

Talking Water

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Murray Irrigation Limited

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Blue-Green Algae

Murray Irrigation is a member of the Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee (RACC). This Committee has issued a **red alert warning** for blue-green algae in the Murray River from Hume Dam to Barham and the Edward River at Deniliquin and Morago.

The results of testing by Murray Irrigation of the water at both the Mulwala Canal and Wakool Canal Offtakes show that the level of blue-green algae is at red alert levels for both offtakes.

A 'red alert' warning indicates that waters are unsuitable for recreational use or primary contact by domestic users and may pose a threat to livestock and domestic animals.

The species of blue-green algae identified are potentially toxic and may cause gastroenteritis in humans if consumed and skin and eye irritations after contact. Boiling water does not inactivate the toxins.

Livestock owners are advised to check stock water supplies for blue-green algae. Blue-green algae appear as lumps and specks in the water and are often associated with a strong musty or earthy odour.

Murray Irrigation continues to undertake regular monitoring at both the Mulwala Canal and Wakool Canal Offtakes.

Information updates about the blue-green algae bloom in the area can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee Algal Information Hotline on 1800 999 457.

Further information can also be obtained from the NSW Office of Water's website at www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-Management/Water-quality/Algal-information/default.aspx or Goulburn Murray Water's website at www.g-mwater.com.au/news/blue-green-algae-alerts/murraybgafaq.

Information is also available from the Department of Industry and Investment (formerly the NSW Department of Primary Industries) website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/factsheets, type 'algae' in the search box for 'Find factsheets by title'.

Shareholders will be informed via *Talking Water* of further developments.

For further information contact Penny Sloane, Acting Compliance Supervisor, on T. 03 5888 3015 or M. 0429 839 115.

Anthony Couroupis
General Manager