

15 March 2010

Callala Bay monitoring

Shoalhaven City Council has completed monitoring of the atmosphere around Callala Bay. The monitoring is a result of community concern over the smell from the decomposing algae on Callala Bay.

The levels of Hydrogen Sulphide in the general atmosphere around Callala Bay are extremely low.

Council placed two monitoring stations – one on a property adjoining the bay and one in the village itself – to monitor continuously over 24 hours for 3 days.

The bay side site monitoring gave an average of 0 parts per million parts in the atmosphere and a maximum of 4.1 parts per million. This occurred on Saturday around noon.

At the village site the average was 0 parts per million and a maximum of 1.4ppm. Again the maximum occurred for a brief period on Saturday at noon.

Council has sought the advice of NSW Health and they have advised that this is a naturally occurring process and generally there are no health effects because it is occurring in the open environment.

The NSW Health fact sheet reveals that:

- The majority of people can detect concentrations between 0.005 to 0.0025 parts per million (ppm).
- Some eye irritation can occur at levels around 50 to 100 ppm.

For further information on the algae, you can contact Council's Natural Resources Area on (02) 4429 3392 or the Jervis Bay Marine Park Authority on (02) 4428 3000.

The NSW Office of Water also has information on algal blooms at <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-Management/Water-quality/Algal-information/default.aspx>.

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