Red alert issued for blue-green algae in the Murray River – Cobram to Barmah

The Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee today issued a red alert warning for blue-green algae in the Murray River from Cobram to Barmah.

This red alert level warning indicates that waters are unsuitable for recreational use or primary contact by domestic users and may also pose a threat to livestock.

The species of blue-green algae identified are potentially toxic and may cause gastroenteritis in humans if consumed and skin and eye irritations after contact. Boiling the water does not inactivate algal toxins.

People are advised not to enter the water, not to drink untreated water or bathe in water drawn from the river while this red alert level warning is in place.

Appropriate water treatment is in place by Berrigan Shire Council and Goulburn Valley Water and town water supplies remain unaffected and safe to drink.

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

People should not eat mussels or crayfish from red level warning areas. Any fish caught should be cleaned and washed thoroughly in uncontaminated water and any internal organs disposed of before consumption.

Information updates about blue-green algae blooms and red level warning areas can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee freecall Algal Information Hotline on 1800 999 457 or visit – www.water.nsw.gov.au

ENDS

Media contact: James Muddle – 0407 103 507