



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

EPSDD Ref No.: 21/94394

Response to DLO Request

*** All information provided should be factual.**

EGM clearance email to be saved in the Objective file and forwarded to the EPSDD DLO inbox and copy in the relevant EO.

Subject: Issues in Yerrabi Pond

Andrew Braddock MLA asked:

I just want to raise a couple of issues from the Friends of Yerrabi Pond which I need some advice on how to address.

1. There has been an offer of a floating wetland (see attached) – their concern is whether there is a sufficient baseline of water readings in order to be able to measure the effectiveness of the floating wetland.
2. There is an issue of ribbon weed overgrowth, leading to stagnant water, rotting vegetation, and offensive smells. But TCCS as the managers of the pond won't deal with the issue for fear of environmental impacts. Is this something that perhaps more knowledge people from EPSDD might be able to help with?
3. Is there any advance to the Government consideration of the Petterson motion on Yerrabi Pond which includes water testing for secondary contact?

Response:

1. There are two sources of evidence used in justifying, siting and designing floating wetlands (and other water sensitive urban design assets). The first is monitoring data and the second is water quality models. The monitoring data can be used to calibrate the water quality models, which in turn are used to predict the effects of proposed assets (referred to as treatment trains) on water quality. The best monitoring data are local, regularly sampled measurements of water quality, but such high-quality datasets are rare. There are some local data on water quality for Yerrabi Pond from Waterwatch, and other data from across the ACT that can be used to calibrate the water quality models for the effectiveness of the Yerrabi Pond floating wetland. Note also that there is a significant monitoring project underway for the effectiveness of the Lake Tuggeranong (Village Creek) floating wetland, the results of which will be useful for testing model assumptions about the effectiveness of floating wetlands. In addition to all this we also take into account performance of recommended actions from both national and international experiences.



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2. The Healthy Waterways team and TCCS have recently been liaising about how to deal with issues raised by the community about Yerrabi Pond, including ribbon weed overgrowth. We have a collective view that the ribbon weed, as a very effective competitor to algae, is mainly beneficial. Over the coming months, the Healthy Waterways team is keen to explore with TCCS if there are ways to deal with the uprooted, rotting vegetation that are practical and affordable for TCCS to implement.
3. The recreational status of ACT lakes and ponds is listed in the Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan. A revised version of this report is currently going through the cabinet process working towards tabling in the Legislative Assembly by 8 January 2021.