



Blue-green algal alerts for the Lachlan Region

18 November 2022

This blue-green algal alert report is based on routine monitoring at sites in the Lachlan Algae Reporting Area. The sites are monitored by WaterNSW and local councils.

Summary

In Wyangala Dam, the junction of the Lachlan and Abercrombie Rivers as well as the junction of the Lachlan and Sandy Creek are on **Amber** alert for blue-green algae. The Belubula River at Carcoar is also on **Amber** alert.

Wyangala Inland Waters Park and Wyangala Dam at the Dam Wall as well as Carcoar Dam at the Dam wall are on **Green** alert for blue-green algae. **Green** alerts are also current for Lachlan River at Hillston and Corrong.

Outlook: Condobolin - Next seven days – Mostly partly cloudy with showers on Saturday. Wednesday is forecast to be cloudy. Maximum air temperatures are expected to be between 20 and 29 °C, while minimum air temperatures are expected to be between 7 and 14 °C. Source of information - <http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/forecasts/condobolin.shtml>

These alert levels apply to **non-consumptive or recreational contact**. Drinking water safety thresholds are much more stringent.

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Results Table

	Description	Latest Sample Date	Cyanobacteria Total Count (cells/mL)	Cyanobacteria Biovolume (mm ³ /L)	Potentially Toxic Cyanobacterial Count (cells/mL)	Potentially Toxic Cyanobacterial Biovolume (mm ³ /L)	Current Status (based on Latest Sample)	Previous Status	Cyanobacteria Dominant toxic taxa	Comments
Wyangala Dam										
DWYA01	Wyangala Junction Lachlan & Abercrombie	8/11/2022	7,546	0.221	2,554	0.219	AMBER	AMBER	<i>Microcystis Unknown</i>	Potentially toxic, taste & odour
DWYA02	Wyangala Junction Lachlan & Sandy Ck	8/11/2022	5,974	0.756	3,776	0.632	AMBER	AMBER	<i>Dolichospermum cf circinale</i>	Potentially toxic, taste & odour
DWYA05	Wyangala Abercrombie R	8/11/2022	0	0.000	0	0.000	No Alert	No Alert		
DWYA06	Wyangala Inland Waters Park	8/11/2022	4,515	0.125	989	0.123	GREEN	GREEN	<i>Dolichospermum sp.</i>	Potentially toxic, taste & odour
DWYA08	Wyangala Dam Wall Station 1	8/11/2022	1,610	0.115	919	0.115	GREEN	GREEN	<i>Dolichospermum sp.</i>	Potentially toxic, taste & odour
DWYA04	Wyangala Dam Downstream	8/11/2022	277	0.002	0	0.000	No Alert	No Alert		
N1168	Lachlan River at Cowra	8/11/2022	0	0.000	0	0.000	No Alert	No Alert		
Carcoar Dam										
DCAR01	Carcoar Dam Station 1 (Dam Wall)	7/11/2022	5,341	0.397	3,205	0.396	GREEN	GREEN	<i>Dolichospermum circinale</i>	Potentially toxic, taste & odour
DCAR02	Carcoar Downstream (Belubula River)	7/11/2022	7,161	0.565	5,985	0.559	AMBER	No Alert	<i>Dolichospermum sp.</i>	Potentially toxic, taste & odour
N1022	Lachlan River at Cottons Weir (Forbes)	9/11/2022	104	0.012	104	0.012	No Alert	No Alert	<i>Aphanizomenonaceae Unknown</i>	Potentially toxic, taste & odour
N1024	Lachlan River @ Condobolin Bridge	9/11/2022	7,688	0.034	0	0.000	No Alert	No Alert		
Lake Cargelligo										
DCRG04	Lake Cargelligo Weir									
DCRG06	Lachlan River downstream of Lake Cargelligo Weir									
DCRG05	Lake Cargelligo intake downstream of Curlew Waters	4/10/2022	9,347	0.015	0	0.000	No Alert	No Alert		
DCRG02	Lake Cargelligo Town Water Supply 41210042	4/10/2022	2,212	0.003	0	0.000	No Alert	No Alert		
DCRG03	Lake Cargelligo Boatshed	4/10/2022	2,212	0.001	0	0.000	No Alert	No Alert		
DCRG01	Lake Cargelligo Outlet @ Lake Creek									
Lake Brewster										
DBRW01	Lake Brewster Inflow 412102	4/10/2022	830	0.000	0	0.000	No Alert	No Alert		
DBRW02	Lake Brewster Inf wetland u/s eastern spillway									
DBRW04	Lake Brewster Outlet Channel 412108	4/10/2022	17,725	0.022	1,127	0.003	No Alert	GREEN	<i>Microcystis Unknown 2</i>	Potentially toxic, taste & odour
DLOS06	Lachlan River @ Willandra Weir	4/10/2022	3,387	0.008	0	0.000	No Alert	No Alert		
N1025	Lachlan River at Hillston	8/11/2022	13,725	0.111	0	0.000	GREEN	No Alert		
N1023	Lachlan River at Booligal	9/11/2022	691	0.001	0	0.000	No Alert	No Alert		
N1026	Lachlan River at Corrong	9/11/2022	26,711	0.116	837	0.019	GREEN	No Alert	<i>Microcystis sp.</i>	Potentially toxic, taste & odour

Alert Definitions for Recreational Waters

Alert Definitions as specified in The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) *Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water* 2008.

