Dear stakeholder

Thank you for your co-operation and input into the development of the *Blue-Green Algae in Recreational Water Management Strategy.*

I realise the consultation period for this document was brief. However, as a user of ACT waterways, I am sure you can appreciate the importance of having this new strategy in place for the 2009/2010 summer season.

As you are probably aware, the blue-green algal blooms experienced during the 2008/2009 summer season were extremely severe. The severity of these blooms and the impact they had on water recreation prompted the Health Protection Service (HPS) to review the recreational water guidelines in place at the time.

The final management strategy, which is the result of consultation with stakeholders such as yourself and other relevant government agencies, is attached for your information. The key points of this strategy include:

- waters will be closed to primary-contact recreation when algal levels are high ($\geq$50,000 cells/ml or biovolume $\geq$4 mm^3/L);

- waters will remain open for secondary-contact recreation, however precautions are urged to limit the health risks associated with blue-green algae;

- media messages will be released providing information on current algal levels and the associated risks;

- when algal levels are extreme, secondary-contact recreationists should:
  - be experienced;
  - understand the risks associated with algae and what to do if contact occurs;
  - not engage in primary-contact; and
  - shower with suitable water immediately after recreation.

This strategy will be reassessed following the 2009/2010 summer season. Thank you again for your contributions to the strategy thus far. I look forward to working with you post-season on this evolving issue.

Yours sincerely

John Woollard
Acting Executive Director
22 December 2009