

The proposed changes would greatly affect Dragon Boat racing regattas and limit training sessions. It would simply ruin the enjoyment of the sport - a sport which recently got funding approval from the ACT Government to build upon for future developments. There should be no distance restrictions imposed. It would potentially mean boats would be in shallower water, causing more congestion and increasing the risk to cause injury. All Dragon boats crews are trained to observe the water directions of the lake whereas GO Boats and the big ferry don't usually follow any rules, they are more of a safety hazard to non-motorised craft. Dragon boating is a recognised national and international water sport and, as such, should not be restricted where boats can paddle. It is a recognised sport in Canberra with hundreds of members and has been using the lake for over 20 years. It is widely respected by the community and has help support many ACT initiatives and events. Any restrictions proposed may actually increase the risk to injury. At all times Dragon Boat clubs and its members observe safety requirements so there should be no impediment to the use of the lake.

Mark Webster

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