

OPEN LETTER TO COUNCILLOR YOUNG

May 2020

Councillor Pauline Young

Division 12

Gold Coast City Council

Dear Councillor

LAKE HUGH MUNTZ

On behalf of the Lake Hugh Muntz Care Group (LHMCG), the broader Lake Hugh Muntz (LHM) community and the numerous sporting groups using the lake, we congratulate you on your recent election as Division 12 councillor.

We look forward to working with you, both in your role as Councillor for the division and as Chair of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee overseeing the wellbeing of the lake.

We particularly appreciate your pre-election commitment to the lake and as advocates for the health and wellbeing of LHM, we thought we would take this opportunity to reiterate the LHMCG's **Key Objectives** for the our once beautiful lake.

1. PHOSLOCK TOP UP.

A top up of Phoslock (at adequate quantities) to reduce the effect of a possible 5th consecutive algae outbreak, ahead of the actions below.

2. INSTALLATION OF A ONE-WAY VALVE AT THE LAKE OUTLET.

This installation of one way valve will help reduce the trend of increasing salt levels in lake that have attributed to significant loss of underwater aquatic vegetation – to improve lake health, we need to look after the aquatic vegetation – and provide a stable growing environment to assist plant recovery.

3. SAND CAPPING AND PHOSLOCK TREATMENT.

Implement the Sand Capping and Phoslock treatment to the entire lake highlighted by Griffith as having the greatest potential to reduce algal blooms.

4. CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT ISSUES.

Implement a catchment wide assessment of problems and issues creating an unnecessary nutrient and pollution load on the lake, particularly during weather events. Assessment with recommendations to be done by an independent professional consultant. Included in this objective is;

- Reduction in nutrient loads from the catchment including parks and park drains.
- Planting vegetation buffer zones as close as practical to the water's edge in the parks to reduce and preferably eliminate pollution run off into the lake, as evidenced in recent inclement weather events;
- Ensure the parks within the LHM catchment area lake are given priority by GCCC Parks to ensure proper ongoing care, maintenance and upkeep **INCLUDING THE USE OF GRASS CATCHERS WHEN MOWING** until effective measures are implemented to reduce runoff.

5. AQUATIC VEGETATION.

Work towards restoring underwater aquatic vegetation to the lake to assist with the water quality of the lake and improve its long term health outlook.

6. AERATION OF THE LAKE.

Commence a trial of Aeration of the lake to assist with nutrient removal, saltwater reduction and de-stratification of the lake (particularly in the problem areas) which in turn will help to improve the health of the lake in the long term. It is noted that this is what occurs in two lakes in the adjoining council division and this approach was advocated by Gold Coast City Council.

7. BROADEN THE CURRENT RESEARCH SCOPE.

Griffith University's current scope of works is limited to "reduce the frequency of algal blooms". We believe, the scope should be broadened to include the **OVERALL HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE LAKE**, including catchment management and environmental issues.

We remain steadfast in our mission for the lake and believe that **EACH OF THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES IS ACHIEVABLE THROUGH OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS** and that with the implementation of these objectives, we can most definitely restore LHM to the glistening community recreational asset it once was.

We also thought it would be opportunity to remind you of the number of sporting groups that are associated with the lake, that also look forward to the restoration of LHM to its former glory.

In closing we reiterate our desire to work collaboratively with you in the implementation of our objectives in order to improve what has the potential to be a first class, healthy recreational facility.