



Community Consultation and Engagement Report

Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed Special Rate Variation



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Introduction

Council resolved on 8 May 2019 that the Draft Bega Valley Shire Council Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper be placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 28 days and that a community consultation program be undertaken as outlined in the report. Council also resolved to facilitate six meetings at the six towns where pools currently exist. The Council report from 8 May 2019 indicated that the community consultation program should consist of the following:

- Community awareness raising via media articles and social media
- Notification of key pool user groups and stakeholders
- At-pool information and discussion sessions
- Opportunity to provide feedback by feedback survey (online or hard copy)
- Opportunity to provide written feedback (email or letter).

A Communication and Engagement Plan was developed including the above, and additional engagement opportunities across a range of mediums. Importantly, the Discussion Paper considered the introduction of a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to fund the operation, maintenance and capital improvements to the six pools in line with Council's previously adopted goal to sustain six public swimming pools in the Shire.

As part of community engagement and awareness required by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to assess awareness of, and support for Council pursuing a Special Rate Variation application in 2020/21, Council developed the Community and Engagement Plan to better understand the community's position on both the draft Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper and the proposed SRV.

The first phase in an IPART application process for an SRV is the notification of an intention to apply. Council is required to write to IPART by 29 November 2019 to advise if they will be applying for an SRV in 2020/21.

If Council resolve to proceed with an SRV then a subsequent phase of community engagement will be undertaken. This phase will include many of the activities above along with direct correspondence to ratepayers in an early January rates notice. Feedback from this phase of community engagement will be included in a report to Council on 5 February 2020.

This report provides information relating to the implementation of the Communication and Engagement Plan including the specific details of the consultation undertaken and the results of the feedback provided by the community.

Community and stakeholder engagement

Background

The development of a Swimming Pool Strategy has been ongoing for several years and part of the planning was the completion, in 2016 of an Aquatic Facilities Review by specialist leisure facilities consultants, Otium Planning. An important part of the Review was community engagement and consultation to seek resident and stakeholder views about aquatic facility needs in Bega Valley Shire.

This included:

- Community awareness raising via press releases
- Notification of key pool user groups and stakeholders
- Interviews with seasonal pool contract managers
- Opportunity to provide feedback by feedback survey (online or hard copy)
- Meetings with pool user groups and other stakeholders
- Survey of residents available on-line and in hard copy format
- At-pool survey of all pools
- Survey of schools
- Briefing with Councillors.

Following on from this consultation, at the Council meeting on 22 November 2017, Council adopted the following goal:

‘To have a fit for purpose six pool aquatic strategy that maximises opportunities for the community and visitors to participate and enjoy facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and have pools that are operating at modern standards.’

Using the adopted goal, Council staff were directed to develop a draft strategy covering capital, operational, management and funding options for discussion with Councillors and the community.

At the Council meeting on 8 May 2019 Council resolved the following:

‘that the Draft Bega Valley Shire Council Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper be placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 28 days and that a Community Consultation Program be undertaken as outlined in the report and that Council facilitate 6 meetings at the 6 towns where pools currently exist.’

The draft Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper, released on 5 September 2019, was used as a key resource throughout the community engagement process. The Discussion Paper responded to the adopted Council goal seeking to keep all six pools and outlines the history of and future considerations for Councils six aquatic facilities; including how our community uses the pools, what factors affect use, what modern aquatic facilities look like and what the associated costs are.

The Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper indicated that a Special Rate Variation was a funding option for Council to consider. Modelling of the SRV and information on the SRV application process was shared as part of the community engagement process. A potential SRV has been a consideration of Council and was indicated in Council’s 2017-2021 Delivery Program adopted in 2017 and the 2019/2020 Delivery and Operational Plan.

Methods of engagement

Several community engagement activities were employed to ensure that Bega Valley Shire residents were both well aware of, and well informed about, the proposed SRV being considered by Council and the intention for the SRV to support the Swimming Pool Strategy and provide funds for future pool operation, maintenance and upgrades. The community was provided a range of opportunities to express their opinions through the following community engagement activities. These included:

- Media and stakeholder information sessions
- Community information sessions
- Online survey
- Deliberative independent phone survey
- Traditional media
- Social media
- Media release
- Pools and SRV dedicated edition of Council News- Councils fortnightly newsletter
- Website project pages
- SRV Rates Calculator
- Public exhibition of the Draft Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper for an extended period of 46 days including the draft concept plans for renewal of the Bega Pool
- FAQ documents on both the Pools Strategy and the proposed SRV
- Signage, and
- Written submissions.

Engagement timeline

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 5 September 2019 | Media and stakeholder briefing |
| 5 September 2019 | Draft Pools Strategy, SRV modelling on public exhibition |
| 16 September - 2 October 2019 | Community Information Sessions |
| 14 October 2019 | Deliberative survey commenced |
| 20 October 2019 | Exhibition and consultation period closed |
| 20 November 2019 | Report to Council - Pools Strategy and SRV |

Figure 1- Engagement Timeline

Engagement summary

The implementation of the Communication and Engagement Plan generated the following outputs:

- 659 online survey responses
- 15 formal submissions
- 14 attendees at media and stakeholder briefing sessions
- 219 attendees at Community Information Sessions
- 403 completed responses to the independent phone survey
- 67 paid advertising appearances
- 14 Council social media posts
- 1858 website page visits.

A notable outcome of the community engagement process was the conflicting sentiments on retention and operation of the six swimming pools and willingness to fund the costs of provision of swimming pools specifically through an SRV. In summary there was strong support for retaining six pools, however support for contributing to funding or for operating changes to save money were less popular. This is evidenced in the responses gathered through the independent deliberative survey conducted by IRIS.

The phone survey respondents rated the importance of keeping all six public pool facilities and improving them to modern standards very highly. In total, 76 percent rated keeping all six public pools as important (4.1 out of 5) and 73 percent rated improving the pools to modern standards as important.

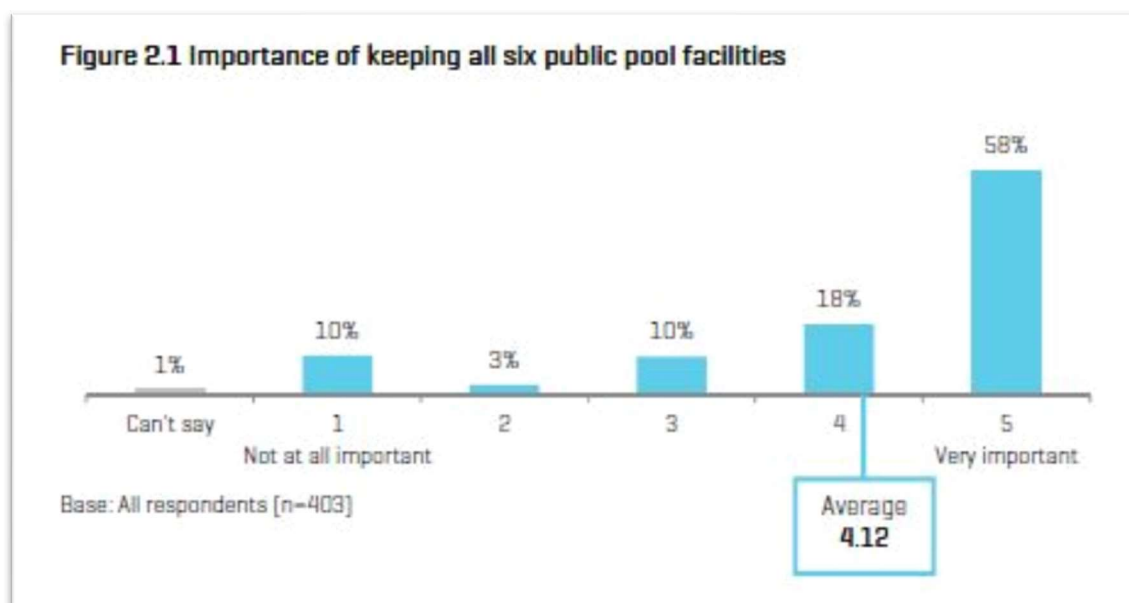


Figure 2- Figure 2.1 from IRIS Deliberative Survey Report

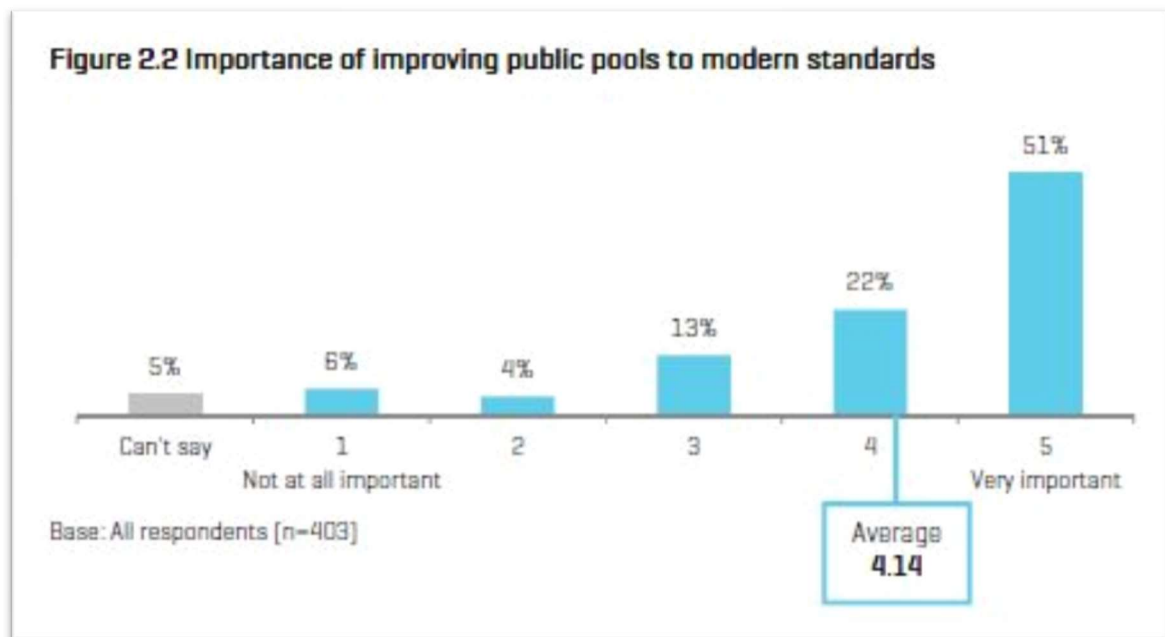


Figure 3- Figure 2.2 from IRIS Deliberative Survey Report

Despite high importance placed on Council's goals (keeping all six pool facilities and improving them to modern standards) by ratepayers, there is a lower level of support for the proposed SRV. Over half (54%) of respondents indicated they were not supportive of the SRV with 42 percent providing the lowest rating of 1 or 'not at all supportive'.

Reasons provided by respondents who are not supportive include that they consider they already pay high enough rates and do not support a further increase; that Council should budget wisely and reduce wastage to fund the upgrades; and that the higher charges should be imposed on the users of the pools.

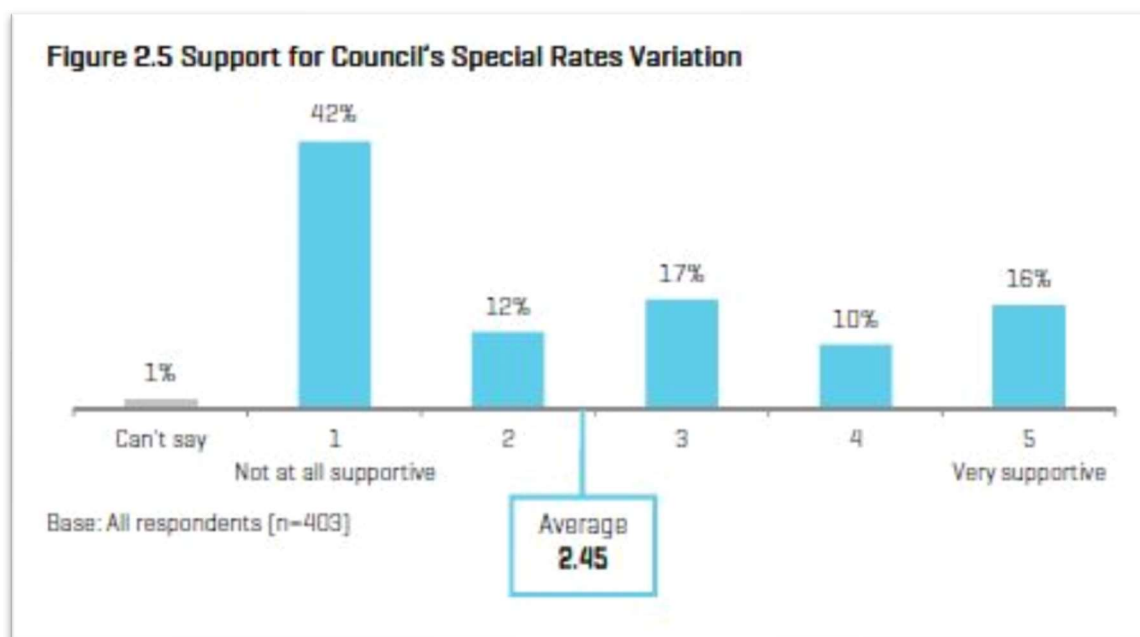


Figure 4- Figure 2.5 from IRIS Deliberative Survey Report

Media and Stakeholder Briefing Sessions

Council hosted media and key stakeholder information sessions on 5 September 2019 at the commencement of the exhibition period for the Discussion Paper and proposed SRV. The sessions provided both the media and key stakeholders the opportunity to discuss specific aspects of the Discussion Paper and proposed SRV with direct feedback provided from the mayor and Council staff. Some key stakeholders also played a role in assisting to share information about the Discussion Paper and proposed SRV through their communication channels.

The media session was attended by About Regional, Bega District News and ABC South East. The session proved a valuable exercise with media coverage of the Pools Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed SRV available the following day. An information pack was supplied to media representatives including the media release, FAQ's and the Draft Pools Strategy Discussion Paper.

Numerous organisations and individuals were invited to the key stakeholder session with 11 in attendance. The attendees were the current and former Bega pool contractors, the Cobargo pool contractors, Bega Swimming Club, Sapphire Coast Adult Swimming Club and the Bega Valley Shire Residents and Ratepayers Association.

Community Information Sessions

Council resolved to hold six community information sessions which were hosted in local community halls and the Bega Valley Commemorative Centre. At each of the sessions Council staff shared a presentation with attendees, covering both the Discussion Paper and the proposed SRV outlining the objectives of the SRV and potential impacts. The presentation was followed by an open discussion forum with responses to attendees' questions provided by the Mayor and Council staff. The Mayor typically concluded the sessions by asking for an indication of support or otherwise for the proposal. All background and support materials relevant to the topic were available in hard copy at the sessions.

Whilst small numbers attended these sessions the discussions were informed and robust. A copy of the presentation shared with attendees and a summary of the key issues raised is provided at Appendix 1.

| Date | Venue | # Attendees (incl staff and Clrs) |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 16 September 2019 | COBARGO HALL | 60 |
| 17 September 2019 | EDEN LOG CABIN | 24 |
| 23 September 2019 | PAMBULA HALL | 13 |
| 24 September 2019 | BEMBOKA HALL | 22 |
| 30 September 2019 | BEGA CIVIC CENTRE | 54 |
| 2 October 2019 | CANDELO HALL | 43 |

Figure 5- Information Session Summary



Figure 6- Bega Community Information Session

Online Survey

Council developed its own survey, using SurveyMonkey, as part of the Have Your Say process. The survey consisted of 20 questions and was available throughout the duration of the extended exhibition period. Hard copies of the survey were also made available in Council libraries and customer service and was included as a tear away in the special edition of Council News. The survey questions were similar in nature to those being asked during the independent phone survey conducted by IRIS.

There were 659 responses in total. At the conclusion of the survey respondents were provided an opportunity for open comments. Two of the key questions in the survey were:

- Question 10- 'Do you agree with the Council's goal to keep six public pools within the Bega Valley Shire' with 55.90% indicating Yes
- Question 13- 'How willing are you to pay more in rates to upgrade and keep six public pools open within the Bega Valley Shire into the future?' with 41.16% indicating extremely unwilling.

The full survey results including the comments and direct feedback provided by those who participated in the online survey are provided at Appendix 2.

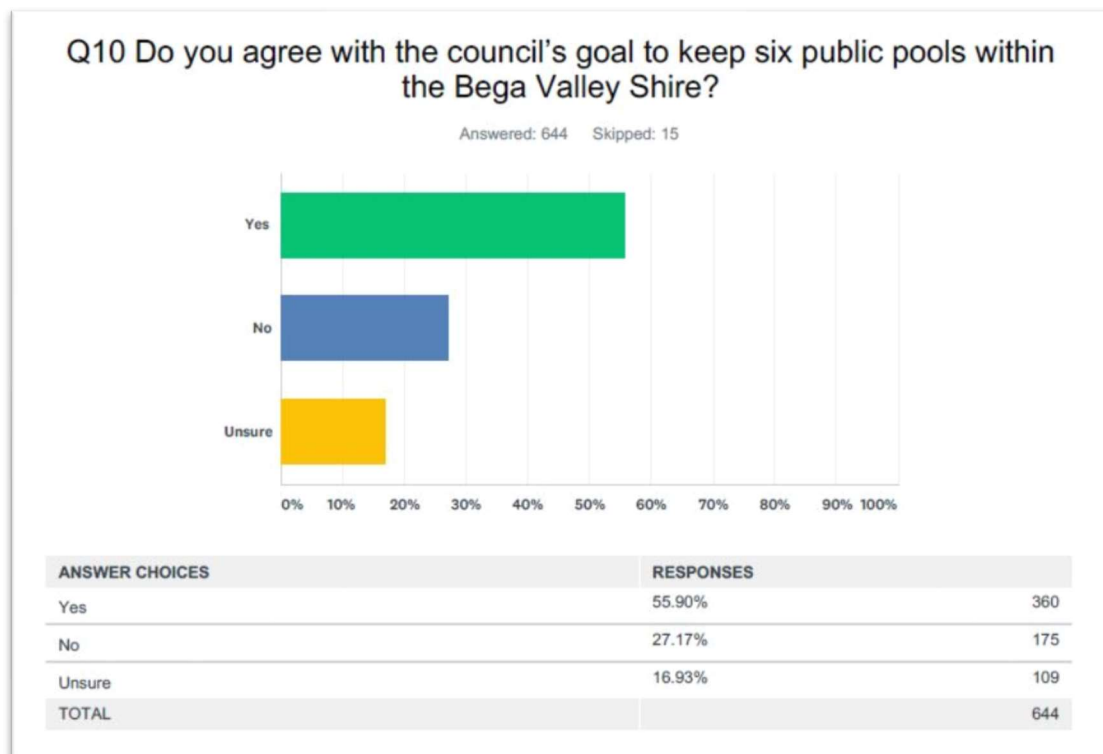


Figure 7- Q10- Council Survey- Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and SRV

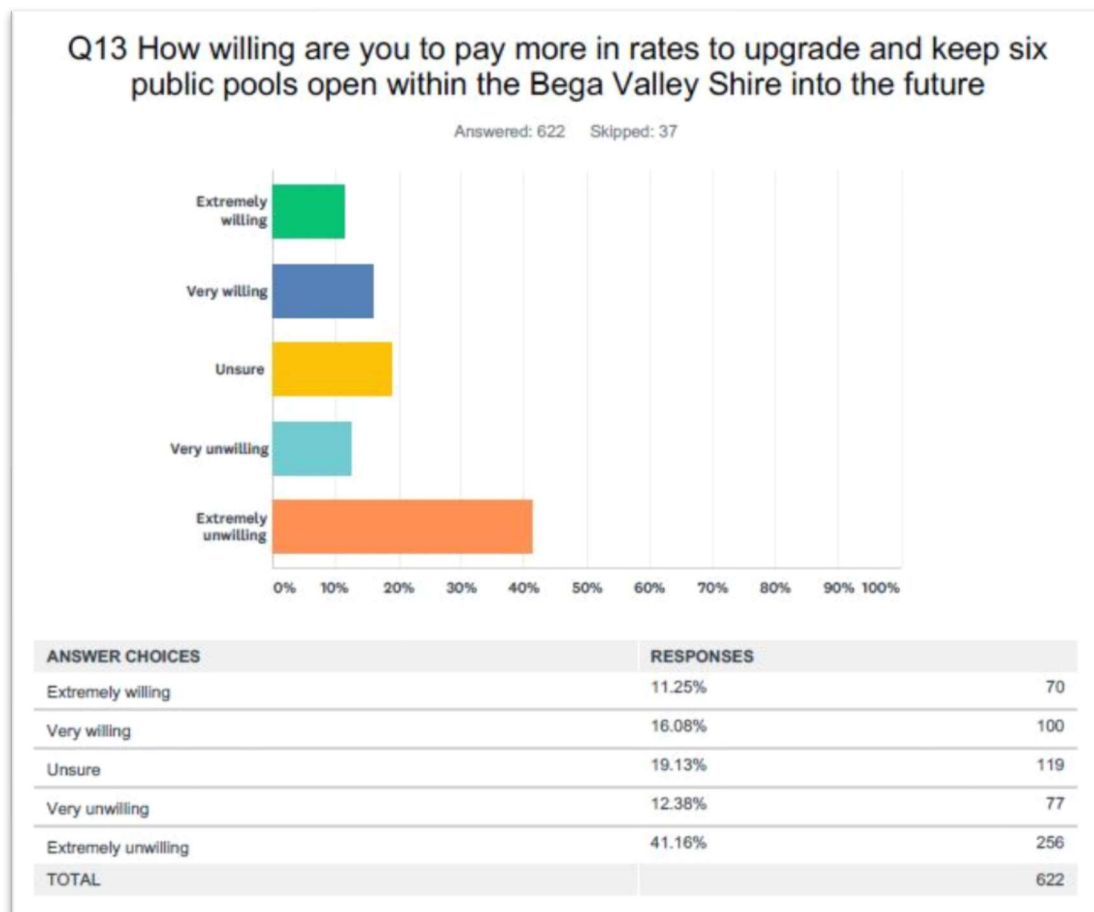


Figure 8- Q13- Council Survey- Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and SRV

Telephone Survey

Council engaged IRIS Research to undertake an independent telephone survey to understand community sentiment towards the Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and the proposed SRV. IRIS Research has conducted community research for Bega Valley Shire Council since 2005 including the Special Rate Variation Survey for Council in 2012. IRIS Research is a subject matter expert and has conducted many SRV surveys for NSW councils over the past 20 years.

