



Swan River Trust

Government of Western Australia

Friday, January 20, 2006

Media Statement

Trust continues to monitor river algal activity

The Swan River Trust is continuing to monitor potential impacts for the Swan Estuary as a result of increased river flows from the Avon Catchment.

The Trust also continues to track information from the Western Australian Flood Warning Centre for tropical cyclone Daryl that has the potential to bring additional rains to the Swan Canning Catchment.

Swan River Trust Environmental Programs Manager Anthony Sutton said while the increased flows have now abated, sediment and nutrient rich water have been deposited in the river.

"This has caused water discolouration throughout the Swan River and with the return to warmer, sunny conditions there is the potential for algal blooms," he said.

"The areas we are particularly concerned about are the middle and upper Swan River."

This week, the Swan River Trust's Incident Response Team established additional monitoring and analysis of water quality samples throughout the Swan River.

"Results continue to show medium to high levels of algal activity which is the seasonal norm for this time of the year, however no troublesome algae appear to have been washed down from the catchment," Mr Sutton said.

The Trust is working with other key government agencies and community groups to set up coordinated response strategies that will be implemented if required over the coming weeks.

Members of the public are reminded of the Department of Health's standing warning not to eat shellfish from the rivers.

The public is also being asked to be "fertiliser wise" and to help keep our rivers healthy by taking their litter home with them. The Swan River Trust encourages the community to report any activities that may be harmful to the rivers and shorelines by calling 9278 0900 or the emergency after-hours hotline on 0419 192 845.

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