



Submission by the Canberra Ice Dragons Dragon Boat Club on the exposure draft of the *Australian Capital Territory National Land (Lakes) Ordinance 2022*

To whom it may concern

The Ice Dragons notes that the replacement of the existing *National Land Ordinance 1989*, which expires on 1 April 2022, with the *Australian Capital Territory National Land (Lakes) Ordinance 2022* (the 2022 Ordinance) includes new definitional treatments of dragon boating and dragon boat operating requirements that would be devastating to the sport of dragon boating in the ACT.

In summary, the Ice Dragons are concerned that:

- The definition of dragon boat operating requirements will destroy the sport of dragon boating in the ACT and is unnecessary
- Provisions in the Ordinance that relate to dragon boating have been drafted without consultation with the governing bodies for dragon boating nationally or in the ACT

Dragon boating in the ACT

Dragon boating was first introduced as a sport in the ACT around 1989, and in 1997 the national association for dragon boating, the Australian Dragon Boat Federation (AusDBF), was incorporated in the ACT. The ACT has hosted the 1992 Australasian Dragon Boat Championships, the 1994 Australian and International Dragon Boat Festival, and the Australian Dragon Boat Championships in 1998, 2005, 2011 and 2019 – all of which have brought great economic benefit to the region.

There are currently 11 clubs in the ACT that participate in dragon boating who generally comprise 500-700 members. Local dragon boat regattas in the ACT take place on Lake Burley Griffin near Grevillea Park, and have also taken place at Weston Park and in Central Basin.

In 2021 the [ACT Government committed \\$400](#) towards the design of a permanent facility to house dragon boating at Grevillea Park as part of larger \$1.7 million commitment. Construction of this facility is expected to commence in the 2022-23 financial year.

A standard dragon boat course is comprised of 6 lanes that are 500 metres in length. The course needs to be positioned a sufficient distance from shore to take advantage of water of equal depth to ensure there are similar conditions in race lanes.

Concerns with the draft 2022 Ordinance

Section 6 of the exposure draft for the 2022 Ordinance includes the following definition of 'dragon boat operating requirements':

6 Meaning of *dragon boat operating requirements*

A dragon boat meets the ***dragon boat operating requirements*** if:

- (a) the boat is operating:



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- (i) within 200 metres of the shore; and
 - (ii) in weather and water conditions that are not, and are not predicted to become, unsuitable for boating; and
 - (b) each person on board while the boat is operating has undergone a safety drill in relation to the possible emergencies that may arise on the boat; and
 - (c) if the boat is operating in a channel—the boat is operating on the starboard side (bowside) of the channel and not in the middle of the channel; and
 - (d) if the boat is operating at night or when visibility is restricted because of a weather event—the boat is operating with lights on board or showing in compliance with section 75.

It is not physically possible for dragon boat events to take place within 200 metres of the shore. The inclusion of this subparagraph in the meaning of dragon boat operating requirements would therefore be devastating to the sport of dragon boating in the ACT and not allow for the sport to continue.

It is imperative that the requirement that dragon boats operate within 200 metres of the shore be removed from the 2022 Ordinance. If this requirement is not removed it will destroy the sport of dragon boating in the ACT.

Lack of consultation

Dragon boating nationally is managed by AusDBF and within the ACT by Dragon Boats ACT (DBACT), with similar governing organisations existing in each State and Territory of Australia. These associations have operated for several decades and are the representative bodies for dragon boating in Australia.

The drafting of the 2022 Ordinance has been done without consultation with the governing bodies for dragon boating in Australia or the ACT. Because of this lack of consultation, provisions in the 2022 Ordinance have been included to cover dragon boating which do not allow for the operation of the sport, and which are lacking in intention.

Consultation needs to occur with Dragon Boats ACT (DBACT) to ensure that the 2022 Ordinance properly describes the operating requirements for dragon boating to take place on Lake Burley Griffin.

The [Canberra Ice Dragons Dragon Boat Club](#) is appreciative for the opportunity to comment on the exposure draft of the 2022 Ordinance, and welcomes the opportunity to expand on any of the points raised in this submission.

Yours sincerely

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Canberra Ice Dragons Dragon Boat Club

