

Algal update

Precautionary Blue-green algae red alert for the Upper Murrumbidgee River from downstream of Tantangara Reservoir to the ACT Border

19 March 2026

WaterNSW has EXTENDED a precautionary red alert warning for high levels of potentially toxic blue-green algae in the Murrumbidgee River from downstream of Tantangara Reservoir to the ACT border. The UPGRADED alert IS based on sampling data, satellite imagery and visual observations. WaterNSW IS ADVISING THE PUBLIC THAT THE BLOOM IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE MOVING DOWNSTREAM IN COMING DAYS.

The red alert warning applies only to untreated water within this reach and will remain in place until monitoring confirms that the risk is sufficiently diminished.

People should also avoid recreational activities and any other activity that brings them into contact with this water body until the red alert warning is lifted. People should avoid consuming untreated water from within this waterbody and prevent pets and livestock from drinking this water.

Potentially toxic blue-green algae may cause gastroenteritis if consumed, while contact can cause skin and eye irritations. Consumption of water containing algal toxins may cause liver damage and other health problems. Boiling the water does not remove algal toxins.

People who suspect they have been affected by blue-green algae should seek medical advice.

People should not eat mussels or crayfish from red alert warning areas. A precautionary approach to eating fin fish from red alert warning areas is advised. Any fish caught should be cleaned and washed thoroughly in uncontaminated water; the internal organs should not be eaten. Avoiding fishing during a bloom is the best way to minimise risk.

Blue-green algae are naturally occurring and can reproduce quickly in still or slow-flowing water when there are abundant sunlight and sufficient nutrients.

Visit the local council or local water utility websites for information about the management of blue-green algae risks in the nearby treated drinking water supplies.

Updates and information about blue-green algae blooms and red level warning areas can be obtained by visiting www.watarnsw.com.au/algae or [WaterInsights](#).

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