

Special Talking Water

Thursday 25 February 2016



Murray Irrigation

Blue-green algae outbreak

Blue-green algae warning for Lake Mulwala and Murray Irrigation Mulwala Canal Offtake.

Murray Irrigation is warning customers that a red alert level of blue-green algae at the Mulwala Canal Offtake indicates that waters are unsuitable for primary contact by domestic users and may also pose a threat to livestock. All channels and spur channels supplied directly or indirectly by the Mulwala Canal may be affected.

The species of blue-green algae identified are potentially toxic and may cause nausea and vomiting in humans if consumed and skin and eye irritations after contact. People are advised not to enter the water, not to drink untreated water or swim or bathe in water while red alert levels of blue-green algae are present.

Livestock owners are reminded to continue to check stock water supplies for blue-green algae and to remove stock where surface scum is visible or blue-green algae is suspected.

Murray Irrigation has identified a localized outbreak in a channel spur north of Deniliquin, however, all affected customers have been informed and the situation is under control.

We are conducting ongoing tests within our irrigation system, including the Wakool Offtake, and will advise customers of the blue-green algae alert status via *Talking Water* whenever necessary.

It is not possible to predict how long the blue-green algal levels will remain at red alert levels.

For up-to-date information on the algae situation in NSW, visit the DPI Water website: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/resources/water/quality/publications/blue-green-algae. This site also includes tips for identifying algae, key contacts for more information, impacts of blue-green algal blooms, and locations where alerts are in place.

For details on managing the risk to livestock with access to blue-green algae affected water, visit: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/resources/water/quality/publications/blue-green-algae/rivers-creeks.

For details on irrigating with blue-green algae affected water, visit: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/451106/Irrigating-with-blue-green-algae-affected-water.pdf.

For details on managing blue-green algae in farm dams, visit: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/103785/Managing-blue-green-algae-in-farm-dams.pdf.

Alternatively, for further information, contact Murray Irrigation Compliance Supervisor Penny Sloane, via reception on T. 1300 138 265.



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