Council provided specific information relating to the SRV that was read out to respondents during the survey. Council obtained 403 responses from ratepayers of Bega Valley Shire Council. This sample size delivers a robust margin of error of +/-4.9% at the 95% confidence level. This was designed with consideration to State Government reporting guidelines and conventions around robust sampling.

A random sample of telephone numbers from the Bega Valley local government area was drawn from IRIS Research's telephone numbers database. Telephone numbers are selected at random. To increase the opportunities to reach younger respondents Council purchased 1,000 additional mobile phone numbers registered in the Bega Valley Shire Council area. The survey was conducted across the entire Bega Valley Shire Council local government area and in order to qualify for an interview, respondents had to be adult decision makers of the house aged 18 years or older, own or be purchasing their current dwelling and not be an employee or Councillor with Bega Valley Shire Council.

The survey was conducted from 14 October to 15 October using a questionnaire co-designed by IRIS Research and Bega Valley Shire Council.

Further details relating to the survey methodology and demographic breakdown of survey respondents are included at Appendix 3.

Among the major findings of the survey were:

1. 55% of respondents were aware of Council's proposed Special Rates Variation.
2. 76% of respondents were supportive of keeping all 6 pools
3. 54% of respondents were not supportive of the SRV
4. 47% of respondents are unlikely to support reducing the opening hours of the pools while only 16% are likely to support this option

Traditional Media

News articles and stories relating to the Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed SRV were published in the Bega District News, Merimbula News Weekly, Eden Magnet and About Regional together with stories broadcast on radio by ABC South East and 2EC/Power FM. The Mayor also had a radio interview with ABC South East on 18th September. Council distributed a media release on Thursday 5th September at the commencement of the engagement process and it is available at Appendix 4.

Media coverage outlined the details of the Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and the proposed SRV, the rate variation amount, provided answers to a number of frequently asked questions, included concept drawings of the Bega pool upgrade, and explained how to provide feedback. Links to each of the print news articles are attached as Appendix 5.

Council coordinated paid advertising in both print and radio. A copy of the print advertisement and radio script is available at Appendix 5.

Print advertising appeared in the following publications:

- Merimbula News Weekly (11, 18 September)
- Eden Magnet (12, 19 September)
- Bega District News (6, 13, 20 September)

Radio pre-recorded advertising appeared on the following stations:

- 2EC (12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 September – 30 slots in all)
- Power FM (12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 September – 30 slots in all)

Social Media

Council embarked on a social media campaign to raise awareness of the Discussion Paper and proposed SRV through its Facebook page. Many of Council's posts were shared among community pages, followed by a significant portion of the community. Council posts were predominantly calls-to-action to attend the community information sessions or remind the community to have their say via Councils Have Your Say page.

Copies of the social media posts are included at Appendix 6. A summary of the comments posted by community members on the Council social media posts are included at Appendix 7.

Website and SRV Rates Calculator

Council developed several dedicated pages on its website for the Discussion Paper and proposed SRV engagement process.

A Swimming Pool Strategy project page was established which included a summary/background of the Swimming Pool Strategy, details on the proposed SRV to fund the delivery of the Strategy, links to relevant reports and Council meetings, FAQ's, key staff contacts and a project timeline.

A separate page was also created providing an overview of the SRV process and the role of IPART along with a dedicated page including an online Rates Calculator that would help residents to understand the impact of the proposed SRV on the rates for their property.

Council also established a Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed SRV 'Have Your Say' page which included an overview of the process, FAQ's, a link to the online survey and an opportunity to provide comments directly onto the page. A snapshot of each of the pages on the website along with the comments provided directly onto the Have Your Say page are included at Appendix 8.

The page view statistics are as follows:

Swimming Pool Strategy Project page- 191
SRV page- 83
SRV Calculator page- 370
Have Your Say page- 1,214

Other promotional activities

Posters

Posters were distributed to the following locations across the Bega Valley Shire. A copy of the poster is included at Appendix 8.

| Area | # Flyers | Poster Display Location |
|-----------|----------|--|
| Quaama | 6 | Quaama Hall, Quaama Public School, General Store. 3 flyers provided to Anglican Churches in Cobargo, Quaama and Bega. |
| Cobargo | 11 | Co-Op, Post Office, Kitchen Boys, Bakery, Service station, Well Thumbed Books, Cobargo supermarket, Cobargo Pub, Cobargo School, Cobargo Preschool, Cobargo doctor's surgery |
| Bermagui | 10 | Bermagui Country Club, Post Office, Bermagui Preschool, Little Lambs Preschool, Bermagui Public School, Fish and tackle store, Blue Pool, Bermagui SLSC, Reflections Caravan Park, Woolworths notice board. |
| Bemboka | 4 | Post Office, Craft Store, Bemboka Public School, Café |
| Candelo | 8 | Community notice board, Candelo Park notice board, Candelo Hotel, Candelo Service Station, Post Office, Candelo Public School, Mobile playgroup, Candelo notice board in park. |
| Wyndham | 2 | Wyndham Public School, Post Office. |
| Eden | 12 | Eden Fishermen's club, Heritage House, Eden community notice board, Coles, Access Centre, Eden Wharf, Newsagency, IGA notice board, Eden childcare centre, Endeavour Park, Eden High School, Eden Public school. |
| Pambula | 6 | Pambula notice board, Pambula Beach notice board, Pambula preschool, Lumen Christi, Pambula Village preschool, Pambula Hall. |
| Bega | 11 | Bega High School, Bega Valley Public School, Coles notice board, Church St notice board, 3 x Cafes, Bega Information Centre, St Patricks School, Bega Pantry, Arcade community notices. |
| Merimbula | 5 | Woolworths, Tura notice board, notice boards in health food shop arcade and newsagency arcade, Merimbula primary school. |
| Tathra | 5 | Tathra post office, newsagency, IGA, Surf Life-Saving club, Tathra Public school. |

Figure 9- Poster locations

The poster was also promoted on the Facebook pages of these organisations; Cobargo/Bermagui Notice Board, Merimbula Oysters, Candelo Connect, Eden Voice, Tathra Strong, Cobargo/Bermagui Buy, swap &sell, Bega Valley Notice Board, Wyndham NSW Public Notices, Cobargo News, 1st Cobargo Scouts

Council News- Newsletter

Council News is Council's three weekly newsletter www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/councilnews and has 1035 subscribers. Mentions of the Pools Strategy and proposed SRV were included in the 5 September, 27 September and 15 October editions. A special edition of Council News

focussing entirely on the Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and the proposed SRV was distributed on 16 September. Copies of the mentions and the complete special edition are included at Appendix 8.

Corflute Signs

Sandwich board size corflute signs were printed and installed at each of the 6 pools. The signs focussed on encouraging the community to have their say and complete the online survey. A copy of the sign is included at Appendix 8.

FAQ's

Two Frequently Asked Questions resources were developed. One on the Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and the other on the SRV process. A copy of the FAQ's is included at Appendix 8.

Public Exhibition

The Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and FAQ's along with hard copies of the survey were also on display at the Sapphire Aquatic Centre, Council's libraries and the customer service desk. Council library staff and Council customer service staff were trained in how to assist members of the community to find information on the Discussion Paper and proposed SRV along with use of the SRV calculator.

Internal Communications

As many of Council's employees are local to Bega Shire, the General Manager shared an email with all staff to inform them of the process and also provide guidance on how they could contribute to the process as ratepayers. A copy of the email sent to staff is included at Appendix 8.

Submissions

Council received feedback from individual ratepayers and community stakeholder groups in the form of direct submissions. A total of 15 submissions were received. A summary of the submissions and staff responses are included in a separate attachment to the 20 November Council report. The complete original submissions are included in Confidential Appendix 9.

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Appendices

| Appendix | Document Name |
|----------|--|
| 1 | Community information sessions- presentation and summary |
| 2 | Online survey report- Survey Monkey |
| 3 | Telephone survey report- IRIS Research |
| 4 | Media Release |
| 5 | Traditional media- advertising and media articles |
| 6 | Social media outputs |
| 7 | Summary of social media comments |
| 8 | Other information and promotional materials |

Confidential Appendices

| Appendix | Document Name |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 9 | Submissions |
| 10 | Community Engagement Strategy |
| 11 | Information sessions attendance list |

Confidential appendices are included under separate cover.

Appendix 1- Community information sessions- presentation and summary

Information session presentation

Swimming Pools Timeline

| Pool Name | Year | Notes |
|----------------------------|------|---|
| Regis Swimming Pool | 1965 | Completed at Regis, 10 years old, swimming pool, meeting pool and meeting pool. |
| Colargo Swimming Pool | 1965 | Completed at Colargo, 10 years old, swimming pool, meeting pool and meeting pool. |
| Iden Swimming Pool | 1965 | Completed at Iden, 10 years old, swimming pool, meeting pool and meeting pool. |
| Swindon Swimming Pool | 1965 | Completed at Swindon, 10 years old, swimming pool, meeting pool and meeting pool. |
| Corobio Swimming Pool | 1965 | Completed at Corobio, 10 years old, swimming pool, meeting pool and meeting pool. |
| Regis Aquatic Centre (RAC) | 2015 | Completed at Regis, 10 years old, swimming pool, meeting pool and meeting pool. |

Current Situation

- 6 Swimming Pools constructed and developed over a 50 year + period
- Council has and continues to meet the ongoing cost of operation, maintenance and asset renewals

| 6 Swimming Pools Operating Costs | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Operating and Maintenance Costs | \$2,031,000 |
| Minor Asset Renewal Costs | \$218,000 |
| User Fees & Income | -\$867,000 |
| TOTAL | \$1,382,000 |

Current Situation

- Expectations of the community
- Obligation to meet current operating and compliance standards i.e. legislation
- We plan for Swimming Pool Facilities to have a 60 year life, with 2 major renewals approaching
- Current operating costs are unsustainable and cannot continue to be met
- Council does not have the funds to complete facility renewals when due

1

2

Swimming Pool Goal

27 November 2017 Council Meeting

Council considers the Outcome Report

This report provided an overview of the current situation regarding the Shire's swimming pools.

Council Resolution = Goal

To have a fit for purpose six pool aquatic strategy that maximises opportunities for the community and visitors to participate and enjoy facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements, are built to last, are economically, modern and accessible.

Elements of the Goal

There are three (3) elements to this goal:

1. Having six swimming pools
2. Compliance with modern facility standards

Goal Modelling

Evidence gathering over last 5 years

Modeling to determine funding required

Modern 'best build' equivalents relevant to our sites have been used to estimate future capital costs.

Renew swimming pools as they fall due (60 year asset life)

This maximises the investment of constructing existing pools and spreads the future cost across 60 years.

Goal Challenges

- Swimming Pools are multi-generational assets
- To meet the goal, additional funding is required above current levels
- Not possible through swimming pool income
- Grants would not secure sufficient regular funding to meet goal. Projects would depend on successful grant applications

Goal Modelling

Operating cost (current)

Operating cost (current) = \$2,031,000

Operating cost (current) = \$2,031,000

Operating Costs (Renewal / Upgrade)

Operating Costs (Renewal / Upgrade) = \$1,382,000

Operating Costs (Renewal / Upgrade) = \$1,382,000

Total Cost to meet the goal = \$2,028M per year

3

4

What is modern?

A key component of the goal is modern facilities, but what does this mean?

Compliant
Accessible
Sustainable
Meets expectations

What is modern?



Two Left Adairway, NSW
Two Right, Singapore, WA,
Bathurst, Greater, NSW

Draft Concept Plan- Bega War Memorial Swimming Pool



What are our Options

AIMING FOR

Delivery of the Council adopted 6 pool goal

- Secure 6 pools
- Compliance
- Meet ongoing operation and maintenance costs.

What are our Options

OTHER OPTIONS

Remain as is

- No confirmed funding to plan for future facility renewals.
- Operating challenges and costs.
- Reduction in service provision and maintenance as per available funding.

What are our Options

OTHER OPTIONS

Consolidation of facilities

- Reduce to match funding
- Renewal only of higher use sites i.e. only Bega.

Where to from here?

On 8th May 2019 Council resolved to go on public consultation and hold community meetings on our Draft Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper

Consultation Period
8 September to 20 October

Community feedback used to develop and formalise the Strategy

Consultation will involve our funding options - including a proposed **Special Rates Variation (SRV)**

Special Rates Variation

What is a Special Rates Variation (SRV)?

- An SRV allows a council to increase its general income above the rate peg.
- The percentage increase is applied to your general rate NOT water, sewer and waste.
- Councils need to apply for a Special Rate Variation to IPART who assess the need, the community awareness and capacity to pay.

SRV Application Assessment

These are the criteria against which IPART assess each application.



We are focussing on

Community awareness and engagement

- Of the 6 pool goal and Strategy Discussion Paper
- Of the need to secure additional funds to sustainably realise the 6 pool goal
- Of what a proposed SRV would look like, and the impact on your rates
- Council awareness of community sentiment, and capacity to pay

will look like...

Community awareness and engagement

- Information on Councils website
- Have Your Say
- Fact Sheets (Q&A)
- Community information sessions
- Independent Survey
- Media and stakeholder briefings
- Media advertising
- Signage and posters
- Rates calculator

9

10

Community awareness and engagement

will help us to better understand

- How we can best deliver the 6 pools strategy
- Community willingness and capacity to pay on SRV

Council has not yet committed to lodging an SRV application

Impact on ratepayers

Council is considering

- A one off, permanent increase to general rate income of \$2.028 million above the rate peg amount of 2.6%
- To cover all pool costs & renewals to modern day standards
- **AVERAGE** increase to our 19,731 ratepayers of \$1.97 per week

Impact on ratepayers

What does this mean?

General rates are made up of two parts

- (1) Base rate which is an amount the same for all properties
- (2) Ad valorem - a rate in the \$ applied to the value of the property

Impact on ratepayers

What does this mean?

An example using the median residential property value of \$159,000 (in 2019 \$)

Rates Currently: Base \$506 + Adv \$648.13 TOTAL \$1154.13
Rates Proposed: Base \$561 + Adv \$719.70 TOTAL \$1280.70

INCREASE = \$126.57
Rate Peg + SRV

11

12

SRV Process- Key Dates

If Council resolves on 20 Nov to pursue the SRV

| | |
|------------------|--|
| November 30 2019 | Council to notify IPART of intent to lodge |
| Mid Feb 2020 | Council to lodge application |
| May 2020 | IPART advised outcome, Council decision to apply SRV if successful |

Questions/ Discussion?

Information session question summary



Community Information Session Cobargo 16 September 2019

Attendees:

- Community members: 50 (a number of children in attendance-approx. 10)
- Staff: 7- Leanne Barnes, John Grady, Alice Howe, Nick Hoynes, Ange McKechnie, Anthony McMahon, Kaliegh Smerdon
- Councillors: 3-Tony Allan, Kristy McBain, Mitchell Nadin

*Note not all attendees at the session signed the registration sheet

Questions Raised:

- What is the possibility that Bega will be a year-round facility?
- What will be the renewal sizes of pools?
- Can Council apply for Grants?
- Is SRV ongoing or a 1 off payment?
- How does BVSC budget? Why is there no money for pool upgrades?
- What are largest Council costs?
- How does SRV work?
- Concerns raised that there were errors/omissions in the Otium Report

Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed Special Rate Variation- Community Information Session

Cobargo discussion sheet feedback:

Facility

- Funding sources – NDIS – provision of disability friendly facilities
- Disabled access
- Cobargo – consider entire site design
- Partnerships with aged care facilities
- Better access into water – Seniors
- Longer sessions into April
- No SRV – Loss of operating hours
- Upgrade needed – hot water
- Option for shire wide pool pass
- longer swimming season

Increase Patronage

Appropriate Programming



Aqua Aerobics



Youth



Learn to Swim



Community Connection "Summer Sundays @ the pool"

Swimming Club



Grant Funding

SRV

- A lot of money – concerns for all costs
- Consider a lower level SRV around 5-6%
- Impact on businesses & non-pool users
- Are there other options – fund the capital gap only
- User Funded- user pays model
- Swimming club is willing to support activity to encourage greater use of the pool
- Review where money is spent in shire, lots of wasted \$\$
- Does no SRV= loss of operating hours
- Facility upgrade needed- hot water facilities
- Swimming Club- can assist with seeking grant funding
- Options for a Shire wide pool pass
- Longer swimming season
- Prefer more notice of meetings and include in Council News
- Advocate for NSW Government to contribute to rates for Crown, Forestry & National Parks

Which pools would be closed if need arises? (No SRV)

Waterslide would increase running costs

Community Involvement – e.g. Cobargo Swimming Club built clubhouse

- Possible to use local trades under current legislation

Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed Special Rate Variation- Community Information Session



Community Information Session Eden 17 September 2019

Attendees:

- Community members: 11 (noted lower numbers possibly a result of \$9,000 draw at Fisherman's Club and movie event at Boyd Town)
- Staff: 8- Leanne Barnes, Nina Churchward, John Grady, Alice Howe, Nick Hoynes, Ange McKechnie, Anthony McMahon, Kaliegh Smerdon
- Councillors: 5-Robyn Bain, Russell Fitzpatrick, Kristy McBain, Mitchell Nadin, Sharon Tapscott

Questions Raised:

- Will SRV funds only be used for pools?
- What has BVSC been putting aside for capital renewal for past 40 years?
- Prior to last election –report that pools would need to close. What is wrong with Council's accounting where we could build but not maintain our pools?
- Suggestion to reduce staffing costs: October-March opening hours-pool rarely used in first 2 weeks or if weather is bad.
- Which is most effective operating model?
- Can Council put effort into promoting pool opening times and getting more people using the pools?
- Eden contractor (previous) made the pool unfriendly place to be.
- Concerns raised that Council went straight to SRV without much community consultation-need more community consultation.
- Concern figures in Otium report are not accurate.
- Squad and Learn to swim directed to Pambula once BVSC took over pool. Nothing for local kids to see and aspire to. Need committed, local staff
- Pool is open to elements-wind an issue.
- Can't tell if pool is open-ugly sheds.
- What happens without an SRV?
- How can community help get funds and if we receive a grant can it be designated to a specific location?
- Can we establish a Steering Committee for pools/ Friends of Eden Pool?
- Can't pool staff promote more?

Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed Special Rate Variation- Community Information Session

Eden discussion sheet feedback:

- 2 free come and try pool tickets on all rates notices, like we have 2 tip vouchers
- Change opening date to extend summer season to April
- Signage – electronic board – open, pool temp, activities
- Encourage family groups – shade areas, BBQ, playground.



EDEN

Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper + Special Rates Variation



Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed Special Rate Variation- Community Information Session



Community Information Session Pambula 23 September 2019

Attendees:

- Community members -5
- Staff-5: Leanne Barnes, John Grady, Nick Hoynes, Ange McKechnie, Anthony McMahon
- Councillors-3: Russell Fitzpatrick, Kristy McBain, Mitchell Nadin

Questions Raised:

- Importance of hydrotherapy at Pambula pool
- Online surveys not accessible to older people
- What is plan B if no SRV?

Pambula discussion sheet feedback: Nil

Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed Special Rate Variation- Community Information Session



Community Information Session Bemboka 24 September 2019

Attendees:

- Community members: 14
- Staff: 6-Leanne Barnes, John Grady, Nick Hoynes, Ange McKechnie, Anthony McMahon, Kaliegh Smerdon
- Councillors: 2-Tony Allen, Kristy McBain

Questions Raised:

- Capital Asset Renewal and Replacement Reserve-did BVSC have a lifecycle cost plan and if not, why not?
- Will reserves be publicly visible?
- What are other options if SRV doesn't go ahead?
- Is there a precedence in other amalgamated shires?
- Aren't there grants available?
- Early morning Opening Hours- Can these be changed?
- Can we reduce staffing costs?
- Primary School has 2-week block Learn to Swim. Can Education Dept assist, e.g. paying instructors?
- Asset replacement-do we need to include Candelo & Bemboka or can we (the community?) continue to maintain 60 yr. lifespan?
- Demographics- It was noted that more younger people using pool
- Can Council consider Season Passes for large families? Pool vouchers as incentive?
- Can season passes be transferable across Shire?
- Private pool holders-can we make them pay?
- What criteria will be used to decide if rationalisation will occur?
- What message does the community need to submit to Council to prevent the closure of Bemboka Pool?

Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed Special Rate Variation- Community Information Session

Bemboka discussion sheet feedback:

Season pass for larger families
Season pass usable at other pools
Free vouchers like tip vouchers for pools
Heat the pool so that it can be used for longer morning opening hours
Include Sports Grounds in SRV to cover user fees
Sun shelter for Bemboka pool
Repair (Bemboka) amenities
Longer opening hours for pool don't close at 3 p.m. on weekends
Add steps for Candelo pool

Morning opening hours please
Evening hours
Available for sports groups for pre-season training
Adult Swim squad lessons
Amenities building needs upgrade
Shade seating built-in BBQ
Bike racks
I think the community needs to understand that capital reserves for the life of the current pools was not a practice of current planning but will be in the future if the SRV plan is implemented.

Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed Special Rate Variation- Community Information Session



Community Information Session Bega 30 September 2019

Attendees:

- Community members: 45
- Staff: 5- Leanne Barnes, John Grady, Nick Hoynes, Ange McKechnie, Kalliegh Smerdon
- Councillors: 4- Tony Allen, Kristy McBain, Russel Fitzpatrick, Sharon Tapscott

Questions Raised:

- Will there be consultation after this and before a decision is made?
- Was costing done on a 50m pool in Bega? Why no stakeholder meeting? Why have smaller pools (going backwards)?
- Attendance at community information sessions in newspapers was reported as low. Reach in communication lacking. Suggest all rate payers should be sent this information with rate notices.
- Does economic modelling factor-in mental and physical health?
- Is SRV guaranteed to be spent on pools over next 50 years?
- Significant number of ratepayers not living in the shire wouldn't know about consultations.
- Given only Pambula is open 12 months where do people go other 6 months?
- What figures justify five unheated pools?
- Did OTIUM consider Bega being indoors?
- Query re: the existing 2007/8 SRV Recreation buildings and pools.
- Has Council considered privatising Pambula?
- Can any other stakeholders contribute to costs associated with the pools?
- What is the actual rate increase?
- Complaint re non-computer users completing survey
- Will Council consider closing one or two pools or nothing?
- What is breakdown of the funding required?

Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed Special Rate Variation- Community Information Session

- If SRV goes ahead in 2020 what happens to General rate income that currently pays for operational cost and maintenance?
- Double dipping query- Why is Council seeking an SRV for anything other than the pools upgrades? Why operational as well?
- What is Councils current infrastructure backlog ratio?
- Concern regarding 25mm Bega pool. Can consultation revisit this?
- 50 to 60-year maintenance cost should be considered and we should be realistic about age and bringing facilities up to standard. Benefits are beyond dollars for children, elderly and disabled.
- Swimming pools are an intergenerational asset- swim Club, etc.
- Has there been any consideration for Bega or Cobargo to return to BVSC management?
- Bega 25m pool not a forward-thinking plan. Need to revisit 50m pool.
- Have cost per visitation been considered in Discussion Paper?
- Preference for a 10 lane 25m pool in Bega for lack of interference.
- Water slide for Bega. Will every new pool get this?
- November IPART intention to lodge application. How will ratepayers be informed?
- Is there a possibility of state funding being provided for pools?
- Concerns this decision is going to be based on feedback from small population that use pools
- Is the SRV to be permanent?
- Regarding concerns community is unaware of this issue attendee advised it is unrealistic to expect everyone to respond.

Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed Special Rate Variation- Community Information Session

Bega discussion sheet feedback:

- If the SRV goes through maybe a consideration of a subsidised rate or free rate of entry to rate payers. To encourage more rate payers to use the pools and justify the spending on these assets

- Bega Pool 25m O.K., 10 lanes
- can pool be covered for 365-day usage
- Seek grants
- Seek partnerships Dept of Vet Affairs, Health, Sport Rec, etc

Do not agree with SRV

Other sources of funding need to be investigated

"Double Dipping"

For all ratepayers-use mail (*referring to mailing all notifications of meetings, etc to ratepayers*)

Historical situations shouldn't justify 6 pools

The SRV should not be tied to historical 6 pools

Each pool should be modelled to minimise and make equal across pools the net cost per visitation

No RATES increase!!!

Rooftops to cover pool for shade and to carry solar power

Additional small non-swim water park

Additional community activities at Bemboka Pool

Addition of small café another income stream + convenience for users

Get Government funding

Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed Special Rate Variation- Community Information Session



Community Information Session

Candelo 2 October 2019

Attendees:

- Community members: 35
- Staff: 5-Leanne Barnes, John Grady, Nick Hoynes, Ange McKechnie, Kaliegh Smerdon
- Councillors: 3-Tony Allen, Kristy McBain, Sharon Tapscott

*Note not all attendees at the session signed the registration sheet

Questions Raised:

- Is the SRV permanent and ongoing?
- Does the SRV guarantee future capital ongoing & are reserves locked?
- Happy to pay – it is equal to 1 L of fuel but make sure no waste and do job properly.
- Rates high and non-pool users who won't pay. If SRV fails will we still have pools?
- Recognise essential community asset but rates have doubled. Ratepayers capacity to pay declining.
- Need to encourage better usage of pools. Was increasing use/ advertising considered in report? Can we diversify programs to increase usage?
- Can we find state government assistance to increase pool usage?
- Has pool usage been recorded by BVSC?
- Why were programs on offer at Candelo changed?
- Are volunteer surf lifesavers like at the beach a possibility?
- Is there a warranty on Candelo pool built 1992?
- Will BVSC continue to apply for Grant funding?
- Is a change of hours possible?
- Evidence contractor running pool earns more than BVSC to run. What is the best model being considered?
- Non-weight bearing exercise older users benefit from pools
- Change rooms vary Bega good but Pambula has only one entrance challenging for people with respiratory issues.

Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed Special Rate Variation- Community Information Session

Feedback Sheets

Please don't close the pool in the middle of the day

Yes, what she said (arrow up)

Please extend swimming season at Candelo to reflect the time lost for the opening

Extend swimming pool season for Candelo

Volunteer life saver to be the 2nd staff on duty

Community gatherings

Charge for campers to use showers

Better advertise our pool with signage (show walking from our park)

Swimming Club

Clinton Peel is a Candelo resident & was great as Candelo pool manager

Pool cost Council no money

Why not extend the Candelo Pool season for an extra month to make up for the late start?

IDEA- close in the middle of the day (high UV) and open later/earlier

Changing opening hours i.e.-close in middle of day (high UV) then open later/earlier

Please keep morning swimming

Running Programs-aqua aerobics, swim club, swim lessons

Running Events-pool parties, BBQs, Movies 'floaties'

Advertising-including advertising bus services

Shire wide Access

Promoting Candelo Pool signage, bus route, tourist information, advertising

Waste of Council rates, i.e., always carrying on road works

Promote health benefits of pools

Arrange special days e.g. Australia Day, Grandparents Day, etc

Candelo Pool Party 2 years ago was a huge success

Pambula Centre could do with lockers for users from away

Shire wide pass would be a boon

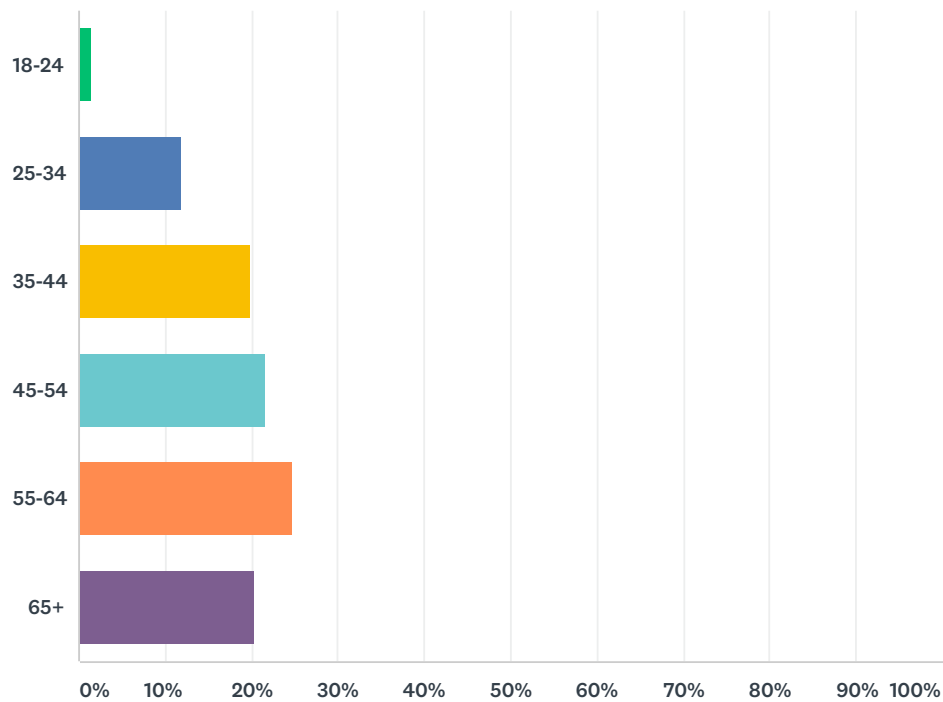
Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper and proposed Special Rate Variation- Community Information Session

Appendix 2- Online survey report- Survey Monkey

Online Survey

Q1 Please specify which age group you belong to.

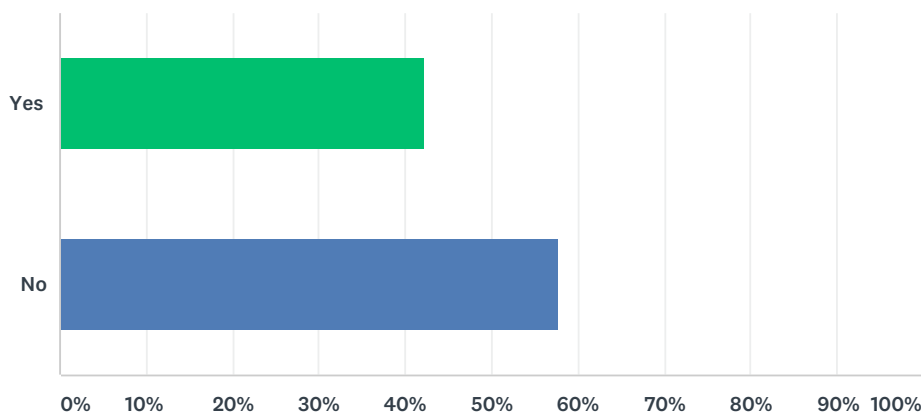
Answered: 658 Skipped: 1



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| 18-24 | 1.52% | 10 |
| 25-34 | 12.01% | 79 |
| 35-44 | 19.91% | 131 |
| 45-54 | 21.58% | 142 |
| 55-64 | 24.77% | 163 |
| 65+ | 20.21% | 133 |
| TOTAL | | 658 |

Q2 Q2. Do you have any children under the age of 18 living in your household?

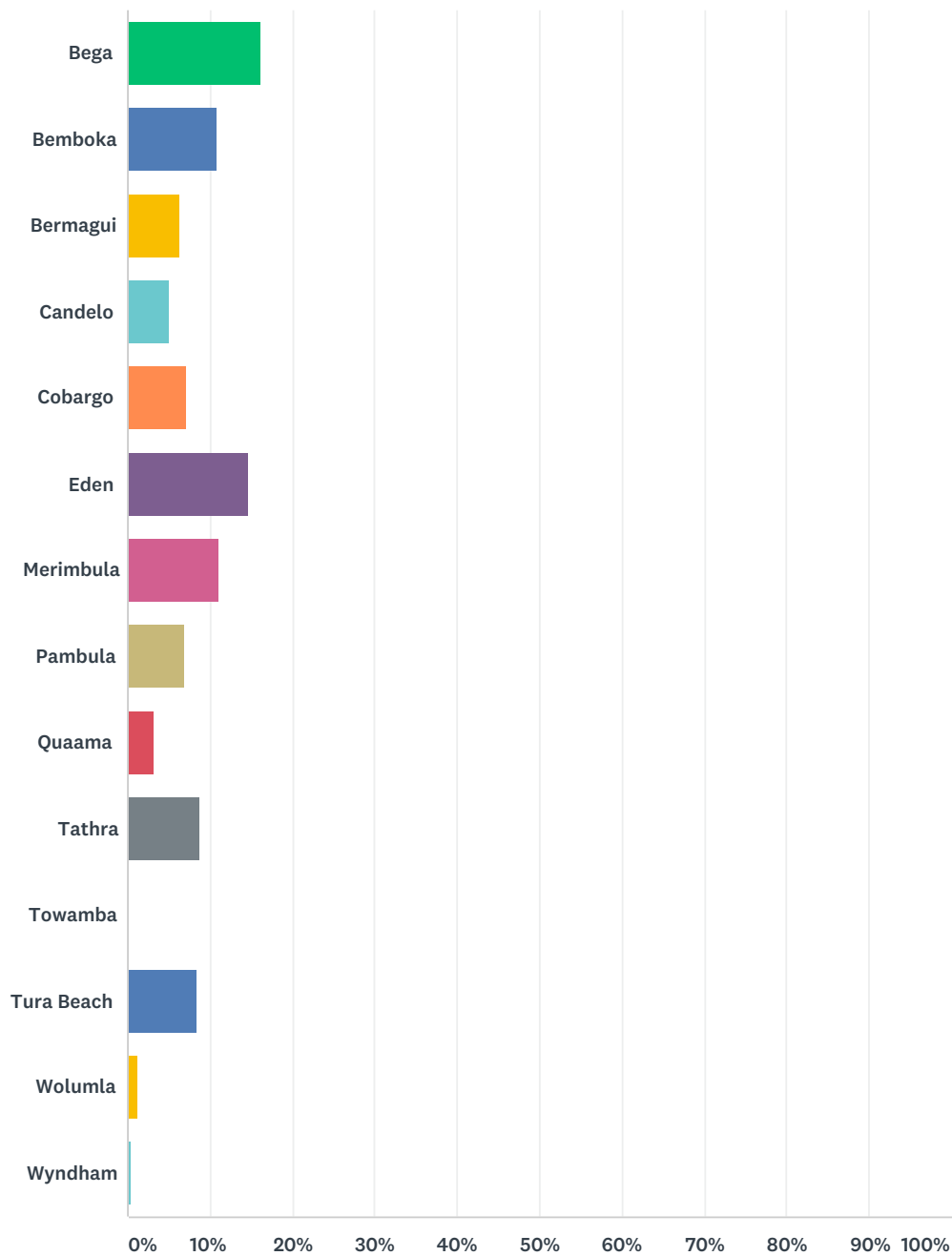
Answered: 656 Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 42.23% | 277 |
| No | 57.77% | 379 |
| TOTAL | | 656 |

Q3 Which locality in the Bega Valley Shire do you reside?

Answered: 655 Skipped: 4



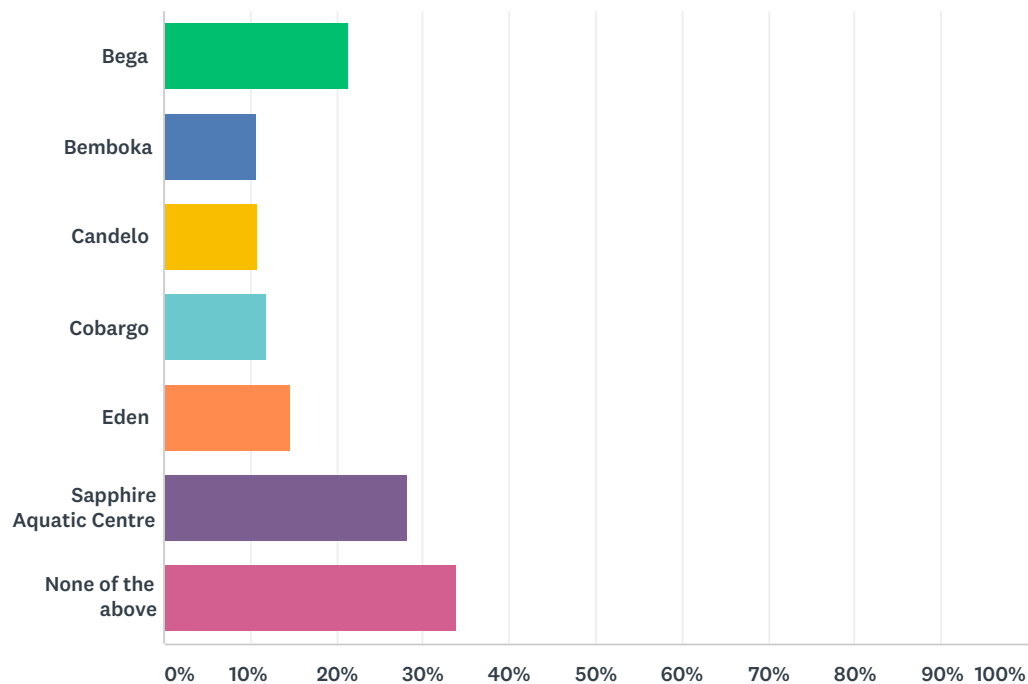
| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Bega | 16.03% | 105 |
| Bemboka | 10.84% | 71 |
| Bermagui | 6.26% | 41 |
| Candelo | 5.04% | 33 |
| Cobargo | 7.02% | 46 |
| Eden | 14.66% | 96 |
| Merimbula | 11.15% | 73 |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

| | | |
|------------|-------|-----|
| Pambula | 6.87% | 45 |
| Quaama | 3.21% | 21 |
| Tathra | 8.85% | 58 |
| Towamba | 0.00% | 0 |
| Tura Beach | 8.40% | 55 |
| Wolumla | 1.22% | 8 |
| Wyndham | 0.46% | 3 |
| TOTAL | | 655 |

Q4 Which of the following pools do you regularly use? Please select as many that apply.

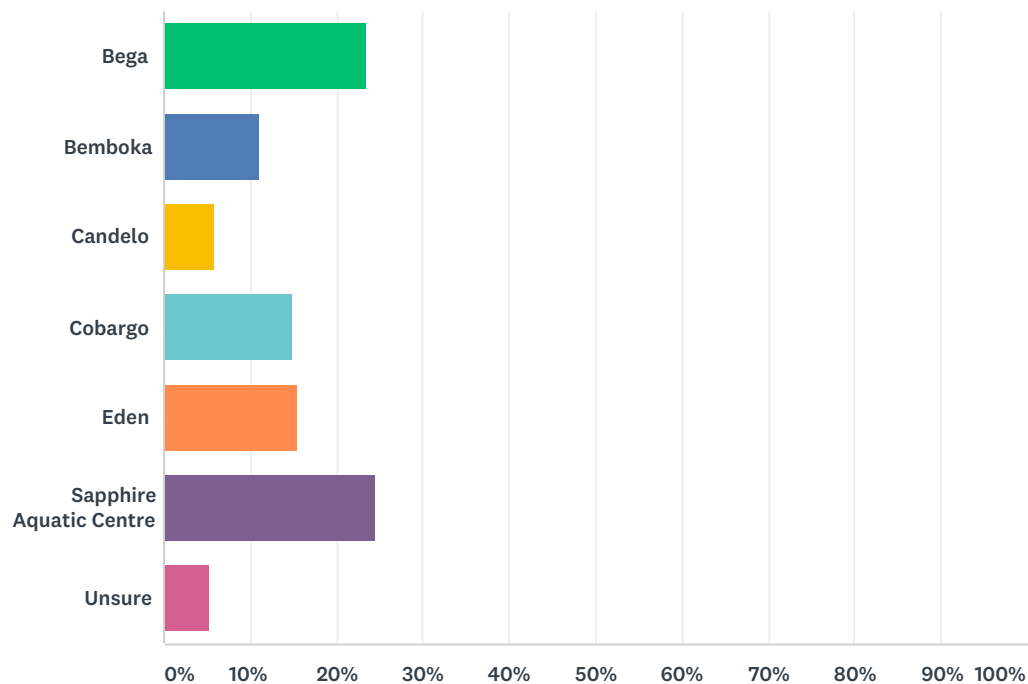
Answered: 657 Skipped: 2



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Bega | 21.31% | 140 |
| Bemboka | 10.65% | 70 |
| Candelo | 10.96% | 72 |
| Cobargo | 12.02% | 79 |
| Eden | 14.61% | 96 |
| Sapphire Aquatic Centre | 28.31% | 186 |
| None of the above | 33.94% | 223 |
| Total Respondents: 657 | | |

Q5 Which of the following do you consider to be your local pool? Please select one option only.

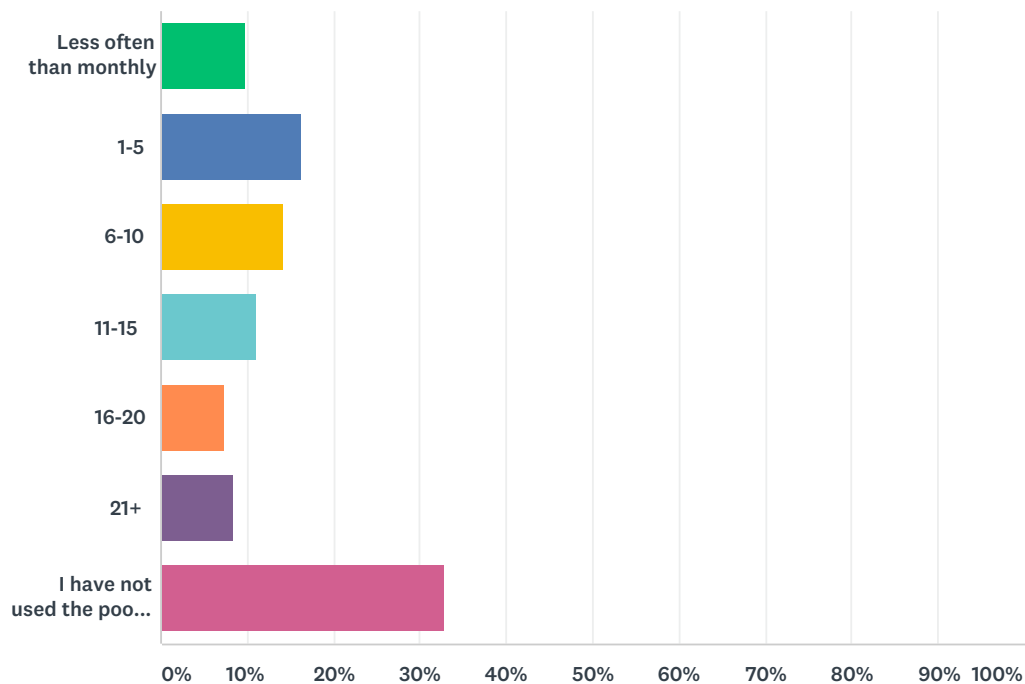
Answered: 643 Skipped: 16



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Bega | 23.33% | 150 |
| Bemboka | 11.04% | 71 |
| Candelo | 5.75% | 37 |
| Cobargo | 14.77% | 95 |
| Eden | 15.40% | 99 |
| Sapphire Aquatic Centre | 24.57% | 158 |
| Unsure | 5.13% | 33 |
| TOTAL | | 643 |

Q6 On average, how many times per month do you currently use public swimming pools? Please select one option.

