

Blue Green Algae (BGA)

What it Means to your Water Supply

Purpose

This fact sheet explains how Blue Green Algae (BGA) is and how it impacts your water supply.

What is Blue Green Algae (BGA)?

Blue Green Algae or Cyanobacteria, occurs naturally in most large water storages in Queensland in varying amounts, depending on the season, and location of the storage. SunWater monitors Blue Green Algae in its major storages on a regular basis to inform water users about the levels of Blue Green Algae in the storage.

SunWater provides water in its raw untreated state. There are many contaminants in addition to Blue Green Algae that can find their way into water storages from various activities in the catchment. It is for this reason that SunWater cannot guarantee water supplied meets any quality standard.

When using or coming into contact with water, you should be aware that Blue Green Algae and potential associated toxins can cause skin rashes and other health problems. Although stock tend to have a higher tolerance than humans, toxins produced by some Blue Green Algae can also harm stock.

SunWater keeps current information on BGA levels on:

- Signage at the entrance to major storages
- On the SunWater website at: <http://www.sunwater.com.au/home/blue-green-algae-level>

These sources display the current recreational hazard level for relative storage/s. The hazard levels are given as High, Moderate, or Low and indicate the relative concentration of algae present in the water. Some people may be sensitive to algae even at low levels and may suffer health problems when they come into contact with the water.

Further information on Blue Green Algae can be accessed from the Queensland Government website at <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/water/quality/algae/blue-green>

SunWater hopes this information is useful to you. If you have any questions about Blue Green Algae, please call SunWater on 13 15 89.

Need to Update Your Personal Account Details

As an important customer, we want to ensure your details are always up-to-date so you can receive the latest SunWater news and scheme information. This is more important now with the use of SMS messaging and emails, as such, please ensure we have your current mobile phone number and/or email address. To update your information, simply log into SunWaterOnline, contact us on 13 15 89 or email customersupport@sunwater.com.au