

MEDIA RELEASE

Blue Green Algae at Wooroonook Lake - Update

29 March 2017

Wooroonook Lake continues to be affected by a Blue-Green Algae (**BGA**) bloom. The latest testing has revealed that levels at the playground and jetty area of the lake are still not safe. Further testing will be undertaken and the results of that testing communicated prior to the Easter long weekend.

What does this mean?

It is advisable not to swim in BGA affected water and to avoid any direct contact.

Direct contact with BGA can cause allergic reactions such as skin rashes or itchiness; sore eyes, ears and nose or, if swallowed gastroenteritis, nausea or vomiting.

People who come in contact with contaminated water should wash immediately in fresh water and seek medical advice if experiencing illness after contact with BGA affected water.

Any fish harvested from BGA affected water should have gills and guts removed prior to cooking. People should not eat whole fish, or shellfish or crustaceans collected from Wooroonook Lakes. The type of algae affecting Wooroonook Lakes produces toxins that can concentrate in shellfish and crustaceans and also accumulate in the liver and internal organs of fish. Ingesting BGA toxins can lead to serious illness.

Water from the affected body should not be used for drinking, cooking or other domestic uses. Boiling the affected water will not make it safe for use.

For any health issues experienced after contact with BGA affected water, please seek medical advice immediately.

Pet owners should prevent pets from drinking or having direct contact with contaminated water.

Visitors to the area are advised that they can still enjoy other recreational activities such as bushwalking, boating and sightseeing around the lake.

Buloke Shire Council staff will continue to regularly monitor the algal bloom through visual inspections and laboratory analysis of samples.

If you have any questions, please contact Council on 1300 520 520.

End release

For further information contact Media and Communications Officer, Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520 or tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au