

## ADVISORY GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

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### Swimming Pools Review

In February 2019 Council assembled an Advisory Group made up of eight members from within the Shire to consider options for ongoing management and support of the Corryong and Tallangatta Swimming Pools.

Consultation with the Advisory Group was very helpful in providing quality recommendations for Council's consideration and has demonstrated a high level of community ownership and a spirit of partnership.

Council considered the recommendations from the Advisory Group at the 2 April 2019 Council meeting and Council's formal response to each recommendation is provided below.

#### **1. That Council retain direct management of the pools in the short term**

Council supports this recommendation. It is recognised that key user groups do not currently have the capacity to effectively and efficiently manage either pool and as a result Council will retain direct management of the pools in the short term.

#### **2. That Council employ a Pools Coordinator**

Council supports the concept of one point of contact for pool coordination. This will assist with consistent procedures and processes and will contribute to strong relationships with community groups.

A review of Council's organisational structure is currently underway and this will provide the opportunity to implement changes to improve pool coordination.

#### **3. That Council explore the potential for operation of pool kiosks by a local small business or community group**

Council supports this recommendation and will conduct an Expression of Interest process to establish what interest there is from local businesses and/or community groups to operate the kiosks.

#### **4. That Council review processes and procedures related to management and use of the pools**

Council supports quality assurance processes in all areas of its operations. Council recognises that there are a number of inconsistencies between the two pools in the way they are managed.

The following will be undertaken prior to the commencement of the 2019 season:

- Review and update pool procedures and processes
- Review and update pool related forms, fees and charges
- Conduct a pre-2019 swimming season workshop with key community user groups (joint session) to facilitate the dissemination of information

## **5. That Council deliver lifeguard training to community members**

Council supports subsidising the training of community members to be lifeguards provided the flow-on effect of volunteering to supervise the Towong pools is realised.

Securing a number of mature community members would be ideal given current challenges in attracting sufficient lifeguards to be present for full opening hours at both pools. There is currently available a \$10,000 grant targeting *Improving Liveability for Older People* and both the training of mature lifeguards and the increased access to the pools for these user groups would fit the grant criteria.

Council commits to exploring the delivery of subsidised lifeguard training to community members and the possible application of the *Improving Liveability for Older People* grant to achieve this.

## **6. That Council develop a Pools Marketing and Events Plan to increase visitation of the pools**

Council supports this recommendation. Council's focus for the 2019/20 season will be items 2 – 5 above. We envisage preparing a Pools Marketing and Events Plan in readiness for the 2020/21 season.

## **7. That in the future, Council explore contract management of the pools by local families, small businesses or community groups**

Council supports this recommendation. Consideration will be given to conducting and expression of interest process prior to the 2020/21 season.

## **8. That Council promote a "Culture of Swimming" across all life stages across the Shire**

Council supports this recommendation. Consideration will be given to how this can be achieved.

## 9. That Council develop an Asset Development Plan for Corryong and Tallangatta Swimming Pools

Council supports this recommendation. Currently, both pools are managed and maintained in accordance with the Council Plan 2017-2021, the Asset Management Strategy and the Long Term Financial Plan. Council does not have a dedicated Asset Development Plan for the pools.

Consideration will be given to developing this plan in future years (2020).

The proposed timeframe for the implementation of the actions identified above is as follows:

Rec	Action	When
1	Retain direct management of the pools	Immediate
2	Review of organisational structure with consideration of establishing a pool coordination role	By 30 June 2019
3	Expression of Interest process - outsourcing of kiosk operations	By 31 August 2019
4	Review of pool procedures, processes, forms and fees Review Position Descriptions for lifeguards	By 31 August 2019
4	Pre-2019 swimming pool user group workshop	To be held September 2019
5	Explore the delivery of subsidised lifeguard training to community members	By 30 June 2019
6	Prepare a Pools Marketing and Events Plan	By 31 August 2020
7	Explore contract management of the pools by local families, small businesses or community groups	To be determined
8	Promote a 'culture of swimming' across all life stages across the Shire	By 30 June 2020
9	Develop an Asset Development Plan for both pools	By 31 August 2020

The report from the Advisory Group consultation process contains other opportunities and strategies which we may be able to consider once the organisational structure is finalised and pool coordination has been addressed.