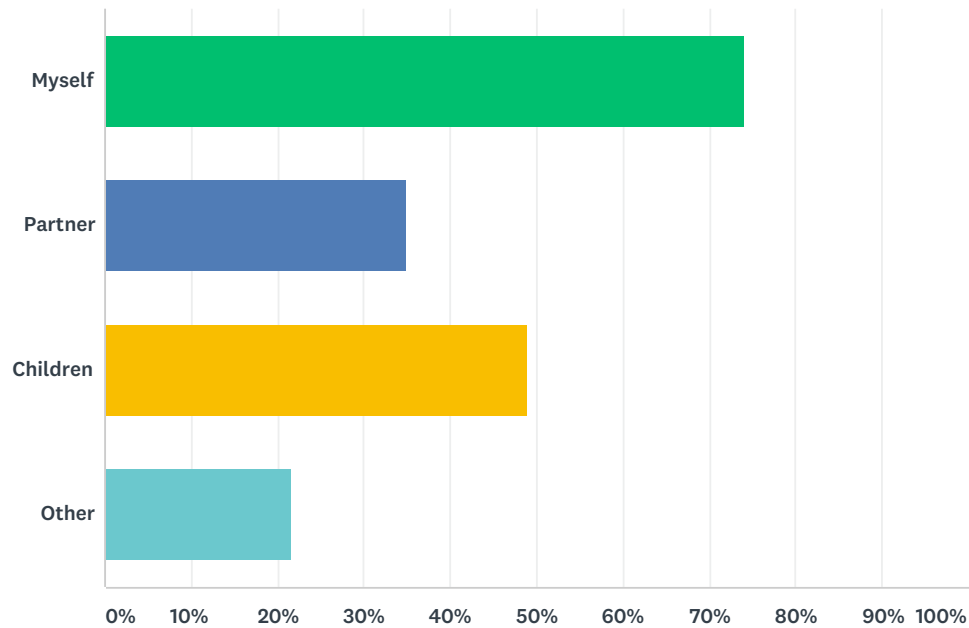
Answered: 653 Skipped: 6



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|-----------|-----|
| Less often than monthly | 9.80% | 64 |
| 1-5 | 16.23% | 106 |
| 6-10 | 14.24% | 93 |
| 11-15 | 11.18% | 73 |
| 16-20 | 7.35% | 48 |
| 21+ | 8.27% | 54 |
| I have not used the pools in the past 12 months | 32.92% | 215 |
| TOTAL | | 653 |

Q7 And who uses the pools?

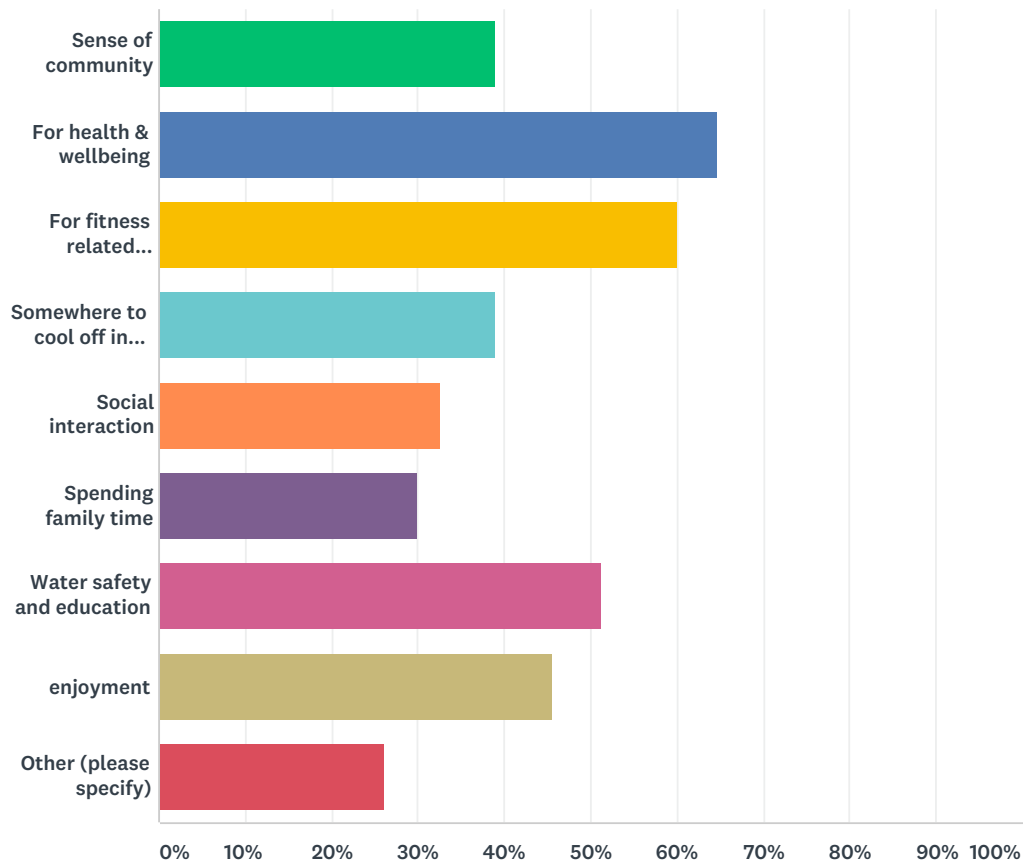
Answered: 531 Skipped: 128



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Myself | 74.01% | 393 |
| Partner | 35.03% | 186 |
| Children | 48.96% | 260 |
| Other | 21.47% | 114 |
| Total Respondents: 531 | | |

Q8 Why is your local pool important to you? Please select as many that apply

Answered: 629 Skipped: 30



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Sense of community | 38.95% | 245 |
| For health & wellbeing | 64.55% | 406 |
| For fitness related activities | 60.10% | 378 |
| Somewhere to cool off in summer | 38.95% | 245 |
| Social interaction | 32.59% | 205 |
| Spending family time | 29.89% | 188 |
| Water safety and education | 51.35% | 323 |
| enjoyment | 45.63% | 287 |
| Other (please specify) | 26.23% | 165 |
| Total Respondents: 629 | | |

| # | OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) | DATE |
|---|---|--------------------|
| 1 | A water feature that looks inviting and a Cafe | 10/22/2019 2:27 PM |
| 2 | I believe that bodies of water soften the environment | 10/22/2019 1:55 PM |
| 3 | not important | 10/21/2019 1:57 PM |
| 4 | Tourism and environmental athletics | 10/21/2019 1:40 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

| | | |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 5 | pools are an appealing feature in the landscape | 10/20/2019 10:46 PM |
| 6 | It's not if the population can't afford it get rid of it | 10/19/2019 10:58 AM |
| 7 | Not Important | 10/19/2019 8:47 AM |
| 8 | It isn't. | 10/18/2019 6:52 PM |
| 9 | Excellent place to teach the kids how to swim . | 10/17/2019 8:43 PM |
| 10 | mental well being | 10/17/2019 8:25 PM |
| 11 | Don't use it | 10/17/2019 5:02 PM |
| 12 | Waste of money only swimming club use them in summer | 10/17/2019 9:57 AM |
| 13 | I don't use the pools | 10/17/2019 5:26 AM |
| 14 | it isnt as i dont use it. | 10/16/2019 9:19 PM |
| 15 | I don't use them, so of no use to me at all. | 10/16/2019 8:15 PM |
| 16 | Competitive swimming - carnivals | 10/16/2019 8:07 PM |
| 17 | School swimming carnivals only. | 10/16/2019 7:56 PM |
| 18 | I do not personally use local pool but believe it is an important community and public facility | 10/16/2019 5:04 PM |
| 19 | not a pool user | 10/16/2019 4:58 PM |
| 20 | It's not important to me | 10/16/2019 1:19 PM |
| 21 | It's not... | 10/16/2019 9:35 AM |
| 22 | If we had one in Bermagui I'd use it | 10/16/2019 7:24 AM |
| 23 | physio/rehab | 10/16/2019 7:24 AM |
| 24 | A local pool is not important to me | 10/15/2019 8:01 PM |
| 25 | I am on the coast and use the Blue Pool...NB not included in your survey. I do appreciate that others esp inland benefit from a pool | 10/15/2019 4:47 PM |
| 26 | do not use any pool | 10/14/2019 4:09 PM |
| 27 | Not important. N | 10/13/2019 12:55 PM |
| 28 | It is not important to me personally....I recognise it can have value for educating children in water safety. | 10/12/2019 8:00 PM |
| 29 | Is are a huge part of Australian lifestyle and in an atmosphere of water restrictions, obesity epidemics and loss of community owned facilities they are vital and more beneficial than buying old hotels or art galleries that only suit some. | 10/12/2019 4:51 PM |
| 30 | Swimming is a good exercise for older people. | 10/12/2019 2:11 PM |
| 31 | The closest pool is Bruce Steer, due for redevelopment. It's not included in this list. However, in winter I drive to Narooma about once a month. | 10/11/2019 11:13 AM |
| 32 | The pool is not important to me. | 10/11/2019 10:50 AM |
| 33 | Injury related recovery exercise | 10/10/2019 9:24 AM |
| 34 | I think the pool area has so much potential to offer more to the community, & to visitors : social events, competitions, exercise groups & water safety classes etc | 10/8/2019 6:00 PM |
| 35 | not important. swim in ocean | 10/8/2019 7:37 AM |
| 36 | Swimming Lessons | 10/7/2019 8:51 PM |
| 37 | I do not use the pool at all | 10/6/2019 10:24 AM |
| 38 | All of the above | 10/5/2019 2:59 PM |
| 39 | Birthday parties, kids entertainment | 10/5/2019 2:41 PM |
| 40 | It's not important to me | 10/4/2019 11:29 PM |
| 41 | Local pool doesn't matter to me | 10/4/2019 3:50 PM |
| 42 | never used so not important | 10/4/2019 3:18 PM |
| 43 | Not important at all prefer the beach | 10/4/2019 2:53 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

| | | |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 44 | Local pools provide an important meeting place. They provide an opportunity for unexpected social contact. | 10/3/2019 8:20 PM |
| 45 | It's not! | 10/3/2019 8:01 PM |
| 46 | A local pool is essential for teaching children to swim, health and well-being for adults, social contact, etc. the benefits are endless. | 10/3/2019 6:49 PM |
| 47 | Not important at all, do not like public swimming pools. | 10/3/2019 6:32 PM |
| 48 | Object strongly to rate increase for pools Pay too much in rates already. Bega Valley Shire Council rates highest in State | 10/3/2019 5:35 PM |
| 49 | do not use | 10/3/2019 5:31 PM |
| 50 | its not | 10/3/2019 5:18 PM |
| 51 | The amount of public pools is ridiculous | 10/3/2019 1:48 PM |
| 52 | It is not important as there is a free beach nearby | 10/2/2019 10:29 PM |
| 53 | School swimming carnivals | 10/2/2019 5:57 PM |
| 54 | it is not important to me | 10/2/2019 11:35 AM |
| 55 | Not important | 10/2/2019 7:45 AM |
| 56 | Council make money on entry fees to reduce rates on properties | 10/1/2019 9:53 PM |
| 57 | Pools are excellent for community sense of place and connectedness | 10/1/2019 9:05 PM |
| 58 | Therapy | 10/1/2019 5:04 PM |
| 59 | Children can swim supervised | 10/1/2019 4:28 PM |
| 60 | It isnt | 10/1/2019 4:20 PM |
| 61 | It is good for my mental well being | 10/1/2019 10:22 AM |
| 62 | Having a pool in Bemboka is one of the reasons we chose to live there. | 10/1/2019 8:51 AM |
| 63 | Don't ever use a pool | 10/1/2019 8:38 AM |
| 64 | Property prices | 9/30/2019 11:52 PM |
| 65 | Not applicable | 9/30/2019 10:00 PM |
| 66 | Rehabilitation | 9/30/2019 3:15 PM |
| 67 | Not important at all | 9/30/2019 1:37 PM |
| 68 | It is not | 9/30/2019 11:04 AM |
| 69 | Not important. | 9/29/2019 3:57 PM |
| 70 | It is not important to me personally | 9/29/2019 12:12 PM |
| 71 | Have no use to me, I go to the beach | 9/29/2019 12:11 PM |
| 72 | I don't find pools enjoyable | 9/28/2019 10:56 PM |
| 73 | It's not | 9/28/2019 9:03 AM |
| 74 | i do not use the pools as i swim in the sea | 9/27/2019 8:04 PM |
| 75 | Not important | 9/27/2019 7:32 PM |
| 76 | We don't use the pool at all and feel we shouldn't be penalised by the rate rise if it happens | 9/27/2019 2:59 PM |
| 77 | I don't use the pools. | 9/27/2019 2:29 PM |
| 78 | I do not like public pools or chlorine I prefer the ocean I come from Sydney and had the ocean pools that were much better and used every day | 9/27/2019 7:47 AM |
| 79 | It's not. There are many private pools, lakes and beaches in this area. | 9/26/2019 8:35 PM |
| 80 | Along a coastal strip ie the Sapphire Coast we do not need a lot of pools just one or two heated as the Sapphire Aquatic Centre. | 9/26/2019 4:53 PM |
| 81 | I personally do not use pools and wouldn't have for over 15 years | 9/25/2019 10:16 AM |
| 82 | They are not important | 9/25/2019 10:00 AM |
| 83 | I swim in the ocean. The pools are of no value to me or my family. | 9/25/2019 9:31 AM |
| 84 | Tourism & environment aesthetics | 9/24/2019 10:51 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

| | | |
|-----|---|--------------------|
| 85 | i dont agree with the proposal council is presenting as there as soooo many other sports that people play in the community and swimming is only a smidgen of these sports that i dont want to add to my annual rates to pay something that only a small percentage of the community access and includes me | 9/24/2019 8:11 PM |
| 86 | When my older sister an I was in primary school we only had the river for lessons and water safety but my 2 younger sister had the pool and they are great swimmers with lifesaving certificates. I not a strong swimmer pool made a difference | 9/23/2019 5:57 PM |
| 87 | Our pool offers all of the above really. We have very little to offer our kids in Bemboka for social interaction other than the pool. It would be a very sad day if it were closed and I believe it would be another nail in the coffin for Bemboka. To attract young families to our area we MUST provide attractions and services that are family friendly. | 9/23/2019 3:51 PM |
| 88 | school swimming | 9/23/2019 2:47 PM |
| 89 | Rehab | 9/23/2019 2:40 PM |
| 90 | I don't use the pools but for people living inland, pools are essential for exercise, community building, learning to swim, somewhere safe and fun for kids to go etc | 9/23/2019 2:32 PM |
| 91 | Resource for Elderly/Disability/Rehabilitation | 9/23/2019 2:03 PM |
| 92 | IT IS NOT IMPORTANT | 9/23/2019 1:15 PM |
| 93 | we do not use any of the pools | 9/21/2019 11:45 AM |
| 94 | IT IS NOT | 9/20/2019 9:04 AM |
| 95 | Not important, there is plenty of free swimming here | 9/19/2019 9:17 PM |
| 96 | not important to me | 9/19/2019 6:53 PM |
| 97 | Not Impotant | 9/19/2019 7:38 AM |
| 98 | I use the ocean for my water interaction | 9/18/2019 5:48 PM |
| 99 | I do no use pools I prefer the beach | 9/18/2019 4:46 PM |
| 100 | I have a disabled sister who likes to swim. Jim at the pool makes her welcome and even goes to the trouble of getting her a chair close to the steps so that she can take her caliper off and get into the water. No embarassment, no trouble at all. | 9/18/2019 2:14 PM |
| 101 | Not at all important. There's a self-cleaning ocean already available. | 9/18/2019 10:50 AM |
| 102 | its not at all important to us haven't used it in 30 years | 9/18/2019 10:14 AM |
| 103 | Maintain back health and fitness | 9/18/2019 8:20 AM |
| 104 | Swimming pools are NOT important to me | 9/17/2019 10:36 PM |
| 105 | Important for the community. I do not use it ever | 9/17/2019 6:57 PM |
| 106 | Don't use any pools. | 9/17/2019 5:31 PM |
| 107 | As we don't have a local pool none of these apply | 9/17/2019 4:11 PM |
| 108 | Don't use the pools because BVS is on the beach | 9/17/2019 2:46 PM |
| 109 | I never use public pools | 9/17/2019 1:51 PM |
| 110 | Entertainment for family - why we don't use it now, it is simply a "pool", no slides etc | 9/17/2019 1:06 PM |
| 111 | do not use the pool . beach is more healthy | 9/17/2019 12:55 PM |
| 112 | training for swim school carnival season | 9/16/2019 11:27 PM |
| 113 | It's not | 9/16/2019 7:11 PM |
| 114 | Accessible exercise for those less mobile and in wheelchairs. | 9/16/2019 5:09 PM |
| 115 | Don't use | 9/16/2019 12:24 PM |
| 116 | I didn't learn to swim until 14- was to scared in the river , couldn't see. Leary in a neighbouring towns poolriver | 9/16/2019 10:30 AM |
| 117 | School visits every week and swim safety for all students | 9/16/2019 8:28 AM |
| 118 | Swimming is the only exercise available to me due to injuries. Continuing to do this keeps me healthy and out of hospital. | 9/15/2019 8:54 AM |
| 119 | Not important | 9/14/2019 7:58 PM |
| 120 | It's important to the community but not at the cost of additional rates. | 9/14/2019 7:18 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

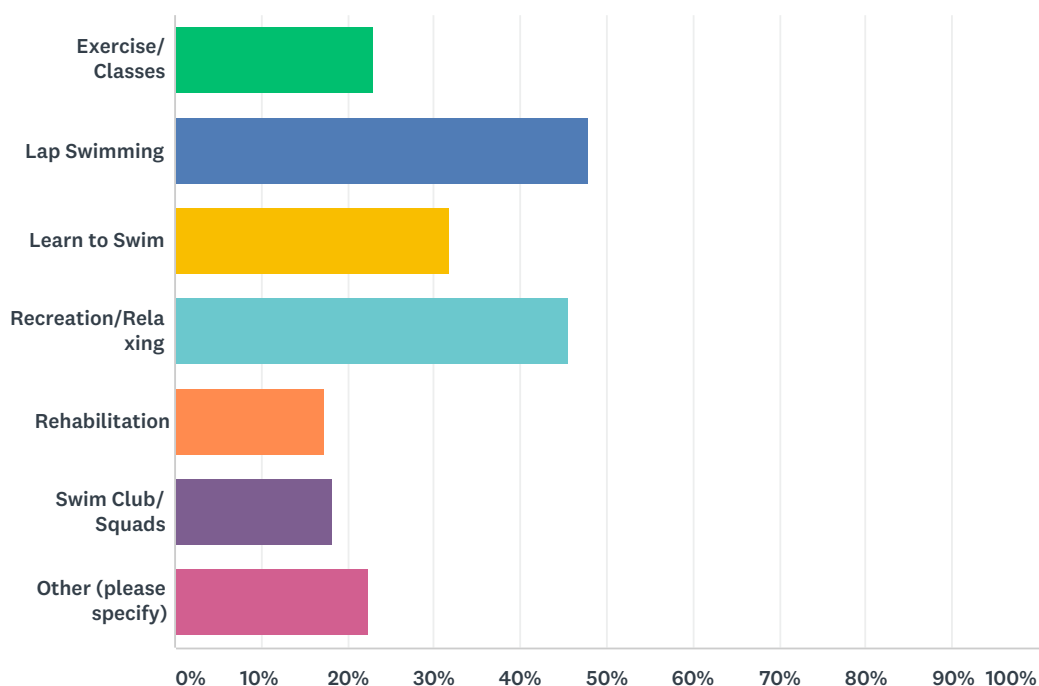
| | | |
|-----|---|--------------------|
| 121 | This is where my children learnt to swim in a safe enviroment, and when they could swim well they then swam at the beach in Bermagui. | 9/14/2019 1:00 PM |
| 122 | Tathra should have a Sea Pool for learn to swim | 9/14/2019 10:49 AM |
| 123 | Swim tests for volunteer emergency service work | 9/13/2019 11:13 PM |
| 124 | They are not that important | 9/13/2019 10:27 PM |
| 125 | Pambula pool is one of the only heated and covered spaces to take kids during winter. I take my kids swimming as often as possible as an activity | 9/13/2019 7:21 PM |
| 126 | I like to take my grandchildren to the pool | 9/13/2019 6:02 PM |
| 127 | quaama swimming program | 9/13/2019 4:15 PM |
| 128 | an added feature for tourism | 9/13/2019 3:53 PM |
| 129 | A pool should not be sponsored by people who don't use it. | 9/13/2019 2:57 PM |
| 130 | I have never used public pools. | 9/13/2019 2:44 PM |
| 131 | As a PE teacher, we have written the new curriculum to include a water safety and water fitness component in each program. The Eden Pool assists our delivery. | 9/13/2019 7:24 AM |
| 132 | Swimming club, training facility | 9/13/2019 7:04 AM |
| 133 | It's not. It's a breeding ground for germs. We have a huge ocean. Use it and stop raising our rates. | 9/12/2019 10:51 AM |
| 134 | Community meeting place | 9/12/2019 7:43 AM |
| 135 | Pools are too expensive to run. Should be one facility in the shire | 9/11/2019 8:30 PM |
| 136 | It is not of use to me at all | 9/11/2019 7:59 PM |
| 137 | Swimming club | 9/11/2019 7:59 PM |
| 138 | It's not to me | 9/11/2019 7:02 PM |
| 139 | My wife uses the Aquatic Centre Gym but not the pool. | 9/11/2019 6:59 PM |
| 140 | Somewhere to take the grandkids | 9/11/2019 6:55 PM |
| 141 | Our grandchildren love to swim in Candelo Pool whenever they visit us. | 9/10/2019 9:07 PM |
| 142 | None | 9/9/2019 7:29 PM |
| 143 | It's not important to me, but I accept it is important to others. | 9/9/2019 6:19 PM |
| 144 | Why does this survey assume that pools are important to me? | 9/9/2019 5:08 PM |
| 145 | Cobargo has limited facilities so the pool is a feature that maintains property values makes it a great place to live. Saves having to drive to Bermagui Blue Pool or Bega which is very expensive. | 9/9/2019 2:38 PM |
| 146 | It is not important to me | 9/9/2019 12:01 PM |
| 147 | Its not important. We have the ocean at our door step we use that. | 9/9/2019 9:28 AM |
| 148 | We do not use it | 9/9/2019 1:42 AM |
| 149 | learn to swim lessons | 9/8/2019 5:28 PM |
| 150 | Training | 9/8/2019 5:17 PM |
| 151 | Non weight bearing rehabilitation exercise | 9/8/2019 10:25 AM |
| 152 | Swim club | 9/8/2019 8:25 AM |
| 153 | I'm a teacher and we take kids over regularly | 9/7/2019 11:38 PM |
| 154 | Only used for swimming lessons and even then my son got sick every time from the heated pool! | 9/7/2019 1:03 PM |
| 155 | To do rehabilitation for an injury | 9/7/2019 8:24 AM |
| 156 | It's not. | 9/7/2019 12:06 AM |
| 157 | Safe place for teens, many state swimmers are from the area | 9/6/2019 11:44 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

| | | |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 158 | I have two children that are competitive state level swimmers that represent our region all year and train 6 days/7 sessions per week. Although a 25m covered pool is not ideal for training all year, we are able to use both SAC and Eden pool depending on weather etc. Occasionally we have even had to travel to Narooma for training. | 9/6/2019 10:36 PM |
| 159 | Not overly important to me | 9/6/2019 3:51 PM |
| 160 | It isnt | 9/6/2019 1:05 PM |
| 161 | Training for competition | 9/6/2019 12:15 PM |
| 162 | Not important - I don't use it - should be user pays - increase access fees | 9/6/2019 12:11 PM |
| 163 | a job | 9/6/2019 11:56 AM |
| 164 | Aqua Aerobics | 9/6/2019 11:31 AM |

Q9 What do you mostly use public pools for? Please select as many that apply.

