

NO ALERT Action Required No restriction	GREEN LEVEL Surveillance Mode No restriction Routine monitoring to measure cyanobacterial levels	AMBER LEVEL Alert Mode No restriction Increased sampling to enable risks to be more accurately assessed	RED LEVEL Action Mode GCC and health authorities to warn the public that the water body is considered to be unsuitable for water contact activities, such as swimming, bathing, sailing, skiing or other direct water-contact sports.
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Interpretation of Cyanobacteria Alert Levels for Recreational Water ¹

<500 cells/mL M.aeruginosa AND Biovolume <0.04 for the combined total of all cyanobacteria.	500 to <5000 cells/mL M.aeruginosa OR Biovolume equivalent of >0.04 to <0.4 mm ³ /L for the combined total of all cyanobacteria.	5000 to <50,000 cells/mL M.aeruginosa OR Biovolume equivalent of 0.4 to 4mm ³ /L for the combined total of all cyanobacteria where toxic species comprise ≥75% OR 0.4 to < 10 mm ³ /L for the combined total of all cyanobacteria where known toxic producers are not present	10µg/L total microcystins OR 50,000 cells/mL toxic M.aeruginosa OR biovolume equivalent of 4mm ³ /L for the combined total of all cyanobacteria where toxic species comprise ≥75% OR 10mm ³ /L for total biovolume of all cyanobacteria material where the known toxins are NOT present OR Cyanobacteria scums are consistently present
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¹ NHMRC (2008) Guidelines for managing risks in recreational water. National Health and Medical Research Council (<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/>)