

**ACTION ITEM**

Ordinary Council Meeting  
Tuesday 23 May 2023

**SUBJECT: CCL 23/05/2023 – ADOPTION OF INLAND POOLS STRATEGY 2043**

**RESOLVED:** (Councillors Winney-Baartz / Wood)

Part A:

That Council:

- Adopts the Inland Pools Strategy 2043 - Our plan for protecting and improving Newcastle's public pools for the next 20 years (**Attachment A**).
- Receives the Inland Pools Strategy 2043 – Engagement Report (**Attachment B**).
- Endorses establishment of the Inland Pools Reserve Fund to set aside funding as part of the annual budget process to enhance the city's five publicly owned inland swimming centres over the next 20 years.

Part B:

That Council:

1. Notes that the social value achieved through programs/services delivered at aquatic centres is estimated at \$3.8 billion per year across Australia.
2. Notes the aging nature of these assets, with many community pools constructed in the 1960s following the Melbourne Olympics
3. Notes the extremely high-cost of building new aquatic centres and replacing aging pool infrastructure for local councils, with costs exceeding \$50-100m per pool.
4. Notes that local government provides on average 60 to 70% of upfront capital costs of most aquatic facility development and that this is not sustainable.
5. Notes that NSW state government funding under the Coalition has been ad hoc, without a consistent and transparent set of criteria to underpin funding decisions, with many communities deprived from even being able to apply for pool funding grants.
6. Writes to Local Government and Sports Ministers and requests the newly elected State Government establish a competitive, transparent Pool Infrastructure Fund that: -
  - a. Recognises the substantial social, health and economic benefits of public aquatic facilities,

- b. Develops a consistent and transparent set of criteria for funding new and replacement public aquatic facilities,
- 7. Supports local councils in renewing aging community pool assets across NSW.

Part C:

That City of Newcastle:

1. Notes that CN will require significant investment from State and Federal Governments in order to achieve the objectives of the strategy.
2. Further notes Newcastle's inconsistent classification when it comes to NSW Grants' Programs.
3. In our discussions and briefing of local MPs regarding the strategy, including with the new Minister for the Hunter Tim Crakanthorp MP, request they address Newcastle's classification issues and exclusion from grants programs, in line with CN's stated position in our advocacy document, to assist CN in funding the objectives of our inland pools strategy.