



Good day to you. A story today of the absolute hypocrisy of the Gold Coast City Council and its distorted decision making and a further example of its lack of understanding of the environment. Hidden within the Bundal equine precinct right here on the Gold Coast is a little known but priceless treasure. A secluded parcel of land of just 2.7 hectares, home to thousands of local and migratory birds. This shallow fresh water haven sits alongside a large brackish canal confronting suburbia. It is an unassuming buffer zone with its own riparian brace of paper barks offering sanctuary to many birds and other marine life. It is a noise barrier against the austere and aesthetically indifferent racing facilities now beyond their used by date in terms of location.

Now here's the rub, the Turf Club want to fill the lake in, drive off the birds and turn paradise into a parking lot. That's right, they want to pave it and the Council apparently think its fine for a gaggle of motor vehicles to sit and nest there in summer's heat. Is this what progress is and if so the Council have been sadly misled or influenced by the big end of town and the turf club. I say, let's get the local school kids involved and listen to what they think as I am sure it will make more sense, especially as they are tomorrows citizens who will be handed the legacy of this short sighted Council.

I met with two local members of the Gold Coast Wild Life Preservation Society to see the lake for myself and it's amazing population of birds. Both Lyn Ogden and Sally Spain and a flock of supporters and experts are battling to save this little lake from the careless hands of a Council, oblivious to the needs of our feathered friends and it appears, devoid of common sense. I saw beautiful black swans and their young, magpie geese, moor hens and spoon bills plus wee little birds such as the Superb Blue Wren and even a handsome Spangled Drongo, which, if this sad plan goes ahead will be long remembered as the mast head for the Councils flag. Crossed swords and a Drongo against a Cruise liner blue background. Now if you think I'm not showing any respect for Council you're right as this Councils history is appalling led by a Mayor, who in my view, seems to have little understanding of the natural world.

Both Cr Lex Bell and Cr Dawn Critchlow have publically claimed the lake is toxic. This is demonstrably untrue and independent expert water quality tests commissioned by the Wild Life Society clearly demonstrate this. Remember, the Wild Life Society have an unblemished record of honesty and integrity run by volunteers and backed by experts. Therefore if toxicity is the reason they are going to pave over the home of the Black Swans then it won't wash. In any case this lake, known as Black Swan Lake, has other significant advantages as well. The Council quite properly has a platform on the environment and I quote *"We have an extensive range of unique and precious natural landscapes and wildlife habitats, from our hinterland ranges to our coasts and wetlands. These local ecosystems face pressures from social and economic development, and from climate change. In response, City of Gold Coast is working to protect our landscapes and wildlife, recognising the critical importance of healthy natural environments in shaping a strong and sustainable future"*. (end quote). Now Council go further and spend a great deal of time on their web site convincing us they are credible and careful administrators of the natural world. Indeed, they are the appointed guardians as such for we the people. However as can be the case with big money, egos and power it appears they have forgotten their own charter and are on the cusp of approving a car park to occupy what is now a small but important lake in the heart of the Gold Coast.

This Council is directly responsible for consistently wasting rate payers money and for wrongly claiming a mandate to be instrumental in giving away and to ruin part of the Broadwater by foreign business. Now to add salt to the wound they want to fill in Black Swan lake and turn it into a car park. When will the madness stop and when will they be the true champions of rate payers, wild life and the environment. Don't hold your breath listeners but instead pick up the phone and call your local Councillor or email them right now before it's too late for Black Swan lake. If you go to the Sentinel web site I have included material and evidence supporting the claims made by the Gold Coast Wild Life Society. Now do it for the children but act quickly.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley**

## **Evidence and More information regarding Black Swan Lake**

YouTube Presentation well worth watching.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=xKukq0SeXAg>



**Swan family in the evening**



**A Black Cormorant dries its wings – they have little oil on their feathers so they can swim underwater & fish**

**Dear friends and supporters of Black Swan Lake,**

**First, a really big “thank you” for your kind presence in the Gold Coast City Council gallery. It was important because all uninformed councillors were made aware of the lake issue.**

Councillors were also shown how extremely unhappy Gold Coast residents are with the proposal by the Turf Club to fill the lake and make a 535-vehicle carpark. Astonishingly, all with GCC Council support. Park and Ride is still a viable option.

We are really into decision time for the lake. The campaign is gathering momentum and the Residents and Friends of Black Swan Lake, including Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld (Gold Coast), are doing **a presentation to the Council’s Governance, Admin & Finance (GAF) Committee on Thursday, April 30 at 9am. We will gather at 8.30am in the foyer.**

**Whatever decision this committee makes can seal the fate of the lake.** If Cr Lex Bell feels that there is enough community support for the lake rather than the carpark, the lake might just be saved.

