



CTENVIRONMENTAL

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING



August 2024 Monthly Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Report

Liverpool City Council

July 2024

Project	Liverpool City Council Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring 2024
Prepared For	Liverpool City Council
Authors	Stefanie Jones (CTENVIRONMENTAL)
Reviewed by	Carl Tippler (CTENVIRONMENTAL)
Approved by	Carl Tippler (CTENVIRONMENTAL)
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CTECS PTY LTD Trading as CTENVIRONMENTAL
 422 Yabtree Road, Borambola, NSW, 2650
 M: 0400 216 206
www.ctenvironmental.com.au

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Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Monthly Progress Report - August 2024

Monthly aquatic ecosystem monitoring of the Georges River and South Creek catchments was undertaken on 9 August 2024.

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

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

Weather conditions for the week prior to sampling were cool and dry with no rain recorded at Badgerys Creek AWS (Table 1) and 0.2 mm of rain recorded at Holsworthy Aerodrome (Table 2).

Table 1. Weather observations for Badgerys Creek AWS NSW (BOM 2024) in the week prior to sampling.

Date	Temperature min (°C)	Temperature max (°C)	Rainfall (mm)
03/08/2024	2.2	19.2	0
04/08/2024	2.5	17.0	0
05/08/2024	6.3	15.7	0
06/08/2024	7.3	18.8	0
07/08/2024	1.0	18.7	0
08/08/2024	2.3	19.9	0
09/08/2024	5.7	20.9	0

Table 2. Weather observations for Holsworthy Aerodrome NSW (BOM 2024) in the week prior to sampling.

Date	Temperature min (°C)	Temperature max (°C)	Rainfall (mm)
03/08/2024	2.6	18.9	0
04/08/2024	2.4	16.1	0
05/08/2024	6.3	15.5	0
06/08/2024	7.7	18.7	0
07/08/2024	2.9	18.7	0
08/08/2024	2.8	19.9	0
09/08/2024	6.2	21.1	0.2

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) monitoring at recreation sites in the Georges River was undertaken on 9 August 2024 during mid-tide.

Results show potentially toxic cyanobacteria was not detected at any of the Georges River sites during sampling and biovolume calculations indicate that no NHMRC modes were triggered during the August sampling event (Table 3).

Table 3. Results summary for recreation monitoring sites, August 2024. Less than 5 cells/mL represent a 'not detected' result.

Site	Sampled	Potentially Toxic Cyanobacteria (cells/mL)	NHMRC (2008) Alert Level	Safety Issues
GR1	Yes	<5	-	None
GR1.5	Yes	<5	-	None
GR2	Yes	<5	-	None
GR3	Yes	<5	-	None
GR4	Yes	<5	Green	None
GR5	Yes	<5	-	None

One species of cyanophytes *Romeria spp.* was detected at GR1 (50 cells/mL), GR1.5 (75 cells/mL), and GR2 (75 cells/mL) during the August sampling. Because of the low biovolume of this species no NHMRC alert was triggered at these three sites.

Results for GR3 showed that one species *Pseudanabaena spp.* (175 cells/mL) was detected. Due to the low biovolume of this species no NHMRC alert was triggered.

Cyanobacteria biovolume calculations for GR4 triggered the NHMRC (2008) Green Level Surveillance Mode. A total of six species detected. These included *Aphanocapsa spp.* (700 cells/mL), *Cyanodictyon spp.* (400 cells/mL), *Cyanogranis libera* (225 cells/mL), *Phormidium spp.* (105 cells/mL), *Pseudanabaena spp.* (525 cells/mL), and *Trichodesmium spp.* (150 cells/mL).

GR5 results showed two species of cyanophytes were detected. These included *Aphanocapsa spp.* (1680 cells/mL), and *Cyanogranis libera* (1250 cells/mL). Due to the low biovolume of these species no NHMRC alert was triggered.

Due to the persistence of cyanobacteria at the recreation monitoring sites, there is potential for future blooms to occur and NHMRC (2008) recommends weekly or fortnightly monitoring when the 'Green Level Surveillance Mode' is triggered (Table 4).

Table 4. Recommended monitoring actions and corresponding NHMRC (2008) Alert Levels.

Cyanobacterial Alert Level	Recommended Actions
Green Level Surveillance Mode	- 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.

Amber Level Alert Mode	• 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.
Red Level Action Mode	• 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 August 2024 show that the ANZECC Primary and Secondary Contact Guidelines for *Faecal coliforms* was not exceeded at any of the Georges River recreational sites (Table 5).

The ANZECC primary and Secondary Contact Guidelines for *Enterococci* was also not exceeded at any of the Georges River recreational sites (Table 5).

Table 5. Summary of conditions observed/recorded at each site during August 2024 monitoring. Orange indicates exceedance of the primary contact guideline; red indicates exceedance of the secondary contact guideline.

Site	Sampled	Tide	<i>Faecal Coliforms</i> CFU/100 mL	<i>Enterococci</i> CFU/100 mL	Observations
GR1	Yes	N/A	8	1	Clear
GR1.5	Yes	N/A	2	6	Clear
GR2	Yes	N/A	25	10	Clear
GR3	Yes	High	61	2	Clear
GR4	Yes	High	4	<1	Clear
GR5	Yes	High	19	1	Clear
Primary Contact Guidelines			150	35	
Secondary Contact Guidelines			1000	230	

Surface water samples were collected at all freshwater monitoring sites in August 2024, except for KC11 (due to construction works). During the August monitoring period, freshwater sites sampled overall were found to have high electrical conductivity, and most of the sites having a healthy dissolved oxygen percentage greater than 80.

Table 6. Summary of conditions observed/recorded at each site during August 2024.

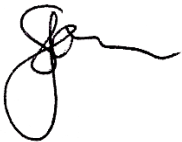
Site	Water quality sampled	Aquatic Macroinvertebrates	Benthic Diatoms	Flow	Observations	Safety Issues
MC1	Yes	No	No	Normal	Clear	None
AC1	Yes	No	No	Normal	Clear	None
KC1	Yes	No	No	Normal	Clear	None
KC2	Yes	No	No	Normal	Clear	None
KC3	Yes	No	No	Normal	Clear	None
KC5	Yes	No	No	Normal	Clear	None
KC6	Yes	No	No	Normal	Clear	None
KC8	Yes	No	No	Normal	Clear	None
KC10	Yes	No	No	Normal	Turbid	None
KC11	No	No	No	-	-	No access
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	Clear	None
WG	Yes	No	No	Normal	Clear	None
HC	Yes	No	No	Normal	Clear	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.

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Kind regards,



Stefanie Jones
Graduate Ecologist
0444 537 611
stef@habitatinnovation.com.au

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 (2024) www.bom.gov.au (accessed August 23, 2024).

NHMRC (2008) Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water