

Torrens Lake environmental flows



Torrens Lake is one of the city's major public spaces and the backdrop for many of the major events held in Adelaide during summer and early autumn.

Over this period, flows of fresh water are sometimes used to help control the growth of blue-green algae in the River Torrens and Torrens Lake.

As part of the River Torrens Water Quality Improvement Project, water from upstream storages is released about once per month and takes about 3-4 days to move its way through the Torrens Lake.

While these environmental flows occur you may notice higher water levels and faster flowing water including at crossing points such as bridges.

Water resulting from the flows will be of a better quality than stormwater because it is freshwater from a reservoir.

Stormwater which flows from urban areas carries pollutants from roads.

Sometimes stormwater events can be mistaken for an environmental-flow, however the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources always publicises each flow event ahead of time and puts up signage to inform residents and visitors about each event.

Beach goers are always encouraged to avoid swimming in turbid or discoloured water.

If you need to confirm whether an e-flow is occurring, visit www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidentloftyranges for updates.

The use of fresh water flows is now in its seventh year and have been successful in preventing lake closures for the past five years.

Fresh water flows are a major part of the project, as well as another trial of hydrogen peroxide as an algacide

following a test last season in a section of the lake near Adelaide Zoo.

Background

From the late 1990s until 2011, Torrens Lake had to be closed every year for some period over summer due to the presence of blue-green algae. This type of algae can discolour water, form scums, produce unpleasant odours and release toxins that can be harmful to humans and wildlife.

The River Torrens Water Quality Improvement Project was a recommendation of the Torrens Taskforce, a group of scientists and engineers asked to investigate the problems of the River Torrens. In 2007, the taskforce provided over 50 recommendations to improve the river's health, most of which have been implemented or are well advanced.

The project was developed with the support of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, SA Water, the Environment Protection Authority, and Adelaide City Council.

For more information

For more information, please contact the Natural Resources Centre at Eastwood.

P (08) 8273 9100

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidentloftyranges/



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