

OPERATION OF THE BROKEN HILL REGIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE POLICY

Purpose

This policy sets out Council's approach to the responsible operation of the facilities at the Broken Hill Regional Aquatic Centre.

Scope

Operation of the facilities at the Broken Hill Regional Aquatic Centre accords with Goal 4 (well maintained infrastructure) Objective 2 (ensure there is optimum use of community assets and facilities).

General Principles

The following principals will apply to the facilities at the Broken Hill Regional Aquatic Centre.

Council will balance the desire to make the facilities at the Aquatic Centre available for the enjoyment of patrons with the need to manage Council resources, including funds, in a responsible manner.

The operation of these will be principally determined by user demand. Operating experience has shown that the demand is driven by a number of factors including:

- time of year
- prevailing weather conditions
- time of day
- day of week
- school holidays
- public holidays
- special functions

Although the operation of the facilities will always be at the discretion of the senior pool attendant on duty, the facilities will generally operate as outlined in this policy.

Hours of operation to be publicised

Generally the Aquatic Centre facilities will operate at pre-determined times. These times will be advertised on Council's website and, from time to time, in the Local Media.

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Any patron who enters the Aquatic Centre, will be able to determine if a particular facility is to operate (together with any restrictions) within the next 30 minutes prior to entering the pool by the display of an appropriate notice at the pool.

Operations of facilities will be subject to prevailing weather conditions

Any facility may be closed at short notice if the prevailing weather conditions are considered to be a risk to patrons. In particular, thunderstorm activity will necessitate the closure of all pools for at least 30min after the cessation of all thunderstorm activity.

TODDLER POOL

Characteristics:

- primarily a summer pool
- water toys and shallow toddler/learn to swim pool
- outdoor heated pool
- solar heating with electric heating backup
- costs of heating increase with use of water toys
- costs of heating increase dramatically during cooler months

Primary use of pool:

- general recreation for toddlers and young children
- water toys
- learn to swim

Strategy to manage the pool:

- Warmer Months: Third Sunday of October → Saturday following St Pats race weekend : Aquatic Centre hours
- Set hours for water toys: 10:00am → 2:00pm and 4:00pm → 7:00pm subject to ambient temperature (greater than 23 degrees Celsius) and user demand
- Colder months: First Sunday in May → First Saturday in September : Closed. May close earlier if it is clear that cooler weather has set in in late April.
- Shoulder periods (other times): Open 6:00am → 9:30am and 4:00pm → 8:00pm, no water toys and subject to demand.

25m POOL

Characteristics of the 25m Pool

- 25m competition and general recreation
- indoor, solar heating with electric heating backup
- year round pool
- ramp access

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Primary use of pool:

- general recreation
- aqua aerobics
- lap swimming when 50m pool is unavailable
- swim club training at designated times when 50m pool is unavailable
- learn to swim by prior arrangement
- competition pool by prior arrangement

Strategy to manage the pool:

- The 25m pool will be open Aquatic Centre hours throughout the year.

50m POOL

Characteristics of the 50m Pool

- outdoor heated pool
- primarily a summer pool
- solar heating with electric heating backup
- costs of heating increase dramatically during cooler months

Primary use of pool:

- competition pool
- swim club training
- lap swimming
- general recreation
- available for school swimming carnivals
- learn to swim by prior arrangement

Strategy to manage the pool:

- Warmer Months: Third Sunday of October → Saturday following St Pats race weekend : Aquatic Centre hours
- Shoulder periods: Mon → Fri, Open 6:00am → 9:30am and 4:00pm → 8:00pm. In addition, open 12:00 noon → 2:00pm Sat and Sun when published weather conditions indicate an ambient temperature 25 degrees Celsius or higher.
- Colder months: First Sunday in May → First Saturday in September: Closed. May close earlier if it is clear that cooler weather has set in in late April and if demand has dropped significantly.

WARM WATER EXERCISE/HYDROTHERAPY POOL

There are designated opening hours while the Aquatic Centre is open.

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Characteristics of the warm water/hydrotherapy pool

- indoor, electric heating
- all year pool
- ramp access

Primary use of pool:

- gentle exercise pool
- hydrotherapy by prior arrangement
- learn to swim by prior arrangement

Strategy to manage the pool:

- The warm water exercise Pool will be open at designated times during Aquatic Centre hours throughout the year. These times may be varied.
- Sometimes will be reserved for exclusive use bookings.

SLIDE

Operations of the slide will be subject to demand and at the discretion of the senior pool attendant

At all times, the operation of the water slide will be subject to demand. If, during an advertised session, demand for the slide falls below 10 individual users (or at the discretion of the senior pool attendant) the slide may be closed with 30 minutes notice.

If an advertised session is to be cut short, a sign will be placed at the slide entry and at the entry to the pool. An announcement will also be made over the Aquatic Centres' public address system.

Operation of the slide will be subject to weather conditions.

The operation of the slide will be subject to the three day weather forecast published in the Barrier Daily Truth. The three day period is required to enable appropriate rostering of casual staff to operate the slide.

Generally, the slide will not operate if the three day forecast temperature as published in the BDT is below 25°C during school holidays, weekends in summer, or public holidays in summer.

At other times, the slide will not operate if the forecast temperature is below 28°C.

Notwithstanding the above, the slide may operate if prevailing conditions are suitable and there are appropriate staff on duty and available and there is sufficient demand.

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Signage will be placed at the pool entrance to indicate that the slide will not operate for that day when the slide is not expected to be in operation.

Operation of the Slide will vary by season.

Generally, the slide will not operate between the months of May to August inclusive. Limited operation may occur in April and September according to prevailing weather conditions.

Slide operation by prior arrangement

The slide will operate when prior arrangements have been made (subject to ambient weather conditions that render operation of the slide unsafe such as thunderstorm activity). No refunds will be made unless the hirer cancels a prearranged booking at least six hours prior to the scheduled start time of the booking.

Associated Policies & Documents

Operation of the water slide at the Regional Aquatic Centre

Policy Details

Key Direction:	4 : Our Services
Objective:	2: To ensure there is optimum use of Community Assets and Facilities and ensure that the city remains a green and attractive place to live
Function:	Parks and Recreational facilities
Strategy :	4.11; Promote the increased use of targeted sporting fields/facilities
File Reference No.:	12/14
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Amended:	
Minute No.:	
Last Reviewed:	
Next Review Due:	December 2012

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Responsible Officer: Group Manager Infrastructure