

Pool Public Meeting - Answers to Questions in Submissions

Question	Answer
<p>Do you think council has a role in assisting learn to swim programs for our migrant community given the dire drowning stats in Australia? What is that role if yes?</p>	<p>There are other organisations for whom this is core business. For example, organisations supporting our multi-cultural community or water safety organisations.</p> <p>Now that election commitments have been made by both major parties, Council officers are planning for the repair and reopening of the pool. Obviously Council would be happy to take bookings for such classes when the pool returns to operation.</p>
<p>Do you see council as having a role in running and maintaining public facilities like pools?</p>	<p>Council's Priority Projects Prospectus states: <i>The Council understands the importance of recreation spaces to the community. Whether it is a redeveloped swimming pool, or some other type of recreation facility, providing spaces that encourage healthy, connected and active lifestyles across the widest cross section of the community possible is a core responsibility of Council.</i></p> <p>Councils provide a range of community open space and recreational facilities subject to community need, the availability of funding and the community's willingness to pay.</p>
<p>Would you consider a community run pool model like Victoria's Bendigo Golden Square pool, once repairs are done to the pool given the absence of a leasing fee to companies like Belgravia?</p>	<p>Council is open to exploring a range of management models having regard to factors such as organisational capability, maintenance, risk management and cost.</p>
<p>Does Mayor Thomas intend to remain in her position and therefore remain keen to "steer the ship" through this pool situation/pool consultation/and necessary funding processes?</p>	<p>The Mayor has announced her candidacy for the Legislative Council seat of Elwick, for which polling day is 4 May 2024.</p> <p>Nevertheless, Council remains well-placed to continue the work to resolve the pool issue.</p> <p>Now that election commitments have been made by both major parties, Council officers are planning for the repair and reopening of the pool. We continue to work on the Pool Redevelopment and Alternative Options Project to explore a longer term solution.</p>

<p>As recently as the February 2024 Council Meeting, Aldermen spoke of the 'work' they'd done on the pool issue. Having spoken to politicians over the last 8 months they have all stated they have been waiting for Council to 'do the work'. Can you please provide detailed information as to what work has been undertaken over the last 10 years by Council towards funding, business plans, any representations with Politicians including the recent meeting between Mayor Thomas and Senator Brown where Thriving Suburbs Program funding was discussed. Please detail any correspondence that has been sent in an effort to retain our local pool.</p>	<p>The Council officers report on the pool dated 26 August 2023 detailed past advocacy efforts. In addition, Council's Priority Projects Prospectus, including pool redevelopment, were circulated to candidates in the recent State election.</p> <p>The work to prepare a business plan for the future of the pool site is part of the current Pool Redevelopment and Alternative Options Project being undertaken by MI Global to provide a stronger factual basis for future advocacy to governments on the long term future of the site.</p>
<p>Why does Council deem it okay for the MAC to run at a substantial loss around \$500,000.00 but seems to hold our pool to a different standard, with it's loss around \$400,000.00? Yet our pool caters to a wider cross section of Community</p>	<p>It was decided in July 2023 not to reopen the pool for the foreseeable future for safety reasons. The operational cost of the facility was not a consideration in this decision.</p> <p>Now that election commitments have been made by both major parties, Council officers are planning for the repair and reopening of the pool.</p>
<p>There is enormous concern, suffering and anxiety being felt in this community due to the sudden loss of the Glenorchy War Memorial Pool. Why has the Council ignored the hard work and requests from the community to seriously submit applications for government funding?</p>	<p>Council has been advocating to government (Council officers report on the pool dated 26 August 2023 detailed past advocacy efforts). In addition, Council's priority projects, including pool redevelopment, were circulated to candidates in the recent State election.</p> <p>A business case will be developed by MI Global as part of the Pool Redevelopment and Alternative Options Project which is well underway to provide a stronger factual basis for future advocacy to governments on the long term future of the site.</p>

Why did the Council empty the pool and put the seals and pool shell at increased risk? It makes sense to repair the pool immediately instead of leaving it to deteriorate further whilst Government funding applications are made. There will be a long wait for a response and a lengthy time is required to develop plans before any work is ready to start on upgrading this important public amenity. Why does the Council let elite sport get priority over community needs? Funding should have been applied for years ago. Why hasn't this council systematically applied for grant funding for facilities and amenities on behalf of this large, neglected community?

Council has had aquatic engineering specialists (Lacus) inspect the pool in recent weeks in preparation for the recent \$5M State election funding commitments. This work will assist Council to prepare preliminary upgrade and repair plans in preparation of receiving the grant funding.

