

5.5. MOSSMAN POOL - SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAM

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DEPARTMENT People and Community Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Reduces the Mossman Pool entrance fee to from \$3.00 to \$2.00 per student for the annual school swimming program for seven (7) identified schools in 2020;
2. Notes that the schools will need to arrange Mossman Pool lifeguards for their swimming sessions and each school will be financially responsible for lifeguard's time for their swimming programs; and
3. Delegates authority under Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to handle matters associated with the above.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council received two in-kind assistance applications from school Parents and Citizenship Associations (P&Cs) in the Douglas Shire requesting fees be waived to Mossman Pool for their schools' annual swimming program.

A letter was also received by Council, from a P&C on behalf of the seven school P&Cs in the Shire, requesting entry fees be waived, or reduced.

This report provides a recommendation to reduce the fees to support the seven (7) local schools participating in swimming lessons for students.

BACKGROUND

Council received the following requests from School Parent & Citizen Associations (P&Cs) to provide free access for their students to the Mossman Pool for a two-week period in Term 4 to support their schools deliver their annual Learn to swim program.

- 22 July Mossman State Primary School P&C
- 5 August Miallo School P&C (On behalf of 7 P&Cs)
- 21 August Wonga Beach School P&C

Council Grant Guidelines were reviewed against the in-kind applications to waive the entrance fees. When the pool was leased previously there may have been fee arrangements in place for schools but not confirmed and since Council has taken on the management of the pool, there is the additional cost of lifeguards.

Children in school swimming programs are currently offered a discounted pool entry fee (\$3) on the general child rate of \$3.50.

Swimming programs are core business of educational organisations. Queensland state schools, in Prep to Year 6, are required to offer a water safety and swimming program. Participation in these programs by students is not compulsory. Parents can choose for their child not to participate. <https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/stages-of-schooling/water-safety-and-swimming>

Even though the P&Cs submitted the applications for in-kind assistance (as schools are ineligible applicants), the swimming programs are exclusive to group members only (i.e. students of that school) and not open community activities. Costs are also recurrent as the program is annual.

Based on the above the requests would be ineligible under S3.4 of the Grant Guidelines (P2-3).

COMMENT

If the request was eligible under Council's Grants Program, the maximum value of in-kind in a financial year for an eligible organisation is \$2,000 (GST Exc).

A grant is available to State Schools (not private schools) for Learn-to-Swim which contributes 50c to entry and an amount for buses. <https://education.qld.gov.au/about-us/budgets-funding-grants/grants/state-schools/core-funding/learn-to-swim>

PROPOSAL

The proposal is that Council

1. Reduce the Mossman Pool entrance fee from \$3.00 to \$2.00 per student for the annual school swimming program for seven (7) identified local schools in 2020;
2. Notes that the schools will need to arrange Mossman Pool lifeguards for their swimming sessions and each school will be financially responsible for lifeguard's time for their swimming programs; and
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer under Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to handle matters associated with the above.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Based on the 10 sessions @ \$3 per session, and enrolment figures sourced from <https://qed.qld.gov.au/publications/reports/statistics/schooling/students>, the total fees per school are:

Table 1.

Name of School	Number of Students	Fees
Alexandra Bay State School	21	\$630.00
Daintree State School	13	\$390.00
Miallo State School	179	\$5,370.00
Mossman State School	240	\$7,200.00
Port Douglas State School	268	\$8,040.00
Wonga State School	94	\$2,820.00
St Augustine's Primary School	200	\$6,000.00
TOTAL	1012	\$30,450.00

The lifeguards required for each of the swimming sessions will be the financial responsibility of each of the participating schools, in which each school will need to arrange through the Mossman Pool and Caravan Park to arrange prior and discuss participating numbers so adequate lifeguards can be arranged as per the required ratio.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

For every 75 people in the complex, a minimum of 1 lifeguard is required, with a minimum call of 3 hours. Each swimming session is around one hour. Schools will be required to arrange and pay for any additional lifeguards required to operate the pool safely.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Entrance fees cover operational and maintenance costs of running the public pool.

Environmental: Nil

Social: Swimming is a popular pastime in Tropical North Queensland. Due to the presence of crocodiles and stingers, swimming in creeks, rivers and the ocean are sometimes not safe options to cool off in the summer months.

Reductions in fees may encourage a higher uptake of the school swimming program by families; enabling inclusion and skills development in swimming and pool safety.

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 2 - We will deliver programs and services that protect and enhance the liveability of our beautiful Shire.

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

Theme 4 - Inclusive Engagement, Planning and Partnerships

In delivering for our communities, economy and environment, Douglas Shire will ensure open and transparent engagement and communication. We will develop robust strategic plans and we will partner with our community and key stakeholders.

Goal 1 - We will implement transparent decision making through inclusive community engagement and communication.

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:

Advocate	Council makes representation on behalf of the community on important issues, funding opportunities, projects and programs. Council will use its influence to seek the best outcomes for the community.
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.
Facilitator	Council often brings stakeholders together on important issues, projects or for service delivery. In this role, Council can act as a mediator, connector, collaborator or initiator.
Funder	Council often partly funds services, events or community organisations through grants, donations, subsidies and in-kind support. Council will apply robust governance to ensure that such funding is fair and appropriate.
Service Provider	Council provides many services to the community from roads and waste services to libraries and recreational facilities. Services evolve over time and it is the Council's mission to ensure that these services are appropriate, delivered efficiently, and designed with the customer at the centre.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Chief Executive Officer, Team Leader Community & Economic Development, Grants Officer, Sport & Recreation Officer

External: Councillors, schools and P&Cs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

Nil