

7.6. REQUEST TO WAIVE POOL ENTRY FEE INCREASE - DOUGLAS CLUSTER OF SCHOOLS

REPORT AUTHOR	Manager Community Services
MANAGER	General Manager TC Jasper Corporate and Communities
DEPARTMENT	Community Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council supports the Douglas Cluster of Schools, and St Augustine's Primary School, by waiving the increase in student entry fees at the Mossman Pool for learn to swim programs conducted in the 2025/2026 financial year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Douglas Cluster of Schools has requested that Council waive the increase in student entry fees at the Mossman Pool for learn to swim programs conducted in the 2025/2026 financial year.

The Cluster has advised that planning and budgeting for learn to swim programs were undertaken earlier in the year and based on the 2024/2025 schedule of fees and charges.

Council adopted the 2025/2026 fees and charges on 29 April 2025. Student entry fees for the Mossman Pool increased from three dollars to four dollars.

BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 29 July 2025, Council resolved to waive lane hire fees for the Douglas Cluster of Schools learn to swim programs.

The schools had requested the waiver to improve the affordability of the programs for families, which was supported by research, including the National Drowning Report 2024.

According to the Cluster, any savings they were hoping to achieve with the waiver of the lane hire fees would now be neutral; should they have to pay the increased entry fee.

COMMENTS

The request for the lane hire fee waiver was received by Council on 3 April 2025. This supports the fact that planning for the school's swimming programs was already underway, and prior to the adoption of the new fees and charges on 29 April 2025.

PROPOSAL

That Council supports the Douglas Cluster of Schools, and St Augustine's Primary School, by waiving the increase in student entry fees at the Mossman Pool for learn to swim programs conducted in the 2025/2026 financial year.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Working on the number of students who participated in the school swim programs in 2024, the total loss of revenue will be approximately \$2,500.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There is a minimal risk that the loss of revenue will impact the operating budget of the pool.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic:	Waiving the increase in the student entry fees will allow the schools to proceed with the learn to swim programs within their budgets for this financial year.
Environmental:	Nil
Social:	Swimming lessons provide essential water safety skills, reducing the risk of drowning and boosting confidence in and around water. Swimming also offers numerous physical and mental health benefits, contributing to overall well-being.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Liveability

To deliver community activities to promote safe, healthy, inclusive and socially engaged communities with an environmental conscious.

1.1 - Deliver community initiatives that support healthy, inclusive and socially engaged communities.

Theme 3 - Service Delivery

We deliver Council services effectively and efficiently to meet community expectations, focusing on the wellbeing of both the community and our employees.

3.6 - Deliver Council services to meet community expectations.

Operational Plan 2025-2026 Actions:

New project arisen during the financial year.

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:

Service Provider	Council provides many services to the community from roads and waste services to libraries and recreational facilities. Services evolve
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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: Council Workshop 18 November 2025, Team Leader Tourist Park and Aquatics

External: Douglas Cluster of Schools

ATTACHMENTS

Nil