



## **Q & A Molonglo River Water Ski Area (November 2013)**

### **Q1. Is the river open?**

A limited area is open for restricted use under license. Stringent safety and risk management procedures have been met prior to Environment Protection (EP) reopening the area for restricted use.

### **Q2. Who can use the river?**

A tightly controlled licence has been issued to ACT Water Ski Association for training and tournaments

The license is being strictly monitored by Territory and Municipal Services, EP and ACT Policing for compliance with license conditions.

The general public are not allowed to use this area for water skiing activities.

### **Q3. What conditions are there on the license?**

Conditions include adherence to risk management plans, safety procedures and public liability insurance.

For example, only one boat is permitted to operate at any one time. During competitions, three (3) boats are permitted on the water at one time, but only one (1) boat may be active and the other two (2) wait in holding bays.

### **Q4. Can I get a license?**

A license can be applied for by a group, but it needs to meet strict criteria concerning adherence to safety, risk management and public liability. The group would need to demonstrate that they require access for competition and / or training purposes.

### **Q5. What hours can the river be used?**

The license stipulates the area can be used between 8 am to 8 pm (every day).

### **Q6. Is the river safe?**

A section of the main basin has been surveyed and has been cleared of woody debris to meet depth requirements for water skiing activities. Additional safety checks for floating and submerged debris are undertaken following storms and prior to use of the area.



**Q7. Will the wildlife be affected by the waterskiing?**

The Molonglo River water ski area has been used for water skiing for over 40 years. This section of the river has held many events and tournaments in that time.

Previous trials have shown that controlled competitive water skiing has minimal impact on native fauna, including wetland birds. TAMS will monitor the local birdlife to ensure that the water skiing does not present any risk to established wildlife populations.

Should any slow-moving wildlife enter the designated skiing area, such as swans, training will cease until the wildlife have cleared the safety zone.

**Q8. Why have the willows been left on the Pialligo side?**

The trees have been left to minimise erosion of the banks.

**Q9. What will happen at the end of the licence?**

A review will be undertaken by EPand TAMS at the end of the license to determine whether it is appropriate to continue the restricted use of this waterway and to determine whether future licenses should be issued.

**Q10. Why has the river been closed for recreational water skiing by the broader community?**

The Molonglo Reach Water Ski Area was closed to recreational users following major storms in December 2010 and March 2012, which resulted in a significant amount of submerged and floating debris causing serious safety concerns for recreational users.

TAMS undertook works to remove large volumes of flood debris from the river during 2011. With more debris being washed downstream recently only a small section of the waterway was found suitable for use under strict licence conditions.

**Q11. Will the boats pollute the water?**

No. The boats to be used are modern, well maintained craft. The boat's engine emissions (exhaust) meet the strict California EPA Emissions standards for combustion engines (petrol), which are amongst the most stringent standards for emission control in the world. To avoid fuel spillage, boats will not be permitted to be fuelled within 50 metres of the river.