Answered: 602 Skipped: 57



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Exercise/ Classes | 22.92% | 138 |
| Lap Swimming | 47.84% | 288 |
| Learn to Swim | 31.89% | 192 |
| Recreation/Relaxing | 45.51% | 274 |
| Rehabilitation | 17.44% | 105 |
| Swim Club/ Squads | 18.11% | 109 |
| Other (please specify) | 22.43% | 135 |
| Total Respondents: 602 | | |

| # | OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) | DATE |
|----|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Dont use them | 10/21/2019 1:57 PM |
| 2 | Environmental athetics | 10/21/2019 1:40 PM |
| 3 | Rehabilitation | 10/19/2019 3:23 PM |
| 4 | Never Use | 10/19/2019 8:47 AM |
| 5 | I don't | 10/18/2019 6:52 PM |
| 6 | Kids school carnival/ swimming. | 10/17/2019 8:43 PM |
| 7 | Don't use it | 10/17/2019 5:02 PM |
| 8 | Nothing | 10/17/2019 9:57 AM |
| 9 | Nil | 10/17/2019 5:26 AM |
| 10 | i dont use it | 10/16/2019 9:19 PM |
| 11 | n/a | 10/16/2019 8:15 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

| | | |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 12 | School swimming carnivals only. | 10/16/2019 7:56 PM |
| 13 | I do not use public pools | 10/16/2019 5:04 PM |
| 14 | no one in our family have ever used a pool in bega shire | 10/16/2019 4:58 PM |
| 15 | I don't | 10/16/2019 1:19 PM |
| 16 | Don't use them | 10/16/2019 10:42 AM |
| 17 | I don't | 10/16/2019 9:35 AM |
| 18 | kids still learning how to swim | 10/16/2019 7:41 AM |
| 19 | non-weight bearing physio | 10/16/2019 7:24 AM |
| 20 | Do not use a local pool as we don't have one | 10/15/2019 8:01 PM |
| 21 | Never use | 10/15/2019 7:53 PM |
| 22 | don't use them | 10/15/2019 4:47 PM |
| 23 | do not use pools | 10/14/2019 4:09 PM |
| 24 | Not important never use | 10/13/2019 12:55 PM |
| 25 | Never use them...it is a 50kms. round trip for me to swim in a pool | 10/12/2019 8:00 PM |
| 26 | Fmily time, kids on holiday,health so many reasons | 10/12/2019 4:51 PM |
| 27 | I don't use the pools | 10/11/2019 10:50 AM |
| 28 | do not use | 10/8/2019 7:37 AM |
| 29 | . | 10/6/2019 3:03 PM |
| 30 | I do not use the pool at all | 10/6/2019 10:24 AM |
| 31 | School groups | 10/5/2019 3:36 PM |
| 32 | Relaxation | 10/5/2019 2:41 PM |
| 33 | Take grandchildren | 10/5/2019 2:28 PM |
| 34 | Cooling off | 10/5/2019 1:57 PM |
| 35 | I don't use them | 10/4/2019 11:29 PM |
| 36 | Ive only ever once swam at the pool in Pambula about 8 yrs ago | 10/4/2019 4:40 PM |
| 37 | Don't use the pool | 10/4/2019 3:50 PM |
| 38 | never used never will | 10/4/2019 3:18 PM |
| 39 | nothing | 10/4/2019 2:53 PM |
| 40 | The Council provides a venue for the NSW Education Dept to fulfill a major curriculum component. | 10/3/2019 8:20 PM |
| 41 | I don't | 10/3/2019 8:01 PM |
| 42 | Don't use them and won't use one. | 10/3/2019 6:32 PM |
| 43 | Charge and entry fee (extra charge) for those who utilise pools. Why should the rate payers have to pay. We have been ripped off over the years even in 1982the rates in Bega Valley were 3 times more that city dwellers. This is the reason shops are closing. Draw the line \$3000 a year is too much to be paying. What has council been doing with the rate payers money over the years? | 10/3/2019 5:35 PM |
| 44 | dont not use | 10/3/2019 5:31 PM |
| 45 | i dont | 10/3/2019 5:18 PM |
| 46 | I don't they are too far away. We have nothing for our rates here in Tura Beach | 10/3/2019 1:48 PM |
| 47 | Do not use the pool | 10/2/2019 10:29 PM |
| 48 | I don't use the pool/s | 10/2/2019 5:57 PM |
| 49 | Socialising | 10/2/2019 1:02 PM |
| 50 | I do not use them | 10/2/2019 11:35 AM |
| 51 | Don't use | 10/2/2019 7:45 AM |
| 52 | It's the sapphire coast, go to the beach | 10/1/2019 9:53 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

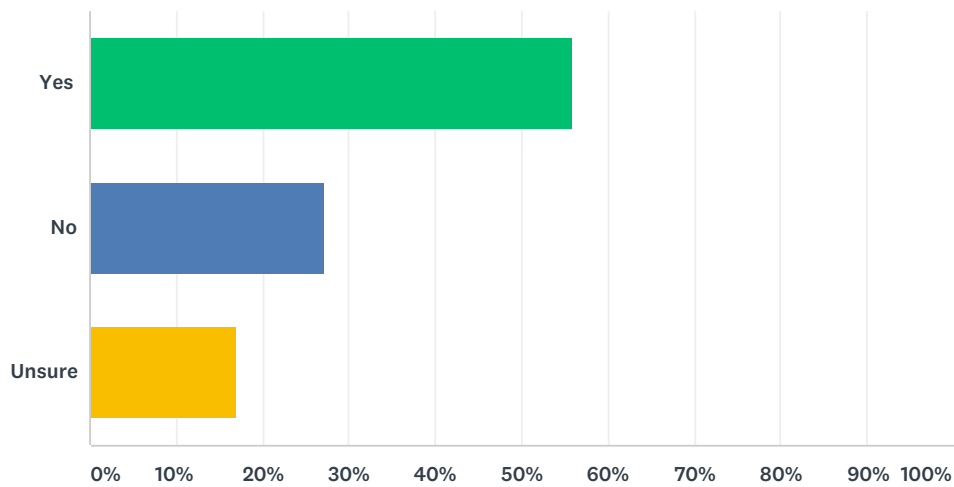
| | | |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 53 | Mental well being | 10/1/2019 5:04 PM |
| 54 | I don't | 10/1/2019 4:20 PM |
| 55 | Don't ever use a pool | 10/1/2019 8:38 AM |
| 56 | I don't, too expensive & daughter allergic to chemicals | 9/30/2019 11:52 PM |
| 57 | Do not use them | 9/30/2019 10:00 PM |
| 58 | i don't use the pool | 9/30/2019 5:29 PM |
| 59 | I never use any pool | 9/30/2019 1:37 PM |
| 60 | Don't use. | 9/29/2019 3:57 PM |
| 61 | I do not use pools | 9/29/2019 12:12 PM |
| 62 | Do not use public pools | 9/29/2019 12:11 PM |
| 63 | I don't use public pools | 9/28/2019 10:56 PM |
| 64 | I don't | 9/28/2019 9:03 AM |
| 65 | i do not use the pools as i swim in the sea | 9/27/2019 8:04 PM |
| 66 | Not used | 9/27/2019 7:32 PM |
| 67 | I don't use the pools. | 9/27/2019 2:29 PM |
| 68 | Connecting with community and locals, keeping up to date on current issues | 9/27/2019 10:48 AM |
| 69 | I do not use the pools here | 9/27/2019 7:47 AM |
| 70 | We don't! | 9/26/2019 8:35 PM |
| 71 | NOT AT ALL | 9/26/2019 4:53 PM |
| 72 | I do not use the pools | 9/25/2019 10:16 AM |
| 73 | I don't use the pools. Never have never will. | 9/25/2019 9:31 AM |
| 74 | Environment aesthetics | 9/24/2019 10:51 PM |
| 75 | To cool off | 9/24/2019 10:10 PM |
| 76 | I no longer use the pool due to other commitments however I feel they are an important community asset for young people and families in particular | 9/24/2019 9:47 PM |
| 77 | I dont use public pools. cholorine is terrible on the body | 9/24/2019 8:11 PM |
| 78 | Pools are a great community asset, even if you don't use them yourself! | 9/23/2019 2:32 PM |
| 79 | DO NOT USE A PUPLIC POOL | 9/23/2019 1:15 PM |
| 80 | NA do not use the pools | 9/21/2019 11:45 AM |
| 81 | WE DON'T | 9/20/2019 9:04 AM |
| 82 | not used | 9/19/2019 9:17 PM |
| 83 | don't use the pools | 9/19/2019 6:53 PM |
| 84 | Do not use | 9/19/2019 7:38 AM |
| 85 | Not applicable | 9/18/2019 5:48 PM |
| 86 | Not at all | 9/18/2019 4:46 PM |
| 87 | None | 9/18/2019 10:50 AM |
| 88 | don't use one | 9/18/2019 10:14 AM |
| 89 | Don't use | 9/18/2019 9:01 AM |
| 90 | Maintain back health and fitness | 9/18/2019 8:20 AM |
| 91 | I don't | 9/17/2019 10:36 PM |
| 92 | Do not use | 9/17/2019 6:57 PM |
| 93 | Don't use any pools. | 9/17/2019 5:31 PM |
| 94 | None apply as don't use the Shire pools | 9/17/2019 4:11 PM |
| 95 | no provision for don't use pool | 9/17/2019 3:43 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

| | | |
|-----|--|--------------------|
| 96 | Taking my granddaughter for swimming lessons. | 9/17/2019 3:14 PM |
| 97 | Don't swim in chlorinated water | 9/17/2019 2:46 PM |
| 98 | I never use public pools | 9/17/2019 1:51 PM |
| 99 | I don't | 9/17/2019 1:21 PM |
| 100 | use beach | 9/17/2019 12:55 PM |
| 101 | I don't | 9/16/2019 7:11 PM |
| 102 | Don't use | 9/16/2019 12:24 PM |
| 103 | School swimming | 9/16/2019 8:28 AM |
| 104 | I don't use pools | 9/15/2019 7:46 PM |
| 105 | None of these | 9/14/2019 7:58 PM |
| 106 | We don't use it. | 9/14/2019 7:18 PM |
| 107 | Cool off in Very Hot weather | 9/14/2019 10:49 AM |
| 108 | Swim tests | 9/13/2019 11:13 PM |
| 109 | for the younger grandchildren | 9/13/2019 3:53 PM |
| 110 | I don't. | 9/13/2019 2:57 PM |
| 111 | School group | 9/13/2019 7:24 AM |
| 112 | None | 9/12/2019 10:51 AM |
| 113 | For grandkids | 9/12/2019 7:43 AM |
| 114 | Only Pambula because it is heated | 9/11/2019 8:30 PM |
| 115 | I don't | 9/11/2019 7:59 PM |
| 116 | Nothing | 9/11/2019 7:02 PM |
| 117 | Don't use them | 9/11/2019 6:59 PM |
| 118 | I taught one of my grandson's to swim in Candelo Pool | 9/10/2019 9:07 PM |
| 119 | You will do the opposite of what the community want anyway. | 9/9/2019 10:50 PM |
| 120 | None | 9/9/2019 7:29 PM |
| 121 | I don't use | 9/9/2019 6:19 PM |
| 122 | I have selected that I don't use pools. | 9/9/2019 5:08 PM |
| 123 | We don't use the pools and don't want to have to pay for them. | 9/9/2019 9:28 AM |
| 124 | School sport | 9/8/2019 9:35 PM |
| 125 | Nothing, ever. | 9/7/2019 12:06 AM |
| 126 | School swimming carnivals, school Athlete Development Program training. Coaching and race preparation for competition swimming. Rehabilitation post sporting injuries. | 9/6/2019 10:36 PM |
| 127 | Don't use them. Too expensive. Unhealthy. | 9/6/2019 8:38 PM |
| 128 | None | 9/6/2019 7:35 PM |
| 129 | Do not use public pools very often | 9/6/2019 3:51 PM |
| 130 | I have never used the pools in the shire, as i prefer the beach. this i smostly as i dont have children to utilise the safety and ease of the local pools | 9/6/2019 2:39 PM |
| 131 | None of above | 9/6/2019 1:05 PM |
| 132 | I dont | 9/6/2019 12:46 PM |
| 133 | after school with friends in summer | 9/6/2019 12:11 PM |
| 134 | Nothing | 9/6/2019 12:11 PM |
| 135 | work | 9/6/2019 11:56 AM |

Q10 Do you agree with the council's goal to keep six public pools within the Bega Valley Shire?

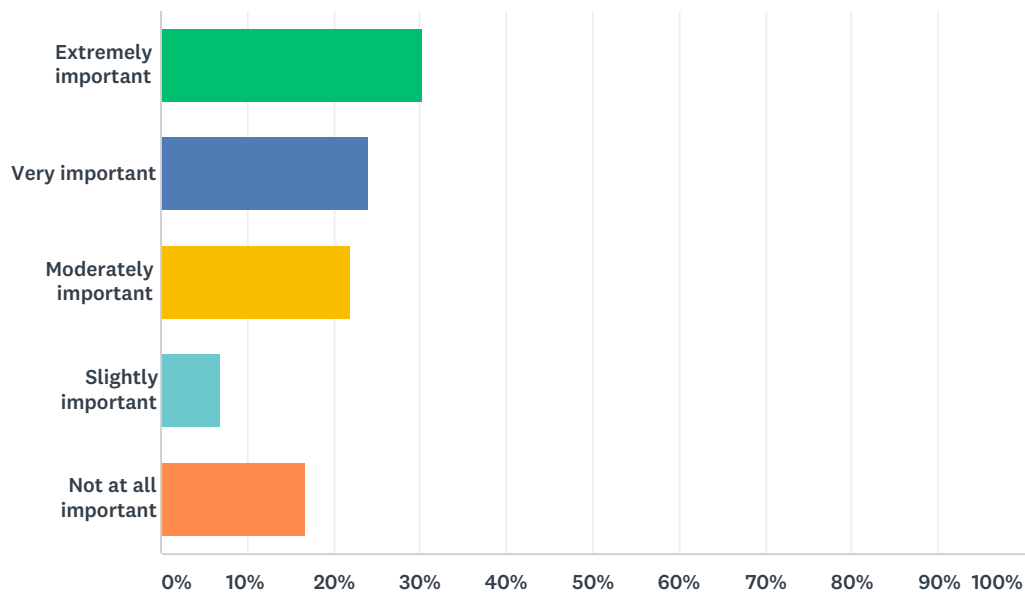
Answered: 644 Skipped: 15



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 55.90% | 360 |
| No | 27.17% | 175 |
| Unsure | 16.93% | 109 |
| TOTAL | | 644 |

Q11 How important is it to you that our six public pool facilities meet modern standards and expectations?

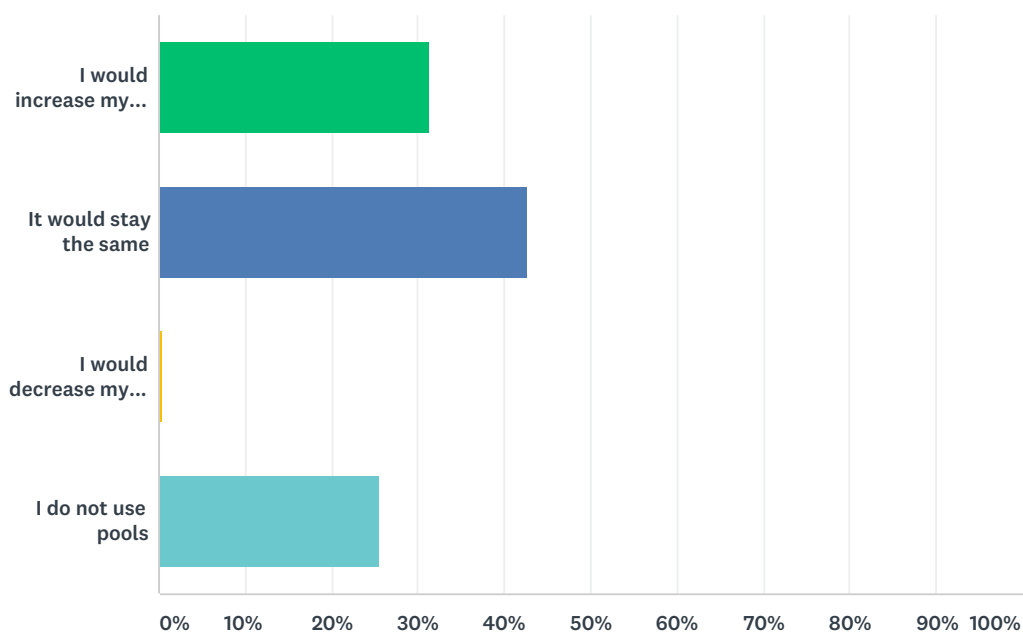
Answered: 637 Skipped: 22



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----|
| Extremely important | 30.30% | 193 |
| Very important | 24.02% | 153 |
| Moderately important | 21.98% | 140 |
| Slightly important | 6.91% | 44 |
| Not at all important | 16.80% | 107 |
| TOTAL | | 637 |

Q12 If your local pool was upgraded to modern standards, how would it impact your visitation?

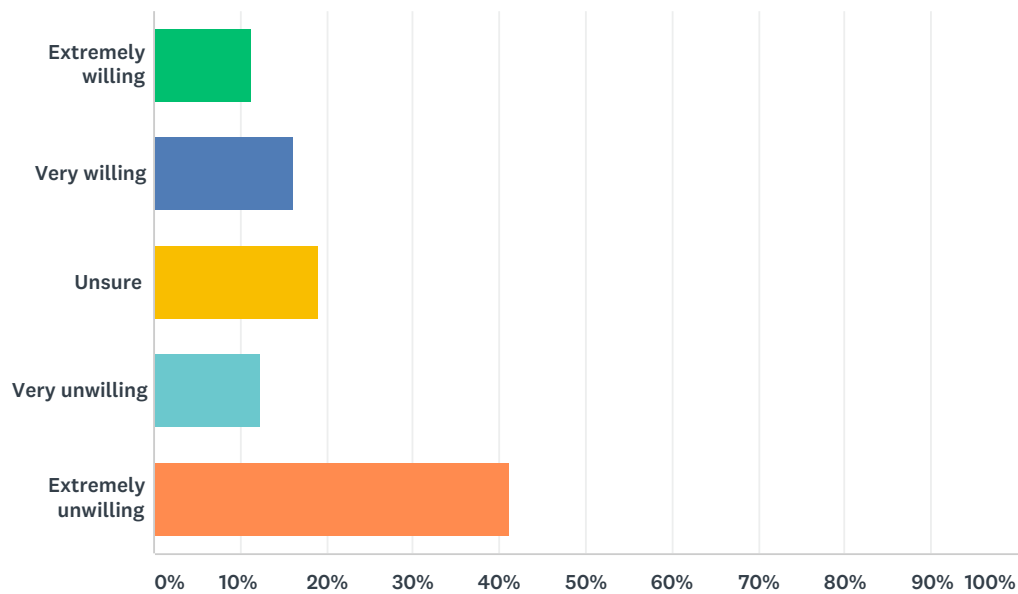
Answered: 645 Skipped: 14



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----|
| I would increase my visits | 31.32% | 202 |
| It would stay the same | 42.64% | 275 |
| I would decrease my visits | 0.47% | 3 |
| I do not use pools | 25.58% | 165 |
| TOTAL | | 645 |

Q13 How willing are you to pay more in rates to upgrade and keep six public pools open within the Bega Valley Shire into the future

Answered: 622 Skipped: 37



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----|
| Extremely willing | 11.25% | 70 |
| Very willing | 16.08% | 100 |
| Unsure | 19.13% | 119 |
| Very unwilling | 12.38% | 77 |
| Extremely unwilling | 41.16% | 256 |
| TOTAL | | 622 |

Q14 Why did you say this?

