

The City of Gold Coast has closed Lake Hugh Muntz due to the presence of high levels of blue-green algae.

The algal bloom was detected by the City and in conjunction with the Gold Coast Public Health Unit, has taken the step to shut the lake to swimming.

As you're aware algal bloom outbreaks can occur naturally in the city's lake systems, especially in the summer months. They are usually due to a combination of changes to outside temperature and water turnover.

Regular users of the lake have been contacted and signage has been placed at public access areas. Residents have been notified to avoid contact with the water. This includes keeping pets away.

Blue-green algae is a type of cyanobacteria that has characteristics of algae and bacteria. Under certain environmental conditions, blue-green algae concentrations in water can rapidly increase and form visible blooms or 'scums'.

Not all blue-green algae is toxic and species that are toxic do not always produce toxins. However, in order to minimise risk it is requested that residents refrain from:

- consuming seafood such as fish
- water contact with skin
- allowing animals to enter the lake or drink the water; and
- irrigating with lake water

The City will continue to monitor the water and communicate with residents when water quality recovers.

In the meantime, residents should direct their enquiries to 1300 465 326.