**If you would like to observe the presentation, which will be held in the main council chamber at the Bundall offices. Please be seated in the gallery by 8.45am. We would warmly welcome your attendance. *Please, phone a number below or return email to advise of your attendance.***

**Clearly, a large number of residents objecting to losing their lake makes councillors worry about their vote base for the March 2016 election.) We need to bombard Cr Bell with emails and letters between now and next Thursday. We also need to do the same with the Mayor and other councillors.**

**The attached flyer gives all the necessary contact details of councillors to make the task easier. Please distribute to your friends and family by email, asking them to phone/email too.**

There was no spotter/catchers on site when we stopped the trucks last time. It is brutal to fill the lake by dumping dirt & material on nesting swans. This is completely unconscionable and extremely cruel. Too much of the Gold Coast is disappearing this way. When is enough enough? We can stand by and let it happen or let decision-makers know that we believe their decisions are not in the community interest.

There was certainly no public consultation on the filling of the lake and local residents have been most upset that a precious, city-owned asset like this thriving wetland that residents love could be treated this way...

The planned 535-vehicle carpark will clearly cause adverse impacts on amenity for those residents living adjacent and across the Bundall Flood Canal from the lake.

**Please don't forget to email and phone councillors and ask Cr Bell to protect the lake for all time. This is critical to the success of the campaign. Only a week to go, please see this campaign through to the end and help save Black Swan Lake.**

**The birds have no voice. Let us be their voice. The residents too need our support.**

**Again, a heartfelt thank you for your help to date. Your presence, your flyer distributing, having Save Black Swan Lake signs on your property has all been invaluable.**

**You are all champions, one and all.**

**Kindest regards,**

**Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld (Gold Coast Branch)  
Residents & Friends of Black Swan Lake**



**Parent Swan sits on eggs**



**PDF Document of the Gold Coast Wildlife Preservation Society**

**Water quality**



GCB\_Black Swan Lake  
vegetation report draf



Final Black Swan Lake  
Water Sampling Repoi



## **Black Swan Lake Alliance's Critique of Council's EIS.**

### **CRITIQUE OF Environmental Planning Assessment Prepared for GCCC by Planit Consulting Pty Ltd in July 2014.**

And Opinion from the Black Swan Lake Alliance (BSLA)  
Including Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (Gold Coast).  
ref Report Black Swan Lake Water Quality, 2014.

**For Site known as "Black Swan Lake" or "Bundall Lake"  
Comprised of RPD Lot 1 RP221016, Lot 3 SP128988 & Lot 1 SP128988,  
Goldmarket Court, Bundall, Qld.**

---

The Introduction states:

*"The proposed development would see the construction of a car park on the site. In doing this the proposal would necessitate the filling the majority of the site. The site is currently an artificial water body, which receives drainage from the adjoining equestrian precinct and provides a level of flood storage. The water body is fringed by vegetation and provides habitat for a range of fauna. The environmental planning assessment will briefly examine the planning context of the proposed development and intended planning intent of the site and location. The assessment will also provide a basic ecological assessment of the site, considering flora, fauna and relevant legislative requirements. This shall be based upon site inspections and relevant legislative data sources. The assessment shall also comment on the existing water quality of the water body and its properties against the receiving environment and environmental values."*

**This statement confirms that the lake receives drainage from the adjoining equestrian precinct and provides a level of flood storage. There is no debate in the report concerning flood storage in the future. The report has not adequately addressed future flood mitigation measures in the event this lake storage is lost.**

**The lake, whether man-made or not some 40 years ago, has morphed to act as a holding and retention pond and, without it, the surrounding waterways will definitely be impacted. This has not been addressed.**

**(Council officers have confirmed that this is the case. They believe that algal blooms in the flood canal will be common place as the concentration of nutrients will increase considerably without the Black Swan Lake.)**

**This statement also confirms the fringe vegetation provides habitat for a range of flora. It has omitted to include nesting avifauna.**

**It has also acknowledged it is only a basic ecological assessment of the site. However, this report which we understand is a reporting document to officers and full council should have included up to the minute information, so proper consideration could be given to the issue.**

*The assessment states that "Our Living City" planning scheme is a performance-based approach of State interests and sustainable development.*

**It is arguable that destroying such a habitat is not sustainable practice when alternatives have been suggested and are known to work well in other cities such as Brisbane. The report states that "the Gold Coast Turf Club is the major recreational facility in the Local Area Plan".**

**This disregards the Black Swan Lake as a significant passive recreational and leisure area for residents that could be improved further to become iconic infrastructure.**

**It is considered that as such the GC Turf Club should be financially viable and not require taxpayer funding. The Gold Coast Show, however, as a not for profit organisation, should be funded with**

whole of city funding and support to enable park and ride to be developed.