Answered: 555 Skipped: 104

| # | RESPONSES | DATE |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Rates help fund services BUT may need to combine this with people who already got big tax cuts from Fed Govt. or Franking credits (to fund cruise tickets) Be great to access the funds of the well off in BVS | 10/22/2019 2:35 PM |
| 2 | N/A as not a rate payer as I rent my present place of residence | 10/22/2019 2:01 PM |
| 3 | Don't use pools but young people need to learn to swim somewhere | 10/21/2019 2:04 PM |
| 4 | While I believe the user pays I also know this is a low socioeconomic town & kids would miss out on fun and learning to swim | 10/21/2019 1:53 PM |
| 5 | Don't know that money should be spent to upgrade Cobargo pool for example, if its not being used much | 10/21/2019 1:47 PM |
| 6 | Noisy, infections, to costly to run, we are old age pensioners, because of rates | 10/21/2019 1:45 PM |
| 7 | It is important for people to enjoy aquatics Different incomes in the shire - What is Council doing to attract wealthier clientele to the pools | 10/21/2019 1:43 PM |
| 8 | Because I am not sure how much I can afford council need to give complete detailed figures and find other funding | 10/21/2019 1:38 PM |
| 9 | Not happy to pay more at the moment, council need to source other income but if there is definitely no other funding available at ALL then I may consider paying more | 10/21/2019 1:34 PM |
| 10 | maybe the people with some more fortunate opportunities (ie, especially "fascist bully boys") are in a financial position to contribute their fair amount to all public facilities. Science says that high temperatures are setting new records currently and the pools offer important public spaces to cool off, avoiding heat exhaustion that can be a killer. | 10/20/2019 11:18 PM |
| 11 | Our rates are already too high. Suggest move gradually to user pays approach by increasing entry fees by about 15% per annum, and cut operating costs by making greater use of volunteers. We mostly use Narooma pool. | 10/20/2019 9:12 PM |
| 12 | Pools are an important community facility | 10/20/2019 7:56 PM |
| 13 | Because councils in house expenses keep blowing out year after year and the need to learn to contain them and use the money saved to run and upgrade the pools , particularly as they are already taking over \$1m out of our rates to operate and maintain the pools, they are proposing to take the money twice! | 10/19/2019 3:34 PM |
| 14 | These questions are Terrible IAP2 my asshole! U guy set the standard for shit engagement! Seriously how do u sleep at night???? Be so terrible at something ant be good for your soul!!! | 10/19/2019 11:02 AM |
| 15 | Like my road - User Pays ! | 10/19/2019 8:50 AM |
| 16 | Pensioners in 70s who don't use the pools | 10/18/2019 6:54 PM |
| 17 | The rates are excessive now . The council needs to cut back somewhere , where it doesn't affect the community . | 10/18/2019 2:51 PM |
| 18 | I don't necessarily disagree with a rate increase but the increase seems excessive — especially since our rates are already quite high | 10/18/2019 1:02 PM |
| 19 | Local Government should be looking at including the upkeep of assets in future budgets.This should include allowing for the replacement and maintenance of theses assets as they are required. To have people pay extra rates would be unfair. There would be ample funds available to do this if the budget was properly scrutinized. | 10/18/2019 11:25 AM |
| 20 | The old Pambula pool was a fabulous place to spend many hours with the kids and friends. The new Pambula pool is very noisy . The atmosphere is not the same . | 10/17/2019 9:02 PM |
| 21 | there are other ways to find the moneys required..longer term vision, especially in regards to expenditure on garbage collection/waste management | 10/17/2019 8:46 PM |
| 22 | High quality pools should be mandatory for health and wellbeing in every town as well as a social must have for residents and visitors | 10/17/2019 5:51 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

