

BHP

Ophthalmia Dam Recreational water use and risks



For your safety, please read this information before visiting Ophthalmia Dam.

Located 12km east of Newman, Ophthalmia Dam recreational area is a great location to have a picnic and enjoy the scenery. However, the dam is actually owned by BHP Billiton Iron Ore and is used as a part of its active mining operations.

Ophthalmia Dam is located in a drinking water catchment and the underlying aquifer which Ophthalmia Dam recharges is used for the extraction of groundwater.

Managing the quality of the dam's water is a coordinated and ongoing effort between BHP Billiton Iron Ore, the Shire of East Pilbara and the Department of Health WA.

It is important that you read and follow the guidelines in this brochure to ensure your own health and safety associated with the recreational use of Ophthalmia Dam.



Common risks associated with Ophthalmia Dam:

Physical hazards

- Heavy rainfall and rapid increase in water flow and water levels
- Rips and currents
- Shallow water and submerged objects
- Uneven and slippery surfaces



Contaminants and organisms

- Ophthalmia Dam water is prone to contamination by a range of viruses, bacteria, toxic algae and other harmful microorganisms
- These water contaminants can cause harm to human health through either ingestion through the mouth or nose or contact with the skin
- Mosquitoes are common near the dam and may be carrying Ross River Virus or Murray Valley Encephalitis Virus, which are harmful to humans



For more information please contact Shire Duty Ranger – 0419 860 376

If there is a risk of flooding, a broadcast message will be conveyed through the local radio network.

For your health and safety, please adhere to the following guidelines:

Permitted activities:

- ✓ Kayaking / canoeing
- ✓ Scenic appreciation (e.g. bird watching)
- ✓ Walking and picnicking within the permitted public access areas around the Dam
- ! Always watch your footing when close to the water's edge
- ! Always cover up with clothing and apply insect repellent
- ! Always bring own drinking water

Not permitted:

- × Swimming (to avoid immersion / direct contact with the water)
- × Surfing
- × Water skiing
- × Diving
- × Fishing
- × Motorised boating
- × Camping
- × Alcohol consumption

