



## Re: Lake Tuggeranong – Community Concerns

Dear Chief Minister Barr,

As you would be aware there have been on-going assessments about water quality in Lake Tuggeranong. This information from these will be fundamental to your government's recommendations on which projects will be funded from the Murray Darling Project. I know improvement in water quality and economic benefits form a basis for the decision, but you should be aware that since those reports were completed, conditions at Lake Tuggeranong have deteriorated further

Since 2002, the Lake has been closed to primary use from varying periods between November to February because of:

- Outbreaks of blue green algae which led to bad odours emanating from the lake and
- Unhealthy conditions which precluded recreational use of the lake during peak-use summer months

The associated impacts of these effected the amenity and health of the local community which includes Tuggeranong College, local businesses, private residents and a number of child care centres.

But the discovery of a new algae, Tychonema (a cold water algae), has led to the lake being closed since mid September, an additional two months. Tychonema is a nerve poison and has caused numerous dog deaths after they have been swimming in affected water bodies and then lick their coats clean. When it breaks down it will add to the existing nutrient load in the lake and exacerbate the blue green algae issues in summer.

This year alone health concerns due to algal growth, have resulted in:

1. The Tuggeranong Lake Carers cancelling their annual October Lake Cleanup event;
2. Cancellation of the Carp capturing competition that usually forms part of the Tuggeranong Festival;
3. Sri Chinmoy Triple Triathlon, an icon event celebrating the natural side of Canberra and a landmark event on the national multi-sport calendar was supposed to be swum in three separate lakes on November 15. However because Lake Tuggeranong was closed to swimming, Leg 7 was run at the local swimming pool in Tuggeranong.
4. The local Sea Scouts moving their November Regatta to another location.

Your office has indicated that Multi-Criteria Evaluation, including economic considerations, will play a key role in assessing which proposals receive funding from



the Basin Project. What about the social, health, mental health, environmental costs? Will these be adequately taken into consideration in the Multi-Criteria Evaluation when the government sits to assess the proposal for funding for the Basin Project?

Sales of government land in the South Quay area of Tuggeranong for medium to high density residential development have begun. One of the key attractions of the area is its proximity to the Lake. How will these ongoing lake closures affect sales? This is an economic consideration. – how do you count this?

There is a palpable sense of frustration and demoralisation within the community regarding the further deterioration of lake amenity with the increasing duration of lake closures and the worsening environmental and aesthetic condition of the Lake. I am seeking your confirmation that these factors will be adequately considered in your evaluation of Basin Project funding allocation.

I look forward to discussing this matter with you in further detail.

Yours Sincerely,

Glenys Patulny  
President,  
Tuggeranong Community Council  
22 November 2015