

## Bec Thomas

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**From:** Bec Thomas  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 July 2023 5:16 PM  
**To:** senator.carol.brown@aph.gov.au  
**Cc:** METCALFE Nellie <Nellie.Metcalf@MO.infrastructure.gov.au>; Andy Watson  
**Subject:** Glenorchy War Memorial Pool  
**Attachments:** Community-FAQ\_Glenorchy Pool July 2023.pdf; GCC MR - Glenorchy Pool to remain closed due to safety concerns.pdf

Dear Carol

Sorry I couldn't reach you today to discuss the war memorial pool. Please find attached a copy of the media release Council issued today, together with the FAQs we have put on our website.

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss asap. Could your office please liaise with my EA, Andy, to arrange a time?

Many thanks.

With kindness  
Bec



**BEC THOMAS**  
Mayor



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*We acknowledge the palawa community (the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community) as the original owners and continuing custodians of this island, lutruwita (Tasmania) and pay our respect to elders past, present and emerging.*

## Pool to remain closed due to safety concerns

Glenorchy Mayor Bec Thomas said she would seek an urgent discussion with both state and federal governments about the future of the Glenorchy War Memorial Pool which will remain closed for the coming season due to safety concerns.

Mayor Thomas said the council's general manager has determined the pool will stay closed until further notice after a consultant's report into the ageing facility found a number of issues – some of which pose a health and safety risk.

"Like many such facilities around the country built in the 1960s, the Glenorchy Pool has served its community extremely well over the last 60 years, but it has reached a point where it is deteriorating and is no longer safe for the community to use.

"While we will consider our options, the scale of the work required is not something the Glenorchy City Council would be able to afford on our own.

"Therefore, I will be seeking urgent meetings with the state and federal governments about what assistance they may be able to provide, or indeed, what potential futures they may see for the site in partnership with council. Council will keep the community informed on what options are available."

Mayor Thomas said while council had yet to formally consider the report, permanent closure of the pool could happen, particularly if funding could not be secured for it to be redeveloped.

"The business case for the pool, as it is, is not particularly strong. As an outdoor pool it has a limited season, with many people preferring to use Hobart's Aquatic Centre which is a more modern facility just 10 minutes up the road.

"Last season, fewer than 100 people used the pool every day on average, with an annual cost to Glenorchy ratepayers of about \$400,000.

"Preliminary estimates are that to redevelop the pool to modern standards would be a project in the vicinity of \$30 million."

Ms Thomas said the condition report identified a number of serious issues with the pool that meant the council had no choice but to keep it closed.

These included faults in the pool shell which was causing the pool to leak, structural issues with the concrete grandstand, an urgent requirement for the electrical switchboard to be upgraded and replaced, as well as major works for the chemical dosing area and complete refurbishment of toilets and changeroom areas.

"The consultant report found that a number of faults were in critical need of repair and posed safety risks if action isn't taken. As a result the general manager has had no option but to keep the pool closed until further notice."

"Unfortunately, this is not a quick fix, and as council, we need to be certain we are making appropriate investment in our community facilities. This means considering not only the up-front cost of re-developed infrastructure, but also demand and ongoing financial sustainability and the whole-of-life asset cost.



“We understand some people have strong connection to the pool, and as a memorial facility it holds significance to the city. However, we also need to be realistic about the size and scope of the work required to keep a facility like this operational.”

Mayor Thomas said the council would receive a report into the pool, including options moving forward, at its next council meeting.

## **ENDS**

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# Glenorchy War Memorial Pool

## 2023 Update

When will the pool re-open?

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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?

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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?

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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?

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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?

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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?

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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.