



Extraordinary Meeting

An EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of LISMORE CITY COUNCIL will be held at the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Oliver Avenue, GOONELLABAH on **Tuesday, August 23, 2005** and members of Council are requested to attend.

Paul G. O'Sullivan
General Manager

August 16, 2005



Agenda

Opening of Meeting and Prayer (Mayor)

Apologies and Leave of Absence

Public Access Session

Disclosure of Interest

Reports

- Lismore Memorial Baths Fees and Charges

Documents for Signing and Sealing

Strategic Plan Summary

Lismore regional city

| STRATEGIC PRIORITY | AIMS | INITIATIVES |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Economic Development | Build Lismore's reputation as a regional city for residents, businesses, education providers, health services and government. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Champion education ▶ Promote health facilities ▶ Support regional agriculture ▶ Promote cultural life ▶ Promote Lismore as a legal centre ▶ Support for sport |
| | Increase regional economic development, tourism and job creating investments. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Promote regional development ▶ Develop tourism ▶ Support businesses ▶ Pursue CBD revitalisation ▶ Assist in job creation ▶ Assist in creating new income opportunities |
| Quality of Life | Make Lismore a safe, healthy and caring community in which to live. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Increase social cohesion ▶ Support villages ▶ Provide community services ▶ Encourage sustainable development ▶ Promote recreation and leisure |
| Leadership by Innovation | Lead the region by demonstrating innovative practices in governance, customer service, communication, consultation, virtual amalgamation and financial management. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Lead the region ▶ Increase revenue from grants ▶ Improve customer service ▶ Consult the community ▶ Update technology ▶ Provide user pays services ▶ Privatise selected services ▶ Share assets and resources |
| Natural Environment | Preserve and rehabilitate Lismore's natural environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provide sustainable land use planning ▶ Improve catchment management ▶ Conserve and repair the environment |
| Infrastructure | Further enhance Lismore's transportation, parking and pedestrian networks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Improve transport systems ▶ Improve roads, cycleways and footpaths ▶ Assist with public transport ▶ Assist airport operations ▶ Support fleet operations |
| Water and Waste Cycle | Educate our community and lead the state in water and waste-cycle management. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Manage stormwater drainage systems ▶ Manage water and sewage ▶ Manage the waste stream and reduce waste |

Documents for Signing & Sealing

The following documents have been prepared in accordance with previous resolutions of the Council and/or the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1993 and other relevant statutes.

It is now proposed that the Council authorise the signing and sealing of these documents.

Recommendation

The following documents be executed under the Common Seal of the Council:

Final Plans of Survey and Section 88B instruments – Bristol Circuit

For the subdivision of land in Bristol Circuit owned by Council – Lot 34, DP 1068160.
(D04-03)

Report

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Subject | Lismore Memorial Baths – 2005/06 Fees & Charges |
| File No | P6768 |
| Prepared by | Manager – Finance & Administration |
| Reason | To consider submissions received on the 2005/06 Fees & Charges for the Lismore Memorial Baths |
| Objective | For Council to adopt the 2005/06 Fees & Charges for the Lismore Memorial Baths. |
| Strategic Plan Link | Quality of Life |
| Management Plan Activity | Community Services |

Overview of Report

The 2005/06 Lismore Memorial Baths Draft Fees & Charges have been on public display from July 21 to August 18, 2005. Three submissions have been received and these raise issues and suggest a number of possible changes.

On review, two other issues have been identified and these also require consideration by Council.

Before implementing, Council must consider the submissions and then adopt the fees and charges.

Background

Council resolved at the July 19, 2005 to advertise the 2005/06 Lismore Memorial Baths Draft Fees & Charges for 28 days and seek public comment. A copy of the advertised Fees & Charges is attached. This information was advertised in The Northern Rivers Echo each week during this period. Also, a letter with the full details was sent to the 'home' clubs of the facility being Lismore Swim Team, Far North Coast Water Polo and Lismore RSL Swimming Club.

Council must formally consider all submissions and then adopt the 2005/06 Lismore Memorial Baths Fees & Charges.

Submissions

There have been three submissions received and copies are attached. A précis of each follows:-

a) Chris Mills

Advising he has studied the proposed charges and does not believe that the pricing structure satisfies his four point views on what the pricing structure should achieve. A number of observations and possible scenarios are provided to support the points raised.

His suggestions include i) all children, students and concession holders pay the same entrance fee to the pool, ii) all adults, spectator or not, pay the same entrance fee, iii) annual family passes be reduced to \$400, and iv) no extra hire fees for not for profit organisations eg schools or swimming clubs.

b) Lib Ruytenberg

Wishing to place on record the aspects which are important to her including strongly supporting free entry for 0-5 year olds, the adult entry fees are reasonable compared to other non metropolitan Council's, suggesting the multi visit passes need to have a greater discount and season passes represent good value.

