

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Glenorchy War Memorial Pool

2023 Update

When will the pool re-open?

The pool won't re-open as usual this coming season due to a number of issues, several of which may be a safety risk. Council will need to determine what action to take, and the pool will remain closed until further notice.

Is there a chance the pool may be closed permanently?

The extent of the issues at the pool mean that Council would need to make a significant investment to have it meet modern standards and ensure it was safe for the public and staff. While the Council will have discussions with the State and Federal governments about potential funding for the pool, if that cannot be secured, Council may need to consider using the site for another community facility.

Why was the pool allowed to deteriorate so badly?

The pool was built in the 1960s. Facilities of this type normally have a service life of about 40 years. The Glenorchy War Memorial Pool has managed to have a life of 60 years, but it has reached a point where normal pool maintenance cannot keep up with the deterioration caused by the age of the facility and the plant that operates it. The pool has been costing ratepayers a significant amount of money (\$400,000 last season) to keep it open.

A lot of people use the pool – what will they do?

Last season, fewer than 100 people a day used the pool on average, and patronage has been dwindling in recent years. Many people prefer to use the Hobart Aquatic Centre which is a regional facility relatively close by.

Why can't Council just fix it?

The amount of ratepayer money required to ensure the pool is safe for the public to use is significant. Given the extent of the facility's deterioration, a full redevelopment would be the only way to ensure the pool met contemporary standards, and this would cost about \$30 million. Simply fixing the most urgent problems would still cost several millions of dollars and would likely only extend the pool's life for another season or two at best. Ultimately, Council wants to ensure ratepayers are getting maximum return for their investment in public facilities.

What happens next?

Council will receive a report into the pool and its condition and seek discussions with other levels of government as to the pool's future and will communicate to the community how those discussions resolve. Should it become apparent that the site may be better used for another community facility, Council will seek community input into that decision.