

six. OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

The Territory Plan sets out the following broad objectives for the management of Canberra's urban lakes and ponds:

- a to protect and conserve the water quality and aquatic habitats of highly valued lakes, rivers and streams;
- b to make provision for a range of water uses and environment values which are compatible with the conservation values of the catchments;
- c to ensure that water and catchment land use are consistent with maintaining ecological sustainability and the conservation values of the catchments;
- d to ensure that the stream-flow and quality of discharges from the catchments are consistent with protection of environment values of downstream waters; and
- e to protect and conserve the water quality of ground-water resources of the ACT.

Within this policy framework, Table 6.1 sets out the specific management objectives for Canberra's urban lakes and ponds, together with suggested strategies for achieving them and related service delivery programs. These management objectives and strategies derive from the issues, values and objectives in Table 3.1.

Table 6.1: Management objectives and strategies

Management objectives	Strategies for meeting objectives
Provision of a range of quality recreation opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Water quality and ecology based determination of sustainable uses and levels of use ■ Provision of clear information on permissible, conditional and non-permissible uses, location, quantum, water quality and service standards. ■ Establish a system of zoning (location, time) to separate potentially conflicting uses (accommodate a range of uses) and assess ecologically sustainable uses. ■ Provision of access and other facilities enabling full enjoyment of scheduled uses. Augmentation or upgrade of facilities to accommodate recreation demands and use levels. ■ Stocking of lakes with fish to maintain the recreational fishery.
Provision and enhancement of landscape values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Assessment of existing qualities and enhancement opportunities. ■ Consideration as part of development and maintenance programs
Transparent, open and participatory processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use of Management Plan development as a vehicle for community partnership in the development of programs and agreed uses and conditions of use. ■ Provision of clear information on permissible, conditional and non-permissible uses.
Flexibility to respond to emerging needs and issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establishment of administrative procedures, supervision and monitoring programs to ensure compliance with agreed uses and conditions of use.

Table 6.1 continued

Management objectives (cont)	Strategies for meeting objectives (cont)
Safe and convenient access for all permissible users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Established processes for new use applications and review of allocation of resource across competing groups. ▪ Assessment of access in relation to a comprehensive range of community groups.
Ecologically sustainable use and management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecological based zoning and consideration of sustainable uses. ▪ Use of conservation plans for select areas and/or species.
Urban waterway restoration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capture opportunities for conservation of aquatic ecology associated with lakes and ponds.
Protection / restoration of water quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Catchment land use and development controls, pollution control. ▪ Infrastructure provision and maintenance. ▪ Maintenance of water quality zones through lakes and ponds.
Limit potential risks to acceptable levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Risk/hazard inspections and assessments. ▪ Adoption of designs minimising risk. ▪ Exclusion from hazard areas, provision of information regarding hazards, use of legal deterrents, education programs. ▪ Contingency plans for major hazards.
Partnership with the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seek joint projects with community recreation, lake, pond, wetland, land care, waterway groups and clubs. ▪ Encourage and support 'Adopt-a-Wetland' groups.
Ready availability of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain reference material on each facility. ▪ Development of school curriculum material, provision of guidelines and kits for participating community groups, eg Ginninderra Catchment Group Education Project.
Affordability of facilities and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of facilities and level of services guided by economic and social benefit/cost analysis. Analysis of service provision costs by use sector.
Effective coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integration of lake and pond development and management with the wider catchment land use and management. ▪ Coordination of community and agency programs. ▪ Agreed joint budget processes. ▪ Need for agreed budget directions in relation to interdependent areas of activity.
Effective management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Description of the nature, value, condition and maintenance requirements of the assets. ▪ Ongoing maintenance program to maintain assets in serviceable condition. ▪ Augment or upgrade of facilities to accommodate growth in demand or level of use.
Efficient service provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adoption of market based approaches where feasible. ▪ Identification of potential commercial based use sectors. ▪ Tender based service contracts wherever feasible. Monitor cost of service delivery against benchmarks.
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish performance monitoring programs and annual reporting against performance criteria.