



Queenstown Swimming Pool Community Meeting Notes - 23 June 2017

Following is a summary of comments made by those in attendance at the above public meeting held at the West Coast Council Chamber.

Information, communication and marketing

- Add something in to attract tourists.
- Should use more than swimming – quoted health statistics.
- Look at corporate organisations to promote health benefits from other services located at pool.
- Explore options of working with University of Tasmania.

Management and staffing

- Swim club volunteers also work across other clubs therefore difficult for them to volunteer further for lifeguarding etc. Issues with costs of qualifications and updates annually.
- Unlikely to get volunteers when we cannot find people to do paid work. Use teenagers now.
- Consider 1 person operator like in the past. Then have a longer season.
- Need to consider time required adding chemicals, toilet breaks etc. Guidelines are different now.
- Council need to staff swims lessons.
- How accurate are tick sheets at pools? Pool staff confirmed accuracy of recording pool entries.
- Compared use of gym staffing to pool.
- Training and more use of volunteers?
- Better ticketing system?
- They once had 12 swimming every morning but could not get Lifeguard for it to continue.
- Difficulty of having year round pool is finding adequate numbers of staff.

Costs / Budget

- Building roof on pool was suggested as 10k was raised previously. Were told operating cost would be astronomical. Were told 1 good pool would work at same cost as closing other. Indoor water polo, footy clubs etc. would use an indoor pool. Chlorine salt and solar would bring cost down, better than no pool or limit hours. Money available through grants to build it but problem is running costs. Gold coin is pittance. Consider running costs.
- Can swim club do life saving/ lifeguarding to save costs for council.
- Need to know if we can afford to fix existing.
- Engineer estimates cost of 150k to run a seasonal pool.
- Tickets are too cheap. It was \$150 per season then went to gold coin.
- Can pay up to \$7.00 in other pools.
- \$100 per week per lesson at Launceston, another pays \$30 per for private lesson.
- Can get grant money for more than 1 year for programs.
- Council get swim club to apply for grants for start blocks.
- Rates costs were \$88 per person per year from 2 years ago.
- No rate rise last year and gold coin – better to have rate rise.
- Solar panels could they help reduce cost?
- Better to pay \$1.00 per entry rather than gold coin. People took advantage of gold coin.
- Higher entry fees or membership?
- Need to consider aged pensioners structure fees for that.
- Increase entry and improve hours e.g. \$5.00 entry.
- Considering small amount of income make swimming free.

What do the pools cost?

	2016/17	2015/16
Income		
Gate Receipts*	\$16,621	\$24,916
Expenses		
Personnel Costs	\$82,034	\$176,900
Maintenance & Operations	\$12,353	\$21,199
Energy	\$66,251	\$117,059
Water Rates	\$15,131	\$22,050
Depreciation	\$42,803	\$46,693
Other	\$4,148	\$8,738
	\$222,720	\$392,639
Total	\$(206,099)	\$(367,723)

Future facility options/ capital project

- 3 facilities too many.
- No disabled facilities – boys have to go into females.
- Gym needs a lot of work – should put facilities together. E.g. crèche, exercise classes.

Season and opening hours

- Vision accessible to range of people supervised, accessible to those up to 90 years of age. Pool is closing before end of summer.
- Concern with how to find out about pools opening hours, Signage behind gate.
- Nothing less than last year. Shut later than 6.00pm. 7.00pm is preferred.
- No Aquafit last year in Queenstown because of earlier closing time.
- Moving opening from 1- 2pm meant people could not swim before school pick up or parents with young kids could not do the same.
- St Josephs – had only 3 weeks to fit in program after school went back. Mountain Heights missed last year on school carnival.
- If pools were open 7 days a week then it offers permanent work opportunity.
- Increase opening hours.
- Gold coin entry idea to raise participation. Hours were rubbish.

Programs

- Enclosed pool with gym, café, childcare, swimming lessons, health benefits, rehab, medical benefits, mental health benefit for young people, it is a life skill.
- Swim lessons for older people and families.
- Only 1 infant aquatics class last year for 15 kids due to early closure. Private lessons did not proceed last year.
- Private operators would they consider? Needs to make money.
- Need swim lessons and large population to make money.
- More programs.
- Better ticketing system.

Community / health benefits of having a swimming pool

- Consider value of pools to the community.
- Families will leave if pool shuts.

Local Context /Demographic change

- This exercise is to close pool. If it shuts children will have to catch bus to Burnie.
- Lost 30 families in 12 months due to mine rosters.
- People would travel from Strahan/Zeehan to Queenstown but not Rosebury. Can we tell where people come from who attend pools?
- People go to closer pools. Rosebury people would not come to Queenstown.
- Would not like to see pool lost at Rosebury.
- There is a north/south division – Rosebury/Zeehan and Queenstown/Strahan.
- Great if you are the one that gets to keep a pool, however need to consider teenagers, people with no cars. Look at what is fair to everyone. All deserve to have a pool. Strahan people have always travelled for pool.

Other Comments

- Basketball stadium has solar that doesn't work.
- Loss figures are not big figures considering size of community. Reasons to fight for all 3 pools.
- Need to go back more than last year to compare attendances.
- Think long term and fix leak – improve water temperature.
- People are leaving with families – need something to keep them or attract them.
- Need transport issue solved. We are unique to have 3 pools.
- Study will give us options, which is more than other communities.
- Location is important.
- Wynyard pool discussed – small is ok. Recycle existing assets in new pool.
- Build pool at squash courts and knock them over. Include gym.
- Discussion about various size pools to suit towns.



- Feasibility of school building pool – would council consider supporting?
- Many schools in Queensland have pools that are open to the public.
- Put a Olympic pool in Queenstown and a skate park in an other town.
- Put pool close to gym – lease out and lease kiosk.
- Hospital – hydro therapy.

Priorities

- Longer hours.
- Longer season.
- Improve infrastructure – water temperature.
- Problem getting in and out of pool. Ladder is difficult.
- Review pricing,
- More advertising.
- Do repairs.
- Review high power consumption. Use solar and wind power.
- Future decisions should not affect next season.
- Consider opening at set temperatures.