BGA) causing it to aggregate and drop to the bottom of the water within days of application.

This starves the Blue Green Algae of sunlight and triggers the destruction of cells.

Waterzyme advises the product does not act on beneficial organisms in this way - its enzymes are selective and only act on BGA.

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About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of more than \$236M.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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