

Dear Candidate for the 2020 GCCC Elections

The upcoming election is vitally important to the Lake Hugh Muntz Committee in determining which candidates will be proactive and supportive of saving Lake Hugh Muntz as a vital and extremely valuable Environmental asset for our community and sporting clubs.

The LHM committee and local residents would like to hear from any prospective Councillor for the 2020 election in writing.

Your response will need to outline the depth of your understanding of the issues faced in maintaining the Water Quality of Lake Hugh Muntz as a Primary Contact Lake for swimming and aquatic activities as well as a unique and valuable community asset.

We are now in our fourth year of Lake closure due to Algae Bloom. The GCCC employed Griffith University to assess the lake and provide recommendations which can be found in their report on the GCCC website. Further information may be found on the Facebook -Save Lake Hugh Muntz group page and the LHM Website lakehughmuntz.com.au

It will be vital that you are able to comment on your knowledge of how important the use of Lake Hugh Muntz is for the general Gold Coast Community, the local residents in Division 12, as well as the history and the process undertaken by the LHM Committee and the GCCC so far.

The Committee will expect your response to outline and state your recommendations and plan for supporting the LHM Committee in working with the GCCC in achieving our Key Objective which is for GCCC to develop an **Action Plan for Lake Hugh Muntz**. The LHM Committee would like to see a more adequate budget developed to ensure that short term and long term goals in restoring and maintaining the Lake for Primary Water contact and recreational use are achievable.

The above responses should include answers to the following:

- **We are now in the fourth year of lake closure due to algae bloom. Do you consider this an acceptable outcome for residents, the community and the sporting clubs?**
- **How important an asset do you consider Lake Hugh Muntz to be and is it your intention to advocate for the lake in council.**
- **It is critical to the LHM committee and members that the lake remains suitable for primary contact and recreational use. Do you consider these objectives are achievable and will you fighting for these objectives within Council?**

Your response will also need to outline and comment on the Research by the LHM Committee recommendations which we believe need to be a part of the GCCC **Action Plan**. These recommendations will provide both short term and long term solutions in restoring Lake Hugh Muntz so that it is suitable for Primary Contact use by Local Surf Clubs, Triathlon Clubs and the general community, who value it as a unique and safe freshwater swimming Lake.

These recommendations for the **Management Plan** include:

- A top up of Phoslock (at adequate quantities) to reduce the effect of a possible 5th consecutive algae outbreak while other options are implemented.
- A trial of a one way valve at the lake outlet to;
- Reduce and hopefully reverse the trend of increasing salt levels in lake that have attributed to significant loss of underwater aquatic vegetation.
- To act as an “insurance Policy” against major inundation of salt water and polluted floodwaters in high rainfall events to provide a stable growing environment to assist plant recovery.
- Implement Sand Capping and Phoslock treatment to the entire lake as recommended by Griffith.
- Commence a trial of Aeration of the Lake to assist with nutrient removal, salt water reduction and de-stratification of the lake (particularly in the problem areas) which in turn will help to improve the health of the lake – long term. It is noted that this is what occurs in two lakes in the adjoining constituency and which was advocated by Gold Coast City Council for those two other lakes.
- Catchment Management Issues: Catchment wide audit of problems and action plan for whole Catchment area with priority given to problem areas to ensure they do not contribute to the lakes deterioration during weather events. Implement vegetation buffer zones as close as practical to the waters edge. Ensure the lake is given a priority by parks to ensure proper ongoing care, maintenance and upkeep including the management of lawn clippings.
- Aquatic Vegetation – Work towards restoring vegetation to the lake to assist with water quality and long term health.

Your response to include;

- **Commentary on each of these objectives, specifically noting whether you are supportive of the objective and whether or not you intend to vigorously advocate for each of these objectives in council debate.**

The Lake Hugh Muntz Committee would like to develop a collaborative and cooperative partnership with our local councillor and will look forward to reading your responses. We will also be informing the community by posting responses on our public Save Lake Hugh Muntz group page and website.

Please forward your response in a PDF document to lakehughmuntz@gmail.com by **Friday 28th of February**.

Yours Sincerely
Care Group Committee

**Lake Hugh Muntz
Care Group**

Website: <http://lakehughmuntz.com.au>

Contact: lakehughmuntz@gmail.com