



CT ENVIRONMENTAL

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING



February 2023 Monthly Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Report

Liverpool City Council

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Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Monthly Progress Report - February 2023

Monthly aquatic ecosystem monitoring of the Georges River and South Creek catchments was conducted on February 06, 2023.

This report provides a summary of recreation water quality indicators (*Cyanobacteria*, *Enterococci* and *Faecal Coliforms*) at Georges River recreation monitoring sites and observations from freshwater monitoring sites.

Badgerys Creek weather monitoring station is expected to be representative of weather conditions in the Kemps Creek catchment and Holsworthy Aerodrome station is expected to be representative of conditions in the locale of the Georges River monitoring sites.

Weather conditions during February sampling were warm to cool with 2.8mm of rain recorded at Badgerys Creek monitoring station (Table 1) and 25.6mm recorded at Holsworthy Aerodrome (Table 2) in the week prior to sampling.

Table 1: Weather observations for Badgerys Creek AWS, NSW (BOM 2023).

Date	Temp min (°C)	Temp max (°C)	Rainfall (mm)
31/01/2023	18.2	29.9	-
01/02/2023	17.4	31.4	0
03/02/2023	17.7	29.9	0
04/02/2023	16.3	30	0
05/02/2023	17.1	26.7	2.6
06/02/2023	14.2	32.4	0.2
07/02/2023	17.7	40.4	0

Table 2: Weather observations for Holsworthy Aerodrome (BOM 2023).

Date	Temp min (°C)	Temp max (°C)	Rainfall (mm)
31/01/2023	19.3	27.4	25.6
01/02/2023	17.8	28.3	0
03/02/2023	18.4	33.3	0
04/02/2023	18.6	29.8	0
05/02/2023	14.9	27.2	0
06/02/2023	13.2	29.3	0
07/02/2023	20	29.3	0

Blue Green Algae (Cyanobacteria) monitoring at recreation sites in the Georges River was undertaken on February 06, 2023, during mid tide.

Results show that potentially toxic cyanobacteria was not detected during sampling at all Georges River sites and biovolume calculations indicate (Table 3).

- NHMRC Surveillance Mode (Green Level) was triggered at the recreation monitoring sites GR1, GR1.5, GR2, GR3 and GR4 (Table 3).

Table 3: Results summary for recreation monitoring sites, February 2023.

Site	Sampled	Potentially Toxic Blue Green Algae	NHMRC Alert Level	Safety Issues
GR1	Yes	Not detected	Green	None
GR1.5	Yes	Not detected	Green	None
GR2	Yes	Not detected	Green	None
GR3	Yes	Not detected	Green	None
GR4	Yes	Not detected	Green	None
GR5	Yes	Not detected	-	None

GR1 recorded eight species of cyanobacteria, *Anabaena spp.*, *Cyanogranis libera*, *Merismopedia spp.*, *Myxobaktron spp.*, *Pseudanabaena spp.*, *Rhabdoderma spp.*, *Romeria spp.*, and *Sphaerospermopsis aphanizomenoides*. Due to the biovolume of these species, the NHMRC (2008) Green Level surveillance mode was triggered.

GR1.5 recorded nine species of cyanobacteria, *Anabaena spp.*, *Cyanogranis libera*, *Chroococcus spp.*, *Merismopedia spp.*, *Myxobaktron spp.*, *Other Nostocales*, *Rhabdoderma spp.*, *Romeria spp.*, and *Sphaerospermopsis aphanizomenoides*. Due to the biovolume of these species, the NHMRC (2008) Green Level surveillance mode was triggered.

GR2 recorded eight species of cyanobacteria, *Anabaena spp.*, *Cyanogranis libera*, *Chroococcus spp.*, *Anabaena spp.*, *Myxobaktron spp.*, *Geitlerinema splendidum*, *Rhabdoderma spp.*, *Romeria spp.*, and *Sphaerospermopsis aphanizomenoides*. Due to the biovolume of these species, the NHMRC (2008) Green Level surveillance mode was triggered.

GR3 recorded nine species of cyanobacteria, *Aphanocapsa spp.*, *Cyanogranis libera*, *Anabaena spp.*, *Myxobaktron spp.*, *Merismopedia spp.* and *Romeria spp.*. Due to the biovolume of these species, the NHMRC (2008) Green Level surveillance mode was triggered.

GR4 recorded five species of cyanobacteria, *Cyanogranis libera*, *Aphanocapsa spp.*, *Chroococcus spp.*, *Merismopedia spp.*, *Planktothrix spp.*, *Romeria spp.*, and *Sphaerospermopsis aphanizomenoides*. Due to the biovolume of these species, the NHMRC (2008) Green Level surveillance mode was triggered.

