

MEDIA RELEASE

Lake Awoonga blue-green algae alert downgraded to amber (medium)

The blue-green algae (BGA) alert at Lake Awoonga has been downgraded to amber (medium) level.

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) undertakes routine monitoring in Lake Awoonga and has today downgraded the recreational hazard alert to medium, following positive water sampling results.

This update comes after the Alert was upgraded to high in December 2019.

An increase in BGA cells usually occurs in summer, and is a natural phenomenon in many Australian waterways, especially in tropical and sub-tropical regions.

Gladstone Area Water Board Chief Executive Officer Darren Barlow, said the drinking water treatment process is constantly monitored to ensure confidence in the delivery of high-quality drinking water to the Gladstone community

"The process used by the Gladstone Area Water Board is designed to efficiently remove BGA cells to produce safe drinking water," Mr Barlow said.

"While it is certainly good news that BGA levels have fallen, it's important to remember that direct contact with BGA may cause skin and eye irritation and drinking untreated water is never recommended.

"We can expect the BGA alert level to fall to green (low) as we move into the cooler months of the year."

Anglers are reminded that BGA toxins can also accumulate in the internal organs of fish and in mussels.

BGA hazard alert signs are located at Lake Awoonga and should be referred to when visiting the lake. These signs have information on BGA and indicate the current alert level.

Further information is available on the Gladstone Area Water Board website.

Ends...

For more information, please contact:

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