

Public Meeting: Repair and Reopen the Glenorchy War Memorial Pool

The subject matter of the meeting, as petitioned by Janeice Bryan to the Glenorchy City Council

We the undersigned, hereby request that Council:

- Urgently repair and re-open the Glenorchy War Memorial Pool
- Hold a public meeting to address the pool related concerns.

Summary of Submissions

Council has advertised twice in the Mercury newspaper, on our noticeboard, and website inviting submissions to the public meeting. 9 written submissions were received. The Act requires that submissions are summarised and the summary is provided at the meeting. This summary will also be uploaded to Council's website.

The pool should be repaired and reopened

There is an overwhelming desire from the community and Council to repair and reopen the pool. With the promise of \$5 million in State Government funding, commencing repairs to the pool to enable it to reopen in the short-mid term is now possible.

Lack of swimming opportunities in the Greater Hobart region

There is a view that there is a lack of swimming opportunities, swim school availability, and swim carnival spaces, with the Glenorchy pool currently closed, as well as the closure of the Barossa Park Lodge pool and no access to beaches in the area.

History of the pool

The Glenorchy Pool is felt to hold historical importance in the Glenorchy area and to the community of Glenorchy. The community feels that the pool has historical significance.

Social Impacts

Community members expressed that they are hurting due to the loss of the pool facility. There is a view that the pool is essential for youth engagement, belonging, and inclusion, and a feeling that teenagers unable to access the pool may be contributing to escalating youth crime.

Health and Wellbeing

Community members highlighted the health and wellbeing benefits of the pool in various ways. This includes the physical benefits of swimming, as well as the mental health and social benefits of the pool.

Council understands the community health and wellbeing benefits of the pool and has been dedicated to finding ways to ensure its long-term future.

Maintenance

There is a perception that Council has failed to provide and maintain amenities that contribute to physical and mental wellbeing.

Due to maintenance issues, Council has been advocating for funding to redevelop the pool for several years. Council is currently working with engineering specialists to identify priority works required and start planning to safely repair and reopen the Glenorchy War Memorial Pool.

Financial Issues

There is a view that the money can be sourced to repair the pool or should have been sought years ago, and it may be difficult to secure government funding in the current economic climate.

The State Government provided \$200 000 to fund a project to explore long-term options for the future of the site, including pool redevelopment and other options. There have been recent election commitments from both the Labor and Liberal Parties to provide \$5 million funding to repair and reopen the pool.

The cost to the community to repair the pool without government funding would have been more than \$230 per ratepayer.

There is a query as to how council resources are allocated, and what level of operation loss is tolerable.

Safety

The pool was closed by the council due to significant safety issues. Several risks to public safety were identified including:

- structural issues with the concrete grandstand
- urgent need to replace the electrical switchboard

- major upgrade works required to the chemical dosing and filtration system
- structural issues with the water slide
- trip, slips, and fall hazards on the concourse requiring immediate repairs
- the toilets and changeroom areas do not meet current child safety requirements, privacy, and accessibility (DDA compliance) standards and therefore require a complete refurbishment.
- faults in the pool shell and associated pipework, causing the pool to leak.

Council's General Manager – as the PCBU (person conducting a business or undertaking) under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* – made the difficult decision that the pool would remain closed for the foreseeable future.

Those who made written submissions will be invited, but are not obliged, to speak to their submission.

