

Frequently Asked Questions

Glenorchy War Memorial Pool 2023 Update

Why is the pool closed?

The Glenorchy City Council commissioned an independent report into the condition of the pool due to its age. The report highlighted a number of issues which posed safety risks for the public and facility staff. As a responsible authority, the council had no choice but to prioritise public safety and close the pool to the public.

When will the pool reopen?

The council is commissioning a study of long-term options for the pool site, which includes consideration of a redeveloped pool facility, and will include community consultation. It is estimated it would cost several million dollars to repair the pool's current faults and safety issues to an extent it would be safe for public use. Such work would likely see the pool closed this summer and possibly next summer as well, and only provide up to five more years of operational life before redevelopment would be required. The council does not believe this would be an effective use of ratepayer funds, which is why longer-term options are being sought.

So, is there a chance the pool may be closed permanently?

The current pool facility will not be re-opened due to the fact it has reached the end of its operational life and is unsafe. As the repairs it requires are extensive, and would only amount to a short-term solution, council will look at other options for the site, including a redeveloped pool facility.

Can't the problems just be fixed without a full redevelopment?

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Why was the pool allowed to deteriorate so badly?

The pool was built in the 1960s. Facilities of this type normally have an operational life of about 40 years, while this pool has 60 years. The fact that it has been able to achieve a longer-than-expected operational life is due to the council's management of the facility over the years. However, all public infrastructure has an operational lifespan, and when that is reached, require redevelopment or replacement. The pool has reached a point where normal maintenance cannot keep up with 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 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. People will now need to access another aquatic facility instead.

What happens next?

The council is commissioning a study of long-term options for the pool site, which includes consideration of a redeveloped pool facility, and will include community consultation. The council will keep the community informed as to how they can be a part of this process, which will focus on ensuring the City of Glenorchy has a contemporary community asset that the public can utilise for the long term.

Is the pool leaking?

When it was operational, the pool needed to be continually filled around the clock to ensure it had sufficient water volume. Water metering showed that this amounted to 35,000 litres a day which is significantly more than could be attributed to water loss through evaporation or splashing.

Does the council plan to sell the pool site?

No. The council is commissioning a study into options for the site, including a redeveloped pool. This process will involve community consultation. There are no plans to sell the pool or the site.

Why was the pool drained?

The pool was drained due to the fact remnant water was becoming stagnant and attracting wildlife. In addition, due to the fact the facility is not staffed, there was a potential public safety risk.

Why wasn't the community consulted before the pool was drained?

The council published media statements and social media posts about the need to close the pool due to safety risks. The council's decision to seek long-term options for the site was also published. While the council accepts some people are upset that the pool was drained and will not be re-opened in its current form, the safety risks the facility posed meant there was no option but to close the facility and manage it

accordingly, which included having it drained. There was no scenario where an end-of-life, leaking pool shell would be re-used as a public facility.

Didn't draining the pool potentially damage the pool shell?

Given the pool shell is 60 years old and leaking, a redeveloped facility would have a new pool shell installed. There are no plans to re-open the pool using the existing shell, as council does not consider short-term repairs a cost-effective use of ratepayer funds.

Is the pool heritage listed?

The pool is not listed on the Tasmanian heritage register.

To further inform future site options, the council has initiated a separate project to commission an independent site-specific heritage assessment.

Has council spoken to other levels of government about funding the pool?

Yes. The council unsuccessfully asked the Federal Government for funding prior to the last Federal Budget. It has subsequently again written to the Federal Government for funding consideration, and has met with the State Government, which provided financial assistance for the independent report into options for the site.

Based on an estimated cost of \$30 million, council would not be able to solely fund the redevelopment of the pool, if that was the preferred option.
