



PUBLIC NOTICE | WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE ALERT IN COMPANY DAM

Weddin Shire Council would like to advise residents and visitors to our Shire, to avoid any contact with the water in Company Dam until further notice due to the presence of blue-green algae.

Council recently tested the sample water of Company Dam to confirm the blue-green algae contamination. After analysing the lab test result, the testing has identified extremely high levels of blue-green algae. The dam is not safe for any water activities including use by stock/animals. Users of this area are advised not to enter or come into contact with the water and to follow the warning signage visible in the area.

What are blue-green algae?

Algae are a natural feature of aquatic environments. While most algae are harmless, some types of cyanobacteria are not. Although commonly referred to as blue-green algae, cyanobacteria are actually photosynthetic bacteria that live in water. Cyanobacteria can produce toxins that can pose risk to livestock and cause public health issues for humans. 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.

The only way to tell if algae are harmful is to take a sample and analyse it in a laboratory.

How can blue green algae affect you?

Skin and eye irritation is a common reaction. At stronger concentrations nerve and liver toxins may be present. Some people are more likely than others to suffer as a result of contact with blue green algae. Anyone who is aware that they are acutely allergic to blue-green algae should avoid contact with the waters of Company Dam until further notice.

Council will continue to monitor the water quality of the dam with regular testing, and will advise the public when it is safe to recommence activities in Company Dam.

For more information, please contact Council's Environmental Services team on (02) 6343 1212.

Luke Sheehan
DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
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