



Dear Gold Coast City Council,

I am writing on behalf of Nobby's Beach Surf Life Saving Club, expressing the club's concerns regarding the current state and future of Lake Hugh Muntz at Mermaid Waters. As the only large freshwater recreational lake suitable for swimming in the immediate general vicinity of our club, we have utilised Lake Hugh Muntz on a regular basis for many purposes over a number of years since its creation.

Up until its recent closure, Nobby's Beach SLSC has utilised Lake Hugh Muntz as a safe aquatic environment for our members to participate in surf sports training, upskill and practice lifesaving techniques as well as an alternate calm venue that is free from dangerous marine creatures, should the beaches be closed due to large surf. Our club's Junior Activities Members (nippers) are the primary users of the Lake, with the facility providing the perfect conditions for these nippers to learn, participate and develop into healthy role models who will ultimately make a positive contribution to society as surf lifesavers. The Lake gives these lifesavers of tomorrow, the opportunity to perfect their skills in a controlled environment, and allows the nipper program to cater for all skill and confidence levels - something which is often difficult to do at an open beach. Additionally, Nobby's Beach SLSC provides an integrated nipper program for children with special needs in association with Albatross Nippers Inc. This program runs congruently within the regular nipper program, giving these children the opportunities to experience nippers as any other child their age would. This season alone, our nipper program has had to be cancelled on at least five occasions due to large surf and the inability to source a suitable alternate venue - which in the past has been the Lake.

I have personally used the Lake for at least the last twelve years as a surf sports competitor, coach and as a member of the general public. I consider it to be a valuable city asset, and instrumental in the development of my ability as a capable volunteer surf lifesaver. In addition, it is a resource that has contributed to being able to live an active and healthy lifestyle, such is customary of the Gold Coast culture, something which the City of the Gold Coast actively promotes.

Nobby's Beach SLSC recognises that the upkeep of parks, facilities and waterways does not come without the associated costs of doing so. However, due to the unique facility (catering to a multitude of uses) that Lake Hugh Muntz provides, the impact that it has on the community and in particular, the surf lifesaving community, is enormous. If the facility were to become unusable for a permanent period of time, the operations of Nobby's Beach SLSC in pursuit of the Surf Life Saving Queensland's vision of *Zero preventable deaths in Queensland Public Waters* would be significantly affected through the negative impact that such a closure would have on member development, particularly that of our junior members. The action of neglecting the upkeep of Lake Hugh Muntz, forcing it to remain closed, has a negative impact on the City of Gold Coast's positive guidance for promoting Active and Healthy Communities.



**Daniel Homer**

Secretary

Assistant Water Coach

Nobby's Beach Surf Life Saving Club Inc.