

ITEM 25

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR ANN MARTIN - FREE DAPTO POOL ENTRY SUMMER SWIM

Councillor Ann Martin has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that Wollongong City Council prepare an option paper and detail the cost to Council to investigate a voucher system to provide free entry to Dapto pool for children, aged 5-16 initially during the summer school holiday period, while also investigating funding opportunities to subsidise water-based recreation opportunities as part of a Dapto Summer Swim program.”

Background provided by Councillor Ann Martin:

Across the city of Wollongong, there are opportunities for children and local communities to swim for free in council owned pools, including rock pools and Council run and supervised pools at Unanderra, Berkeley, Port Kembla and Thirroul.

The children of Dapto do not have the options to swim in a free public pool in their local area.

Dapto and Corrimal pool entry for children under 5 and supervising adults is free. However, children and pensioners pool entry fee are \$3.90, with active supervising adult pool entry at \$2.80, and adults at \$5.80 per visit. A family Pass at both pools is \$19.50 per visit.

It doesn't take much imagination to see how, for many families living in Dapto, going to the pool during the summer school holidays for a few hours of swimming fun is not cheap.

This motion seeks to investigate if free summer school holiday swimming for children in Dapto can be introduced, while also identifying the cost and logistics of operating a voucher system, potentially through the Dapto Ribbonwood Library, the pool itself, or similar. This motion also asks staff to investigate funding opportunities for pool-based recreation, including learn to swim classes.