

To whom it may concern

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Exposure Draft - Australian Capital Territory National Land (Lake) Ordinance.

The Canberra Griffins is a dragon boat club established in 1996. It is one of the longest running clubs in the ACT and enjoys the opportunity to paddle on Lake Burley Griffin.

Section 6 of the draft ordinance "Meaning of dragon boat operating requirements" is limiting and restrictive and is wholly unnecessary.

Our comments are framed by our regular use of the lake and the qualifications of members of ACT, and interstate, clubs:

- We regularly paddle beyond 200m of the shore. Our current six lane regatta course extends beyond 200m of the shore and our training sessions and long distance races, usually 8 to 10 km, often requires us to paddle the starboard/right side of the lake and to cross the lake or paddle beyond 200m from shore on our return to continue on the starboard side and safely pass other vessels.
- The sweep (master of the boat) is required to assess the weather conditions and will only head out if safe.
- Each session, members are reminded by the sweep of the procedure should a capsize or submerging of the boat occur.
- Sweeps are instructed and trained to pass other boats on the right including those coming towards them. By extension this means we stay to the right when navigating channels.
- We are required to show lights on the boat (section 75 of this ordinance) when visibility is low or between sunset and dawn.

The Canberra Griffins ask that Section 6 be removed from the ordinance as it describes dragon boats differently to other human powered boats and is inherently and unfairly restrictive.

Regards

Narelle Shields

President

Canberra Griffins Dragon Boat Club Inc