

# Media Release



Environment,  
Land, Water  
and Planning

Friday 17 August 2018 | Media contact: Casey Tomkins | 0437 541 697

---

## **pH levels return to normal in the upper Barwon River**

Community members and landholders along Boundary Creek and the Barwon River near Birregurra are advised that pH levels in the upper Barwon River have returned to normal.

Water in the Barwon River is safe for human contact and for livestock to drink. People should always avoid drinking untreated river water.

Low pH levels continue in Boundary Creek, with a slight improvement recorded in recent monitoring.

The source of the low pH water in Boundary Creek is likely to be acid sulphate soils in Big Swamp that have previously dried out and then been soaked by heavy rainfall, flushing low pH water into Boundary Creek.

Low pH is a measure of water acidity and people may also notice visual changes to local waterways such as unusually clear water.

Barwon Water, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA), Colac Otway Shire, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Southern Rural Water, Environment Protection Authority Victoria and Agriculture Victoria are continuing to work together to monitor the situation and keep communities informed about the situation.

Barwon Water is monitoring pH levels in affected waterways once a week.

Further advice will be provided if the current situation changes.

The Victorian Government is also protecting the health of Otway waterways by ensuring Barwon Water repair the environmental impacts of past groundwater extraction in the region, including an enforceable remediation plan.

Monitoring results can be accessed on the Corangamite CMA webpage [www.ccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccma.vic.gov.au) or by calling (03) 5232 9100.

If people in the region are concerned or require further information, please get in touch with CCMA CEO Graham Phelps on (03) 5232 9100 or 0427 386 246.