**This would obviate the need for the lake habitat that supports over 40 species of bird including the Eastern Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, Black swan and Magpie goose to be obliterated. This option has not been adequately explored.**

*Precinct 2 The Equestrian Services precinct is intended to accommodate the wide array of services and facilities associated with the equine nature of the LAP. The precinct is to acknowledge the close relationship with Precinct 1. Furthermore, safe vehicle and pedestrian linkages are to be reflective of the general use of the area being a correlation of the adjoining uses and including activities such as exercising horses. The Table of development for Precinct 1 identifies that a Car Park is a Code Assessable. Relevant Codes Constraint Code - Natural Wetland and Waterway Areas This code seeks to ensure the long term protection, enhancement and management of natural water ways and wetlands for their ecological, fishery, shore line and bank stabilisation, hydrogeological, open space, recreational, environmental, scientific and cultural value.*

**The close relationship also includes residents who live and work in the area. Residents have been using the lake area to walk with their families, exercise and generally enjoy the lake and the creatures and birds living on, nesting, resting, feeding and roosting there. After thirty to forty years of the birds using the area, it is considered by locals to be a natural wetland. And rightly so.**

**The birdlife may be able to use the canals for foraging but the common theme was the birds using the lake as a resting place, possibly due to the surrounding habitat given the canals form different habitat characteristics.**

**Resident's recreation and enjoyment of open space and water views is also part of the Intent for these Precincts.**

*This code supports and implements, at the local level, state and national policies (in particular, the Moreton Bay Marine Park Strategic and Zoning Plans and the Draft State Coastal Management Plan), legislation and strategies (eg. the Wetlands Policy of the Commonwealth Government of Australia and Declared Fish Habitat Areas of Queensland) and international agreements including:*

*☐ Convention of Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR, 1971);  
☐ Agreement for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in Danger of Extinction and their Environment, between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan, 1974, (JAMBA); ☐ Agreement for the Protection of Migratory Birds and their Environment between the governments of Australia and the People's Republic of China, 1976, (CAMBA).*

*The Code is assisted by mapping which identifies the cities natural wetlands and waterways. As illustrated below in Figure 3 the site is not included on Overlay Map 11 Sheet 4 - Natural Wetland.*

**It is known that many of the bird species that are part of the Migratory Bird Agreement use this site and have done so for a very long time. Accordingly, the omission from the planning scheme overlay mapping is just that an omission. Planners do not know the area and would not include without prompting.**

**Relevant codes also include and have not been addressed: 3 Canals and Waterways, 36 Vegetation Management, 11 Changes to ground level, Creation of water bodies, 14 Sediment and erosion control, Flood affected areas. All planning Codes should be addressed.**

**Light for safety, noise and general disturbance generated by a large car park just across the canal from up market residences is going to create complaints in the future. This aspect has not been addressed in the environmental/planning report. It is a known fact that noise carries across water.**

**Survey techniques. Limited response to search of database for species listed under EPBC Act 1999.**

**Reference to canopy trees. No raw data provided.**

Bioregional Vegetation mapping: **No reference to vegetation communities listed under EPBC Act.**  
Desktop analysis includes EPBC: **Very limited.**

*Water Quality Monitoring And Assessment* Water quality monitoring was conducted for the site and the adjacent canal by GCCC Health Regulatory and Lifeguard Services over four sampling days (17/10/2012, 24/10/2012, 31/10/2012 and 4/12/2013). The full results list is provided within Attachment 2. No pathogens assessment has been conducted for the site.

*The report confirms that poor water quality (of 2013) was due to lack of pollution control by adjacent land users (with stables and transport vehicles).*

**No pathogen assessment was conducted despite continually remarks from representative quarters that the lake was “toxic”. From the Black Swan Alliance government accredited laboratory water quality report of September 2014(presented to council in November 2014), and information from historic water quality monitoring conducted by GCCC from October 17 – December 4, 2013,we can deduce from this monitoring that in fact the Black Swan Lake’s (aka Bundall Lake) water quality has improved. This is despite a long and severe drought taking place.**

**With ongoing council monitoring any existing water problem could be further resolved. It is to be noted that the water quality tests conducted in September 2014 by the Alliance of conservation and resident’s groups) showed that water quality at the lake was within Australian Guidelines.**

**A huge question as to why these water quality treatment measures are not already in place and will only be placed with the car park construction. It is recognised that the water quality is already improving over the subsequent reports and shows that the lake is playing a vital role. If the council cannot implement the anti-pollution measures now there is not much confidence they can in the future and it would be better to enact them now and keep the lake as an additional buffer for the canal.**

There is no Table of Contents despite being a 41 page report + Appendix.  
No listing of references used in report.

