ABN: 46 761 336 846

Our Ref: A4816269
Property Id:

10 January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Blue-Green Algae Warning for Gum Lagoon

Goulburn-Murray Water has detected high blue-green algae levels within Gum Lagoon.

Blue-green algae present a risk to the health of humans and animals. The algae detected are potentially toxic and may cause gastroenteritis if ingested. Characteristic signs of algae contact are skin rashes or itchiness; sore eyes, ears and nose; or if swallowed, nausea or vomiting.

The situation is being closely monitored and the following precautions are recommended:

- People and pets should avoid contact with the water.
- People who come into contact with affected water should wash affected skin immediately in clean cold water.
- Untreated water should never be used for human consumption (*e.g.* drinking, cooking, showering, bathing, washing).
- Boiling the affected water will not make it safe to use. Blue-green algae release toxins into the water when heated.
- Seek an alternative water supply for stock and pets where possible.
- Water can be used on gardens, however water should **not** be sprayed on vegetables and fruit.
- Stock should be kept away from recently irrigated areas for at least 7 days.

You can determine if the warning is still current by visiting the GMW website https://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-operations/bga or by ringing 1800 013 357.

For more information about blue-green algae and your health, visit the Department of Health's website www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/Harmful-algal-blooms

Further information on blue-green algae can also be found on the GMW and Agriculture Victoria websites (https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/water/blue-green-algae-in-water/bluegreen-algae-and-irrigation-water)

Please remember that water supplied by GMW is not suitable for human consumption without first being properly treated.

Yours sincerely

Greg Smith
WATER QUALITY MANAGER

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