| | | |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 23 | I'm 78 years old, I donated, and fund raised, for the Eden pool years ago, if people want to use it pay the price. | 10/17/2019 5:09 PM |
| 24 | I think it would be a great shame if any of the pools were closed. | 10/17/2019 2:25 PM |
| 25 | Don't you get enough money off us know, the highest rate of Australia | 10/17/2019 10:02 AM |
| 26 | I don't use the pools so so rate payers who don't use the pools should pay it's just the council ripping off the rate payers. Rates are dear enough. Pools should pay | 10/17/2019 5:33 AM |
| 27 | We can barely afford the current rate charges. We would very seriously have to look at selling even thou our mirage is less than current rent for a much smaller house | 10/16/2019 10:13 PM |
| 28 | i dont use the pool and never will. | 10/16/2019 9:24 PM |
| 29 | Will the money be spent on pools or syphoned off to roadworks which have to be redone because not done properly first time round | 10/16/2019 9:14 PM |
| 30 | I use the Blue Pool in Bermagui and believe people in the smaller villages and inland towns should be able to enjoy a similar facility. | 10/16/2019 8:39 PM |
| 31 | I don't use them at all, so I shouldn't have to pay on my rates either. | 10/16/2019 8:17 PM |
| 32 | We don't use pools, except for once or twice a year for school carnivals. We are already paying for our own backyard pool at home and have the world's most beautiful beaches to access for free. | 10/16/2019 8:01 PM |
| 33 | It's still close the pool which is costing the most (Sapphire Aquatic Centre) and thereby you have your saving to fund the rest of the pools. | 10/16/2019 6:13 PM |
| 34 | trying to pay rates now on only age pension is hard enough | 10/16/2019 5:30 PM |
| 35 | I believe that as these pools are an infrastructure that belongs to the Council, it is their responsibility to fund upkeep and not rate payers. A special Rates Variation has been previously approved in 2008 for funding towards recreational assets, another Special Rates Variation approval unfairly shoulders burden onto rate payers and I fear it could set the precedent for future Rates Variations. | 10/16/2019 5:13 PM |
| 36 | I think it is important for public health & safety to have a swimming facility available I think it important that children of school age have the opportunity to learn to swim particulaly as the area has lots of water recreational facilities | 10/16/2019 2:39 PM |
| 37 | I and my family don't use the pool so I don't see why rate payers should have this extra cost on our rates | 10/16/2019 1:23 PM |
| 38 | Our rates are already one of the highest in NSW. We cannot afford a rate rise. Happy to pay for pools if something else gets cut. | 10/16/2019 12:43 PM |
| 39 | I can appreciate the need to cover the running costs. | 10/16/2019 11:43 AM |
| 40 | Why should I pay more for something I don't use | 10/16/2019 10:53 AM |
| 41 | I don't see why I should pay more rates for a service I do not use. That's like asking non farmers to pay stock and land rates (aside from bvsc rates) for a farm they don't have. Think of us farmers who are struggling, we don't need more expense. Please.... | 10/16/2019 9:39 AM |
| 42 | BVSC needs to manage its funding better --- one pool in the shire (SAC) costs more to run than all the other pools in the shire combined -- this is the reason why there is a pool funding crisis -- it could have been averted as it was totally foreseeable - but the damage has been done. shame on BVSC for putting other pools in the shire in jeopardy. time to cut the bloated expenses of workers -- reduce council expenditure, consolidate assets (the funds from the sale of hotel australiaasia can go towards bega pool upgrade) and there will be funds for pools. | 10/16/2019 8:49 AM |
| 43 | I currently renting so I not paying rates on the house | 10/16/2019 7:45 AM |
| 44 | We have an inbuilt pool in our home so it is less likely to have impact on us, yet we will still be required to pay towards it. | 10/16/2019 7:41 AM |
| 45 | I do not use the pools | 10/16/2019 7:40 AM |
| 46 | Children learning to swim is important | 10/16/2019 7:37 AM |
| 47 | We are a low income household with a mortgage, it was hard enough to get a home loan with our low incomes in this area, the current rates are already so high, please don't bleed us dry. It's hard enough as it is. | 10/16/2019 7:26 AM |
| 48 | Our rates are dear enough. We own uptown houses yet we have to pay you rates for the land our house is on. The rates keep increasing every time local council needs money for something. | 10/15/2019 10:00 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 49 | We don't have a local pool (Bermagui - other than ocean pools which are subject to natural variations and impacts which we live with and accept), and the nearest being Cobargo is not heated so travel to Narooma as I like to swim all year round - as such Cobargo pool is of little use. Cobargo residents have the benefit & option to go to Bega pool which is the same travel time for them as it is for us to use Cobargo pool - as such the Bega pool should be their option only. | 10/15/2019 8:27 PM |
| 50 | Method of Rating is unfair as using value of property to determine contribution bears no relation of ability to pay. The example given would indicate my contribution could be in the order of \$800. A set amount payed by all Ratepayers would I believe an acceptable way. It should be noted that when Candelo built a 50 M pool it would be financed by the Monthly Market? | 10/15/2019 8:09 PM |
| 51 | I understand the rate variation is for 11% for ever. This appears ridiculous...and expensive. If all the pools are retained, (perhaps in terms of need Eden's pool is most vulnerable as they have the ocean), a better more targeted way needs to be found....user pays is tough...perhaps some roles need to be filled by keen volunteers. Is maintenance done in house or contracted...what are the pros and cons? Perhaps BVSC needs to open an annual shire lottery...ticket sales to fund the pools. Perhaps all the shires accommodation providers need to collect a \$1/night levy toward infrastructure. All I know is the pools are handy and the rates are high enough. | 10/15/2019 5:08 PM |
| 52 | Small increase per week-less than a cup of coffee!Also I don't fly or play golf yet these costs come out of rates-don't they? So why not? Further thought BUT: Council needs to justify increase with breakdown of where current rates go-like the tax. Do line by line % breakdown. | 10/15/2019 4:27 PM |
| 53 | Willing if it's obvious and transparent where the \$\$ are going-ie. specific levey | 10/15/2019 4:15 PM |
| 54 | Particularly with the ageing demographic, health, fitness and wellbeing are crucial. A local swimming pool is essential for all sections of the community for swimming lessons and exercise and training. All over health costs can be reduced if swimming is available to all | 10/14/2019 4:22 PM |
| 55 | The pools are a valuable and essential community asset see response to Q8 | 10/14/2019 4:17 PM |
| 56 | Household budget stretched to the limit with fixed income any increase in expenditure i.e.Rates will result in added financial hardship | 10/14/2019 4:13 PM |
| 57 | I think it would be worth it. We definitely need our pools. | 10/13/2019 3:55 PM |
| 58 | Remote areas like ours need to offer residents a variety of facilities if possible | 10/13/2019 1:21 PM |
| 59 | We never use public pools. However Should be user pays.6 pools is to many In the Shire. Should be consolidated to 4 quality pools max and paid from council budget. Forget imposing additional costs on rate payers | 10/13/2019 1:15 PM |
| 60 | I cannot afford it..... a widowed pensioner with 25 acres ,but little cash. We all have to live within our means , and so should Council. If we can't afford high cost assets, scrap them, or find some other way of financing them. | 10/12/2019 8:31 PM |
| 61 | I object strongly to your purchases of hotels in Eden & Tura beach and yet charge me for extra rates to look after pools. We need tourism and health and family to flourish in BV shire and we need to keep rates low to attract buyers and keep older people on lower fixed incomes (I am not this but see them leave as rates go higher). Instead of charging us more find the way to have these pools and more pools if needed by stopping your overspending on things other than pools like galleries, the arts and things that don't support kids, youth, families and the aged like swimming the great aussie past time. Did any one watch the abc swimming pool tv show recently - it shows how important pools are in our community but you must curb spending so seriously look at stupid pathways and carparks and urban upgrades by making everything look like everywhere else I cities, leave us with rural charm bumpy roads, bush carparks, walk without a footpath its what we love about the shire. Please find a way to incorporate your costs into existing budgets. Open pools when kids are home from school and adults are home from work get community swimming clubs involved, get active to find the way without rates going up. Im so disappointed in all of you, you let us down and let our kids of the future shire dwellers down by always increasing costs and wasting money on what we don't need. | 10/12/2019 5:16 PM |
| 62 | Council need to look within to get what its wants done. Wages are stagnant, yet council continually increases rates and now wants more on top of that. For example, get rid of some fat cats. Contract out council services. Sell some of the white elephants, eg civic centre and Tura Library. | 10/12/2019 2:33 PM |
| 63 | We cannot afford the fund 6 pools for such a small number of people | 10/11/2019 12:00 PM |
| 64 | Because it's of no benefit in winter to people in Bermagui. | 10/11/2019 11:15 AM |
| 65 | "User pays" I do not use the pools. | 10/11/2019 10:53 AM |
| 66 | I am willing to pay extra for pool upgrade, but i am surprised this is the only option available. | 10/11/2019 9:50 AM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 67 | I would have been more willing had I not experienced a significant increase in the cost of attending the pool directly in recent years. The cost of the family membership increased to such a level that it is difficult for us to maintain our membership. Failure to retain our membership will see our family reduce it's access to the pool. A significant additional cost via a rate variation further adds to our pool access costs. Conversely, I see great value in retaining all six pools and am happy to see my contributions to the public purse shared across communities in which I do not directly participate. A smaller value in SRV may be acceptable. However I would expect a commensurate contribution via improved management efficiencies, and alternative operation methods. | 10/11/2019 7:05 AM |
| 68 | It is important to have pools available to everyone. A place to keep fit. | 10/10/2019 4:55 PM |
| 69 | Because if the community was allowed to play a more active role in pool management and upkeep, there would be no need for council to raise rates. | 10/10/2019 9:46 AM |
| 70 | I believe there is government funding that will provide for this | 10/10/2019 8:18 AM |
| 71 | They are a cheap amenity for the public to use for social and fitness reasons. They are also important fire fighting facilities to fill water tankers and helicopters in state of emergency. | 10/9/2019 9:42 PM |
| 72 | Because our rates are high enough and the council should better manage their money | 10/9/2019 4:20 PM |
| 73 | Rates are already high enough. My family or myself don't use the pools, make the cost for the users | 10/9/2019 4:03 PM |
| 74 | We all subsidise something we do not use in the community whether it be a Federal State or Local contribution. Swimming is a life skill that you can still be using when you are 80, fitness promotes a healthy life. If you close pools there will be parts of the community who will never learn to swim. High Schools will NOT travel to other towns to use the pool as the travel time will cross over into other subjects. Primary Schools do not have the funds to include bus hire to travel to other towns. | 10/9/2019 1:27 PM |
| 75 | Our rates are high enough | 10/9/2019 10:36 AM |
| 76 | Because I feel the smaller pools are just as valuable as the bigger ones in the area. I also think it's important to provide something to do/visit in towns where there is not many other facilities | 10/9/2019 7:33 AM |
| 77 | I think public swimming pools are an important part of Australian culture. Australia is known to the whole world as a nation of swimmers, our best Olympic results have been in swimming. Pools are an intrinsic part of the Australian identity. We can do more with pool spaces to attract attendance than is currently done. Access for the disabled must be a priority | 10/8/2019 6:35 PM |
| 78 | I believe the money could be spent more wisely | 10/8/2019 10:18 AM |
| 79 | pools should be user pays. Uneconomic pools should be returned to their communities by council | 10/8/2019 7:56 AM |
| 80 | Because it can be hard to justify extra rates when there is spending that I don't consider demonstrates value to rate payers | 10/7/2019 9:32 PM |
| 81 | Our rates are already very high, double what we pay for our investment property in Hobart. The maintenance and upkeep should have already have been accounted for. | 10/7/2019 8:56 PM |
| 82 | Because they provide a vital community resource, especially for those in the Bega Valley not fortunate enough to live close to the beaches the rest of the shire does. It encourages community engagement, participation, exercise, healthy lifestyles, and water safety. I do not use the pools but I am totally in favour of their operation. | 10/7/2019 11:25 AM |
| 83 | It's a user pay service and I do not wish to pay it in my rates. It cost me \$20 every time I take my child to swimming lessons I don't think I should have to pay anymore. | 10/7/2019 9:03 AM |
| 84 | Because 50 metre olympic pools (which Bega should have and can have if you close Bemboka and Cobargo pools) are a public physical and mental health facility and you cannot just simply put up rates every time the council has low resolution thinking to deal with a challenge. My view is the entire state should receive State and Federal funding for such important health maintaining facilities as council pools. | 10/6/2019 4:19 PM |
| 85 | The Councillors made the wrong decision to adopt a 6 pool policy when it was obvious the shire does not have the funds to sustain this. It's about time councillors bit the bullet and built ONE proper pool facility to service the entire shire. | 10/6/2019 3:39 PM |
| 86 | I receive no return for the extra rates payment | 10/6/2019 10:28 AM |
| 87 | I am not a rate payer | 10/6/2019 8:43 AM |
| 88 | Pool funds should be more prioritised. | 10/5/2019 3:49 PM |
| 89 | Financial hardship | 10/5/2019 3:43 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 90 | Pools are imperative to our lifestyle & allow for growth & development of children. Rehabilitation after injury. | 10/5/2019 3:39 PM |
| 91 | It is the only real option | 10/5/2019 3:35 PM |
| 92 | It is money well spent & invested. The health, social and financial returns of keeping the pools is worth it! | 10/5/2019 3:32 PM |
| 93 | Extremely important community asset/children | 10/5/2019 3:01 PM |
| 94 | Important to entire community | 10/5/2019 2:57 PM |
| 95 | I believe the POOL IS A SCHOOL, we do not pay rates for Schools and Hospitals you need to secure funds from Government for the benefit of all our childrens good health & wellbeing & development. | 10/5/2019 2:53 PM |
| 96 | It's an important facility Water safety & confidence is paramount in Aust society | 10/5/2019 2:40 PM |
| 97 | Health & community are important | 10/5/2019 2:31 PM |
| 98 | I think our rates are high enough and I feel that BVSC isn't responsible with regard to their budget. I don't think rate payers should have to plug a gap that exists because of irresponsible council spending. | 10/5/2019 2:05 PM |
| 99 | Happy to pay a subsidy but only with the knowledge that bvsc don't misappropriate the funds they already have. | 10/5/2019 11:42 AM |
| 100 | Not every household in the shire pays rates - a significant proportion are renters, not ratepayers and yet you propose that only ratepayers be slugged. Hardly fair in my view. Manage your budget better and make users pay more | 10/4/2019 11:36 PM |
| 101 | I am already at breaking point with my rates. And other bills plus home loans and insurance I'm at the point of selling up and moving to a cheaper place it's always rose after rise and nothing changes or gets better. | 10/4/2019 6:08 PM |
| 102 | Cost | 10/4/2019 5:28 PM |
| 103 | Because this is extremely unfair to alot of people whom dont use the pools. Like my mum for instance who cant swim due to epilepsy as a child and could never swim! Why should she pay extra on her already over expensive rates for others pleasure when she battles along on a pension. | 10/4/2019 4:46 PM |
| 104 | Because I don't use the pool and shouldn't have to pay for something I don't use | 10/4/2019 3:54 PM |
| 105 | never used never will should be user pays | 10/4/2019 3:27 PM |
| 106 | I do not use pools never have never will, let the people who go to the pool pay more | 10/4/2019 2:56 PM |
| 107 | As a mother and a teacher I think learning to swim and swimming regularly is so important for children. | 10/4/2019 2:05 PM |
| 108 | It is important to keep all pools but if their is away to do so without a rate rise, this is preferable. | 10/4/2019 2:02 PM |
| 109 | It could already be budgeted | 10/4/2019 1:58 PM |
| 110 | Excessive rates initially. Budget s/be balanced | 10/4/2019 1:55 PM |
| 111 | I see local swimming pools as being essential public infrastructure and should be maintained. | 10/4/2019 1:51 PM |
| 112 | swimming pools are an extremely important asset to each community. Australian adults and children need to learn to swim for safety as well as recreation. They are a place to meet others socially, an integral part of the community, health & wellbeing for adults and children, exercise lifestyle | 10/4/2019 1:44 PM |
| 113 | I have plenty of money and value our pool. | 10/4/2019 1:25 PM |
| 114 | Rates are high enough | 10/4/2019 1:22 PM |
| 115 | I use the pools so the better facilities the better it is for me | 10/4/2019 12:52 PM |
| 116 | I am unsure we need 6 pools | 10/4/2019 12:48 PM |
| 117 | Bemboka Pool is hardly open as it is. I'm not willing to pay more money for it to continue using the ridiculous hours it does now | 10/3/2019 9:32 PM |
| 118 | Being involved with the BVS pools for 39 years gives me an educated insight into the importance of maintaining the 6 pool policy. | 10/3/2019 9:10 PM |
| 119 | I cannot afford this increase and do not wish to pay for something I have no use for. | 10/3/2019 8:07 PM |
| 120 | The benefits of local pools are essential to the health and well being of the community. It is child abuse if we don't provide facilities for them to learn to swim. | 10/3/2019 7:10 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 121 | I believe there are far more important things to spend money on, that would benefit a greater number of the population. | 10/3/2019 6:38 PM |
| 122 | The pools are very important for our area especially in summertime for tourists to the area where there aren't always safe beach swimming options | 10/3/2019 5:42 PM |
| 123 | Our rates are so high. Variant of rates. | 10/3/2019 5:37 PM |
| 124 | Do not believe we should have to pay | 10/3/2019 5:33 PM |
| 125 | Being on the pension, it is hard enough to pay the \$2500.00 existing rates increases are NOT welcome | 10/3/2019 5:29 PM |
| 126 | I don't use them user pays | 10/3/2019 5:23 PM |
| 127 | There are too many pools in the shire. Close to two pools Bega and Pambula | 10/3/2019 1:52 PM |
| 128 | Local rates already hurt, esp. older people in retirement incomes. People are leaving the area for that reason. -- Users should pay for facilities, not the general public. -- If Council deem all these pools assets of a high priority, some other assets should be spun off (asset recycling). The coming efficiency reviews of NSW local governments is likely to show that the large machine/truck/machinery pool comes with costs that exceed the benefits. There will then be a reason to downsize that part of the BVSC's total assets. | 10/3/2019 12:32 PM |
| 129 | I believe I pay enough rates ready | 10/3/2019 7:07 AM |
| 130 | It should be a user pay system as there are a lot of ratepayers who do not use the pools and should not have to foot the extra expense. | 10/2/2019 10:33 PM |
| 131 | Rates in the Bega valley shire are already very high. Twice as much as I was paying when living in the eastern suburbs of Sydney. None of the pools are new so the maintenance and care of the pools should already be factored into present council spending. Put up the price of entry to pools, make it user pay instead charging everybody, even those who don't use the pool. | 10/2/2019 9:00 PM |
| 132 | I cannot afford to pay more in rates. The are so expensive rise every year. Our income does not keep pace with the rise in rates. | 10/2/2019 7:48 PM |
| 133 | Great community asset, just because I don't use the pools doesn't mean others can't have the opportunity | 10/2/2019 6:05 PM |
| 134 | It is important for ALL community members- elderly, babies, children, people with disability etc. | 10/2/2019 4:33 PM |
| 135 | Not all rate payers use the pools keep the base rate and then yer pay a little more | 10/2/2019 3:18 PM |
| 136 | These pools are what we have grown up with and learnt to swimming # | 10/2/2019 2:29 PM |
| 137 | Should be user pays. Our grandchildren have lessons at a private pool so why should their parents have to pay for public? We use none at all. Plus you would be charging us on more than one property. | 10/2/2019 2:18 PM |
| 138 | Council wastes money on ridiculous things like sculptures that the community do not want. Too much wasted on issues that are not required. | 10/2/2019 1:05 PM |
| 139 | I do not use them and feel that it must be user pays | 10/2/2019 11:37 AM |
| 140 | Our rates are high, council regularly scheduled spends there budgets poorly and with better planning and strategy a more realistic option would become available. | 10/2/2019 11:18 AM |
| 141 | I think it is an unreasonably high increase in one go. I dont think the pool needs to be made fancy - just remain serviceable. Council should first seek funding from grants . It may well be the tourists - not the ratepayers who also use the pools. | 10/2/2019 10:55 AM |
| 142 | Our pools are important to our community. They provide a place for fitness and our children to learn to swim!! Vital. | 10/2/2019 10:47 AM |
| 143 | I feel that if there is a rate increase to maintain the facilities then as rate payers we should have some level of fee free access, it is absurd that lesson frees in Pambula are as high as they are yet children are restricted to 10 minutes on each side of a lesson to use the facilities. Maybe 20 passes for the year or something, like the tip passes. I think if rate player across the board are paying for these facilities access also needs to change. | 10/2/2019 8:25 AM |
| 144 | Rates are already extremely high and as a resident of Eden I am certain the funding will mainly go to revamping Bega's pool which is an hour away. Why should my rates pay for a pool I will never use? Where is the information showing how our money will be allocated? We would consider moving if rates continue to rise this way. | 10/2/2019 8:15 AM |
| 145 | Rates are high enough already. Perhaps reducing number of pools in the area and building a multi purpose aquatic center, say in Bega May be a better spend for council, with less impact to ratepayers. Some current facilities are very underused, as reported by the media. | 10/2/2019 8:11 AM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 146 | What happened to user pays | 10/2/2019 7:58 AM |
| 147 | I need to know exactly what "upgrades" are planned, and when they are to be done | 10/2/2019 7:46 AM |
| 148 | I agree with the BVSC promoting inclusivity. We don't make people in wheelchairs pay for smart ramps to go to the beach, we don't make people who hold a licence fill in pot holes on the road, we don't make people who swim at the beach pay for the life guards., everyone pays for these services, everyone should pay for high quality pools. Swim lessons should be mandatory on the coast. | 10/2/2019 7:08 AM |
| 149 | What guarantee do we have that council will raise rates, then close our pool anyway and then not reduce the rates again. | 10/2/2019 6:58 AM |
| 150 | It depends on what upgrades are done, and what as a resident we would get for that input...Bega pool itself would be well worth been enclosed to ensure all year around usage...well worth the money | 10/1/2019 11:48 PM |
| 151 | Stop spending money on things that dont promote a sense of community. We r such an isolated small area. We need places like pools for many reasons. | 10/1/2019 11:33 PM |
| 152 | Unclear what the costs will be | 10/1/2019 10:54 PM |
| 153 | Because it's fucking ridiculous | 10/1/2019 10:50 PM |
| 154 | The reduction from a 33m pool to a 25m pool is a backward step for Bega. If there is an increase in rates to cover the pool costs, then some type of discount for season passes should be put forward for rate payers. Or the one family season pass allows access to all council pools. | 10/1/2019 10:12 PM |
| 155 | I don't use them, no one I know uses them, if I did use them I'd still have to pay more money so just increase your entry fee | 10/1/2019 9:56 PM |
| 156 | Because I understand that pools are expensive to run and I can afford it | 10/1/2019 9:50 PM |
| 157 | I already pay membership for myself and term swimming for my child plus extra swim days for fun | 10/1/2019 9:15 PM |
| 158 | Pools are very important for the community, health and wellbeing, school education. They are part of the social fabric, especially in country towns. | 10/1/2019 9:09 PM |
| 159 | Council should be able to use there funds they already collect. i feel theyve misused funds in the past. Past Mismanagement should mean you just out on an extra fee now. Find a way to budget within what you already collect. | 10/1/2019 9:03 PM |
| 160 | Rates are already ridiculous in this Council Area. The money would be better spent building one large proper sized pool:aquatic centre in the Regional Centre of Bega. | 10/1/2019 8:15 PM |
| 161 | Pools should be paying for themselves . We have a sports levy ??? If you can't afford them do have them it's simple. | 10/1/2019 8:01 PM |
| 162 | Even if I am not a huge user now. I was in the past when my children were growing up. Schools need pools for learn to swim and sport. They are important to health and well being. I run accommodation and lots of visitors like to head down and do laps. | 10/1/2019 7:34 PM |
| 163 | User pays - provide additional services that require payments, coin operated BBQ, swimming classes, fees for non-swimmers. As it is we already have to pay for both Candelo and Bega pool (where kids swim with school) as we can't afford to have a family pass for both. I can't see that the cost of the candelo pool have been reduced by employing 2 council staff in contrast to 1 single contractor. | 10/1/2019 7:20 PM |
| 164 | We have the highest rates in nsw and yet all this money is coming out of our pocket and we're seeing no evidence of it being used! Our water is still yuk, our roads are horrible, our local parks need toilets and shade and I believe the pools are fine as it unless you plan on making them all indoor then I'll happily pay money towards them | 10/1/2019 6:29 PM |
| 165 | As I'm unemployed, I don't have the capacity to meet any rate rises | 10/1/2019 6:16 PM |
| 166 | I pay rates for bin pick up only I do not have town water I do not have sewage and still pay \$1800 a year for what I am not quite sure | 10/1/2019 6:03 PM |
| 167 | Our rates are already high. Perhaps you could look at cost cutting in other areas. | 10/1/2019 5:41 PM |
| 168 | If it's important for the community, then I am happy to increase my rates. | 10/1/2019 5:26 PM |
| 169 | Pools are important. Every child should be able to swim. Where do they learn I'd we don't have pools? All our schools use our pool. Bega prides itself on the services provided for people with a disability- pools are integral to these services. I think you should all watch the ABC program on the importance of pools in our society. | 10/1/2019 5:18 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 170 | Because we pay for a pool membership and additional usage when Boston other pools in the shire. We already feel the financial pressure of current rate rises and feel another way needs to be found to find programs. We pay some of the highest rates in the state and community needs to see why . This will become unaffordable to our community to even live here little lone use the pools | 10/1/2019 4:58 PM |
| 171 | I'm willing to pay extra rates if I don't need to also pay for a family pass for my children to use the pool over summer | 10/1/2019 4:29 PM |
| 172 | Because I will be paying for something I do not use. Rates could be used for things far more important . | 10/1/2019 4:21 PM |
| 173 | There is already funding allocated as part of our rates to fund the pools. What happens to this \$900,000 pa? | 10/1/2019 4:14 PM |
| 174 | our rates are high enough. funds should be found else where | 10/1/2019 4:11 PM |
| 175 | I don't believe the rate payers are getting value for money from the pools due to the management strategy. SAC seems to have a high cost per visit compared to others. Cost to council divided by visits. To many staff?? | 10/1/2019 10:35 AM |
| 176 | I think the pools need to be maintained to the required health and safety standards but excessive budgets to create a flashy, modern pool is not what I'm into. Keep it simple and clean. Old school is fine. More character. That's my suggestion. | 10/1/2019 9:00 AM |
| 177 | I don't use a pool. Tura beach doesn't even have a pool so don't feel as a ratepayer for years I shouldn't have to subsidise others who have the benefit if a pool near them. | 10/1/2019 8:58 AM |
| 178 | I have too many children for a family pass, so cheaper to go to beach. Also 1 year my toddler daughter got chemical burns from the baby pool. Now shes highly allergic to everything. Plus restricted hours, no point trying to cool off as pool closes 3pm on weekends. What a joke. I will tell the sun not to be so hot on weekends!!! | 10/1/2019 12:08 AM |
| 179 | Ratepayers should not be responsible for maintaining these assets If a user pays system is not an affordable option then maybe we are living beyond our means My main concern is aged pensioners who are home owners who are already struggling to meet there daily living needs being sluggish with another rate hike for the pleasure of a non rate paying pool user Priorities need to be addressed | 9/30/2019 10:21 PM |
| 180 | Too many very average pools. Make one fantastic pool for the shire. Users should pay, not rate payers who wouldn't consider using a pool. | 9/30/2019 6:47 PM |
| 181 | not a viable option why should i pay for someone who is not prepared to pay the actual cost of the service provided | 9/30/2019 5:34 PM |
| 182 | maintaining the pools is very important to me | 9/30/2019 3:24 PM |
| 183 | User pays | 9/30/2019 3:21 PM |
| 184 | Far more expensive to have a personal home pool All the community benefits not just individuals Public Pools are available for locals and tourists | 9/30/2019 3:19 PM |
| 185 | A further huge impact on people with fixed incomes. It is impossible to make "ends meet" as costs increase but income is fixed. | 9/30/2019 3:14 PM |
| 186 | Our rates are too expensive now and I want my rates to go towards my town. It should be user pay. | 9/30/2019 2:51 PM |
| 187 | Already paying one of the highest rates in the state. Surely council has the funds. This is a vital resource. How embarrassing to hit ratepayers where it hurts. | 9/30/2019 2:44 PM |
| 188 | Because we are pensioners, our rates increase to the maximum amount each year + we already have one of the most expensive rate charges in NSW. | 9/30/2019 1:59 PM |
| 189 | Because it is ridiculous to have so many pools | 9/30/2019 11:08 AM |
| 190 | Because council needs to do its job correctly in the first place and budget effectively. How much money is wasted when it could be spent on services for the community. | 9/30/2019 9:22 AM |
| 191 | I do not use the pools and can not afford to pay extra for their upkeep or upgrade. | 9/30/2019 9:19 AM |
| 192 | Because is a rate rise indicative of the council devaluing one of a limited number of recreational spaces in the valley by not budgeting to see the future of the pools (and necessary upgrades and running costs) as part of their strategic plan... it's not like it's just popped up.... they have had 60yrs to plan for this | 9/30/2019 9:04 AM |
| 193 | Cost of living is too much as it is. I cannot afford to pay higher rates. Some things are not as important as others. Pools are not a priority when we have beautiful beaches. | 9/30/2019 8:54 AM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 194 | I think the importance of having a pool available to ratepayers and visitors to the area is important for physical activity, wellbeing and rehabilitation of many medical related issues from post operative to mental health. | 9/30/2019 5:43 AM |
| 195 | We do not need 6 pools in the area! We have to travel to get to our local pool, and I don't have an issue with that. | 9/29/2019 11:04 PM |
| 196 | Our rates are already extremely high. If council hadn't wasted so much on ridiculous spending this situation would not have come about. I do not use the pools because they are all too far for me and I work full time but others do & the pools should stay. Any health and safety upgrades should have been budgeted for automatically over the years. Be accountable for your own wastage of rates monies council and prioritise the things that really matter in our area. This situation should have already been well & truly covered. | 9/29/2019 4:53 PM |
| 197 | We do not need six pools, three maximum and preferably two. We certainly do not need a rate increase to pay for them. | 9/29/2019 4:05 PM |
| 198 | I am pensioner and cannot keep continually paying increases in my rates. | 9/29/2019 12:18 PM |
| 199 | There are too many pools in the shire. Candelo and Bemboka could easily access Bega facilities - they are excess to need | 9/29/2019 12:17 PM |
| 200 | Rates are so expensive! Council should have budgeted pool upkeep better so we never ended up in this situation. There should be increases to people who actually use the pools and not punish everyone else. Increase entry fees/memberships | 9/28/2019 11:01 PM |
| 201 | I don't use them | 9/28/2019 9:09 AM |
| 202 | The pools are really important to people of all ages across the community. Even if I wasn't a user of the pool I would give the same response. | 9/28/2019 8:21 AM |
| 203 | i do not believe i should have to pay for something i do not use | 9/27/2019 8:08 PM |
| 204 | Can not afford it | 9/27/2019 7:38 PM |
| 205 | These pools were built by previous generations its time to upgrade their legacy and play our part. | 9/27/2019 3:50 PM |
| 206 | Because council has mismanaged the funding of pools over time and ratepayers should NOT be made to pick up the pieces. | 9/27/2019 3:33 PM |
| 207 | I feel we shouldn't be paying an increase for a facility we do not use. | 9/27/2019 3:02 PM |
| 208 | I don't use the pools. | 9/27/2019 2:31 PM |
| 209 | The local pool is extremely important to my continuing physical and mental well-being, local connections and future living | 9/27/2019 11:00 AM |
| 210 | Because I do not use these pools...build an ocean pool...much better | 9/27/2019 7:50 AM |
