



Letter of Support

Lake Hugh Munz Care Group



29/06/17

RE: Letter of Support Lake Hugh Munz Care Group

To Councillor Paul Taylor:

I am writing this letter of support for submission to the local council to please have the issue of the Lake Hugh Munz water quality and its continual care to be reassessed.

I have worked as the Head Coach of Triathlon Australia's High Performance Centre here on the Gold Coast based at the Australian Institute of Sport at Pizze Park Mermaid Waters since 2014.

In my time coaching this elite sporting program we have used Lake Hugh Munz at least once a week as a key training venue for open water swimming. The importance to our program using this facility is due to the safety aspect as well the consistency of the water quality in all weather conditions. Allowing us to swim there every week of the year if needed.

Last year at the Rio Olympics and Paralympics we had 5 athletes that represented Australia that utilised the Lake as a training venue in the lead up to the world's premier sporting event.

With the Commonwealth Games upon us I am currently giving feedback to countries about the benefits of staying in this area especially with the fact we have a safe open water area to train in the lead up.

Developing nations unlike ourselves need to have water areas that are not in the ocean due to their lack of experience. Please be mindful the Commonwealth Games is the "Friendly Games"!

Using the Lake will allow them every opportunity to learn the skills of open water swimming without the fear of being in the ocean.

Almost every nation that will compete in the triathlon at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games will want to use Lake Hugh Munz which would mean a lot of monetary investment into the local community with accommodation etc. as this is the only fresh water controlled open water swimming space on the Gold Coast that can replicate the demands of competition.

Nations will want to stay close in this area.

We are not the only program using the lake to develop the skills needed to compete at the highest level. Every week I see junior surf athletes from multiple clubs as well as everyday swimmers also using the lake as a safe and controlled environment to learn the skills they then take to the ocean or purely to enjoy keeping fit and active!

So please I ask that you as a local division of government re consider investing into this heavily used open water swimming space. Not only for my program but for the dozens of Gold Coast based open water swimming and craft programs.

Your local community and I love this area and Lake Hugh Munz is a facility that is unique and a normally safe area that people can use at any point to enjoy what we love to do.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my letter.

If you should need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly

Kind Regards,



Dan Atkins
National Performance Centre
Head Triathlon Coach
Gold Coast
Triathlon Australia PTY LTD

MOB: 0412 842 908