Councillor Maher - QoN - City Fountains and Ponds

Tuesday, 27 October 2026
Council

Council Member
Councillor Patrick Maher

Public

Contact Officer:
Ilia Houridis, Director City Shaping

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Patrick Maher will ask the following Question on Notice:

'Noting that the city has various fountains, ponds, and other water features (not including the Torrens Lake or river), and that a hot 'Super El Niño' summer is forecast:

- What is the cleaning regimen for these water features?
- What are the current rules and regulations regarding persons in the water features? Do the rules differ per site?'

REPLY

Below is the detailed breakdown of how these assets are managed across the city.

Maintenance and Inspection Schedule

1. To ensure public safety and aesthetic standards, our water features adhere to a strict servicing routine:
    1.1. Daily Checks: All water features are inspected and cleaned daily from Monday to Friday. During these checks, chlorine and pH levels are tested, adjusted, and officially recorded.
    1.2. Weekly Servicing: All features undergo a comprehensive clean and backwash at least once a week, typically on Thursday or Friday, to ensure they are in optimal condition for weekend visitors.
    1.3. Extreme Weather Response: During periods of extreme warm weather, features receive additional inspections over the weekends conducted by our dedicated Rapid Response Crews.

Water Treatment Systems

2. Automatic Dosing Systems: The following features have auto-dosers installed to continuously monitor and maintain correct chlorine levels:
    2.1. Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga (North)
    2.2. Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga (South)
    2.3. Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka Water Feature
    2.4. Light Square / Wuri Yarlu Water Feature
    2.5. North Terrace - Bonython Memorial Fountain / Water Feature (Bill's Water Feature)
    2.6. North Terrace (14-piece feature)
    2.7. North Terrace Reflection Feature

2.8. North Terrace Wedge Feature.

3. Manual Cleaning and Dosing: The following features are cleaned and dosed manually by our maintenance crews:

   3.1. Rundle Mall Fountain

   3.2. Cresswell Fountain

   3.3. Hindmarsh Square / Mukata Fountain

4. Bonython Boat Pond, Rymill Lake, Veale Gardens and Himeji Garden waterways are maintained through a seasonal cleaning and treatment program, with tasks scheduled in line with water quality testing results and seasonal requirements.

Legislative Compliance

5. Public water features in South Australia are governed under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011 and associated guidelines provided by SA Health.

6. None of our current public water features are classified or designed as interactive play spaces.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 5.5 hours.

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