

## ITEM 6 POLICY REVIEW - SCHOOL USE OF SWIMMING POOLS COUNCIL POLICY

The School Use of Swimming Pools Council Policy has now been reviewed as part of Council's rolling review schedule of its policies. The policy states the provisions for schools utilising Council pools in order to minimise any inconvenience to members of the public arising and in accordance with the expectations of the community.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the revised School Use of Swimming Pools Council Policy.

### REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Mark Berriman, Manager Sport + Recreation

Authorised by: Kerry Hunt, Director Community Services - Creative and Innovative City

### ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft - School Use of Swimming Pools Council Policy

### BACKGROUND

The existing School Use of Council Swimming Pools Policy was last reviewed in June 2018. This policy was first adopted in September 1987, reviewed in December 2014 and was again considered by Council on 30 January 2018 and then adopted 25 June 2018.

During the previous adoption a number of briefings occurred with Councillors that discussed the NSW Water Safety Practice Note 15 that was established in 2017. This policy incorporated the practice note into the now current version of the policy that was adopted by Council in 2018.

The review of this policy has identified that the policy remains valid, and that minor adjustments have been made to the revised draft policy that includes:

- Deletion of 'Term 1' for school carnivals to occur. Some schools have requested their carnival to take place in Term 4 to ensure schools are able to complete their carnival prior to school zone carnival dates.
- Increase carnival numbers from 18 to 20 per facility to ensure all local schools are supported across our pool network.
- Inclusion that each school is responsible for developing their own risk assessment that is required by Education NSW for each school carnival or use of the swimming pool.

### PROPOSAL

That Council adopt the revised School Use of Swimming Pools Council Policy and revoke the previous 2018 policy.

### CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Internal consultation was undertaken as part of the review of this policy.

### PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 5 'We have a healthy community in a liveable city. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2032		Delivery Program 2022-2026	
Strategy		Service	
5.1	Plan and deliver an accessible, safe, clean and inviting public domain	Parks & Sportsgrounds	
5.5	Provide safe, well-maintained and accessible beaches and aquatic recreation facilities	Aquatic Services	

## RISK MANAGEMENT

It is not intended to place this Policy on full public exhibition as the proposed changes are only minor in nature. The Policy may be amended and exhibited accordingly through future review processes.

In terms of broader community consultation, Council can respond with a more comprehensive review of the Policy, if necessary, in the next term of Council.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no financial impact for the adoption of this policy, as it is similar to previous adopted policies. The number of Swimming Carnivals may increase from 18 to 20 for Term 1 at some pools, that may support additional revenue.

## CONCLUSION

The School Use of Swimming Pools Council Policy reinforces Council's commitment to providing the maximum benefit to schools through use of Council's swimming pools at times where the pools have low utilisation from the general public. The policy provides some parameters for staff to communicate with schools regarding scheduling and can be considerate of the need for pools within our network to be available for community use. It is essential as part of carnival scheduling that communication is clear to regular swimmers at the facilities on the times and frequency of school carnivals so members of the public can accordingly plan their activities across these timeframes.



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ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: [TO BE COMPLETED BY GOVERNANCE]

### PURPOSE

Wollongong City Council (Council) maintains various public swimming pools which it makes available to schools for swimming carnivals by excluding public access on those occasions.

In order to minimise any inconvenience to members of the public arising from the use of the pools by schools, it is necessary for schools to undertake their use of Council's pools in accordance with the expectations of the community.

### POLICY INTENT

The main objective of this policy are to maximise the benefits to schools through the use of Council's swimming pools.

