

Special Talking Water

Friday 26 February 2016



Murray Irrigation

Blue-green algae red alert for Edward River

The Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee today issued a red alert warning for blue-green algae in the **Edward River** from Picnic Point to Old Morago, which includes Deniliquin, and **Gulpa Creek** at Mathoura.

This follows yesterday's announcement to extend a red alert warning in the **Murray River**, which now extends from **Lake Mulwala to Torrumbarry Weir**, including Moama and Echuca.

Murray Irrigation can also confirm a red alert level of blue-green algae at the **Wakool Canal** Offtake.

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** and **Wakool 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.

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.

Michael Renehan
CEO