

Shire of Broome
PO Box 44, Broome WA 6725
Phone: 08 9191 3456
Fax: 08 9191 3455
MEDIA RELEASE



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For immediate release

Cable Beach closed temporarily for algal bloom

Cable Beach has been closed to swimming, with a suspected algal bloom identified in several locations following recent record rainfall.

Shire of Broome Manager Health, Emergency and Rangers, Ty Matson, said algal blooms were caused primarily by freshwater runoff carrying nutrients such as garden fertilisers into the ocean and were not uncommon following significant rain events.

He said they had occurred previously at Cable Beach, and usually dispersed naturally within days from tidal movement and as the freshwater and nutrients became diluted.

However, they can cause skin and eye irritation, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea in humans and animals so the Shire of Broome advises against swimming or coming into contact with the water until the bloom has cleared.

The algal bloom is unrelated to the recent treated wastewater runoff into Roebuck Bay from the Broome South Waste Water Treatment Ponds.

The Shire of Broome is monitoring the algal bloom and liaising with the WA Department of Health and Department of Fisheries.

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