## **Conclusion:**

The GCCC commissioned EIS report was dated July 2014. It had accompanying council water monitoring data of 2012 and December 2013, nothing recent. **It is our view that it is inadequate and has not addressed the community concerns. What it did show however, when compared to the WPSQ commissioned report was that the water quality had in fact improved.** The water quality was to Australian Standards even when testing was done in drought time when nutrients would have been concentrated. This data which is scientific and factual is being denied by the vested interests. **The Gold Coast Turf Club report on the lake was not accompanied by any water quality reports and yet made unsubstantiated claims that the lake was toxic.**

**The water quality testing & report commissioned by the Black Swan Alliance was undertaken by suitably qualified professionals and tested an accredited laboratory used by government agencies. With over 400 birds counted in just one hour by the Ornithological Society of Queensland assisted by Birdlife Australia, there is proof that the lake is functioning successfully as a wetlands.**

There is recorded evidence of breeding, roosting, nesting, feeding of birds, native animals. There is evidenced community concern and indignation at the proposal to turn this Gold Coast asset into a car park to be used for only three days annually for the Gold Coast Show patrons. There is also consternation and indignation that nowhere has any relevant report surfaced showing council thoroughly considered the impact of flooding on the nearby properties if this flood storage for the area is removed.

Broadcast April 27, 2015

Presently, the lake serves several purposes. It is a buffer between any pollutants escaping from the adjacent land uses and the Bundall Flood Canal and Nerang River; it assists with flood water storage and mitigation; it is a viable habitat for a myriad of bird species and it is a recreational area for local residents who enjoy walking and interacting with nature at the site. It is not difficult to see that the uses far outweigh the car parking requirement of the Gold Coast Show for a three-day period once a year.

We urge Council to commit to the necessary community consultation involving all stakeholders and recognise that the lake is playing a vital role in the area, eg environmentally, as a safe haven for the birds and also as important flood mitigation and pollutant trap; and, recreationally, for the residents to enjoy. The wellness benefit should not be overlooked.

The GC Show Society relocated to the Gold Coast Turf Club precinct after a professional assessment of the facilities available to the Show Society. There has been no information provided to the community at large or the Alliance as to car parking provisions that were being made available to the Gold Coast Show. Residents would find it difficult to accept that parking – a prime consideration of the GC Show's relocation to the Turf Club precinct - was not considered in the report and solved before the move.

The Black Swan Lake Alliance made a firm offer to the Show Society and Council( at the December 6, 2014 meeting with Cr Bell) to assist with finding a solution to car parking with "Park & Ride". To achieve this an accredited traffic engineer expertise and management committee member's services would be made available.

That offer still stands.

**Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland  
(Gold Coast Branch)  
Black Swan Lake Alliance**

January 29, 2015

Report Water Quality Investigation – Black Swan Lake, September 2015  
Prepared for Black Swan Lake Alliance  
by Bulimba Creek Catchment Committee  
held by Cr Lex Bell.

## **Media Release**

Homeless or home time is coming for the hundreds of quiet Aussie freshwater birds, who shelter at the Black Swan Lake, Bundall.

The public have only a limited time now to ensure, by phoning, emailing, "facebooking" or writing to the Mayor & Councillors, that this public asset, the 2.75 hectare Lake at Bundall, is protected in perpetuity.

That is the urgent message from Residents & Friends of Black Swan Lake & the local branch of Wildlife Queensland.

"We have had a mini documentary of this beautiful sanctuary, made by film Lyn Sutherland, who produces the Nature Series Travel Wild and we will be attending Council Governance Committee to show

Broadcast April 27, 2015



this & present a strong case for preservation of these pure waters and sheltered shores," said spokesperson for the Residents & Friends, John Shooter.

"After this Gold Coast City Council will vote on this controversial matter. Residents nearby would be devastated to have the noise and visual blight of a 600 or so car park replacing a tranquil haven where they enjoy a peaceful stroll."

"And City wide people are pretty disgusted that so much visually attractive habitat is vanishing and they want to have a say. This Lake, at least is public property, so we are pretty confident,, with public help now, that it will remain."