GR5 recorded four species of cyanophytes, *Anagnostidinema spp.*, *Aphanocapsa spp.*, *Cyanogranis libera* and *Planktothrix spp.*. Due to the biovolumes of these species, no NHMRC (2008) mode was triggered.

Due to the persistence of cyanobacteria, there is potential for future blooms to occur. NHMRC (2008) recommends weekly or fortnightly monitoring when 'Green' mode is triggered (Table 4).

Table 4: Recommended monitoring actions and corresponding NHMRC Alert Levels.

Blue Green Algae Alert Level	Recommended Actions
<i>Surveillance Mode (Green Level)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly sampling and cell counts at representative locations in the water body where known toxigenic species are present. Fortnightly for other types including regular visual inspection of water surface for scums.
<i>Alert Mode (Amber Level)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase sampling frequency to twice weekly at representative locations in the water body where toxigenic species are dominant within the alert level definition (i.e. total biovolume) to establish population growth and spatial variability in the water body. Monitor weekly or fortnightly where other types are dominant. Make regular visual inspections of water surface for scums. Decide on requirement for toxicity assessment or toxin monitoring.
<i>Action Mode (Red Level)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue monitoring as for alert mode. Immediately notify health authorities for advice on health risk. Make toxicity assessment or toxin measurement of water if this has not already been done. Health authorities warn of risk to public health (ie the authorities make a health risk assessment considering toxin monitoring data, sample type and variability).

Results of bacteria monitoring at recreation sites in February 2023 show that the ANZECC Primary Contact guidelines for *Faecal coliforms* was exceeded at GR1, GR1.5, and GR3, and the ANZECC Secondary Contact guidelines for *Faecal coliforms* was exceeded at GR4. The ANZECC Primary Contact guidelines for *Enterococci* was exceeded at GR1, GR1.5 and GR5. The ANZECC Secondary Contact guidelines for *Enterococci* was exceeded at GR4.

Table 5. Summary of conditions observed/recorded at each site during February 2023 monitoring. Orange indicates exceedance of the primary contact guideline; red indicates exceedance of the secondary contact guideline.

Recreation sites						
SITE	Sampled	Tide	<i>Faecal coliforms</i> CFU/100 mL	<i>Enterococci</i> CFU/100 mL	Safety Issues	Observations
GR1	Yes	N/A	190	43	None	Clear
GR1.5	Yes	N/A	200	83	None	Clear
GR2	Yes	N/A	140	~3	None	Clear
GR3	Yes	Mid	200	19	None	Clear
GR4	Yes	Mid	~13000	350	None	Clear
GR5	Yes	Mid	110	38	None	Clear
Primary Contact	-	-	150	35	-	-
Secondary Contact	-	-	1000	230	-	-

Surface water samples were collected at all freshwater monitoring sites in February 2023, except for KC11 (due to construction of a pipeline).

Table 6. Summary of conditions observed/recorded at each site during February 2023 monitoring.

Site	Water quality	Aquatic Macroinvertebrates	Benthic Diatoms	Flow	Observations	Safety Issues
MC1	Yes	No	No	Normal	Turbid	None
AC1	Yes	No	No	Normal	Clear	None
KC1	Yes	No	No	Normal	Turbid	None
KC2	Yes	No	No	Normal	Turbid	None
KC3	Yes	No	No	Normal	Turbid	None
KC5	No	No	No	Normal	Turbid	None
KC6	Yes	No	No	Normal	Turbid	None
KC8	Yes	No	No	Normal	Turbid	None
KC10	Yes	No	No	Normal	Turbid	None
KC11	No	No	No	-	-	No access due to construction
KC12	Yes	No	No	Normal	Turbid	None
SC1	Yes	No	No	Normal	Turbid	None
SC2	Yes	No	No	Normal	Turbid	None
BC1	Yes	No	No	Normal	Turbid	None
WG	Yes	No	No	Normal	Turbid	None
HC	Yes	No	No	Normal	Turbid	None

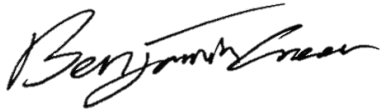
All data has been supplied in an Excel spreadsheet separate to this report and no safety issues were recorded/observed during monitoring.

Statistical analysis of data collected by the monitoring program will be undertaken and presented in the annual report and program recommendations will be made.

The data from this report is reflected in the web reported supplied to Liverpool council.

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Kind regards,



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References

ANZECC & ARMCANZ (2000) Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality, Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council and Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand, Canberra.

BOM (2022) www.bom.gov.au (accessed February 28, 2023).

NHMRC (2008) Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water