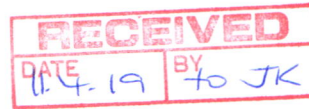




ACT
Government

Transport Canberra and
City Services



Ministerial Cover Sheet

SUBJECT: Wall, Andrew MLA – Lake Tuggeranong Cleaning
OBJECTIVE FILE NUMBER: F2019/1219
MINISTER: Steel, Chris MLA
CRITICAL DATE: 11/4/2019
CRITICAL REASON:
CONTACT OFFICER: Alex Soper

COMMENTS:

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Chris Steel MLA

Minister for City Services
Minister for Community Services and Facilities
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Roads
Member for Murrumbidgee

Mr Andrew Wall MLA
Member for Brindabella
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

POSTED
25/4/19

Dear Mr Wall

Thank you for your letter of 21 March 2019 to Mr Mick Gentlemen MLA regarding the condition of the water in Lake Tuggeranong. I am responding to you as this matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities.

The smell associated with the algal bloom is predominantly caused by a naturally-occurring compound called geosmin. There are numerous aquatic and soil organisms that can produce geosmin odours and it is present in many foods and beverages, for example, beetroot and red wine. Humans are very receptive to the smell of geosmin and can detect it at very low concentrations.

The causes of the algal blooms and their effective treatment options require consideration of complex water chemistry, biological processes and various environmental conditions. The University of Canberra is performing experiments in the lake to gather data about management techniques that can improve the health of water bodies.

Your constituent might also be interested to know about the ACT Healthy Waterways Project. This is a joint initiative of the Australian and ACT Governments to protect and improve long-term water quality in the ACT and further downstream in the Murrumbidgee River system.

This project involves the construction of a range of infrastructure, ponds, wetlands, rain gardens and swales, as well as creek restoration and channel reconnection, designed to 'turn off' or reduce the amount of nutrients, sediment and pollutants entering our waterways. The focus is on improving water quality higher up in the catchment where rainwater becomes stormwater. Components of this project are nearing completion and should have a positive effect on water quality in Lake Tuggeranong.

ACT Legislative Assembly

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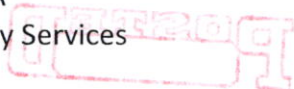
Further information about the ACT Healthy Waterways project, including timelines of various components, can be found at: www.environment.act.gov.au. Information for local residents about the water quality in our lakes, ponds and rivers can be found at: www.tccs.act.gov.au.

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

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for City Services



23 APR 2019