

## Inland Pools Community Network

### 1. Introduction

In addition to City of Newcastle (CN)'s ongoing engagement activities, the Inland Pools Community Network provides an additional focused consultation mechanism for CN's inland pools.

CN's pools are highly valued by the community and play an integral part of providing sport, leisure and recreation opportunities in the Newcastle local government area (LGA).

There are five inland pools in the Newcastle LGA, attracting around 320,000 visits in total per year. CN's pools were on average, opened 53 years ago, and require both regular maintenance and improvements as the local population grows and needs evolve.

### 2. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the IPCN is to enable two-way communication and engagement between CN and pool users to help guide how CN best manages these important public facilities.

The IPCN will contribute to feedback to support planning that balances the needs of present and future inland pool users,

The IPCN will participate in focus group style activities to share different viewpoints, consider technical information and explore opportunities to help guide CN decision making.

The IPCN will be reviewed on an annual basis.

### 3. Membership

The IPCN includes members representing each inland pool, with members selected via an expressions of interest (EOI) process.

IPCN membership is aimed to provide coverage of all pools along with gender, ages and abilities from across the local government area. Membership is voluntary.

CN may appoint additional members, being individuals, or stakeholder group representatives, to the IPCN to help ensure a diverse and LGA-representative membership.

The overall number of members will be limited to an amount that ensures the IPCN remains workable, effective and representative of all inland pools.

If members stand down from their position, CN may appoint a replacement by selection or established EOI shortlist.

As well as nominated members, meetings will be attended by CN representatives and relevant specialists / subject matter experts as required.

From time to time, individual members of the IPCN may be called upon to provide advice regarding specific issues, concerns or interests and comment on matters as they arise between scheduled meetings.

A Community Chairperson may be selected by CN from IPCN following expressions of interest.

The Community Chairperson may be called upon to speak on behalf of the IPCN publicly and channel feedback from the IPCN to CN outside of the meeting process.

#### **4. Member Responsibilities**

- Provide information on current usage and areas for improvement of inland pools
- Provide feedback and advice based on your experience as a pool user or stakeholder
- Provide feedback to CN on proposals
- Refrain from speaking on behalf of the IPCN or sharing information noted as confidential.

#### **5. Meetings**

The IPCN will convene as required, however an ongoing meeting frequency is intended at least twice per year. IPCN members may also be invited to attend other discussions, focus groups or other activities about specific program themes.

Meetings may be held online via video conferencing (i.e. Microsoft Teams) or face-to-face, as appropriate.

Meetings are to be conducted constructively, and with respect towards and between all participants.

#### **6. Correspondence**

All correspondence from IPCN members associated with the function or business of the IPCN should be directed to [CommunityandRecreation@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:CommunityandRecreation@ncc.nsw.gov.au).

General correspondence from members relating to other CN activities or general enquiries should be directed to the '[Contact us](#)' section of the website, or to our Customer Experience team on (02) 4974 2000.

#### **7. Conduct of meetings and confidentiality**

IPCN members must comply with [City of Newcastle's Code of Conduct for Council Committee Members, Delegates of Council and Council Advisors, June 2019](#). See additional information at: [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Council/Our-Responsibilities/Codeof-Conduct](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Council/Our-Responsibilities/Codeof-Conduct).

IPCN members must sign a Community Representative Authority form provided by City of Newcastle. Copy provided at **Attachment A**.

#### **8. Reporting Structure**

The IPCN is part of CN's overall community engagement program of activities and is not a decision-making body.

Outcomes of IPCN meetings will inform internal decision making and may be communicated to CN's executive and/or elected Council. CN will report back to the IPCN on how its feedback has shaped decision making as appropriate through its regular meetings.