



Friday, February 6, 2009

Media Statement

Increased alga levels detected in Canning River

The Swan River Trust is monitoring elevated levels of *Anabaena circinalis* in the Canning River.

The blue - green alga was detected during routine sampling undertaken this week between the Kent Street Weir, Wilson and Ellison Parade, Langford.

Swan River Trust principal scientist Dr Kerry Trayler said this blue - green alga has been known to cause human skin irritations and could release toxins to the water.

The Department of Health advises people and pets to avoid contact with affected river water.

The Trust has erected public advice signs at key locations along both sides of the Canning River.

The Canning River oxygenation plants will be operating on a 24-hour basis until further notice to help water movement.

"During the weekend Trust officers will conduct visual inspections and additional sampling will be conducted next week," Dr Trayler said.

"We will continue to monitor the situation and report to the public."

"Seasonally warm freshwater and still conditions in the Canning River will support the growth of this species of alga".

"Also present in this area of the Canning is a naturally occurring, floating aquatic weed, which is harmless but widespread."

Weekly algae activity reports published by the Swan River Trust are available online at www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au.

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For comment about health issues please contact Department of Health on 9222 4333