

LAKE JERRABOMBERRA



Sound waves could prevent algal bloom with a solar-powered ultrasound unit!

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council is trialling a high-tech solution for the next 12 months by installing two floating pontoons to control blue-green algae. The pontoons are fitted with solar panels to power the ultrasound unit.

This is a chemical-free algae control that is cost-effective, easy to monitor, safe and environmentally friendly.

How can you help make the trial a success?

You can assist by following some simple guidelines:

- Paddle boat/kayak users must avoid the pontoons.
- No climbing on the pontoons.
- No swimming in the lake.

Please respect the units. For further information or to report any vandalism, call 1300 735 025.



Blue-green algae on Lake Jerrabomberra 2017

What is the process?

Ultrasound units are comprised of an anchored, solar-powered pontoon that emits sound waves with frequencies higher than the upper audible limit of human hearing. These sound waves can be used to control algae growth by inducing sono-chemical reactions in the water, preventing their growth and blooming numbers from occurring.

Will these units affect other organisms?

The soundwaves are harmless to humans, fish and other aquatic life. This technology is being used world-wide to control algal blooms without the use of chemicals. Locally, Lake Albert in Wagga started a trial December 2018 and have observed no impacts on flora or fauna.

How will algae levels be monitored?

Council conducts regular water testing at various locations around Lake Jerrabomberra. The performance of the ultrasound units will be measured against lab results and the presence of blue-green algae over the summer months. This is an ongoing solution and not a one-off method. Other actions include protecting stormwater from pollution sources such as detergents, dog poo, fertilisers and sewer overflows.