

3 February 2011

Council moves to clean up park ponds

Shoalhaven City Council has been concerned in recent months with the appearance and long term health of the ponds in Harry Sawkins and Marriott Parks.

Initial additional cleanups were instigated in January but these measures proved short lived. Investigations into the causes of the ponds poor appearance have found the problem to be complex and not easily or cheaply solved.

Council staff were reluctant to expend significant funds on the ponds from the existing Parks budget that has been under strain from this year's good growing season. Council has now moved to apply additional funds to clean up the weed and waste from the surface of the two ponds.

Council resolved to begin the works following a notice of motion by Councillor Gareth Ward with support by the Mayor Councillor Paul Green.

"Given the recent rainfall during December and the strong heat wave both ponds in Harry Sawkins and Marriott Parks are now struggling with weed and some waste from the ponds' catchment areas," Cllr Green said.

"Council has resolved to spend the funds to conduct a clean up of the two ponds."

Council has also resolved to include funding for pond clean up operations in its Budget Briefings for consideration in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan for 2011 – 2012.

In addition, Council had allocated funding under its stormwater program to install 75 stormwater filters at the entrance of stormwater pits in the Harry Sawkins Park catchment. These filters will stop litter and coarse materials from entering the pond. A prototype filter is currently being manufactured and will be trialled in the next month. It is expected that all the filters will be installed by the end of June 2011.

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