Council also sought advice on the need to for the pool be filled with water to protect its structural integrity. The advice received is that the associated risk is ground water building up underneath the pool that can subsequently push the floor of the pool shell up (without the weight of the pool water to hold it down) and cause cracking. Rather than needing to fill the pool up however, the advice is to install a series of Hydrostatic Relief Valves on the floor of the pool. These valves open if there is an excessive build up of water pressure under the pool whilst the pool is empty.

The technical specifications for the installation of the relief valves is currently being prepared, and the installation works will be undertaken ASAP (with Council funds).

The relief valves will also provide ongoing benefits for the pool that needs to stay empty during the planned repair works, and is emptied each year for maintenance.

<p>The Lacus expert advised Council to obtain a chemical analysis of the shell and concrete to determine the true-life expectancy of the pool to ensure Council and Aldermen are properly informed when making critical decisions about its future. Why did the Council fail to do this?</p>	<p>Council has had aquatic engineering specialists (Lacus) inspect the pool in recent weeks in preparation for the recent \$5M State election funding commitments. This work will assist Council to prepare preliminary upgrade and repair plans in preparation of receiving the grant funding.</p> <p>Council also sought advice on the need to for the pool be filled with water to protect its structural integrity. The advice received is that the associated risk is ground water building up underneath the pool that can subsequently push the floor of the pool shell up (without the weight of the pool water to hold it down) and cause cracking. Rather than needing to fill the pool up however, the advice is to install a series of Hydrostatic Relief Valves on the floor of the pool. These valves open if there is an excessive build up of water pressure under the pool whilst the pool is empty.</p> <p>The technical specifications for the installation of the relief valves is currently being prepared, and the installation works will be undertaken ASAP (with Council funds).</p> <p>The relief valves will also provide ongoing benefits for the pool that needs to stay empty during the planned repair works, and is emptied each year for maintenance.</p>
<p>Our Memorial Pool needs to remain public with affordable fees. It must be supported by the Council and Government and remain a public facility. It must not be handed to Property Developers and privatised with unaffordable fees in this disadvantaged and low socio-economic municipality. It should not be co-located with the promotion of addictive online gambling and alcohol serving activities to groom our children and ruin their lives. Is this the return-on-investment entertainment of 18 hours per day in the KGV Precinct envisaged and outlined in the Greater Glenorchy Plan? The Council and Government's philosophies are ethically and seriously wrong. Neglect for community priorities must change. The philosophy of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer is unethical and unacceptable. This is also occurring because it appears evident and proven that this Council lacks the skill and capability to build infrastructure and facilities for their community. It is 5 years since the \$12.8 million grant was announced to be spent at North Chigwell and just look at the YMCA building closed to residents after a \$6 million redevelopment grant announced in 2019 (also before an election). Why have the Council and Aldermen remained silent about that?</p>	<p>Council reports the progress of its capital works program publicly on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>The YMCA is an organisation that is completely independent of Council and questions as to the status of its project are best addressed to the YMCA.</p> <p>However, we understand that a planning permit has been granted for the work and the organisation is undertaking building and engineering design work on a modified design following cost escalation.</p>

<p>Ratepayers clearly want their rates spent to benefit them and their families and supply locally accessible infrastructure to support their well-being and the livability of their city. The provision of essential facilities such as a pool is an absolute equal right for our community including our children and young people who deserve the same opportunities other governments and councils provide for their communities. Why are we being discriminated against? Opportunities such as accessing life-saving 'learn to swim' programs, acquiring social skills, challenging themselves and just plain having fun should not be denied to them by unjust and unjustified decisions of Council and Aldermen.</p>	<p>It was decided in July 2023 not to reopen the pool for the foreseeable future for safety reasons.</p> <p>Now that election commitments have been made by both major parties, Council officers are planning for the repair and reopening of the pool.</p>
<p>Why is Council and the Government requiring \$50 Million from Private Developers on your Priority Investment List for this site? This is far more than a basic pool facility. We reject any alternative that disposes of our public pool and privatises it with a co-located facility aimed at normalising gambling and alcohol serving to groom our young children at our supposed health promoting pool site.</p>	<p>The Council's Priority Projects Prospectus states that Glenorchy City Council is seeking investment partners to deliver important community projects that will provide significant economic and social benefits to the people of Glenorchy and Greater Hobart.</p> <p>While the Prospectus is aimed primarily at government funding sources, Council would be unwise to preclude other potential funding sources.</p> <p>The scope of the Pool Redevelopment and Alternative Options Project includes development of costings for future redevelopment - and the project's community engagement process provides the opportunity for the community to provide input, including about likely costs.</p>
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<p>Has MI Global been instructed to factor in the wide-ranging additional health costs incurred for the Government's Budget by not providing a preventative health facility such as a pool for a large proportion of the Tasmania's population of 54,000 plus in the 4th largest City?</p>	<p>MI Global will be undertaking cost benefit analysis of potential options for the site, including for a redeveloped aquatic facility.</p> <p>This work will include demand, financial and economic modelling as well as a wide range of potential benefits that can be reasonably ascertained for potential development options. Health and wellbeing benefits will be one of these considerations.</p>

