



Councillor Paul Taylor

Division 10

PO Box 5042 GCMC Qld 9729

P 07 5581 6171 F 07 5581 5294 M 0439 226 521

E division10@goldcoast.qld.gov.au

W cityofgoldcoast.com.au



CITY OF
GOLDCOAST[™]

6 March 2017

Dear Resident

Lake Hugh Muntz - Message from Cr Taylor

Lake Hugh Muntz is recognised by the city as an important community recreational amenity and a significant feature in the lifestyles of residents who live nearby the lake. The city has been working to improve the health of the lake which does face some serious challenges.

The summer of 2016/17 has seen an unprecedented heat wave which created the perfect conditions in the lake for algal blooms. Prolonged hot weather creates a warm water layer that floats on top of and does not easily mix with the deeper cooler lake waters. In these conditions algae are able to stay in this warm surface water layer where they get plenty of sunlight to grow and flourish. These conditions contribute significantly to the seasonal algal bloom the lake has experienced this summer.

It is important to understand that events such as the algae bloom described above also occur in natural lake and wetland systems under these conditions. All water bodies will experience periods of poor water quality and health that are driven by environmental conditions. What is important is the lake's capacity to recover from these events is supported through good management.

Maintaining and improving the health of the lake requires a whole of community effort. There are a number of things that residents who live around the lake can do to help care for the lake's health, including joining the Lake Hugh Muntz Care Group.

As we all recognise the importance of active management, city officers will be working towards implementing measures that Council can undertake to improve or maintain the health of the lake. The city will continue to implement initiatives to improve the amenity and health of Lake Hugh Muntz. Outlined below is a brief summary of measures to improve the lake:

CITY ACTIONS TO MANAGE THE LAKE

Water Quality Monitoring – water quality monitoring activities within Lake Hugh Muntz are undertaken by the city's Catchment Management Unit (CMU). These monitoring programs include the recreational water quality monitoring program (RecWaters), a long term monthly water quality monitoring program (WQMP) and an Incidence Based monitoring program.

Floating reed beds – were installed on a trial basis and continue to be monitored to determine if they are having a positive effect on water quality.

/2





Councillor Paul Taylor

Division 10

PO Box 5042 GCMC Qld 9729

P 07 5581 6171 F 07 5581 5294 M 0439 226 521

E division10@goldcoast.qld.gov.au

W cityofgoldcoast.com.au



CITY OF
GOLDCOAST[™]

Page 2

Stenciling stormwater drainage gully pits - roadside stormwater gutters have “Do not pollute - drains to lake” signage stenciled on lake catchment stormwater gully pits. Arrangements have been made for the signs to be repainted to ensure the message remains clear.

Stormwater gully baskets – 68 gully baskets have been installed and are inspected and cleaned regularly. On average they prevent around 3,600kg of material from entering the lake.

Frequency of street cleaning – the standard sweeping cycle for the city is 8-10 weeks. As the area around the lake is leafy, streets are swept more regularly on a 4-6 week cycle, or as requested, to reduce the volume of leaves and woody material entering the lake. A special street sweeper is used in the area to accommodate larger loads and sticks. The recent dry weather has impacted on street sweeping maintenance schedules across the city.

Interpretive display boards/ community notice boards – signage has been installed in Bel Air Park and helps to increase public awareness about recreational use of the lake and its surrounds, with a focus on promoting the long term health of the lake. The Lake Hugh Muntz Care Group continues to collaborate with the Catchment Management Unit offering content to notices that are updated and relevant.

Warning signage – Council’s Environmental Health Officers are ensuring the relevant warning signage is in place at public access points around the lake during times of poor water quality / algal bloom conditions. Such signage warns against contact with lake water during the closure period and provides a Council contact phone number for further information on lake water quality / closure.

Doggy waste bag dispensers and receptacles – Animal Management audited the area around the lake and recommended a dispenser be installed in Warringah Park. The dispenser in Bel Air Park has been upgraded to a larger size. Although this service is provided by Council at many locations throughout the city, it is the responsibility of dog owners to ensure they have the means to pick up after their pet and not be completely reliant on Council to provide doggy bags.

Dogs on leash signage – All dogs are required to be on leash in a public place with the exception of off-leash and other designated areas, however some owners choose to disregard the local law. Animal Management has assessed parks in the vicinity of the lake and additional signage has been installed where necessary. Regular patrols are also undertaken and appropriate action taken where necessary.