"Especially as the Eisteddfod has considerably moved its dates, so that Park and ride from the Arts Centre precinct is available for Show-goers, who last year were competing with Eisteddfod traffic."

The spokesperson added that new hatchling little magpie geese goslings and tiny black swamp hen chicks had made the recent Children's Day at the Lake of real interest to the youngsters attending.  
per John Shooter 55284463 Spokesperson Residents & Friends of Black Swan Lake Bundall-----Sally Spain 0417709993 Wildlife Q, GC&H

**Wednesday March 11 2015**

**Dear Councillor Bell,**

Further to the matter of a Presentation to Council by Wildlife Queensland and Residents and Friends of Black Swan Lake, the mini Documentary on the Lake, produced for Wildlife Queensland GC&H by Lyn Sutherland, (from Travel Wild series & other local and international productions) is now available. Please let us know when a suitable time can be arranged for a the presentation to full Council. With regard to the time factor the mini-documentary is approximately six minutes and a brief introduction would probably encapsulate approximately four minutes.

Thank you again for making time to attend the Children and Carers' day on Saturday 21st April. The Special Day for Seniors at the Lake, which we are in the process of planning, will probably be Saturday 2nd May 10am to 12noon but will let you know definitely after the next Committee meeting of Wildlife Queensland and of Residents and Friends of the Black Swan Lake , kind regards, Sally Spain (Pres Wildlife Q'ld Gold Coast & Hinterland

## **Notice to Residents**

### **Black Swans and 40 other species to lose habitat for a car park, just near you.**

**Yes, that's right, Gold Coast Council is soon to decide the fate of Black Swan Lake at Bundall, and its surrounding vegetation, with the intent of creating a car park for up to 1,000 vehicles!!**

**Remember that old song by Joni Mitchell where she laments that 'they paved paradise, and put up a parking lot'?**

Well, your suburb is about to be impacted by a huge car park which will bring noise, lights, and night time hoons. And all these precious animals will lose their dwindling habitat.



**Black Swan Lake** is a refuge to at least 40 species of bird including BLACK SWANS, MAGPIE GEESE and migratory birds that have been coming to the Gold Coast since time unknown. At the moment **Black Swan cygnets and Magpie Geese goslings**, as well as other babies, are swimming happily on the lake with their parents totally unaware that the huge piles of dirt presently stockpiled on the Turf Club site are ready to be dumped on them and the lake. This cruel action was recently halted by the Wildlife Preservation Society - trucks were about to dump dirt on nesting black swans!

**What do you want - the lake with its birdlife and passive recreational facility or another ugly car park? If you do not act now, Black Swan Lake will be turned into a car-park - the design of this car park has already been drawn up. But it can be stopped.**

**It is going to Council for a vote in the near future.** The filling in of the carpark will start as soon as Council signs off on this matter within a month, if we don't let councillors know we want the lake.

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland and the Friends and residents of Black Swan Lake, and Friends of Evandale Waters, have been trying desperately to preserve the lake. Contrary to what the Murdoch press have said, the water quality is to Australian standards. We have an independent Water Quality report to prove this.

**Please help us Save this lake for wildlife, and not another car park! Without your help now, the lake will be lost forever. WE Can Win With Your Help.**

**Don't stand by and do nothing. Don't be the one who thinks in the future:**

*"Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you've got  
Till it's gone"*

#### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

**A simple phone call** to Cr Lex Bell on 55816760 and/or other Councillors.

**An email of support** to Cr Bell at [division7@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:division7@goldcoast.qld.gov.au) and/or other Councillors.

**Join with us** at the GCC Council chambers this Thursday, April 2 at 10am to sit in the gallery during the meeting, in a show of support for the Black Swan Lake.

**Urgent -Please email/phone & have family and friends email/phone-- all Councillors and the Mayor assuring them that you wish the whole of the 2.75 hectare Lake to remain as a permanent sanctuary.**

[mayor@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:mayor@goldcoast.qld.gov.au) and all Councillors right up to [division14@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:division14@goldcoast.qld.gov.au)

**Cr Tate 55815283 Cr Gates 55816301 Cr Owen-Jones 55828555 Cr Caldwell 55811680 Cr Grumitt 55816434 Cr Gilmore 55828400 Cr Crichlow 55816280 Cr Bell 55816760 Cr La Castra 55828206 Cr Tozer 55828876 Cr Taylor 55816171 Cr Grew 55828255 Cr Betts 55816382 Cr McDonald 55816228 Cr Robbins 55815275. THANK YOU!**



**More information to follow after Thursday this week.**