



# **Additional Reports**

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## **Council Meeting**

**Monday, 16 July 2018**

**6.30pm**

**Council Chambers,  
Level 2, Administration Building,  
4-20 Eton Street, Sutherland**

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**SUTHERLANDSHIRE**

## **ADDITIONAL REPORTS**

### **7. MAYORAL MINUTES**

MM017-18      Mayoral Minute - Engadine Leisure Centre

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**MM017-18      MAYORAL MINUTE - ENGADINE LEISURE CENTRE**

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**Attachments:** Nil

The Councillors of the Sutherland Shire

Dear Councillors

I table this Mayoral Minute to ask Councillors to support me in thanking the community for their support and commitment towards the future of the Engadine Leisure Centre. In doing so, I acknowledge the response by users of the Engadine Leisure Centre to the recommendation by Council staff via report SER024-18 to close the swimming pool over the winter months.

On Friday 13 July, approximately 100 people attended a meeting in the Council Chambers to discuss their concerns regarding the recommendation. At this meeting several Councillors and I were able to listen to residents concerns first hand.

Those present were clear in demonstrating the value they place on the swimming pool facilities. We heard a number of examples of improvements to the health and wellbeing of people from all age groups. These examples included contributions to safety through learn to swim programmes, improvements to respiratory and medical conditions, opportunity for participation in water sports and competition through swim training, not to mention the strong social connections that have been formed through participation in swimming pool activities.

By 2036, our population is expected to grow by more than 34,000, and our demographics are changing. Much of this population change will come from within, our parents aging and our young ones leaving home and starting their own families, wanting to raise them in the Shire. The change in demographics requires us to continually review the services and infrastructure we provide to ensure it is adapting to changing needs.

In acknowledging these challenges, speakers at the meeting presented the swimming pool as an opportunity rather than an impost. Though attendance numbers for the swimming pool were challenged, speakers were proactive in providing suggestions, ideas and most of all commitment to assisting Council to increase patronage of the pool and enhance the facility. Examples included ideas for reopening of the café, reviewing membership fees including incentive structures, marketing and signage, opening up opportunities for multiple squad providers and shading and pool covers. Most importantly one speaker discussed the opportunity for the community to be involved in promoting and driving an increase in attendance. This proactive attitude is to be commended.

There is no doubt that Council must make difficult decisions in a time of increasing infrastructure and utility costs with a limited capacity to raise income. These difficult decisions must balance financial, social and community needs/aspirations.

Our community is a proud one; by working together to meet the challenges of the future, we will only enhance the quality of life for residents of today and those generations to come.

#### MOTION

THAT:

1. Engadine Leisure Centre swimming pool remain open year round; and
2. A working party consisting of interested Councillors and five community members be established with a view to further enhancing the health and wellbeing of our community and improving sustainable service delivery through increasing patronage of Engadine Leisure Centre swim facilities.
3. The inflatable waterslide program be made available during the summer holiday period and on weekends during the summer period at Engadine Leisure Centre.



Councillor Carmelo Pesce  
Mayor

File Number: 2015/90408