### WOLLONGONG 2032 OBJECTIVES

This Policy is a direct contributor to the delivery of Goal 5: "We are a healthy community in the liveable City" in the 2032 Community Strategic Plan,

5.2 Urban areas are created and maintained to provide a healthy and safe living environment for our community and,

5.4 Provide a variety of quality and accessible public places and opportunities for sport, play, leisure, recreation, learning and cultural activities in the community and,

5.5 Provide safe, well maintained and accessible beaches and aquatic recreation facilities.

### POLICY

#### *Bookings*

- Bookings will be accepted for Swimming Carnivals, Learn to Swim or Intensive Lifesaving and weekly swimming between the hours of 8:30am and 3.30pm on weekdays only. Carnivals outside these hours will be charged a fee accordingly.
- Carnivals to have precedence over regular and casual bookings.
- Only one (1) carnival permitted per school per season.
- Wherever possible, accurate numbers should be given to aid the scheduling of the timetable.
- Individual School Learn to Swim and Intensive Lifesaving to be held only in first and fourth term and in school hours.
- All school bookings shall not have exclusive use of the Pool Complex.
- All pupils must leave the Pool Complex at the end of booked period.
- Unstructured swimming opportunities such as free swim time must be booked in advance and be conducted in strict compliance with the NSW Department of Education and Training : "Water Safety Guidelines for Unstructured Aquatic Activity". All associated costs with additional lifeguarding requirements to maintain a ratio of 1 Lifeguard to 50 students will be met by the hirer.

#### *Entry to the Pool*

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- Teachers to assemble pupils outside the main entrance to the Swimming Pool.
- Teachers to accompany pupils and ensure they enter the main entrance in an orderly manner.

### *Supervision*

- Each school should provide sufficient staff to supervise its pupils.
- Teachers are required to supervise the entrance.
- Teachers are required to supervise pupils in the change rooms.
- Teachers are also required to familiarise themselves with the pool rules and wherever possible, enforce these rules.
- No balls or ball games are allowed except when booked as a ball game.
- An area must always be made available to the general public.
- No valuables to be left in change rooms.
- The area must be left in a clean and tidy condition at the end of the booked period.

### *School Carnivals*

- Individual primary school carnivals to be restricted to half day; however schools with a minimum enrolment of 800 pupils be eligible to hold an all-day carnival.
- High schools are eligible to hold an all-day carnival.
- Primary school Zone Carnivals are eligible to hold all-day carnivals.
- A maximum of twenty (20) school carnivals be permitted at any specific pool in the one season.
- Specific major events shall have priority, eg Zone Championships.
- All-day carnivals to continue through lunch break.
- No unstructured aquatic activities
- Structured novelty events such as noodle and/or boogie board races must be conducted within lanes.

### *Public Address System*

- The Pool Public Address System will be made available for school carnivals.
- Please make only necessary announcements.
- No barracking over the Public Address System.

## **FEES AND CHARGES**

Schools will be charged fees for the use of swimming pools, determined on an annual basis and included in Council's Schedule of Annual Fees and Charges.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

In accordance with the requirements of the NSW Government's Water Safety Practice Note 15 (October 2017), Council deploys a 'Risk Management Approach to Water Safety'. The Water Safety Practice Note provides a detailed framework to guide Council in managing risk at its pools. The approach categorises each of our pool facilities to inform our personnel requirements, safety equipment and signage required to

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minimise risk to patrons. The risk-based categorisation approach considers facility size, configuration, usage, incidents and the profile of users, e.g. age and swimming ability.

Each school is responsible for developing their own Risk Assessment required by Education NSW.

### LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

This Policy complies with and supports implementation and compliance with the following policies and instruments:

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- NSW Government's Water Safety Practice Note 15

### REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed a minimum of once every term of Council, or more frequently as required.

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Sport + Recreation is the Division responsible for the administration and review of this Policy.
- Aquatic Services is the team responsible for any compliance action if required.

APPROVAL AND REVIEW	
Responsible Division	Sport + Recreation
Date adopted by Council	[To be inserted by Corporate Governance]
Date/s of previous adoptions	25 June 2018, 16 December 2014, 6 November 2002, 21 September 1987
Date of next review	June 2027