

Circular

Title:	Torrens Closure - Shared Use of West Lakes
Document ID:	C26012 Torrens Closure - Shared Use of West Lakes
Audience:	All Clubs / Schools
Date:	16 October 2026

The City of Adelaide has advised that the River Torrens remains closed to all water-based activities until further notice, following water testing that showed elevated levels of E. coli and Enterococci above public health guidelines. There is currently no confirmed reopening date.

We understand the significant impact this has on your programs, particularly at the very start of the season. With Torrens-based crews relocating, West Lakes will be considerably busier, so we will all need to work together to keep it safe and usable for everyone.

Trailer parking - Northern Reserve

The City of Charles Sturt has extended bookings for additional trailer parking on the Northern Reserve while the Torrens is closed. Council's community inspectors have been advised not to expiate trailers parked there until the Torrens reopens, however there are only 5 parking bays available.

- Trailer parking on the Northern Reserve must be booked with the City of Charles Sturt. [Booking Link](#)
- Park only within the designated area and never block public boat ramps, driveways, paths or emergency access.
- Minimise trailer movements on and around the reserve and take care when towing near pedestrians and children.
- The Rowing SA lawns are not available for trailers before 4.00pm on weekdays, as West Lakes Aquatics has use of the space. Bookings for Rowing SA grounds can be made at rowingsa.asn.au/bookings. Please also note that there are some bookings on this lawn area on upcoming weekends, so you will need to review the [bookings calendar](#) on the Rowing SA website.

Boat storage

Rowing SA has asked the City of Charles Sturt to consider temporary boat racks on Oarsman Reserve, behind the Rowing SA shed, to reduce trailer movements and free up space. This has not yet been approved, and we will let you know as soon as we hear back. If approved, any boats stored on the racks will be stored entirely at the owner's risk.

Using the shared space

- Keep pontoons, ramps and launching areas clear at all times. Bags and personal items should stay in vehicles or a designated area, not on the landing or on balconies in front of doorways.
- Rig and de-rig only in designated areas so pathways stay clear.
- Return boats to trailers or racks promptly after each session, and do not leave equipment on grass or walkways.
- Take all rubbish, water bottles and personal items home after each session.
- Respect the clubs, schools and other users already based at West Lakes.
- Consider if the use of 'small boats' is necessary in peak times
- Slower crews must keep to the outer lanes.
- Be careful where and when you turn.

Coordinating training times

- Please send your proposed [West Lakes training](#) days and times to Rowing SA so we can help coordinate sessions, avoid peak congestion and improve safety for everyone. These proposed times will be viewable, publicly, by clicking on this link – [Proposed Training Timetable](#)
- Where possible, stagger launch and landing times and consider off-peak sessions.
- Nominate one contact person for your club or school for any scheduling or access issues.

On-water safety and residents

- Follow the West Lakes traffic pattern and [Training and Racing Maps](#), and take extra care given the increased traffic.
- Display lights in low light, and coaches should keep launch speed and wash to a minimum.
- All [West Lakes permit conditions](#) continue to apply, including coxbox volume and hours, and the restriction on megaphones for general coaching.
- Be considerate of residents, particularly early in the morning. Keep noise to a minimum.
- Report any [incidents](#) or near misses to Rowing SA through the usual process.

Action required

Please share this circular with your coaches, coxswains, athletes and parents. Keeping our impact on local residents and other users to a minimum is essential to protecting our continued access to West Lakes.

We will provide further updates as soon as we have more information.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

If you have any questions, please contact the Rowing SA office.

Warm regards,

Christine Newberry
Operations Manager
Rowing South Australia Inc

100 Military Road, West Lakes Shore SA 5020
M: 0419 618 704 | **Ph:** 08 8242 3288 |
Email: cnewberry@rowingsa.asn.au