

To whom it may concern,

The proposed changes to the lake ordinance would greatly affect Dragon Boat racing in general across the ACT. We rely on the lake to perform regatta and 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 vessels 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. It would also mean an increase in how this will be patrolled, how will vessels know they are inside the limit?

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 helped support many ACT initiatives and events.

Any restrictions proposed may actually increase the risk of 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.

If you require any further details, I am happy to be contacted.

Mark Webster

NAVMAT Dragons - President