



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA



ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS
ESD No 12

Asked by Brendan Smyth, MLA on 24 June 2014: Minister Corbell, MLA, for the Environment took on notice the following questions:

Ref: Hansard Transcript, Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015. 24 June 2014, pages 84 and 86

How many days has blue-green algae been present in the ACT lakes for the years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014?

How many days has the lakes been closed?

Minster Corbell, MLA, for the Environment and Sustainable Development: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

How many days has blue-green algae been present in the ACT lakes for the years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014?

Blue green algae are constantly present in the ACT's lakes, it is the concentration and species composition that change seasonally and in response to prevailing climate conditions.

How many days has the lakes been closed?

Lake Ginninderra was not closed during the 2012- 2013 or 2013- 2014 years.

During the 2012-2013 year Lake Tuggeranong was closed to primary contact recreation between 30 November 2012 and 2 April 2013 (124 days) and for secondary contact recreation between 13 December 2012 and 3 January 2013 (21 days).

During the 2013-2014 year Lake Tuggeranong was closed to primary contact recreation between 19 March 2014 and 25 June 2014 (98 days).

Data for closures in Lake Burley Griffin are held by the National Capital Authority who manages the lake. (<http://www.nationalcapital.gov.au/WaterQuality/index.php/en/>).

The ACT Guidelines for Recreational Water Quality provide a framework for the management of recreational lakes within the ACT. It defines primary and secondary contact recreation and addresses risks from blue-green algae as well as microbial pathogens.

(<http://health.act.gov.au/health-services/population-health/health-protection-service/recreational-water-quality/act-guidelines-for-recreational-water-quality>)

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a vertical line and a horizontal line, with a small 'A' shape above the horizontal line.

Date: 8.7.14

By the Minister for the Environment