Robina Lakes

The Robina Lakes were constructed between the years of 1989 and 1991 and comprise three lakes which include South Lake, West Lake, and East Lake. In total, they provide a total area of 68 hectares. West Lake comprises a nature reserve, while South Lake and East Lake are used for recreational purposes.

The lake system is located within the suburb of Robina which is a high density urban area.

History of Robina Lakes

Construction of Robina Lakes commenced in the early 1980s and was completed in January 1991. It was the largest draining works project on the Gold Coast in history. The lake was originally owned by the Robina Land Corporation until it was handed over to the Albert Shire Council (now City of Gold Coast) as a major public amenity.

The width of the lake varies from 200 metres to 900 metres, while the depth ranging from 1.5 metres to 20 metres. Approximately 2 million cubic metres of soil was excavated to create the lake and utilised as fill for residential areas and roads surrounding the lake.

The area is part of the Gold Coast Aquifer system and water supply for the lake is provided by an artesian spring located below the lake. The surface water is fed by stormwater run-off from local roads and streets which also provide additional water recharge for the lake. Water quality monitoring and management

City of Gold Coast conducts a number of water quality monitoring and management activities within Robina Lakes. For more information, visit the following pages:

Aquatic vegetation harvesting

Blue-green algae

Floating reed beds

Floating macrophytes

Misting devices

Water quality monitoring in Robina Lakes

Wooded wetland trials

Jump to key information

Frequently asked questions

What is City of Gold Coast doing to control the weed problem in Robina West and South Lakes?

Further information in relation to weed control in Robina lakes can be found on our Atlantic Water Management Plan page.

How can I help to improve Robina Lakes?

The stormwater entering Robina Lakes is largely untreated, therefore the growth of aquatic plants is highly dependent on the condition of the catchments and the way in which residents use chemicals (e.g. fertilizers) and dispose of waste (e.g. grease traps, dog faeces).

If you and the children secure the footpath, driveway, lawn and garden cleaner are not allowed to wash into the lake. When washed into the lake, these substances break down and are ready supply of plant-available nutrients, stimulating further aquatic algal and algal growth.

I’m concerned about the behaviour of some boat users in the lakes. Who do I contact?

The use of motorised vessels in Robina West and South Lakes is prohibited and is restricted to commercially registered boats owned and operated by City of Gold Coast Council. Boating is allowed in East Lake with a maximum speed limit of 10km/h.

The City currently has no authority to control or restrict vessel activity within the Robina lakes system. If you are concerned about the actions of irresponsible boat users, you can contact the Gold Coast Police on 131 444 or Queensland Water Police on 131 444.

Further information in relation to boating on the Gold Coast can be found on the City of Gold Coast website.

Who manages weed removals within Robina Lakes?

Further information in relation to weed removal can be found at Weedwatch.

Can I swim in Robina Lakes?

Robina Lakes is a designated area for swimming. It is more suited for secondary recreational activities such as canoeing and fishing. You can find further information on swimming at Robina Lakes on the City of Gold Coast website.

Who do I contact if I find injured wildlife?

If you find injured wildlife and can safely transport it, Queensland Wildlife Services provides emergency veterinary care. Further information on injured wildlife can be found on the Queensland Wildlife Services website.

Alternatively, you can contact one of the Wildlife Rescue and Care organisations.
Water quality monitoring and management

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- Aquatic vegetation harvesting
- Blue-green algae
- Floating reed beds
- Management plans
- Mixing devices
- Water quality monitoring in Robina Lakes
- Weed herbicide trials

Jump to key information

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Frequently asked questions

**What is City of Gold Coast doing to control the weed problem in Robina West and South Lakes?**

Further information in relation to weed control in Robina Lakes can be found on our Aquatic vegetation harvesting page.

**What is City of Gold Coast doing to monitor water quality in Robina Lakes?**

Further information in relation to City of Gold Coast’s water quality monitoring program can be found on our Waterways monitoring page.

**How Can I help to improve Robina Lakes?**

The stormwater entering Robina Lakes is largely unfiltered, therefore the growth of aquatic plants is highly dependent on the condition of the catchment and the way in which residents use chemicals (e.g., fertilisers) and dispose of waste (e.g., grass clippings, dog faeces).

It is vital that all residents ensure that fertilisers, detergents, pet droppings, lawn and garden clippings are not allowed to wash into the lakes. When washed into the lakes, these substances break down into a ready supply of plant-available nutrients, stimulating further aquatic plant and algal growth.

For more information about stormwater and the impacts of stormwater pollution on our waterways, refer to the environmental links here.

**I’m concerned about the behaviour of some boats users in the lakes. Who do I contact?**

The use of motorised vessels in Robina West and South Lakes is prohibited and is restricted to commercially-registered boats owned and operated by City of Gold Coast (City). Boating is allowed in Clear Island Waters but a six knots speed limit applies.

The City currently has no authority to control boating within the Robina Lakes system. If you are concerned about the actions of irresponsible boating users, you can contact the Queensland Water Police on (07) 5599 5790 or Queensland Boating and Fisheries on (07) 5583 5500.

Further information in relation to boating on the Gold Coast can be found on the City’s Boating page.

To report any damaged speed advisory signs within Robina Lakes, please phone the Gold Coast Office of Maritime Safety Queensland on (07) 5539 7300.

**Why are the Robina Lakes freshwater?**

The former Queensland Department of Primary Industries (DPI) regulated the tidal regime of the Nerang River system. The DPI determined that the Robina Lakes should not be tidal due to the potential for erosion from tidal flow in the Nerang River system further downstream from the lakes. Additionally, the Robina Land Corporation requested the lakes be freshwater to maintain and encourage freshwater aquatic wildlife.

In 1997, a number of options were investigated to convert the lakes from their present freshwater condition to a saline configuration through the construction of a salt water pumping system, drawing saline water from adjacent tidal waters. Several studies were conducted to determine the preference of the local community for either retention of the lakes in a freshwater condition, or conversion to salt water. Approximately 60 per cent of respondents preferred the retention of a freshwater system. Subsequently, Council decided that the lakes should remain freshwater (WBM 2002).


**Who manages revetment walls within Robina Lakes?**

Further information in relation to revetment walls can be found at Revetment Walls.

**Can I swim in Robina Lakes?**

Robina Lakes is not a designated area for swimming. It is more suited for secondary recreational activities such as canoeing and fishing. You can find further information here about City of Gold Coast swimming areas.

**Who do I contact when I find injured wildlife?**

If you come across injured wildlife and can safely transport it, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary provides emergency veterinary care. Further information on injured wildlife can be found on the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital Foundation website.

Alternatively, you can contact one of the Wildlife Rescue and Care organisations.
Frequently asked questions

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Can I swim in Robina Lakes?

Robina Lakes is not a designated area for swimming. It is more suited for secondary recreational activities such as canoeing and fishing. You can find further information here about City of Gold Coast swimming enclosures.

Who do I contact when I find injured wildlife?

If you come across injured wildlife and can safely transport it, Currimundi Wildlife Sanctuary provides emergency veterinary care. Further information on injured wildlife can be found on the Currimundi Wildlife Hospital Foundation website.

Alternatively, you can contact one of the Wildlife Rescue and Care organisations.
Further information in relation to boating on the Gold Coast can be found on the City's Boating page.

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