

10th June 2008

Senator Kate Lundy
Chair Of The Joint Standing Committee
For the National Capital
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Ken Eynon
25 Chubb Street
Latham ACT 2615

Dear Senator Lundy and Fellow Committee Members,

I write to you as a member of the ACT Cross Country Club (ACTCCC) and as a concerned citizen. The ACTCCC conducts distance racing both road and cross-country in the ACT and region and it has over 1300 members. A lot of our road races are conducted on the bike paths/recreational trails around the lake. We hold three major events where we try very hard to attract interstate runners to come and stay and compete in Canberra.

I have over the past two years represented the ACTCCC at Lake User Group meetings conduct by the National Capital Authority. The LUG was formed with limited thinking. The main stakeholders being those who own or use boats, canoes, yachts and other vessels on the lake. The NCA fails to understand that what happens on the water can and does affect those using the foreshores and vice versa.

Overall I think that the NCA have done a good job but over the last 5 to 10 years they have lost the plot. I will give you a few examples.

The southern foreshore of the lake between Commonwealth Avenue Bridge and Kings Avenue Bridge has been completely concreted out. The only bit of green left in this area being the Patrick White Lawns, which are now a temporary/permanent car park.

The Central Basin is Canberra's 'Hyde Park or Central Park' yet it is not possible to walk, run or cycle around this area after dark due to the lack of good lighting and maintained paths. The lake has been in place for over 40 years and to get onto or off of Kings Avenue Bridge when undertaking a lap of the Central Basin; one must cross the very busy Bowen Drive. Why a footbridge has never been put in this area is beyond belief.

The ACTCCC conducts cross-country races in Kings Park on the northern foreshores of the Central Basin. On the Central Basin we have between Anzac Park East and the Russell Roundabout just two-stormwater outlets to the lake. In the open stormwater that crosses Kings Park, I have seen the stormwater rise by over a metre in just minutes on at least three occasions. Now that the NCA has allowed the Department of Defence to just build out along Parkes Way I can see a much bigger problem in this area. Luckily we have not had much rain lately or any heavy storms in this area. Further this untreated water will go straight into the lake causing more and almost instant pollution.

Eighteen months plus ago the Civic area and nearby was hit by a heavy hailstorm. It caused a lot of damage, which include severe damage to the School of Music at the ANU. At the same time it washed tons and tons of silt into the Nerang Pool Lily Pond. In the warmer weather of Spring/Summer last year this pool was a stinking mess. It has still not been cleaned out and when the water levels drop a little later this year I expect the same stinking problems.

West Basin – The NCA and the ACT Government have big plans to fill in half of West Basin and build a promenade of cafes and restaurants. I just ask that the committee take the time to view West Basin from Bachelors Lane. This is the little road between Lawson Drive and Liversidge Street on Acton Peninsula. You will see that the ACT Government has commenced to ruin the side of West Basin below Commonwealth Avenue with car parks. While you are in this area, especially if it is during the working day you may like to continue down Lawson Drive and take the Service Road at the rear of the National Museum. You will that this Service Road also duplicates as the bike path/recreation trail and provides a nice little avenue for Museum staff to obtain lakeside parking and ruin the foreshores. A promenade development was undertaken on Lake Ginninderra at Belconnen and was completed two years ago. There is still not one business open on the lakeside of this development. You may also remember the Watermark Restaurant in Reconciliation Place, which has never really got off the ground.

At the last Lake Users Group meeting on 4 June 08 we were advised that the NCA was losing \$M7 from their budget. This is a tidy sum to be losing. However, we then hear that the NCA will be building new wharfs on the lake including one at the Hospice. Yes a half million-dollar wharf at Clare Holland House Hospice? Lake Burley Griffin is not Sydney Harbour or Hong Kong and we only have a handful of tourist boats on the lake. The size of the lake is such that we probably have sufficient wharfies already.

I believe a further waste of money occur last year in East Basin. A speedboat/ski trial was allowed in this area. I think the previous Minister was a speedboat fan. Anyway I believe that the wake caused by the boat and the resultant waves hitting the lake walls on the northern side and rebounding caused problems to the boat and skier. Not long after the trial started, large blue metal rocks were dumped along this wall to stop or help stop the rebounding wake/waves.

Canberra is a beautiful city and the lake and its foreshores are the current jewels in the crown. I believe it is time we established a greenbelt around the lake. The more buildings we build on the lake foreshores the more chances we have of polluting the lake or the lake getting polluted. The lake is central to a lot of major sporting events in spring, summer and autumn and attracts many visitors to our city. If the lake is continually polluted as it may well be, we will not be able to stage a lot of our major events. The lake foreshores should be long to the citizens of Australia. We cannot and should not impart any of these interstate-planning ideas of Southside, South bank or the Torrens on the lake, as they will not work.

With regard to the NCA, I would like to offer the following personal comments. Their promotion of events and Canberra has been first class. On the planning and

maintenance side they have gone awry and seem to have done what they thought needed to be done to please a few businesses rather than the majority and the Australian community at large.

The other fallacy that should be debunked is that the lake and by this I mean on and off the water is not well used. Canberra does not have the populations of Sydney or Melbourne but the lake and its surrounds are heavily used by the 355,000 inhabitants of this city. It is our major recreational area, but won't remain attractive to be this great recreational area if it is built out and easily and quickly polluted with just one heavy down pour. .

Yours sincerely,



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