

Blue-green algae alert issued for Lake Albert

Wagga Wagga City Council is letting the community know that an alert for blue-green algae in Lake Albert has been issued this morning (19 January) and advises that contact with water from the lake should be avoided.

Similar to past summers, a combination of warm weather and an influx of nutrients from the catchment have resulted in an increase in blue-green algae blooms.

Manager Environment & Regulatory Services Mark Gardiner said while the blooms are in high numbers, water from Lake Albert is unsuitable for all uses, including drinking and recreational use.

“We’re advising everyone in the community to avoid coming into contact with water from the lake, and this includes your pets; dogs are especially susceptible to these toxins,” Mr Gardiner said.

“Particular care should be taken where algae can be seen, or where the water has a strong odour.”

Blue-green algae can appear as specking, suspended clumps or as algal scums which take the form of green or yellow discoloured slicks on the water surface.

Signs have been put up by Council advising people to stay out of the water.

Council will continue to monitor the situation.

“We appreciate everyone staying out of the water and we will notify the community as soon as the readings are at an acceptable level,” Mr Gardiner said.

Wagga Wagga City Council is a member of the Murrumbidgee Regional Algal Coordinating Committee and is following the protocols contained in the Murrumbidgee Regional Algal Contingency Plan.

For more information about Lake Albert, visit www.wagga.nsw.gov.au/lakealbert

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Contact 6926 9190 or media@wagga.nsw.gov.au

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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