



**Gladstone Area
Water Board**

MEDIA RELEASE

PUBLIC NOTICE: Red (High) Blue-Green Algae Alert at Lake Awoonga

Consistent with the warmer months of the year, the blue-green algae (BGA) in Lake Awoonga is now at Red (High) Alert Level.

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) undertakes routine monitoring in Lake Awoonga and has today upgraded the recreational hazard alert to high. It is expected that BGA will remain at this level throughout the summer.

This update comes after the Alert was upgraded to Medium on 13 December 2019.

GAWB Chief Executive Officer Darren Barlow said the increase in BGA cells usually occurs in summer, and is a natural phenomenon in many Australian waterways, especially in tropical and sub-tropical regions.

"The drinking water treatment process used by the Gladstone Area Water Board is designed to efficiently remove BGA cells to produce safe drinking water," Mr Barlow said.

"This process is constantly monitored to ensure confidence in the provision of high-quality drinking water to the Gladstone community."

GAWB advises people coming into direct contact with the natural water in Lake Awoonga should be aware that BGA may cause skin and eye irritation and drinking untreated or boiled water may result in illness.

Anglers are reminded that BGA toxins can also accumulate in the internal organs of fish and in mussels.

BGA hazard alert signs are located at Lake Awoonga and should be referred to when visiting the lake. These signs have information on BGA and indicate the current alert level.

Further information is available on the Gladstone Area Water Board website.

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For more information, please contact:

Grace Duckham (07) 4976 3054 / 0438 673 776