



Hon Steven Miles MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning

Our ref: WR21/29199

Your ref: A758751

29 SEP 2021

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 9 September 2021 regarding petition 3553-21 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 31 August 2021 about the environmental condition of Lake Hugh Muntz, Mermaid Waters.

I note the concerns of the petitioners about the environmental condition of Lake Hugh Muntz and the closure of the lake to recreation and other activities. I have been advised the lake was designed as part of the area's stormwater drainage system, not as a recreational lake.

In relation to the management of water quality in Lake Hugh Muntz, I understand the Gold Coast City Council (council):

- has developed a management plan to optimise a healthy ecosystem at the lake
- has engaged Griffith University to investigate options for reducing future algal blooms at this lake, and across the city's other urban lakes
- conducts regular water quality monitoring
- provides health alerts via: regular updates on its website, regular updates in its email newsletter and signs next to the lake
- has undertaken a decade long program of remedial measures to enhance the lake's ecosystem, including the application of chemical treatment to the lake as a means of restricting nutrient supply to algae and help reduce unsightly blooms
- has trialled several water quality improvement initiatives at the lake, including:
 - the installation of 66 gully baskets within the stormwater inlets into the lake to capture organics that would otherwise enter the lake and the frequent maintenance of these gully baskets
 - the installation of three floating reed beds around the stormwater network designed to filter out nutrients
 - the restoration of park areas in high sediment zones to reduce runoff into the lake
 - the installation of five groundwater bores around the lake to help gain a better understanding of groundwater effects on salinity levels within the lake
- has allocated funding of \$280,000 in its 2021-22 budget to undertake further chemical treatment.

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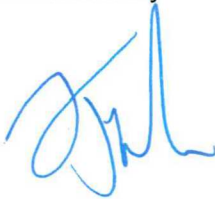
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As the management of the water quality of the lake is the responsibility of council, it is best placed to decide how the water quality should be managed. The legislative framework affords local governments autonomy in determining the services they deliver to their communities. This recognises individual local governments are best placed to determine the services to be delivered to their communities and the revenue required to ensure such delivery meets the needs and expectations of their ratepayers.

There are limited powers for the state to intervene or direct any local government in such operational matters. As such, I would suggest the petitioners raise this issue directly with council.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me and I encourage them to engage with council about issues relating to the lake, including remediation works.

Yours sincerely



STEVEN MILES MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
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