



Media release



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Sign up for beach alerts this summer

Water quality alerts for Adelaide's metropolitan beaches have begun again, with a new feature allowing beach users to choose to be notified by email or SMS.

Environment Protection Authority Director Science and Information Keith Baldry said the messages were designed to let people know when water quality was not suitable for activities like swimming and surfing.

"Beach water quality is usually very good off the Adelaide coast, but it can drop when heavy rain flushes high volumes of stormwater into the sea," Mr Baldry said.

"These increased flows can result in discoloured or murky water at beaches that are near the mouths of rivers and drains.

"SA Health recommends that people avoid contact with this turbid water for 72 hours after the stormwater has stopped flowing."

The EPA may also issue beach alerts following controlled releases of water into the Torrens to reduce the likelihood of blue-green algae blooms in the Torrens Lake over summer.

The dilution flows are not as polluted as stormwater, but they can still affect water quality.

Mr Baldry said in the past, beach water quality alerts had been issued for the whole metropolitan coast.

"At the beginning of this year, we introduced the option for people to sign up for alerts for specific beaches in response to community feedback," he said.

"Now you can receive alerts specifically for Grange, Henley, Hallett Cove, Christies Beach, Noarlunga or Moana, depending on where you like to swim."

Surf Lifesaving SA Lifesaving Operations Manager Ben Laurensen said their patrols would monitor local alerts and put up A-frame warning signs when water quality was considered to be unsafe.

"It is important that the community stays informed about local water quality," Mr Laurensen said.

"We encourage beachgoers to check the EPA alerts if they have concerns and to sign up for email or SMS alerts and use the Surf Lifesaving Beachsafe app."

To sign up for beach alerts and for up-to-date information on beach water quality, visit http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/data_and_publications/water_quality_monitoring/beach_water_advice