

BUNGANA AND BREARLEY LAKES

THE FACTS

Bungana and Brearley lakes have been steadily deteriorating for at least the last three years. Some interesting observations are:

- While most nearby residents have noticed the decline, it was either unnoticed or ignored by the Council, until it received numerous written and verbal complaints from residents.
- Council officers conveyed to Council at the April 2015 meeting, that residents' major concerns related to the 'fountains' being turned off and the removal of the lighting surrounding the lakes. There was no mention of the:
 - Once clear water which is now murky
 - Several tanker loads of green sludge they removed from Lake Brearley
 - Overpowering stench emanating from the lake
 - The marked increase in the prevalence of mosquitos
 - Dead fish and turtles
 - Denigration of the reeds
 - Disappearance of birdlife
 - The health risk posed to nearby residents (regardless of whether the 'fountains' are on or off)
 - The high property prices and rates in the Peninsular Estate, predicated on unrestricted views and access to the once beautiful lakes.
 - The deleterious effect of the lakes' demise, on the future value of our real estate
- The resolution of Council at the April 2015 Meeting regarding the lakes, was not conveyed to residents until five months later (September 2015).
- Council has allocated \$37,500 for bollard lighting (stage- one) along the walkways around the lakes. A mere \$20,000 has been earmarked for remediation and this is only to continue monitoring the water quality.
- The Council now advises us that 80% of man-made lakes experience some sort of problem. Why then has it waited until the lakes are so beleaguered, to begin monitoring the water quality and implementing remedial measures?
- The Council's Director of Technical Services advises in his most recent letter (17 Feb 2016) that an environmental consultant will be engaged at the commencement of the 2015/16 financial year to review data and provide management solutions. Yet no there has been no Council resolution or budget allocation to fund this initiative. In fact that option was rejected at Council's April 2015 meeting.

ACTION

The lakes are our most precious amenity we have in Maylands and as the centrepiece of our local environment, their restoration is imperative. As a community we must voice our concern and seek action, so we urge you to **attend a public meeting at the Bayswater City Council to:**

- Openly discuss our concerns directly with Council
- Ascertain the Council's specific plans for a comprehensive remediation and ongoing maintenance program

- Ensure these plans are fully funded in the 2016/17 budget
- Explore opportunities for community involvement