Soil stabilisation Bel Air Park drain – Divisional funding has been provided for drainage rectification and landscape works in Bel Air Park following a suggestion from the Lake Hugh Muntz Care Group. Once finalized these works will significantly improve overland flow issues.

Local stormwater or overland flow – overland flow off the Peninsular Court area is currently broken up by groundcover vegetation. Without this vegetation, leaves and other rubbish would be able to enter the lake without resistance. Removing or trimming the trees would likely worsen water quality as shade reduction on the lake would increase water temperatures and encourage more algal growth.

/3





Councillor Paul Taylor

Division 10

PO Box 5042 GCMC Qld 9729
P 07 5581 6171 F 07 5581 5294 M 0439 226 521
E division10@goldcoast.qld.gov.au
W cityofgoldcoast.com.au



CITY OF
GOLDCOAST[™]

Page 3

Buffer vegetation lake edge and park drainage inlets – Divisional funding was provided for a large planting project which included ground treatment, the installation of 300 Lomandra, construction of a small soil retention swale and a maintenance program including watering.

Lakeside trees and plants - The removal of lakeside trees and plants would not benefit overall water quality. The trees and smaller plants remove large volumes of nutrients from the lake which helps to improve water quality. The trees also provide shade which limits algal growth and helps keep the lake cool and more oxygenated.

General maintenance – regular maintenance continues to occur including weed treatment, garden maintenance and tree trimming as required.

Street tree audit – Council’s Arborists assessed trees in the surrounding streets and lake catchment area following leaf litter complaints. The audit revealed the majority of trees are mature and healthy with varying leaf drop attributes and leaf sizes none of which would cause any more leaf drop than alternative tree species suitable for this location. A number of trees required treatment or removal due to poor form or ill health.

Lake Hugh Muntz Retaining Walls - Engineering Services has completed a survey of the revetment walls surrounding the lake and regular monitoring is being undertaken. The removal of any concrete walls and the removal of these trees would not benefit overall water quality in the lake because the nutrients the tree roots are currently taking out of the water would be reduced.

HOW CAN YOU HELP MAINTAIN LAKE HEALTH?

Pets

Pet owners should do their best to look after their animal’s waste both in their yards and when taking them for outings around the lake making sure waste is binned. The city places dog waste bags and receptacles in parks for your convenience, however even when these facilities are not available, it is important to clean up after your pet.

Gardens

When maintaining residential gardens around the lake catchment it is important to keep green waste such as lawn clippings / palm leaves out of the lake as these drainage areas feed into the lake. Composting is a great way to improve soil health by keeping nutrients and water in your gardens. Use of fertiliser should be kept to a minimum or eliminated altogether in favour of composting and mulching your garden beds. If you choose not to compost or mulch then green waste should be disposed of through green waste bins available from the city through Gold Coast Water and Waste (<http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/environment/green-waste-bin-collection-23996.html>). These simple actions will help keep nutrients out of the lake and improve your garden’s health.





Councillor Paul Taylor

Division 10

PO Box 5042 GCMC Qld 9729
P 07 5581 6171 F 07 5581 5294 M 0439 226 521
E division10@goldcoast.qld.gov.au
W cityofgoldcoast.com.au



CITY OF
GOLDCOAST[™]

Page 4

Lake Hugh Muntz Care Group

The Lake Hugh Muntz Care Group was officially established in 2012 by local residents concerned about the health of the lake. If you'd like to get involved then joining this group is for you. The purpose of this group is to:

- Raise awareness of issues affecting the lake with local residents,
- Achieve a consensus on what residents see as the main issues and prioritise,
- Assist council with monitoring and changing conditions in the area,
- Liaise with Council on ongoing problems and recommend solutions,
- Implement improvements with the assistance of local residents,
- Lobby council to fast track works recommended in the Management Plan.

Visit the Lake Hugh Muntz Care Group's Website: <http://lakehughmuntz.com.au/>

Report Problems to the city

If you become aware of any issues that may impact the lake health or its amenity, please contact **1300 GOLDCOAST (1300 465 326)** or 5582 8211 to report the matter.

Or contact us through our website: <http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/contact-council-1018.html>

Sincerely

Councillor Paul Taylor MAICD
COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION 10
Chair Gold Coast Water and Waste

