

## **5.4. AMENDMENT TO FEES AND CHARGES - MOSSMAN POOL AND CARAVAN PARK AND ACTIVE8 SUBSIDISED FITNESS**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council:**

- 1. Adopts the amended sections of the Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2021/2022 financial year for Caravan Parks and Campgrounds to include overnight vehicle fee for storage.**
- 2. Adopts the amended sections of the Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2021/2022 financial year for Active8 Fitness Classes to include a fee per class.**

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The schedule of fees and charges developed for the 2021/2022 financial year strives to achieve an equitable "user pays" system for services provided that will continue to assist Council in becoming a long term, financially sustainable organisation.

Since adoption of the 2021/2022 fees there has been some service changes or community need identified. The People and Community Services team have requested changes to the fees and charges. These changes are necessary to more accurately align the provision of cost of the service and provide a clearer explanation of the fees to all users.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Mossman Pool and Caravan Park – Vehicle and Trailer Storage**

The Mossman Pool and Caravan Park was previously managed by a lease holder ending in 2019 who allowed tourists to store their vehicles or caravans in the carpark while they went on multi-day excursions, often to Cape York for two weeks or more. The lease holders reportedly charged a fee for this service and were able to manage the number of vehicles and caravans that were booked to this location.

Since Douglas Shire Council has taken over the management of the Mossman Pool and Caravan Park there has not been a fee associated with that activity. Vehicles have regularly been left in the carpark without a system in place of managing them or a fee to charge for the use of public space.

#### **Active8 Subsidised Fitness Program**

In August 2019, the Active8 program was launched to the Douglas Shire community as a series of free programs, funded by grant funding through North Queensland Sports Foundation and Primary Health Network North Queensland.

The classes were incredibly well supported and were very popular with the Douglas Shire community. Douglas Shire Council's free fitness programs were engaging thousands of participants annually.

Due to the success of the program, the Sport and Recreation unit created an evaluation document and was invited to present in Townsville at the North Queensland Sports Foundation workshop to support other councils to deliver similar outcomes in 2020. Douglas Shire Council was also a finalist in the LGMA and Parks and Leisure Australia awards due to the success of the programs.

The Active8 program included the following programs between 2019-2021:

- Seniors Parkour – Mossman Gymnastics Club
- Aquafit – Mossman Pool
- Zumba – Dixie Park
- Tai Chi – Rex Smeal Park
- Just Start Fitness – Rex Smeal Park
- A Tai Chi pilot program was also run in Diwan

Over the years the requirements for the grant funding became increasingly difficult to manage and funding could not be guaranteed into the future. Douglas Shire Council researched other grant funding options and also consulted with a number of participants to the program to investigate the community's response to a small fee, if council would subsidise the program with the \$15,000 allocated in the 2021-2022 operational budget. It was discovered that participants would be willing to pay up to \$9.00 for the programs.

## COMMENT

The 2021/2022 Schedule of Fees and Charges has been developed based on the fundamental principle of financial sustainability and ensuring the actual quantum of fees imposed more accurately represents the cost to Council of providing the applicable service.

This approach is consistent with a "user pays" system and reduces the cross subsidisation of providing services from other revenue streams or other customers.

Council staff propose the amendments to the following sections of the adopted Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2021/2022 Financial Year:

### **Mossman Pool and Caravan Park – Vehicle / Caravan / Trailer storage**

Proposed changes relate to vehicle, caravan or trailer storage in the car park of the Mossman Caravan Park to \$10 per day, per carpark. Caravanners and campers will not be able to reside in the vehicles overnight.

### **Active8 Subsidised Fitness Program**

The programs have been researched so not to impact other businesses in fitness, instead supporting pathways to other fitness classes in the community by providing entry level programs or meeting a gap in the community that does not already exist.

The programs will continue to be reviewed based on community support.

## PROPOSAL

To amend the section for the Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2020/21 financial year for Cemetery Services, Caravan Parks and Campgrounds and Flagstaff Hill to include the following:

Vehicle / Caravan / Trailer storage	Fee per day, per carpark	\$10.00
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To note and acknowledge that Caravanner's and campers will not be able to reside in the vehicles overnight in the carpark.

Active8 Aquafit - adult	Fee per class	\$9.00
Active8 Aquafit - seniors	Fee per class	\$7.00
Active8 Park Classes	Fee per class	\$7.00

To note and acknowledge that for the Active8 park-based classes a 50-cent booking fee is charged by the booking provider Trybooking. This charge is paid for by the participant and separate from Councils fees.

## FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no known detrimental financial implications if the fees are adopted.

### Should the fee not be adopted:

#### Mossman Pool and Caravan Park – Vehicle / Caravan / Trailer storage

The car park may be in such high demand for vehicle storage that in the winter months and there could be the potential that there is no availability for our regular car park users for swimmers and caravan park guests and could potentially allow the opportunity for illegal camping issues overnight.

#### Active8 Subsidised Fitness

The programs will not be able to continue in the community without a fee being introduced with existing funding opportunities being unsustainable.

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no known risk management implications.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

**Economic:** Nil

**Environmental:** Nil

**Social:** Nil

## CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

### Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

#### Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities

Douglas Shire Council embraces the diversity of our communities and values the contribution that all people make to the Shire. We recognise that it is a core strength of the region. We acknowledge our past so that it may guide us in the future.

We recognise the wrongs done to our Indigenous community and we actively seek to reconcile so that we may all benefit from and enjoy our Shire. We acknowledge early European settlers who forged an agricultural base for our economy and we welcome all new arrivals as part of our broader community.

*Goal 1 - We will celebrate the diversity of our community and ensure that all infrastructure, programs, and services are underpinned with inclusiveness and accessibility.*

*Goal 3 - We will develop programs that promote health, well-being and safety in the community.*

#### Theme 5 – Governance

**5.2.1** - Provide Councillors and community with accurate, unbiased and factual reporting to enable accountable and transparent decision-making.

**5.2.2** - Implement adopted policies and guidelines to ensure consistency in administrative management which also encourages innovation in Council operations.

## COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

**Custodian** Council owns and manages infrastructure, facilities, reserves, resources and natural areas. In fulfilling its role as custodian, Council will be mindful of the community, the economy, the environment, and good governance.

## CONSULTATION

**Internal:** Mossman Pool and Caravan Park staff

**External:** Participants of the Active8 fitness programs

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

A variety of participants from multiple Active8 Free Fitness classes program have been consulted. They have advised they are willing to pay up to \$9.00 per class to ensure its sustainability. They were all supportive of the changes and appreciative of the council subsidised classes. There has been no negative feedback.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil