

# Hornsby Aquatic Centre

## PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



The Hornsby Aquatic Centre closed in December 2010. Council proposes to construct a new centre on the existing site. As part of its community consultation process, Public Information Sessions were held in March 2011, to enable the community to find out more about the project and for Council to hear from the community about what is important in a new centre. These sessions were attended by a total of 88 people.

At the sessions a number of questions were asked. Council agreed to confirm the answers given at the time and to provide additional information that was not available to staff at the sessions.

The answers to the questions raised at both Public Information Sessions are detailed below. They have been grouped under a series of subject headings. General comments from both Public Information Sessions that do not require answers have also been included for completeness of the record.

#### OLD CENTRE

- **Why has Council decided to close Hornsby Aquatic Centre?**

The pool has been closed for safety reasons.

On Wednesday 1 December 2010, Council reluctantly made the decision to close the Hornsby Aquatic Centre after considering advice received from its specialist engineering consultant. Council decided to close the pool on Friday 24 December 2010 for safety reasons.

For additional information visit [www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/hac](http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/hac)

- **If Hornsby Pool was so unsafe, why was it reopened after closing to the public, so that Hornsby Council Staff could swim in it?**

Council staff held a short (4 lap) relay race at lunch time on the 24th December 2010, the day it was closed. It was considered appropriate for the many staff who had been involved in the pool to have a farewell swim.

- **Council should seek an engineer to keep the pool open – as is.**

Council sought a second opinion on the safety of the pool structure in 2009. The second Consulting Engineer agreed with findings of the first Engineer.

- **How much money has been spent so far in the last five years on consultants? Why so much outsourcing?**

Council engages specialist consultants as required for various projects. This is standard business practice. For the Hornsby Aquatic Centre project, prior to engaging the architect in September 2010, expenses for external consultants were less than \$10,000.

- **How much has been spent to nurse the pool through to 2010?**

It is difficult to separate this from routine maintenance expenditure, however over the last five years expenditure on supporting the pool structure from underneath has increased dramatically.

## SITE

- **Is current pool site suitable? Is it too small and difficult and expensive on valley edge? Can the adjacent land on corner of Dural & Quarry Road (not quarry land) be used as it has a road and is level? If the land size will limit adequate development of a 50m pool, why can't Council joint fund – with 2nd part – a pool and place it elsewhere e.g. Thornleigh Brickpit – with good parking?**

Council is aware the existing park is a challenging site yet it is the best available site within Hornsby for a 'Hornsby' pool as it is centrally located to residents in the north and other areas within the shire and is within walking distance to public transport. The Thornleigh Brickpit is a former land fill site subject to further settlement and is fully developed. Council has committed to the development of a Golf Driving Range at this site and construction is expected to commence in the near future. The Old Man Valley site has no services and much of the land is not suitable for building an aquatic complex due to very deep fill. Preliminary investigations by Council have found that additional funding of \$3 million would be required to build in Old Man Valley.

- **Can Council explain more about the Approvals Process (Crown Land and Determining Authority)?**

Crown land is land that is owned and managed on behalf of the State by the Land & Property Management Authority (LPMA). It accounts for over half of all land in New South Wales and includes Crown lands held under lease, licence or permit; community managed reserves; lands retained in public ownership for environmental purposes; lands within the Crown public roads network; and other unallocated lands. Many non-tidal waterways across the State also comprise Crown land as do most tidal waterway land.

Hornsby Park is Crown Land and Council has been appointed as Trust Manager of this land. Council must carry out its responsibilities in accordance with the Crown Lands Act. Council has advised the LPMA that it intends to rebuild the Hornsby Aquatic Centre and no objection was received. The LPMA will be progressively consulted as design proceeds and will be advised when a DA is to be submitted.

## PLANNING FOR NEW POOL

### Planning

- **Will pool planners and engineers consult “sister” overseas cities about community pool plans. E.g. UK (Whitestable, Manchester), Canada, USA (Marysville, Ohio)?**

We have inspected a variety of other pools including Marrickville, Bathurst, Cabravale, Hurstville, Parramatta, Fairfield and Thomastown (in VIC). As a comparison Bathurst Aquatic Centre cost approximately \$15M (in 2006/07) on a flat site.

- **How are different requests for facilities prioritised?**

It is about what needs are important to people of Hornsby Shire. Council proposes to seek the opinion of the community through a consultation process that includes a Deliberative Forum, in addition to the Public Information Sessions. Following receipt of the report of these Sessions and the Deliberative Forum, Council will make a final decision as to those facilities that will be included in a new centre.

- **Why is nobody recognising a pool as an investment in the community’s mental and physical health and our children’s safety?**
- **There are many Vacation Care Centres in Hornsby that have to travel to Homebush/Ryde/Epping pools to cater for our program. A pool in Hornsby would draw these centres and many teenagers and others and keep them off the streets. Will a pool of this type be built?**
- **What consideration is being made of population in local area?**
- **With a growing obesity problem and lack of exercise does Council consider a 25m pool to be adequate?**

The community consultation and the deliberative forum process being used by Council will determine the type of aquatic centre we can build that best meets community needs. The deliberative forums will consider all criteria to develop a final design.

- **It seems that Councillors are not involved in the process. Lack of vision by Councillors is the problem.**

Council agreed to the Public Information Sessions and the Deliberative Forum process as one way of involving the community in the decision making process. Councillors want to hear from the community, and will use the information so obtained when making a decision regarding the project. Councillors have been kept informed of the progress for the redevelopment of the Hornsby Aquatic Centre and have agreed on a preliminary budget (March 2010), engagement of the Architect (September 2010) and approved the consultation process we are now undertaking. The Councillors want the community to have a large input into the final design.

- **Draft Selection Criteria – Financial – If other Council amenities such as parks don't make profits why is the pool treated differently?**

There are many demands on Council's resources, and where appropriate, Council considers that certain facilities or activities should be managed to provide a return for the benefit of the community. It is good use of scarce resources to make a reasonable charge to the community for some services. Council has adopted a pricing Policy to provide guidance in this regard.

- **Can we preserve CWA meeting rooms and not put a road through them? Have CWA been consulted about removal of premises?**

This access option was considered the best arrangement and will provide parking in close proximity to the new facility. Discussions have been held with members of the CWA. Council will continue to liaise with the CWA throughout this process.

- **Can we build a combined purpose recreational and cultural precinct?**
- **Can we build a combined recreational and cultural precinct, i.e. a dual purpose centre?**

The site in Hornsby Park does not have sufficient room to include a significant increase in activities. The budget of \$20M limits the facilities that can be provided, and Council has agreed that no other facilities should be considered in this location.

- **What thought has been given to saving the Lone Pine?**

The lone pine is unfortunately located in a position that would compromise any design for a new facility. Discussions have been held with the Hornsby RSL Sub Branch and it is agreed in principle that a replacement Gallipoli Pine will be planted in Cenotaph Park near the War Memorial.

## Options

- **Why build on the same site given the Crown Land restriction?**

Council looked at a number of possible locations for the siting of the new Hornsby Aquatic Centre. No other site within the Hornsby area could provide similar space and allow for vehicle parking. Public transport (access to train station) was a consideration. Other sites were also found to be more expensive.

- **Why is the old site or Old Man Valley the only option? Why not Berowra?**

The Hornsby Park site is in a central location and is accessible for many residents of the shire. Council has investigated a number of alternative sites for the pool and found that it is difficult to identify alternative sites that are large enough and that Council owns or has care, control and management responsibility of (such as Crown Land).

The land that Council owns in Old Man Valley has been evaluated and overall it was found that it would be more expensive than a pool in Hornsby

Park in its current location (at least an additional \$3M would be required). The evaluation also found that there are considerable issues associated with servicing costs (road construction, water, sewer, power and gas) and constructing on fill. Remoteness from available public transport and a lack of visibility of the site also make it less desirable.

Other alternatives involving land acquisition (or purchase of land) would also be considerably more expensive than developing a pool at Hornsby Park.

Council has previously considered the provision of a pool at Berowra, but has agreed that a pool in a more central location at Hornsby was a higher priority.

- **Wouldn't Old Man Valley be easier to build on and for access and cheaper?**
- **If going to a different site would cost only \$3m more would we not be better off to go to a larger area where more could be achieved and bring more people make it more viable?**

There is not a lot of land available that is large enough to accommodate this type of facility. The Old Man Valley (OMV) site has been evaluated and is not considered suitable for the reasons explained above. Other parcels of land in the area are not owned by Council and therefore we would need to include acquisition costs for the project, leading to an overall increase in the cost of the development.

- **Some years ago Hornsby RSL were talking about building a sports aquatic complex on their land opposite the RSL in Ashley Street. Has Council consulted with the RSL to ensure there is not going to be a duplication?**

No. Council is unaware of the RSL intentions. Council wishes to provide a facility that is suitable for a wide range of the community, and to do so as soon as possible.

### Program/Staging

- **When will we get our new aquatic centre?**
- **When will Council start to plan? When will building start? Public facility or expensive private?**

We have actively been working on this project since Council agreed to proceed with planning in June 2009.

The opening date for the new pool will be contingent upon a number of factors including the design and planning process, the time it takes to process the development application through the approval process, and the construction period, which will not be determined until a contractor has been selected through a tender process. At this stage, a construction period of 18 months could be anticipated.

Council will be doing everything it can to fast-track the replacement of the pool.

At this stage there has been no decision if the facility will be run by Council or managed by a private operator.

- **Can we develop the centre in affordable stages i.e. 50m then indoor 25m, etc?**
- **Will the aquatic centre be built in one stage or will there be a delayed stage II (or more) in the construction?**
- **Noted 3 year plan. Can this be staged to rebuild 50m outdoor pool first? This is important to us!**

Staging on this site is possible but not recommended. The best access point for construction is as an extension of Coronation Street into Hornsby Park. If staging is required then this access would be used for general pool access (unless we close the pool during construction) and therefore the only alternative is to use the northern access track currently running adjacent to the children's play area. If this access option were to be considered, numerous trees will have to be removed and during the construction period the northern section of the park including the children's play area will be annexed.

- **Does the proposed timeline take into account the possibility of a rejection of the application for a rate increase? If not what impact will this have on the time line?**
- **Timeframe notes completion mid-2014. Why commence design and funding now? Not 2 years ago?**

The timeline assumes a rate increase is approved by IPART. If this does not occur, then Council must determine how to fund the project. Depending on this decision the timeline may need to be adjusted. Council commenced design work prior to the Minister for Local Government refusing Council's previous application for a rate increase

- **Why does Council have to go to an EOI process? Why don't they go straight to tender?**

If Council went straight to a tender process it is likely that numerous companies with experience in building pools would not tender as there would be so many tenders submitted that their submission may not be considered. It is expensive to submit a tender for a \$20 million project and the EOI process allows Council to select five or six companies with the best credentials to tender for the project. Council then knows that all tender submissions are from companies that have the appropriate skills to build the new aquatic centre. Council will undertake the EOI process while the DA is being assessed for approval. The overall timeline will not be increased by this action.

### Approval Process

- **Will the sign-off with the relative department slow down the construction process?**
- **Why is the DA assessment period so long and why the delay in commencement of construction after the tenders close?**

- **Earlier date of completion – extra funding?**
- **Sounds like Council does not know a lot about the JRPP. Surely Council can start liaising with them now?**

Council must submit a DA for the new Hornsby Aquatic Centre to a Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP) for approval. The JRPP consist of members appointed by State Government and Council. The Panels have been established to provide independent, merit-based decision-making on regionally significant development proposals.

Past experience with submissions to the JRPP suggests that we will require five months and given this period is over Christmas and New Year, an additional two months has been added. If less time is required for assessment then the construction of the new pool can start earlier than currently shown.

- **The timeline appears long. Can this be expedited? Why is it going to take more than 1 year to prepare the DA, assess the DA and approve it?**

No. Unfortunately it can't happen any quicker than is currently proposed. The DA must be sufficient to show that the environmental and other issues have been considered, and that the proposal is consistent with Council's LEP. The approval process is outside Council's control.

### **Net Operating Costs & Admission Fees**

- **Did the old pool run at a loss or breakeven? If it ran at a loss why does it now have to break even?**
- **Does raising sufficient operating revenue to break even in operational costs mean that a 25m pool has already been decided on? - 50m pools generally running at a loss?**
- **Will the ratepayers get the free admission?**
- **Why must the pool be seen to break even? It is the Council's job to provide facilities its residents demand. We are already paying rates. Does the Library break even??**
- **When project is completed – can we maintain good concessional rates for pensioners?**

Council funds the shortfall in costs at all three centres from its general revenue. Last year Hornsby Pool lost approximately \$118K. A new Learn to Swim pool will help to make a new centre breakeven. Council considers that it is desirable that the new aquatic centre should breakeven or possibly make a small surplus. This surplus can assist in replacement of plant and refurbishment in the future.

Council provides subsidised entry to pensioners and children in accordance with its Fees and Charges which are published every year.

## Design Elements

- **Why can't the driveway be on the other (north) side where driveway is?**

The current driveway is 3m wide and too narrow. The new pool access-way will need to be 2 way, a minimum 6.0 metres wide and designed to take cars and service vehicles. To construct a road of this nature on the northern side will lead to the removal of a number of significant trees or sandstone retaining walls.

There would be concerns with safe access to and from the Pacific Highway, and the need for significant intersection construction works.

The grades of the access-way would be steep and it may be difficult to achieve access to the pool basement level, without reducing the size of the pool deck. An access road in this area would also cut off the playground from other areas of the park and would restrict pedestrian and cycle access into Old Man Valley.

The alternative Coronation Street access is already a signalised intersection, working better with the road network and will achieve much gentler gradients into a pool basement.

- **Can the pool area encroach on Council designated land?**

Yes, however the site topography and siting of the pool do not require any encroachment.

- **Again. Why can't you encroach on the bushland area (If a greater area is required)?**
- **Why can't area behind the pool be used for parking?**
- **Can you build further back into bush to make larger site?**
- **Can some of the vacant Council land be used for more parking?**

The pool footprint is expected to include minor increases in the footprint both to the east and west to increase the area available. Council has investigated the idea of parking behind the pool. This land is very steep and it was found that it would cost significantly more. The drop down the hill is approximately 25m and would require a lift from the carpark. Access would be via a new road linking to Quarry Road which would be expensive.

- **Why can't the site expand into the park to the east?**

Large Turpentine trees planted around the 1900's and heritage paving limit encroachment to the east and the steep escarpment to the west would mean the use of longer columns which add to costs.

- **Have designers considered the value as a wind break the grandstand plays – particularly in winter?**
- **Moving the grandstand to the east side opens up the 50m pool to strong westerly winds. Has Council allowed to erect some sort of high, clear wind break to rectify this problem?**

This is a detail question that will be considered when we get to the detailed design stage.

- **Will there be disabled friendly change, shower and toilet cubicles?**
- **With regards to people with disabilities how will access be improved for them?**
- **Will the pool have facilities for disabled?**

Yes. The new centre will comply with all *Disability Discrimination Act* requirements. One of the reasons Council wishes to raise the pool deck is to improve access for people with disabilities. Council also proposes better parking arrangements.

- **What is happening to the CWA building and what will the access be?**

As discussed in the meeting, it is considered that the best option for access to a carpark under the pool *and for service vehicles access* is via an extension of Coronation Street. This would require the removal of the CWA building and the public toilets further to the west.

- **Where will the car park be located and what size – number of cars it will hold?**
- **How many cars accommodated in carpark?**

The final capacity of the proposed carpark has not been determined; however there is room for approximately 100 car spaces under the pool.

- **Will Aquatic Centre have spa, sauna, gym?**
- **Will part of the pool be shaded for the protection of the swimmers from skin cancer?**
- **Will the proposed 50m outdoor pool be heated and open all year?**
- **Will Council build another much needed 50m pool at the same site?**
- **Will there be a 50m pool?**
- **The old pool had a strong smell of chlorine, which I hear is bad for your health. Will a new pool have a safer alternative?**
- **Can we at least have what we had for 50 years i.e. a 50m x 8 lane lap pool and a training pool and a kiddy pool? (An indoor 25m pool and gym and café would be great but we could live without them if necessary – maybe make provision to incorporate later?)**
- **For school carnivals you will definitely need a 50m pool.**
- **Is it going to be a 50m pool? How many lanes? Is there covered seating?**
- **Is there going to be more parking available? Will the 50m pool be heated?**
- **Will there be a 50m outdoor pool?**
- **What will be the length of the pool – 25/20 metres?**
- **Will there be one pool or two i.e. 25/50 metres?**
- **Will the pool be heated and by what system?**
- **Will there be a provision of family change rooms in the new pool plan?**
- **Will the pool have a shower beside it for the swimmers to clean the body before they pool?**
- **Need Aquatic Pool/Centre that includes Gymnasium, kids area, e.g. like Homebush/Ryde pools etc. What's the hold up?**

- **Has the proposed water theme park in Western Sydney been considered when looking at Water Slides, etc?**
- **Can you promise that the new Aquatic Centre will include an Olympic size pool in the first stage?**
- **Why are Council considering a 25m pool?**
- **Has Council considered new 50m designs with booms that move to make 2 x 25m, floors that raise and lower to create learner pools? Homebush has one I think?**
- **Will the centre cater for Water-polo competition?**
- **Population growth 11,000 in-coming residents in high-rises. Why are we considering at all 25m? 50m a must!!**
- **Will there be – BOTH 50m pool, 25 m pool, toddler pool?**
- **2682 school children in Asquith on any day. How can they be accommodated in a 25m pool for a Swimming Competition?**
- **Can Council commit to regular crèche activities?**

All the above questions relate to the final design which will be determined by Council following the Deliberative Forums. Council has made no decisions on the final shape or form of the new centre. The sizes of pools, water temperature, children activities, etc will be considered at the Deliberative Forum. Pool heating and filtration systems will be designed once the final layout has been determined.

- **Where would amenities block in Park be re-built?**

It is likely that public toilets with direct access to Hornsby Park will be incorporated in the new Hornsby Aquatic Centre.

- **Will the concrete construction be up to world standards?**

Design & construction will comply with all relevant Australian Standards.

- **The examples shown are bigger than the site can support. What examples are there that are more realistic for Hornsby?**

Council has a unique site for building an aquatic centre. A similar size project is the newly opened Annette Kellerman pool at Marrickville. This has indoor 50m, Learn to Swim and play pools and a gymnasium. Many new pools are either completely new complexes or extensions to existing. Not many councils are building new outdoor 50m pools.

- **If design development has been going on for 6 months does that mean the decision 50m vs. 25m is already made?**
- **It is clear from community feedback to date that Hornsby residents want a 50 metre outdoor pool (at least). Why is Council reticent to commit to a 50m pool while spewing rhetoric re providing us with what we want?**

Council has not made any final decision on what the new Hornsby Aquatic Centre will include. Council wants to ensure all the community has a say on what we build. At the Deliberative Forum all options are open for discussion and the group will determine what best suits the community needs. The decision will be referred to Council for its consideration.

## PROJECT FUNDING

### Rate Increase

- **Why was the first rate increase rejected? What has changed?**
- **If there is no rate increase – where will the money come from or will this project not happen?**
- **What happens to the project if the rate variation does not get the OK?**
- **If the rate increase is approved, by how much will rates increase?**
- **Is the \$1.70/week rate only for the pool?**

In June 2010, Council's rate increase application was rejected by the former Minister for Local Government, Barbara Perry, with little explanation for her decision. This decision meant that Council's plans to replace the pool could not be confirmed. However, Council has continued to plan for the pool's replacement, and has appointed an architect to develop options for a replacement complex.

In October 2010, Council resolved to once again apply for permission to increase rates. Council's application will go to a State Government body – the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) – for consideration. From 2011, applications for rate increases will now be considered by the IPART, rather than the Minister.

We have again consulted with residents and have prepared a comprehensive business case for our rates increase application.

Council is committed to this project and would need to look at other means e.g. trimming of budgets if the rate increase is not approved.

The rate increase is estimated to be approximately \$1.70 per week. For more information on the rate increase, please visit [future.hornsby.nsw.gov.au](http://future.hornsby.nsw.gov.au).

A comprehensive Resourcing Strategy has been prepared to consider infrastructure that requires updating or improvement e.g. more footpaths, better amenities, community buildings, seawalls and wharves etc. The rate increase is to cover a 10 year plan with priority given to key assets.

- **Last year when Council consulted re the rate increase for the new pool was \$10M. Why has that amount doubled?**

There was initial discussion several years ago that \$15M+ may be sufficient to build a new centre. This was before we had estimated costings from a quantity surveyor. We forwarded a very preliminary concept plan to a quantity surveyor in January 2010 and this indicated we need a \$20M budget.

## Funding

- **How soon will Council have funds to start the process?**

Council has already committed \$600K for this financial year to start the design process. Next year a further \$600K is proposed to be allocated to finalise the design and go to tender. If the rate increase is not approved then Council will need to consider other alternatives to finance the project.

- **Why was there no sinking fund set up by Council to deal with what they know was going to happen to the pool? (Council knew this was coming 40 years ago!)?**
- **Recent levies aside, why was adequate financial planning not foreseen/included in a 10-year plan, given Council knew the pool would close in 2012?**
- **Why has there not been any steps taken to replace pool earlier? And why hasn't there been adequate budget funding?**
- **If Council was aware of the problem in the 70's why didn't they commence saving dollars and preparing then**
- **Are you spending money from \$20 to Dopleing etc and will it be like all the years we have been waiting with money running out?**
- **If the Council has known of the poor state of the existing pool why has it taken so long to start the replacement planning i.e. why wasn't it started years ago?**
- **Why didn't Council commence planning to build the new pool 10 years ago when it was evident that the pool needed replacing?**

Rate pegging and cost shifting has meant that money just wasn't available to be put aside. If Council put money aside it would have to reduce or allow its infrastructure assets or other services provided by Council to run down. Councils of the day determined not to "sit" on the ratepayers' money by just keeping it in the bank.

Council commenced planning in 2008-2009. A project like this requires the dollars to be committed. As we all know money sitting in a bank account is dead money and it was decided by Council at this time, to keep the existing pool going as long as possible.

- **Would it not be wise to start with what the community want and then do the budget – look at other commercial options for funding?**
- **Why can't a portion of the \$20M, say 4-5M be spent on a pool in Berowra. This could be done in a shorter time frame and be a backup for the main pool in Hornsby?**

The budget may be contingent on what the community determines is the best option available. It has been determined by council that a viable facility that meets the majority of the community's needs will be able to be delivered for \$20M.

## Developer Funding

- **Can Council find a way for developer funds to add to \$20M, due to greatly increased population in Hornsby CBD/Waitara.?**
- **What happened to all the ‘contributions’ from the Developers of the local high-rise buildings?**
- **If Council has been allocating funds equitably why was over \$4M in Developer Funds allocated for Galston Equestrian Centre that services such a tiny percent of people in an area not generating Developer Funds?**

Developer contributions (S94 funds) can only be used to provide additional facilities that are considered to result from an increase in population and are included in the S94 Plan. Maintenance of current facilities is excluded. With a population of approximately 160,000 and an increase of 5% we could possibly generate an additional \$1M of the \$20M required, provided that it was in the Plan and Council agreed that there were no other projects of higher priority that should be so funded. The State Government has imposed an arbitrary cap on the amount councils can collect under S94. The cap is currently \$20,000 for a new dwelling.

## Funding Alternatives

- **What funding alternatives have been considered?**
- **What other sources of funding are Council considering – any external funding ideas?**
- **Has anyone considered applying for funding from Department of Sports and Recreation?**
- **Have Council considered a public-private partnership?**

Council does not have the funds available at this time. \$20M is approximately one fifth of Council's annual budget. To fund from current budget would require a significant cut in other services.

Major capital grants of \$20 million aren't available from Sports and Recreation or other funding sources available to Council. There are grants available of \$20 - \$30K for improvement works, not for re-development.

When a design has been developed, Council will continue looking for ways to secure additional funding to assist in the development of the Hornsby Aquatic Centre.

- **Will the council also be able to receive financial assistance from Federal/State governments?**
- **Has there been consultation with State and Commonwealth for grants?**
- **Has the Health Department of NSW been asked to contribute?**
- **Have the State Government candidates committed funds?**
- **NSW State Government is pressuring Hornsby Council to provide more and more housing – can this be used as leverage to drag some funds out of them towards providing a swimming pool for this rapidly growing community?**

Currently there are no grants available from the State or Federal Governments, however if they become available they will be pursued. Council intends to apply for a rate increase that, in addition to other high priority projects, will generate income that will fund the construction of the pool.

- **Has CSR been asked to contribute?**

No.

- **Can the schools in the area contribute towards a new pool?**
- **Have you considered raising funds via big corporate sponsors who have interest in our area (e.g. banks) and fitness (e.g. Speedo, Gatorade) say \$100,00 - \$500,000 for 10 years advertising in the pool grounds in return for their products guaranteed stock at the pool shop?**

It is considered unlikely that schools would be able to make any substantial contribution to this project. We are at the stage of developing design ideas. As the design takes shape Council may consider sponsorship and contributions.

## **PROJECT BUDGET**

- **What does \$20M get us?**
- **How was the \$20M budget identified? What was the criteria and who decided it?**
- **Why is the budget \$20M? Who decided this amount?**
- **Where will the funding come from if it won't cover the cost of a 50m pool?**
- **Will \$20M budget provide for a 50m pool? Yes/No (no in between answers)**
- **What will the cost be in 2011 to replace the three pools; paddle pool, the learn-to-swim and Olympic pool?**
- **What size pool can be built with a budget of 20 million dollars?**
- **What pools inspected for comparison for the \$20M expenditure?**
- **How was \$20m indentified?**
- **Do we need to be constrained by the \$20M?**
- **Council contribution \$120,000 – how much would it cost to build 50m outdoor pool on existing site?**

The original concept developed for preliminary budget purposes included demolition of the existing pool, carparking, 50m pool with grandstand, indoor 25m pool, amenities, and an outdoor splash pad. There are many variations on this that can be developed.

No decision has been made yet if a 50m pool is to be incorporated. That is what these community consultation sessions are about – to determine what the public wants. Not just those who used the pool previously but future users for the next 50 to 80 years.

- **Isn't money sitting in the 'bank' ear-marked for the Brick pit at this very moment? The same should have been done for the pool so we don't have to wait for almost 4 years for a pool. It's just not good enough.**

Brickpit stadium makes a surplus that is kept in a special (restricted asset) account so that the funds can be used for maintenance of the facility. For example in a few years, the floors of the basket ball courts will need to be replaced and this surplus will be used.

## OTHER / MISCELLANEOUS

### Pool Committee

- **Will local primary, secondary and private school and tertiary institutions within the Shire be represented on the new pool committee?**
- **Could pool swimmers and swim families have representation on the Council pool committee?**

Council has made every effort to ensure that a wide range of stakeholders and the community generally have the opportunity to participate in the deliberative forums.

### Other

- **Will the current site fit in the same facilities as Bathurst?**
- **What was the cost of the Bathurst Centre?**

No. Our site is much smaller, however it could accommodate a smaller version of Bathurst. Bathurst cost approx \$15M (in 2006/07) on a flat site.

- **What happened to the community funds raised for the pool in Berowra?**

Council has no record of receiving, or of funds having been raised by the community for a pool at Berowra.

- **Has anyone done a feasibility study – assuming different scenarios (funding, entrance prices, structure) and analysis of ROI? (Return on Investment)?**

Council engaged RMP & Associates to provide recreational planning advice and the latest trends in the aquatic industry. They provided information on capacities and charges for private/public run pools. In essence the more activities provided the more revenue.

- **How many schools use Hornsby for 50m carnivals?**

25.

- **What are the dimensions of the site?**

Width is 40-50m and length is 150m. Hornsby Park extends west a long way behind the pool into a large open space area beyond. The developed Hornsby Park and pool site are a gateway to a large area of open space that is approximately 50 hectares in size, very steep and containing large areas of bushland.

- **What do you mean by “complementary non aquatic activities”? We do not need any more gyms in Hornsby.**

Complementary non aquatic activities would include such things as a kiosk, grassed areas, a café, dryland exercise associated with swimming and a gym.

- **Why isn't a 50m pool included under the heading “Technical”?**

The Criteria we are developing are not for specific pools (50m or 25m) but what are the needs or uses we are trying to satisfy.

- **Can Council ask to make the 50m Knox Pool available? The Knox pool opens September?**
- **Can Council ask to keep Pymble Pool open in Winter?**

Council will advise/remind the operators of these pools that Hornsby pool is closed.

- **I query “Lone Pine” date as suggested as dated 1921 - . It has been previously understood a Gallipoli returned Digger from “Lone Pine” 1914-1918 planted it from a cone from Gallipoli.**

Noted.

- **I have filled out questionnaires many times over the last 20 years. What will tonight achieve?**

We are using tonight and the other community consultation for residents to help Council determine the best outcome for the new Hornsby Aquatic Centre.

- **Can Hornsby Squad swim later than 6.00pm on Fridays? Say 7.00pm, allowing working people to swim after work of Fridays? I can't see why this has continued for so long?**

This is an operational question that will be considered with other users at the appropriate stage closer to the opening of the new centre.

- **Will schools still be able to have carnivals?**

Yes.

- **Why is Council spending money on a maze in Galston?**

A maze will provide a new attraction at Fagan Park that will complement other garden and playground attractions. The proposed expenditure of \$150,000 is similar to the expenditure Council would have spent on a local playground, however in this instance maintenance costs will be offset by increases in park patronage. It is funded from developer contributions under

Council's adopted S94 contributions plan because it will assist in meeting increased recreation demands with benefits to all residents of Hornsby Shire.

- **How many people in the decision-making process swim in a public pool regularly?**

In the Deliberative Forum, we are attempting to involve a broad cross section of the community, including current users of the pool and others who have not used the pool.

- **If Epping is found to have similar issues will it too close? What are the issues for Epping?**

Epping pool will continue to operate. There are no structural issues associated with the Epping Pool apparent at this time.

- **If nominating for the Deliberative Forum, what if I can only attend one Saturday?**

To attend the Deliberative Forum, you must commit to attending both days.

## **GENERAL COMMENTS**

- Pool should not have to break-even operationally
- The residents would not want to have to increase the rates any more as the money has been wasted
- Hornsby needs swimming pool for residents especially for elderly and children.
- A pool is a pool. Just get on with it. The same size as Hornsby pool. The land is already there. The schools need it now!
- 25m pool is too small to swim laps properly. The 50m is much better and allows more people to use it in summer.
- Because Hornsby CBD/Waitara/North Hornsby represents the greatest density of populations and schools – surely in the long-term another 50 metre pool is essential.
- 50m pool, simple – nothing fancy!
- 50m open pool, heated in winter.  
NB. A member of the public asked everyone who wanted a 50m pool to raise their hand. All the audience raised their hands. (All audience members at both public sessions were unanimous in wanting a 50m outdoor pool)
- Build the 25m at Berowra as promised. Build a “full size” Aquatic Centre at Hornsby site or Thornleigh brick site.
- It would be nice to have the salt pool for healthy environment.
- Bike parking and wind breaks.
- SOLUTION to funding!! Vote Labor and become a marginal seat, then we could get state and federal funding to woo voters back to the right (like Woy Woy – their facility I believe is great!)