

# Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon - MoN - Torrens Lake Water Quality & Closures

Tuesday, 25 August 2026  
**Council**

**Council Member**

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor  
Carmel Noon

Public

**Contact Officer:**

Tom McCreedy, Director City  
Infrastructure

## MOTION ON NOTICE

**Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Carmel Noon will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:**

'That Council:

1. Acknowledges Torrens Lake as a significant environmental, recreational, cultural and economic asset and notes with concern that the Lake has been temporarily closed on two occasions in 2026 due major water quality issues - impacting recreational users, tourism operators, surrounding businesses and the presentation of the City.
2. Notes that innovative water remediation technologies are being trialled in other local government areas and that South Australian capability exists in this field, including nanobubble oxygenation and controlled ozone technologies designed to increase dissolved oxygen, reduce cyanobacteria, pathogens and organic contaminants, and improve water clarity and overall water quality through monitored and adaptive treatment.
3. Requests the Administration to investigate and identify an appropriate technology-neutral, scientifically monitored trial for Torrens Lake, including nanobubble oxygenation and controlled ozone technologies and other evidence-based options, with a defined pilot area, independent baseline and ongoing monitoring, measurable success criteria, ecological safeguards, regulatory requirements, indicative costs and potential co-funding opportunities.
4. Requests a report back to Council by 13 October 2026 with a recommended pathway to enable a trial to be considered for spring/summer 2026/27.'

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## ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

1. Administration notes the interest in exploring innovative and evidence-based approaches to improving water quality outcomes within the Torrens Lake / Karrawirra Parri. Administration also recognises the ongoing public interest and stakeholder advocacy regarding nanobubble oxygenation and ozone-based treatment technologies.
2. The River Torrens / Karrawirra Parri is a complex environmental and ecological system that is subject to multiple jurisdictions, regulatory frameworks and governance arrangements. While the City of Adelaide is a key land manager and member of the Torrens Lake Cyanobacteria Advisory Committee (TLCAC), it is not the sole authority responsible for assessing, approving or authorising the application of varying water treatment technologies within the river system. The responsible authorities include the State Government, particularly the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), Green Adelaide in conjunction with SA Water and importantly the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) as the environmental regulator.

3. Recent communication with the Chair of TLCAC has established the following:
  - 3.1. TLCAC considered a proposal to trial ozone nanobubble technology in May 2025 and did not support the proposal based on the information available at that time.
  - 3.2. Any revised proposal would need to be progressed by the technology proponent and would require consideration through the relevant governance, regulatory and approval processes.
  - 3.3. TLCAC remains open to considering revised proposals supported by new evidence, updated methodologies, scientific data and any required regulatory approvals or permits.
4. Consistent with this advice, the Administration considers that the most appropriate pathway to enable a trial to be considered is that the matter first be considered by TLCAC.
5. Accordingly, Administration has made a formal request by way of letter from the CEO to TLCAC to invite Mr John Schumann and/or the proprietors and technical representatives of Hydro2050/Nanobubble Technology to attend a future TLCAC meeting to present:
  - 5.1. The current status of the technology
  - 5.2. Any scientific evidence, trial outcomes and operational results achieved elsewhere
  - 5.3. Any regulatory approvals, permits or approvals pathways available
  - 5.4. Proposed monitoring methodologies and ecological safeguards
  - 5.5. Responses to previous concerns raised by TLCAC members.
6. Administration believes such a presentation would provide TLCAC and relevant government agencies with the opportunity to assess whether there is sufficient merit in the technology to warrant submission of a formal proposal for assessment. Should TLCAC determine that the technology, or any alternative technology, warrants further investigation, Administration would consider supporting a coordinated and technology-neutral assessment based on measurable success criteria, ecological safeguards, regulatory requirements, indicative costs and potential co-funding opportunities. Any such support would require a report to Council seeking support particularly regarding indicative costs and potential co-funding opportunities.
7. Administration notes that any scientifically robust trial would likely require significant technical input from State agencies, independent scientific expertise, regulatory approvals and a clearly identified management objective. The scope, governance, cost and feasibility of such a trial cannot be reliably determined until the proponents have formally presented the most updated information and the relevant regulatory agencies have advised on approval requirements and environmental considerations

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| Should the proposed motion be supported by Council, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained: |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Public consultation                                                                                                                                                                                      | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| External consultant advice                                                                                                                                                                               | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Legal advice / litigation (eg contract breach)                                                                                                                                                           | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Impacts on existing projects                                                                                                                                                                             | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Budget reallocation                                                                                                                                                                                      | No budget required at this time. Only if proponent of technology presents and is supported by TLCAC to establish a trial, and only if proponent requests a financial contribution, a report will be presented to Council with the findings and outcome of the presentation. |
| Capital investment                                                                                                                                                                                       | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion                                                                                                                                    | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Other                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Staff time in receiving and preparing this Administration comment                                                                                                                                        | To prepare this Administration comment in response to the motion on notice took approximately 5.5 hours.                                                                                                                                                                    |

- END OF REPORT -