She requested refund/reimbursement guidelines be written for annual passes.

c) Lismore Swim Team

Drawing Council's attention to several issues being i) 0-5 free entry and suggesting a change to 0-2 for free entry, ii) spectator entry fee should be \$2.00, iii) the family pass charge has increased disproportionately to a casual adult charge and suggesting it be reduced to \$466.70, and iv) requesting facility hire charge for schools, home based swimming clubs and not for profit organisations be removed.

As the advertising period closes on August 18, 2005, which is after the closing date for this business paper, it is possible that there may be other submissions received. If any are received, they will be forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Based on the submissions, the following comments are made:

- 0-5 Free Entry – Council's contract management responsibilities are to ensure the provision of a high quality, safe, clean, accessible service to the community. Close, responsible management of the new facility will be required to achieve these objectives and to provide the best financial return (or minimal deficit) for Council.

Due to the positioning of the toddlers pool relative to the main pools, a dedicated lifeguard must be present at the toddler's pool whenever it is occupied. The lifeguard cannot be shared across pools due to sight line constraints and must monitor the toddler's pool whenever people use that pool. The need for a dedicated lifeguard solely for the toddlers pool will place an increased demand on the total staff wages bill, and should be viewed in combination with the proposal to waive admission fees for the 0 – 5 age group.

This age group is a high risk category for the spread of illness and disease, and the warm, shallow body of water that has been purpose built for this age group changes visibly in times of heavy occupation due to sun screen and occasional body functions. The toddlers pool runs on a separate water filtration system, however there are health and hygiene risks associated with the pool that have the potential to be extremely costly should a disease outbreak occur.

Once admitted to the pool, free of charge, patrons could access all pools within the complex, not just the toddler's pool.

This age group represents approximately 25% of the total public admission to the pool. This represents a significant proportion of lost revenue, bearing in mind that admission fees represent approximately 98% of Council's pool revenue.

The proposal to amend this to '0-2 free entry' is supported.

- Spectator Entry Fee – Proposed at \$1.00. It is agreed that it could be difficult to determine who is a spectator. The suggestion that it should be considered as a 'venue entrance fee' and therefore increased has merit and is supported.
- Family Passes – Proposed at \$699.30. This is for a minimum of one adult and maximum of three children. It provides access for four to the facility for fifty two weeks a year compared to thirty weeks a year for the old facility. As a guide, the following weekly usage patterns and fees for four people are provided:-

| Time Per Week | Fee Per Person |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | \$3.36 |
| 2 | \$1.68 |
| 3 | \$1.12 |

It clearly indicates that if an annual family pass is used 2 times or more a week, the average fee per person is less much less than the average fee per person for casual swimmers (\$2.65 – summer & \$2.90 winter). The usage where the average fee for both is the same during summer is when the family pass is used by five family members for one visit per week for fifty two weeks a year.

- Facility Hire Charge – It is proposed to charge a premium for ‘exclusive’ use of part or all of the facility. For the ‘home’ clubs, the charge is reduced by 50%. The rationale behind the facility hire charge, other than it being an attractive marketable venue, is that casual swimmers are less likely to visit the facility during exclusive use as they would be required to pay the every day entrance fee but not have access to all the facility. As such, the facility hire charge effectively contributes the revenue not being received from casual swimmers as the operating costs are still being incurred.
- Refund/Reimbursement Guidelines – Agreed that guidelines should be considered and drafted.

Other Issues

On review, the following items also require Council consideration:-

a) Lane Hire

In the draft fees and charges, there was an oversight in that only the Lismore Swim Team were clearly given ‘free’ lane hire (as distinct from a 50% reduction in facility hire charges). To be consistent, this should also be offered to Far North Coast Water Polo and Lismore RSL Swimming Club.

b) ‘Learn To Swim’ Classes

As part of Council’s contribution to supporting water safety initiatives for the community, it is proposed to not charge facility hire charges for ‘learn to swim classes’. Primarily, this will involve organisers such as the Department of Education (through schools), Department of Sport and Recreation (normally January each year) and the Pool Contractor.

However, all swimmers will be required to pay the every day entrance fees.

Comments

Financial Services

N/A

Other staff comments

N/A

Public consultation

The availability of the information was advertised in The Northern Rivers Echo each week during the 28 day advertising period. Also, a letter with the full details was sent to the ‘home’ clubs of the facility being Lismore Swim Team, Far North Coast Water Polo and Lismore RSL Swimming Club.

Conclusion

The 2005/06 Lismore Memorial Baths Draft Fees & Charges have been advertised for 28 days seeking public comment. Three submissions have been received and these raise issues and suggest a number of possible changes.

On review, changes to the charges applicable to lane hire for 'home' clubs and facility hire charges for 'learn to swim' classes also requires Council's consideration.

Recommendation

1. All submissions be received and noted.
2. The 2005/06 Lismore Memorial Baths Fees & Charges as advertised be adopted subject to the following changes:-
 - a) Free entry for 0-2 years of age,
 - b) Spectator entrance fees be increased to \$2.00,
 - c) No lane hire charges for 'home' clubs, and
 - d) No facility hire charges for 'Learn to Swim' classes.
3. Guidelines for the refund/reimbursement of annual passes be considered and prepared by management.