

Zeehan Swimming Pool Community Meeting Notes - 24 June 2017

Following is a summary of comments made by those in attendance at the above public meeting held at the Zeehan Town Hall.

Information, communication and marketing

- Needed to keep families in town, promote what facilities West Coast has.
- There have been no discussions at council about closing an individual pool.
- Advertise to miners, shift workers.

Management and staffing

- Should use volunteers to run pools, other sports are run by volunteers.
- Too many staff running pools - 2 staff for 6 kids.
- Use volunteers to cut grass.
- Classes couldn't run as conflict with Club.
- Pool tiles need cleaning.
- Cost of Austswim training?
- General Manager stated staff would not be put off if a pool was closed.
- Balancing tasks for staff is a problem. Why is it an issue now? Under staffed, as money does not exist. Need to get more efficient.
- Staff are helpful.

Costs / Budget

- We are happy to pay more money to keep it up.
- Rate cost is \$88 per ratepayer - comment that we would be happy to pay more rates.
- No Government grants are paid to council for swimming pools.
- Loss is normally around 400k per annum for 3 pools.
- Confirmed that school income is not included in pool income table
- Gold coin is too cheap, we are prepared to pay
- Response – we would pay more rates to keep pool open. It costs to drive to other town costs – so pay more at gate of local pool.
- Query about wage cost operating pools.
- Noted that pools have fixed costs so it costs even when pools are closed.
- Happy to pay more with rates.
- User pays \$170 at Burnie for early morning swimming.
- Request for break down of expend lines.

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

- Option to have one good pool in middle – Zeehan.
- Consider running one good pool at Zeehan as it is closer to all towns.

Season and opening hours

- Best weather in March. December too cool.
- If opens too late i.e. school holidays, schools can't run programs. Not in January when School holiday program would have used it. Short season – means more conflict between programs. I.e. club and fitness programs.
- Good swimmers need to train all season.
- Enclosure to allow club to train longer season – all year?
- Short season was main reason why people don't go.
- Ideally we would open 3 months of the year for 3 pools = we can pay for that.
- Option open pools for fewer days a week – but longer season.
- Why did Queenstown open longer? – Answer - larger population and they have a swimming club.
- One happy for 6-week season including January and 2 weeks of February. A shift worker on a roster 7 on 7 off has no chance to swim with kids if the 'off' week is cold.

Programs

- Have some snacks, sausage sizzles, small canteen needed.
- Schedule Fun Days.
- Memories of 'LETS GO TO THE POOL' - parents want that for children.
- Older adults would love to have a morning swim for fitness and fun.
- Rate costs of \$88 per ratepayer - comment that we would be happy to pay more rates.
- If Zeehan had a swim club, pool would not close.
- Use booking system so older less confident people would use pool. If no bookings – pool closes for that day.
- We did have early mornings swimmers.

Community / health benefits of having a swimming pool

- Ideal exercise - to keep weight off, need due to injury, arthritis etc.
- Not many options other than the pool, if you don't play footy or cricket.
- Lot of creeks and rivers in area is safety concern for non-swimmers.

Local Context /Demographic change

- Acknowledge that all towns want their pool to keep open.
- One attends aqua at Queenstown but not possible without car.
- Another goes to swim lessons at Queenstown.

Other comments

- Bus connections to other towns not available.
- If we don't have pools we will consider leaving with kids – no service for kids.
- Very well maintained plant and pool.
- Pool operates on one circulation system – difficult to provide different temperatures for different pool.
- Leaks considerable quantities of water.
- Showers in change room need handrails /repairs.
- More undercover seating at pools.
- Councillor asked to consider one multi purpose venue, enclosed pool is too much to operate or pay more rates. What is a reasonable price to pay? Do pools open when people are away?
- Noted that councillors do not talk of closing pool at Zeehan.
- Engineer report not yet documented – stated that pool runs well, one circulation system for all pools, Zeehan water temperature issue and fiberglass issues. Full report with costs and issues in next few weeks. Issues with water leaks.



- Council staff are busy doing grass cutting, capital works etc. at the same time as preparing pools.

Priorities

- Open for 3 months.
- Learn to swim programs.
- Fun days.
- Have lost a lot of facilities from year ago – pool is very important.
- Fix the heater.