<p>What price will you quantify for the loss of lives of children or adults who will not 'learn to swim' because of this unjust return on investment notion by this derelict government and council?</p>	<p>Alternative "Learn to Swim" facilities are available outside of Glenorchy. Now that election commitments have been made by both major parties, Council officers are planning for the repair and reopening of the pool.</p>
<p>Are you aware of the widespread anxiety being felt about the injustice of this decision? The people of Glenorchy and indeed Southern Tasmania will not accept the loss of this outdoor pool from this site ever. Alternative options can be realised in another location. This is an easily accessible location for families with children and the social and family realised benefits of this facility cannot be underestimated. It takes a lot of effort and many visits to a pool for parents to teach their children to swim and be water safe. Often parents cannot afford expensive 'learn to swim' lessons and prefer to teach children themselves. This is important family bonding as well. Kids alive do the five.</p>	<p>Council is aware of the substantial community feedback it has received for not reopening the pool for the foreseeable future for safety reasons. Now that election commitments have been made by both major parties, Council officers are planning for the repair and reopening of the pool.</p>
<p>Swimming and Water Safety Programs are mandatory for Year 3, 4 and 5 students and at-risk year 6 in our Government Schools. Is the closure of the Glenorchy Public Pool against the Government's own Swimming and Water Safety Policy?</p>	<p>Not to our knowledge.</p> <p>The Department for Education, Children and Young People provides a Swimming and Water Safety Program for all Year 3, 4 and 5 students in Tasmanian Government Schools (required attendance) and Year 6 students assessed as being at-risk at the end of the Year 5 program (optional attendance). This three-year program consists of ten consecutive lessons each year. It supports our students to become competent swimmers and be water safe. The State Government funds this program, with a minimal contribution from individual schools.</p> <p>While the Glenorchy Pool is closed, there are alternative facilities where the Program can be delivered.</p>
<p>If Council states that the pool is unsafe when it is fixable (refer Lacus Report). This policy is more unsafe when people resort to using backyard pools. With and without fencing the backyard pools are known to be more dangerous and result in so many silent drownings. Unsafe monitoring of water quality also creates additional high health risks. Will Council fund the additional cost of inspecting the safety of backyard pools in this municipality?</p>	<p>The pool was not reopened for safety reasons. Now that election commitments have been made by both major parties, Council officers are planning for the repair and reopening of the pool.</p> <p>In relation to backyard pools, the fencing of backyard pools is regulated by the National Construction Code. Private Building Surveyors are required to assess and certify pool fencing arrangements, where pools exceed 30 cm in depth. The permit authority has a compliance role.</p>

<p>The Belgravia Contract is stated to be applicable from 10 September 2020 to 9th September 2022(2 seasons) for \$1,200,000 and included Contract extension options. (Annual Report 2020-21 Page 59) How much was actually paid to Belgravia for only 2 seasons of operation? In addition, did Belgravia also retain admission, hire fees and kiosk profits during this period?</p>	<p>The Belgravia contract was for a 2 year agreement with the option of a +3 year extension. The \$1.2M figure quoted from the 2020-21 annual report details the total expected contact sum including any extension periods allowed for in the contract (i.e. a 5 year period in total). The contract payments are only made on a per annum basis for each year of service provided.</p> <p>Belgravia were formally notified of the closure in July 2023, which was prior to opening the pool for the 2023/24 season, and as such no payments were made for this season.</p> <p>Payments ceased after the end of the 2022/23 season.</p>
<p>Why is there no income from the pool shown on Annual Reports since 2011 and why did Council vote to cease setting fees and charges for the Glenorchy Memorial Pool and obtain the Title Deeds to the land in 2015?</p>	<p>This is because the level of pool revenue is insignificant compared to other more substantial revenue sources and is subsumed within the "other fees and charges" category under "User fees".</p>
<p>Why are Council's documented purpose, policies, reports, objectives, strategies, values and goals for the community so different to what is occurring with the actions of Council, Mayor and Aldermen?</p>	<p>This is a matter of opinion. It is considered that the decision not to reopen the pool for the foreseeable future for safety reasons is consistent with Council's strategic objective to work for a safe and clean City (Strategic Plan Objective 2.1).</p> <p>Now that election commitments have been made by both major parties, Council officers are planning for the repair and reopening of the pool. We continue to work on the Pool Redevelopment and Alternative Options Project to explore a longer term solution.</p>