



Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Transport and City Services
Minister for Skills
Special Minister of State

Member for Murrumbidgee

Mr Peter Cain MLA
Member for Ginninderra
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Cain

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Personal information about the maintenance of Lake Ginninderra.

I share your concerns about littering and the negative impact that it has on our city's amenity. It is unfortunate that the irresponsible actions of a few can have substantial impact on our city's appearance. It is the ACT Government's policy that people using public open space areas are responsible for taking their rubbish with them and disposing of it in an appropriate manner.

City Services has a regular litter-picking program in place. Litter picking along the main arterial roads is carried out at least monthly, town and district parks are cleaned weekly, shopping centres, including car parks, are inspected daily and any litter found is removed. City Services also has a program to remove litter and debris from lakes, ponds and waterways within urban open space areas. The current program enables all lakes and ponds to be cleaned four times a year, with larger lakes including Lake Ginninderra cleaned more frequently

It may also interest your constituent to know that the ACT Government also currently services 1225 public bins across Canberra up to seven times a week for Canberrans to dispose of their waste and recycling in public places appropriately. This includes an additional 150 waste and recycling bins installed in autumn 2020.

Nevertheless, if your constituent does witness any people engaged in littering or illegal dumping activity, they can report the matter through Access Canberra on 13 22 81 or via Fix My Street on the ACT Government website at www.act.gov.au/fixmystreet so that prompt action can be undertaken.

Regarding blue green algae in the lake particularly during summers, I am advised that in times of extended hot dry weather with no water entering the system, the algae can rapidly increase in

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numbers resulting in an algal bloom, which depending on the type of algae, can result in unsightly slimes forming at the edges of the pond. This is a natural occurrence in any pond experiencing these same conditions.

It is not feasible or necessary to remove accumulated algae or other naturally occurring material as this is removed by natural processes, however, should an algal bloom be large enough and of the type to cause concern for human contact, the lake will be closed and the public notified in accordance with the ACT Health Guidelines for recreational water quality.

Thank you for raising this matter. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Transport and City Services
12 July 2021