



City of Gold Coast

Councillor Paul Taylor

Division 10 Representative

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15 April 2013

Dear Resident

Lake Hugh Muntz - Message from Cr Taylor

Since my letter to you late last year, a number of initiatives have been implemented to improve the amenity and health of Lake Hugh Muntz. Outlined below is a brief summary of achievements to date:

Floating reed beds – the trial is progressing well and recent maintenance resulted in more highly resilient plants replacing vegetation suffering die back due to recent extreme weather conditions. As the plants establish, the protective netting will be removed giving the islands a more natural look and aesthetic appeal.

Stencilling storm water drainage gully pits - templates were designed late last year and “Do not pollute - drains to lake” signage was stencilled on lake catchment stormwater gully pits. Recent weather conditions have taken their toll on the stencilling and arrangements have been made for the signs to be repainted using a more sustainable method.

Stormwater gully baskets – preliminary costings have been obtained for the installation and maintenance of these gross pollutant traps in selected streets around the lake’s catchment. The project will be revisited after the conclusion of the FRB trial later this year remembering that gully baskets in isolation could not provide the improvements needed to protect the water quality of the lake. This decision will allow a clearer indication of how well the FRBs are performing.

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. Recent storm events have impacted on street sweeping maintenance schedules across the city.

Interpretive display boards/ community notice boards – to increase public awareness about recreational use of the lake and its surrounds and to promote long term health of the lake, the installation of signage in Bel Air Park, off Keppel Court and Warringah Park off Wild Duck Drive has been suggested. Council’s Parks and Recreational Services is liaising with Catchment Management and Engineering Services to achieve the best outcome whilst taking into consideration new branding which is currently being determined. It is envisaged the signage will have set times for group activity that will enable regulation as required. The Lake Hugh Muntz Care Group has offered to take responsibility for keeping notices updated and relevant.

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Doggy waste bag dispensers and receptacles – Animal Management audited the area around the lake and recommended a dispenser be installed in Warringah Park. The small dispenser in Bel Air Park will be 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.

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.

General maintenance – continues to occur including weed treatment, garden maintenance and tree trimming as required. The area has been included on Council's regular maintenance schedule.

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.

Establishing a local catchment management group in conjunction with Council's Catchment Liaison Officer - The Lake Hugh Muntz Care Group was established in 2012 and is now up and running and very active. The group coordinated a cleanup day late last year and undertook a mammoth task, particularly when combating Singapore Daisy infestation. Vegetation removal also occurred around the drainage points into the lake. This was a fantastic effort and I thank everyone involved. Council's Parks Maintenance treated re-emerging plant growth to contain the Singapore Daisy. The care group continues to offer support and assistance to Council with works in the area. If you'd like to get involved please visit <http://www.lakehughmuntz.com.au/> or alternatively email Council's Catchment Liaison Officer Kris Boody at kboody@goldcoast.qld.gov.au.

Improved health advisory notification for residents should water quality results indicate a health risk - A webpage specifically about Lake Hugh Muntz has been included on Council's Corporate Website. Blue-green algae alerts and project updates are available at <http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/environment/lake-hugh-muntz-13995.html>. Council is progressing towards publishing water quality results for the whole of the Gold Coast on the website.

Noise abatement sign Bel Air Park – The original noise abatement sign was unlawfully removed and Divisional funding was provided to reinstate the sign. The new signpost will be core drilled to deter further unlawful removal.

Amenity issues - Lake Hugh Muntz is a large parcel of water, foreshore and parkland servicing the recreational pursuits of a large cross-section of community needs. In recent years the lake has become a popular training venue for water-related sports including swimming, triathlon and surf life saving. Whilst Council supports an active and healthy lifestyle, this should not be at the expense of nearby residents. Parks and Recreational Services is working with user groups to manage these incidents and to achieve the best outcome possible.

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It is envisaged that that a Right of Use booking system, used in a number of situations across the city, will be implemented prior to the 2013/14 summer season. The ROU will manage, amongst other things, the number of groups using the lake, the allotted times, the expected code of conduct resulting in a more formalised complaint handling process. It is difficult to regulate these situations if the group cannot be identified. Other individuals and "groups" that are not part of a club are unable to be captured in the ROU which will be established to regulate clubs and organisations.

Illegal car parking - City Parking regularly monitors the area for illegally parked vehicles. If you need to report an incident please contact 5667 5989 or after hours 1800 637 000.

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.

Morialta Park drainage – Parks and Recreational Services is investigating drainage issues in Morialta Park, particularly around the immediate area of the stormwater inlet to improve overland flow. Divisional funding will be considered when options are provided by Parks.

Lamington Park - Parks and Recreational Services is assessing the area to determine if some strip plantings can be installed between large trees in the park to decrease the incidence of leaf litter entering the lake.

Lake Hugh Muntz Retaining Walls - Engineering Services has completed a survey of the revetment walls surrounding the lake and regular monitoring is being undertaken.

By continuing to work together we can sustain the long-term health of Lake Hugh Muntz.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Taylor'.

Councillor Paul Taylor

COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION 10

Chair Water Services Committee

Deputy Chair Engineering Services Committee

PT:PS

