Gippsland Lakes Blue Green Algae Update

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

18 March 2026

Blue Green Algae (BGA) are a naturally occurring organism present in all waterways. The Gippsland Lakes contain many different types of BGA at varying levels as part of the natural environment and balance of the Lakes system.

Weather conditions, nutrient levels, salinity and water flows all affect the levels of BGA and can contribute to the formation of algal blooms on the Lakes.

Warmer weather conditions are likely to lead to a natural increase in the abundance and variety of BGA and other organisms in the Lakes.

Sample result summary

Location	Species	BGA levels	Potential toxin producer	Recreational alert
Chinamans Creek Metung	Cyanophytes iauv <20	Low	No	No
Duck Arm Paynesville	Cyanophytes iauv <20 Nodularia spumigena	Low	No	No
Eagle Point Jetty	None	None	None	No
Hollands Landing Boat Ramp (Lake Wellington)	Cyanophytes iauv <20 Filamentous Cyanophytes ≤3µm	Low	No	No
Johnsonville Boat Ramp	Cyanophytes iauv <20 Filamentous Cyanophytes ≤3µm	Low	No	No
Lake King Jetty Metung	Cyanophytes iauv <20	Low	No	No
Marlay Point Jetty (Lake Wellington)	Cyanophytes iauv <20 Filamentous Cyanophytes ≤3µm Nodularia spumigena	Low	No	No
Progress Jetty Paynesville	Cyanophytes iauv <20 Nodularia spumigena	Low	No	No
Wattle Point Jetty	Cyanophytes iauv <20 Filamentous Cyanophytes ≤3µm Nodularia spumigena	Low	No	No

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BGA levels

- **Low levels** of algae reported sit within the natural background level and are not expected to impact water quality.
- **Medium levels** of algae reported may impact water quality, however, do not exceed the alert limits. Caution and individual discretion should be taken for any recreational activities that involve contact with the water. The water should not be consumed, including by animals.
- **High levels** of algae reported are likely to impact water quality. Avoid any primary or secondary contact with the water. The water should not be consumed, including by animals.

When a high level of BGA is observed:

- The public is advised not to swim in and to avoid any direct contact with BGA affected water.
- Direct contact with BGA can cause allergic reactions such as skin rashes, itchiness, or sore eyes, ears and nose. If swallowed, BGA affected water can cause gastroenteritis, nausea or vomiting. The Department of Health provides further information on their website: https://www.health.vic.gov.au/water/blue-green-algae-cyanobacteria
- People who come in to contact with BGA contaminated water should wash immediately in fresh water. Seek medical advice if experiencing illness after contact with BGA affected water.
- Any fish harvested from BGA affected water should have gills and guts removed prior to cooking. People should not eat whole fish, or shellfish or crustaceans collected from the Gippsland Lakes. The Victorian Fisheries Authority provides further information and advice on their website: https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/fishing-locations/inland-angling-guide/special-articles/blue-green-algae
- For any health issues experienced after contact with BGA affected water, please seek medical advice immediately.
- Pet owners should prevent pets from drinking or having direct contact with contaminated water.

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