The interim use of these guidelines is endorsed by the Scientific Subcommittee of the NSW Algal Advisory Group.

RED ALERT

These alert levels represent 'bloom' conditions. Water will appear green or discoloured and clumps or scums could be visible. It can also give off a strong musty or organic odour.

Algae may be toxic to humans and animals. Contact with or use of water from red alert areas should be avoided due to the risk of eye and skin irritation. Drinking untreated or boiled water from these supplies can cause stomach upsets. Alternative water supplies should be sought or activated carbon treatment employed to remove toxins. People should not fish when an algal scum is present. Owners should keep dogs away from high alert areas and provide alternative watering points for stock.

AMBER ALERT

Blue-green algae may be multiplying and the water may have a green tinge and musty or organic taste and odour. The water should be considered as unsuitable for potable use and alternative supplies or prior treatment of raw water for domestic purposes should be considered. The water may also be unsuitable for stock watering. Generally suitable for water sports, however people are advised to exercise caution in these areas, as blue-green algal concentrations can rise to red alert levels quickly under warm, calm weather conditions.

GREEN ALERT

Blue-green algae occur naturally at low numbers. At these concentrations, algae would not normally be visible, however some species may affect taste and odour of water even at low numbers and does not pose any problems for recreational, stock or household use.

Key to Alerts for Recreational Waters

<p>RED Alert $\geq 50\ 000$ cells/mL toxic <i>M. aeruginosa</i> OR biovolume equivalent of ≥ 4 mm³/L for the combined total of all cyanobacteria where a known toxin producer is dominant OR The total biovolume of all cyanobacteria exceeds 10 mm³/L OR Cyanobacterial blooms are consistently present</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High levels of Blue Green Algae detected • Indicates “bloom” conditions • Toxicity should be presumed • Water will appear green or brownish and may have a strong musty taste and odour • Surface scums could occur • Extreme care should be exercised, and contact with the water should be avoided <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Media Release • Water supply authorities to increase filtering with activated carbon as appropriate • Local authority and health authorities to warn the public that the water body is unsuitable for primary contact recreation
<p>AMBER Alert ≥ 5000 to $< 50\ 000$ cells/mL <i>M. aeruginosa</i> OR biovolume equivalent of ≥ 0.4 to < 4 mm³/L for the combined total of all cyanobacteria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicates blue-green algae are multiplying • Water may have a green tinge and musty taste and odour <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water supply authorities to consider filtering with activated carbon • Investigations into the causes of the elevated levels and increased sampling to enable the risks to recreational users to be more accurately assessed.

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<p>GREEN Alert</p> <p>> 500 to < 5000 cells/mL <i>M. aeruginosa</i> OR biovolume equivalent of > 0.04 to < 0.4 mm³/L for the combined total of all cyanobacteria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low levels of potentially toxic species detected – suggesting base crop of blue green algae may be on the increase <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue/increase routine sampling to measure cyanobacterial levels
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Livestock Drinking Water Guidelines Based on ARMCANZ (2000), Orr and Schneider (2006) and WQRA (2010)

This guideline should be used when water is used for livestock drinking water purposes.

- If visual scums are present, then a High alert should be declared. This would be applicable for both farm dams and publicly managed water bodies (streams, rivers, etc). Such advice should also be given to farmers who phone the department seeking information on managing blooms in their dams.
- Where blooms dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa* are present, then the ANZECC/ARMCANZ (2000) guideline of 11,500 cells/mL should be used. Excess of this cell count will constitute a **High alert**.
- Where blooms dominated by *Dolichospermum circinale* are present, then the Orr and Schneider (2006) guideline of 25,000 cells/mL should be used. Excess of this cell count will constitute a **High alert**.
- **Blooms of blue-green algae other than *M. aeruginosa* and *D. circinale*** are also common in NSW. These can be of either known potentially toxic species, or of species not considered to be toxin producers. When these blooms are present, a total blue-green algal biovolume in excess of 6 mm³/L will constitute a **High alert**. (These are based on Very High alert recommendations for raw water sourced for potable human supply published by WQRA (2010), in lieu of there being nothing else available).

Further Information and Contacts

Go to the WaterNSW Algal Website

<http://www.watarnsw.com.au/water-quality/algae>

Call

NSW algae hotline 1800 999 457

Contacts

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