| 211 | Our shire does not have enough residents to support 6 pools. Halving the amount would significantly decrease the expenditure required to maintain the pools and we have plenty of natural beaches and water holes in which to enjoy water activities which are free to use. Asking rate payers to fund a single yearly pass per household (that's what the increase equals to) without the benefit of that pass is highly unfair on our community who already struggle to make ends meet. I also don't see any strategies by pool staff to generate further income to subsidise this increase, if anything patronage numbers are decreasing and the pools are over staffed costing the community even more in wasted wages. I'm not willing to fund wages for people who do not aim to provide exemplary service to our community either, the service at the majority of the pools is actually very poor in my experience. | 9/27/2019 7:11 AM |
| 212 | We strongly believe in a user pays system, just as with the current waste management system etc. | 9/26/2019 8:47 PM |
| 213 | Current very poor financial performance by current BVSC management | 9/26/2019 10:57 AM |
| 214 | Rates are already High. Keep 2 pools Pambula & Bega not 6!! | 9/26/2019 8:31 AM |
| 215 | I am going to pay the SRV on already high rates and the pay for a family pool pass. I don't think this is affordable, so would end up not paying for the pass and not visiting the pool. | 9/25/2019 7:12 PM |
| 216 | I believe these costs should have been factored into rates annually along with other sporting facility maintenance and running costs | 9/25/2019 7:06 PM |
| 217 | Keep the facilities open | 9/25/2019 4:59 PM |
| 218 | tathra residents already pay the highest rates in the shire and doesn't have the infrastructure other towns have or pool | 9/25/2019 2:28 PM |
| 219 | Rates too expensive now. | 9/25/2019 12:54 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 220 | Because I do not use the pools in over 15+ years WHY should I be having to pay extra on my rates for something I do not use. It is a personally choice so up the pool prices for entry etc their the ones who use the facility so should be having to keep the up keep of the facilities NOT the ones who do not use the pool! Why should I have to pay for others- Not fair and not on!! | 9/25/2019 10:21 AM |
| 221 | We have great beaches. Rate increases cause financial stress. There are private businesses running pools, mainly at caravan parks. I think this is a waste of money. | 9/25/2019 10:15 AM |
| 222 | The rate payers already contribute significantly for the upkeep of the pools. Get rid of a couple of pools and make the rest user pays. | 9/25/2019 9:38 AM |
| 223 | There could be other ways to raise funds for keeping the pool upgraded and maintained such as community fund raising activities. Also, council could look at cutting back on some other expenditures. | 9/25/2019 5:29 AM |
| 224 | I believe teaching kids to swim through rural pools is much more important than prettying towns for example, it saves lives. | 9/24/2019 11:01 PM |
| 225 | I dont use the pool my kids do for school i do not use duw to the cost | 9/24/2019 10:27 PM |
| 226 | Because there is money being spent else were which is not as important as keeping the pools open | 9/24/2019 10:20 PM |
| 227 | I believe pools are a community asset that need to be funded by all ratepayers, as should libraries and sporting facilities. Some user pay fees should apply but its not practical for Council to charge only users for community assets that are available to all if they choose to use them | 9/24/2019 9:52 PM |
| 228 | We pay for waste management already in our rates. Mind you, every time I go to the tip IT COSTS ME MONEY!! We do not have a garbage collection service, on Yankees Gap Rd!! | 9/24/2019 9:47 PM |
| 229 | History has shown that when council set a special rate that the money doesn't necessarily always go towards that project. I'm talking about the sport grounds special rate | 9/24/2019 9:38 PM |
| 230 | swimming is a very small component of sports and activities that exist in the community and I believe there are other options that council can seek to obtain funding to maintain these to meet the standards for health and safety without impacting on a large number of rate payers who don't access any of the pools in the shire. its an added burden to rates and an extra expense for properties for such a small amount of the community that use the pools. there are other water sports options for swimming. I am not a swimmer and don't condone swimming but I don't want the expense to be added onto my rates for the sake of a very small group that use swimming pools and I don't need the extra expense when by budget is already limited. | 9/24/2019 8:24 PM |
| 231 | I purchase Magic Mountain passes for my kids and I. For less than \$240 the two kids and I get unlimited access to the water slides, pool and other rides for most of the year. An extra \$170 or so in rates would mean I would push the budget that bit more and mean that I would have to forgo the Magic Mountain passes. Would Council then make pools free? Would they increase entertainment like serious water slides? The Council pools really are rather boring with little features to make visiting "fun". Maybe Council could close pools and support Magic Mountain with grants to boost it. | 9/24/2019 7:33 PM |
| 232 | Because of my pool usage | 9/24/2019 5:43 PM |
| 233 | It will give the children of the community something to do and there is not much for the kids to do during school holiday. | 9/24/2019 5:27 PM |
| 234 | Considering the ongoing increasing heat, pools should be available to the public at minimal cost. It is an important community meeting place and resource. There are some ipgrades that could be done at minimal cost.. like shower curtains in bega pool. Raise money other ways by music performances at the pool and other events. | 9/24/2019 12:10 AM |
| 235 | many people who do not pay rates use the pools, council should learn to stay within budget - Just like the families and private businesses in the area, council spends some money on things that have nothing to do with maintaining essential infrastructure, current rate payers should not be burdened by the poor past management of not having a sinking fund for the pool infrastructure | 9/23/2019 11:54 PM |
| 236 | At the moment I can hardly afford the yearly visit fee for the pool, so we have to limit our visits as it's more than what we can pay. So to add a rate increase as well would mean we could pay for a pool, but not attend the pool. | 9/23/2019 10:26 PM |
| 237 | As I feel there are funds wasted else where especially when you realise people aren't pulling there weight in there employment | 9/23/2019 6:08 PM |
| 238 | Because I think Council can rethink the way it does things. | 9/23/2019 5:19 PM |
| 239 | Our rates are high enough as it is, if upgrades need to be paid for it should be through user pays! | 9/23/2019 4:08 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 240 | I think the pool at Bemboka is extremely important to our communities ability to interact with each other socially. It also allows our kids to learn to swim, and in the absence of access to dams, rivers or the sea we have somewhere to take the kids in the hot weather. It offers great physical activities for every age group. Please don't close down our pool. | 9/23/2019 3:57 PM |
| 241 | It would depend on how what upgrades and upkeep. | 9/23/2019 3:06 PM |
| 242 | I think the new pools are needed and a great concept | 9/23/2019 3:00 PM |
| 243 | I think the new pools are needed and a great concept | 9/23/2019 2:58 PM |
| 244 | Better than not having these extremely important facilities -would be nice though if this rise in rates excluded age pensioners | 9/23/2019 2:55 PM |
| 245 | I am sceptical about these 'standards' that have to be maintained. If they are solidly built and don't leak, then keep using them until they actually stop working. If cleaning systems are the issue, then maybe upgrade those, but if the plans were looked at with a view to doing the absolute minimum to keep the pools open, then I would support that. Basically if they're filled with water (maybe salt water - much cheaper to keep clean) and kept relatively clean, and kids can play in them, and people can swim in them, then that should be enough. We don't need state of the art sports pool complexes, one is enough. | 9/23/2019 2:47 PM |
| 246 | I would be willing but I'm not sure a majority of other ratepayers would | 9/23/2019 2:46 PM |
| 247 | 11% increase following recent increased in rates is a lot of money to find | 9/23/2019 2:42 PM |
| 248 | Can't afford it | 9/23/2019 2:34 PM |
| 249 | Not sure everyone can afford it | 9/23/2019 2:06 PM |
| 250 | 11% increase will impact on a lot of people its a lot of money | 9/23/2019 2:01 PM |
| 251 | Because the pools are extremely important to the community now and the future | 9/23/2019 1:55 PM |
| 252 | Its important | 9/23/2019 1:51 PM |
| 253 | Important the pools stay open and affordable | 9/23/2019 1:47 PM |
| 254 | BEGA VALLEY SHIRE ALREADY HAVE EXSTREEMLEY RATES MOST RESIDENCE CANNOT AFFORD EXTRA RATES | 9/23/2019 1:32 PM |
| 255 | Its seems a reasonable amount to pay | 9/23/2019 10:46 AM |
| 256 | Why is this suddenly an issue? Poor financial and business planning from Council. | 9/22/2019 9:31 PM |
| 257 | Because we do not use any of the pools. If we want to cool down we swim in the Bermagui river or the ocean. | 9/21/2019 11:57 AM |
| 258 | Need to maintain our assets | 9/20/2019 12:57 PM |
| 259 | We need to consolidate facilities in the shire, rather than spend money on facilities that are not utilised | 9/20/2019 12:55 PM |
| 260 | I can't really answer this question in a few words. | 9/20/2019 10:04 AM |
| 261 | WE Pay too much in rates already we do not use this facility. We are slugged 30c extra a litre in bermi for our petrol, we just don't need to be hit again. You are putting in gutters that aren't needed, resheeting roads badly just for the hell of it mowing dust bowls just because time on your schedule events there is no grass to mow. Enough! | 9/20/2019 9:08 AM |
| 262 | Govt. pension only. Unable to afford anything more. I have given up health fund already just to pay massive rates here. This is a huge proposed increase that will force up rents for all. Businesses are already closing at a rapid rate due to high rents and costs. We are in danger of ending up ghost towns if council continues to up the rates. Try State or federal funding, or get a private enterprise, cut the pool numbers and raise funds from users. Try community fund raising. Money here needs to be spent for the whole community not a select few. | 9/19/2019 9:36 PM |
| 263 | Pools are important community assets especially in areas not close to the sea. I don't use the pools much now but hope to use it more in the future and recognise the importance for children and older people. With climate change impacting access to waterways and more extreme heat events, pools are important places of refuge and relaxation. | 9/19/2019 9:21 PM |
| 264 | I think it is better to fund 2 to max 3 strategically located pools (Bega / Eden and maybe Candelo) with current funding allocated. Spending needs to be sustainable for the long term and Council is currently managing too many pools. | 9/19/2019 7:06 PM |
| 265 | Because I think it is vital that the pools are kept in Council control and they are important to the community | 9/19/2019 6:31 PM |
| 266 | As i do not use the facilities i should not have to pay more rates | 9/19/2019 1:47 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 267 | What are the upgrades | 9/19/2019 8:15 AM |
| 268 | Because rates are too high and can't afford any other rises councils a joke bleeding people dry | 9/19/2019 7:41 AM |
| 269 | Keep them in good condition but they do not need bells and whistles. Spend the rates smartly rather than upping people's rates | 9/18/2019 8:33 PM |
| 270 | Rates here are one of the most expensive in nsw, also council should have been putting funding towards this for awhile - fixing things up to a certain standard is part of upkeep and owning things. | 9/18/2019 8:26 PM |
| 271 | Our rates are high enough. There is obvious mismanagement of funds in other areas and I believe money can be reallocated from other parts of the budget. Six pools do not need to operate so maybe they should be assessed according to use. | 9/18/2019 8:15 PM |
| 272 | They are high enough as it is | 9/18/2019 7:52 PM |
| 273 | Rates are increasing beyond the point of affordability for the average income in our area. The maintenance of pools need to budgeted for better within Council. Why should ratepayers have to foot the cost, especially when they do not use them! | 9/18/2019 7:51 PM |
| 274 | My wife and I being age pensioners we find it extremely difficult to live on the fortnightly pension rate and further increase in rates not good for us. | 9/18/2019 5:54 PM |
| 275 | Because I do not use them so I don't wish to pay | 9/18/2019 4:49 PM |
| 276 | Limited pension income | 9/18/2019 3:57 PM |
| 277 | I feel people already pay enough in rates. It's a struggle to live sometimes as it is, increasing the rates shouldn't be the answer. | 9/18/2019 2:57 PM |
| 278 | I know how valuable a pool is to each community. They cost money to operate. | 9/18/2019 2:19 PM |
| 279 | Important for the infrastructure in my town to be kept in good repair. | 9/18/2019 12:08 PM |
| 280 | Myself or my partner do not use the pool facilities at all at the moment. The only time we would is if we decide to have children in the future | 9/18/2019 11:46 AM |
| 281 | My cost of living is going up increase in my electricity and petrol costing more and you want to charge me more. I cannot afford it. | 9/18/2019 11:31 AM |
| 282 | this is an internal budgeting issue where money can be moved from other areas to cover the upgrade to our pools | 9/18/2019 11:24 AM |
| 283 | Pools should be consolidated and located in the inland towns....Bega, Cobargo. For example, why do we need 2 pools 15 minutes from one another (Eden and Pambula) in 2 costal towns! | 9/18/2019 11:13 AM |
| 284 | Because I dont use the pools I shouldnt have to pay the upkeep of them. Should be user pays | 9/18/2019 10:58 AM |
| 285 | Pensioners already struggle financially. | 9/18/2019 10:51 AM |
| 286 | not intrested in pools | 9/18/2019 10:19 AM |
| 287 | I would like to find a way to avoid extra charges as it would likely be a burden for many rate payers. | 9/18/2019 9:56 AM |
| 288 | I strongly value having a pool in Eden and also access to the indoor pool at SAC in the winter. I would be happy to pay a bit extra to ensure we could keep our beautiful pool in town. | 9/18/2019 9:47 AM |
| 289 | They are a necessary public asset | 9/18/2019 9:18 AM |
| 290 | We worked hard at fund raising to build the Eden pool, If people want it to stay open, increase the entry price. I play Golf, every year the price goes up, I still play, and I don't ask anybody else to pay for it. | 9/18/2019 9:08 AM |
| 291 | High rates are already a stress on our household budget. I do not believe households should foot the bill for councils inability to fund their pools properly. Council needs to manage their finances better and not rely on ratepayers to make up for their inadequacies. | 9/18/2019 8:44 AM |
| 292 | Already pay v high rates. Feel council wages money in other areas | 9/18/2019 8:25 AM |
| 293 | I don't think it is fare that only rate payers fund this when plenty of people who don't pay rate would get just as much out of this | 9/17/2019 10:53 PM |
| 294 | Council has already increased rates, another rise is not justifiable, especially for those who do not use or have interest in swimming pools. | 9/17/2019 10:40 PM |
| 295 | I'm not a pool user. We swim in the river or at the beach. A local pool facility is important. Six is excessive if we can't afford them. | 9/17/2019 10:30 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 296 | We have just had a rates increase this year. I can't afford another similar increase next year to fund six pools that I don't use. | 9/17/2019 10:08 PM |
| 297 | I think access to pools for kids and everyone is important. It's great exercise. | 9/17/2019 9:38 PM |
| 298 | I didn't answer this question because it doesn't give the answer that applies to me. I would be willing. | 9/17/2019 8:21 PM |
| 299 | Rates in Bermagui are already very high for people on a limited income. They increased over \$200 last year. It's too much to expect low income earners to fund. | 9/17/2019 7:00 PM |
| 300 | Because we don't use any pools. | 9/17/2019 5:39 PM |
| 301 | BVSC must find a way without further imposts on already overcharged ratepayers | 9/17/2019 5:29 PM |
| 302 | 6 pools for a population of approx. 30,000 is ridiculous. Pools should be consolidated and regulated closures throughout the offseason | 9/17/2019 4:51 PM |
| 303 | As not having a pool in Bermagui do not believe we should pay for something we have to travel to for access. Nearest pool being Cobargo is only seasonally open and is not heated. | 9/17/2019 4:30 PM |
| 304 | Our rates are already enormous. Dearest in the state. (We've checked) | 9/17/2019 4:23 PM |
| 305 | agree to pay something but not BVSC's amount | 9/17/2019 3:46 PM |
| 306 | sick of rate rises. rates are high already | 9/17/2019 3:41 PM |
| 307 | The money could be better spent. | 9/17/2019 3:27 PM |
| 308 | Because pools should be paid for on a "user pays" basis which includes visitors and rate-payers and would NOT burden non-pool users. | 9/17/2019 2:52 PM |
| 309 | Ratepayers in this Shire already pay very high rates. Through better past and future planning and financial management (Council senior staff salaries especially) Council should not expect ratepayers to fund assets such as these via a SRV. | 9/17/2019 2:48 PM |
| 310 | Why should the majority suffer for a few | 9/17/2019 1:55 PM |
| 311 | i think the pools should be viewed on a case by case basis, not managed as a 'one size fits all' pool to justify a very large increase in rates for everybody. A strategy that talks about 2070 from a local council is patently ridiculous. | 9/17/2019 1:48 PM |
| 312 | It is unfair to pass more rates increases onto families. Particularly when the pools are not used by many. | 9/17/2019 1:12 PM |
| 313 | Too expensive | 9/17/2019 1:04 PM |
| 314 | You should have a , "user pay system"& not a lessee to run the pool , pay wages , & get an income from pool visits . , the system you have is SO OUT OF DATE | 9/17/2019 1:01 PM |
| 315 | Rates go up every year and living in rural area we don't receive much in return. We pay for whatever we don't use or don't have a service for. | 9/17/2019 9:20 AM |
| 316 | An expensive survey on pool use and management was only conducted within the last year or two. What did we pay for there? Can we not look at improving and expanding facilities to encourage greater use? BBQ areas for family and friends to get tougher, small playgrounds to occupy little ones not as keen on the water, some sort of kids party options, more learn to swim at Eden rather than having it all at sapphire aquatic.... | 9/16/2019 11:24 PM |
| 317 | I don't think an 11% increase to everyone's rates would be acceptable on a permanent annual basis. I do feel that pools are important to small towns but these days most people have transportation and perhaps it would be more financially viable to consolidate assets and reduce operating costs. I feel that the council has many assets that need maintaining and upgrading and that the bigger picture needs to be looked at before we rush into something that cant be undone. | 9/16/2019 10:51 PM |
| 318 | Seems to me the best pool is Sapphire Aquatic Centre at Pambula Beach, all year around and modern facility, but how many people can access that regularly? I reckon we need a decent all year round aquatic centre in Bega which is the regional centre, and I'd pay a rate increase for that. | 9/16/2019 10:45 PM |
| 319 | It is extremely important that these facilities remain available for the non coastal areas so the kids have somewhere to swim | 9/16/2019 10:38 PM |
| 320 | Because I have to pay to do this for my own pool and I can not get government grants and such to help me do this but council can apply for such things.So I believe our rates are way to high in this shire now.. | 9/16/2019 9:52 PM |
| 321 | It's not just rate payers who use the pool and I think BVSC could spend less in other areas. | 9/16/2019 7:28 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 322 | Because our rates are one of the highest already in NSW, I can't afford more and I don't use the pools ever. | 9/16/2019 7:16 PM |
| 323 | There is no difference to me if the rates increase - fuel prices are on the increase, it doesn't mean I will stop putting fuel in my car. It is a commodity my family and I use and will continue to do so moving forward | 9/16/2019 5:24 PM |
| 324 | We do not use the pools enough to pay extra. | 9/16/2019 5:12 PM |
| 325 | The Candelo pool is very important to our family and community. I would be happy to pay more to retain / upgrade the pool | 9/16/2019 3:59 PM |
| 326 | A local pool is an important asset for the community on a lot of different levels. A moderate rate increase is acceptable to keep the pool running. | 9/16/2019 2:18 PM |
| 327 | Facilities like the pools are very important public amenities and should be protected. | 9/16/2019 1:08 PM |
| 328 | Because we pay enough in rates now | 9/16/2019 12:29 PM |
| 329 | My swimming is extremely important to my sense of wellbeing. | 9/16/2019 12:28 PM |
| 330 | We are ready to pay rates for many things we don't receive - like a garbage service. As a pensioner I have a very limited income and increased rates would be an extreme imposition. However I realise the money has to come from somewhere ... | 9/16/2019 10:50 AM |
| 331 | The cost of maintaining the pools should fall on the users. | 9/16/2019 9:50 AM |
| 332 | It would be good to see money spent evenly within the shire not just at Tartar and Pambula but just look at Bermagui and Cobargo you need to pull your finger out and don't put it in your back pocket | 9/16/2019 9:11 AM |
| 333 | Rates are already beyond the national average for our LGA. Pool fees are excessive. | 9/16/2019 8:36 AM |
| 334 | Rates are high enough now | 9/16/2019 7:37 AM |
| 335 | BVSC should be able to manage their funds better to keep all pools operating and should be able to access grants and other external funding for upgrades and/or sell superfluous council 'assets' to use for pool upgrades (eg sell the hotel it owns in Eden, use this to leverage for external funding to upgrade Bega pool) | 9/16/2019 7:15 AM |
| 336 | So that in future years the shire still has funds for upgrading and repairing whatever needs to be done. The plan needs to be for the next 50 years, so assets and infrastructure continue to grow in the shire. | 9/16/2019 5:31 AM |
| 337 | I think that it is absolutely disgraceful that the Council pushes the responsibility out to the community to fund this. Get your act together and raise some serious funds from State and Federal governments. If a small association can raise nearly \$8 million for a theatre, Council sure as hell could for the swimming pools! | 9/16/2019 12:46 AM |
| 338 | My rates are already so expensive and you keep putting them up | 9/15/2019 10:35 PM |
| 339 | Rates are already too expensive. \$10 a day in rates is excessive | 9/15/2019 9:52 PM |
| 340 | Because swimming is my main exercise. | 9/15/2019 9:21 PM |
| 341 | I think we need to look at closing some of the smaller pools ie Candelo, Bemboka and Cobargo. Not many towns of that size have a pool. All the money should go into upgrading Bega and covering it so it could be used year round. I would use the pool all year if that happened and I know a lot of others feel the same. | 9/15/2019 9:00 PM |
| 342 | not a rate payer | 9/15/2019 8:00 PM |
| 343 | We need more information, for example, What is the total attendance at each of the pools over the past season (12 months)? Are the pools financially viable? What does it actually cost to run each of the pools? Do we need all the pools? (especially if some are not viable financially). | 9/15/2019 7:53 PM |
| 344 | we need pools in the summer | 9/15/2019 7:06 PM |
| 345 | Our pools are an important asset worth spending money on. | 9/15/2019 6:04 PM |
| 346 | I overlook the Bega pool and see exactly how much it is used in a structured way. I used to swim there a lot, but the last few years there is 1 lane for community pool space before work, then after work no lap swimming for the community after 4pm. The people operating it now only want to line their own pockets with all the cash generating lessons. The man there is so rude and they do not care about the larger community. Then on weekends more lessons and then they close the pool at 4pm. Why is this? It should be 6pm and available for the community to be able to go there and relax. It is like it is their private pool and no reasonable size community space for relaxing in the pool or lap swimming. Council please look at this Facebook page for Bega War Memorial swimming pool and you might be able to work out the huge income generated. | 9/15/2019 1:29 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 347 | I don't directly access other Council facilities/initiatives. Swimming is such a good cardio and mental health exercise. I love that the Cobargo pool was built by our predecessors for our future and I'd hate to see their dream die. I'd much prefer a Council supports this community asset than, say, funding childcare centres that are competing with private enterprise. I consider this a waste of funds. | 9/15/2019 9:03 AM |
| 348 | It is extremely important as Australian's have always been a nation of swimmers. It is vital for our children to learn how to swim , for people to socialise and for the young elderly and disabled to exercise for their health and well being. | 9/15/2019 8:02 AM |
| 349 | We need to make this a health and community service | 9/14/2019 10:04 PM |
| 350 | Because I need to think it through and weigh up whether I wanted to pay the council just under \$150 per year to keep the pool open. Pools are essential to the community in hot inland villages. | 9/14/2019 8:09 PM |
| 351 | Those who use the pools should pay for the privilege. My rates are expensive I donor wish to pay more. | 9/14/2019 8:05 PM |
| 352 | We already pay rates. Council needs to manage their finances correctly. | 9/14/2019 7:21 PM |
| 353 | Council shouldn't have let pools deteriorate to current conditions. And why should we pay to upgrade if we have our own pool. | 9/14/2019 7:05 PM |
| 354 | Rates are too high as it is | 9/14/2019 6:40 PM |
| 355 | Pensioner. If more expensive I can't go and loose health benefits | 9/14/2019 5:13 PM |
| 356 | I dont think raising pensioners and low income earners rates is the answer. We live in the bush where we don't receive utilities or services as they do in towns, we are already paying for services we don't benefit from. My children all learnt to swim in rivers, creeks and the sea where all the family could enjoy a day out for free. Whenever we drive by the pool, we never see it crowded with children and families, in fact very rarely see anyone there. My grandchildren enjoy going to the pool in the holidays on hot days with their friends, unfortunately they are low income families and unable to attend the pool as regularly as they would like. If the fees of entry were cheaper, then more children and families will use the facilities. Why increase the rates of the poor so that the more affluent families benefit, if the low income earners rates go up, the less likely they can afford for their children to use the pools! | 9/14/2019 4:41 PM |
| 357 | There many projects that are receiving a large amount of funding that do not have the importance socially and health wise that a local pool does. Council knew that the pools were due for replacement and should have been prepared for the cost. This is a low socioeconomic area and in our local Cobargo area we receive very little funding for anything when compared to other areas | 9/14/2019 3:51 PM |
| 358 | Because the rates are high enough as it is with a small residential block at \$2.5K p.a | 9/14/2019 1:46 PM |
| 359 | I feel it is very important to keep these pools so that children can learn to swim, and also these towns do not have a beach near by to swim at. | 9/14/2019 1:11 PM |
| 360 | Already pay the Highest Sewerage Charge in NSW | 9/14/2019 11:15 AM |
| 361 | Council ought fund any increase in costs pools by achieving effeciencies, seeking grants. Continuing a strategy of increasing rates is unsustainable | 9/14/2019 11:03 AM |
| 362 | We need our pools | 9/14/2019 8:33 AM |
| 363 | Because I believe it's extremely important to keep pools operating. | 9/14/2019 8:11 AM |
| 364 | We pay some of the highest rates in the country and get next to nothing for it. If you idiots would stop wasting our money on Bega you would have the money to do lots of things in the area. | 9/14/2019 7:55 AM |
| 365 | Some families enjoy swimming and just manage to pay the rates now but are unable to pay more in rates if it increases. | 9/14/2019 1:09 AM |
| 366 | I rent! | 9/14/2019 1:02 AM |
| 367 | Council rates are already too expensive | 9/14/2019 12:03 AM |
| 368 | Current rates should cover this. Suggest either taking from elsewhere in the budget or seeking a government grant of some sort. | 9/13/2019 11:27 PM |
| 369 | We don't need six pools. Shire has four major towns (Eden/Merimbula/Bega/Bermagui) one with a rock pool. Two towns (Merimbula/Eden) are serviced by the sapphire aquatic centre, Reduce pool numbers and concentrate on managing and upgrading bega pool to all year round heated. If private interest wants to run the others then lease out, if not close. | 9/13/2019 11:21 PM |
| 370 | Our rates are already among the highest that I'm aware of in the state. Surely council can come up with another way to fund the pools? | 9/13/2019 11:11 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 371 | There are more important things to spend money on. | 9/13/2019 10:31 PM |
| 372 | This is a worthwhile investment as long as the increase is dedicated to pools and NOT just added to General Revenue. | 9/13/2019 9:42 PM |
| 373 | Cannot afford the rates as it is. | 9/13/2019 9:10 PM |
| 374 | BEcause our family doesn't use them | 9/13/2019 8:35 PM |
| 375 | Swimming is an important part of my exercise regime | 9/13/2019 8:16 PM |
| 376 | The pools are important. | 9/13/2019 7:55 PM |
| 377 | Rates are too high already, find a different financial source | 9/13/2019 7:43 PM |
| 378 | The current price of rates along with other costs to keep a household functional is already high. It would be unaffordable for us if rates were to continue to increase | 9/13/2019 7:32 PM |
| 379 | I don't use the pools. I agree that some areas of the shire that are not close to beaches need somewhere to cool down in summer. Community water parks would be better that can be shut down in winter and opened in summer. Look at the example in Cairns. That would be perfect for places like Bega, Bemboka, Candelo. If you are going to keep the pools at least bring them in to line with technology e.g Bega pool does not even have an eftpos machine for payment - cash only, so when you arrive at the gate with no cash, you cannot use. This is also not advertised anywhere. | 9/13/2019 7:00 PM |
| 380 | BVSC should have structured the cost of upkeep etc in its expenses! | 9/13/2019 6:55 PM |
| 381 | Increasing the rates by 11% as stated is ludicrous. | 9/13/2019 6:37 PM |
| 382 | As a pensioner it is hard to budget as it is without further costs | 9/13/2019 6:36 PM |
| 383 | It should be apart of existing maintenance scheme | 9/13/2019 6:28 PM |
| 384 | we raised thouands of dollas to get our eden pool built. | 9/13/2019 6:19 PM |
| 385 | I rent so do not pay rates anymore | 9/13/2019 6:06 PM |
| 386 | I think Council should try to get the funding from state governments | 9/13/2019 5:31 PM |
| 387 | The Eden pool was built by money raised by the community why should the council make us pay any more. A little less wastage by council on environmental nonsense(that people with any common sense do anyway) and political game playing would enable the council to have enough money to upgrade all the pools. It is this type of societal infrastructure that is vital to the upkeep of a happy, healthy and cohesive community!! | 9/13/2019 5:30 PM |
| 388 | The Cobargo Pool was established for the community by the community, via community fundraising. It was a community initiative to mitigate the risk of drownings in the local creek. The community worked hard to establish the pool and it is now well frequented and enjoyed by all. Cobargo over the last several years has seen very little of the budget allocation the BVSC offers to fund local projects and new community facilities. This may be due to a smaller population and the 'vote for your local community project' model not working to get enough signatures for our projects in comparison to larger towns. The community here believes strongly that our pool is unique and that alternative funding options for the upgrade should be considered, to support our hard working town in times of drought, not via increasing our rates. | 9/13/2019 5:28 PM |
| 389 | We pay more then enough in rates. Someone needs to look into how BVSC budget is allocated, to say you don't have enough to pay for the pools upkeep and upgrades is absolutely ludacris! Maybe look at cutting some jobs, every time you drive past any roadworks or town crews and they're all just standing around. | 9/13/2019 5:16 PM |
| 390 | Pools are important for a range of people, but especially for enabling children to learn to swim. Having a local pool also contributes to community health and fitness. | 9/13/2019 4:59 PM |
| 391 | it is not much of an increase for the value the pools give to the communitu | 9/13/2019 4:19 PM |
| 392 | Depends how much increase | 9/13/2019 4:09 PM |
| 393 | I would like to see my existing rates be better utilised to fund projects such as this instead of an immediate "knee jerk" reaction to increase rates every time something need funding. | 9/13/2019 4:06 PM |
| 394 | maybe the council needs to budget better, are the councillors willing to cut back on their personal perks, ie travel , meal allowances , entertainment etc. if you expect us to feel the pain are you willing to lead by example | 9/13/2019 3:57 PM |
| 395 | Because it is unfair that rate payers have to pay for things that all people use. Raise the cost of entry. We can barely afford our rates as it is. | 9/13/2019 3:00 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 396 | We have just had a rates hike for services that we do NOT receive. We see no reason to support another rates increase (whatever fancy title it's given) for services that we do not access and never will access. | 9/13/2019 2:51 PM |
| 397 | I think local pools should only be subsidised to the lease amount by the rate payer. I see the answer as having a local committee manage the pool, fundraise for the pool, make all our shire pools a more user friendly space where you can not only swim but have BBQ's, birthday parties, get togethers, other activities (playground for kids, BBQ's, BINDI FREE grassed areas, all sorts of 'other' activities which will increase the use of the asset) | 9/13/2019 2:31 PM |
| 398 | Want Eden Pool to stay open its a beautiful pool | 9/13/2019 12:55 PM |
| 399 | Our rates get wasted on so much stuff, like buying and selling a old run down building in Eden. | 9/13/2019 12:54 PM |
| 400 | you have enough in the kitty already without penalizing the ratepayer any more - there are more other less required or more expensive expenditure (eg the continuing airport waste of money and your "required" self education and very expensive courses here or in other places | 9/13/2019 12:23 PM |
| 401 | As an in frequent user I do not support this and think it needs to be looked an being funded by users and fundraising. I do not receive a green bin or fogo as a property owner as it is. | 9/13/2019 11:32 AM |
| 402 | I don't pay rates s | 9/13/2019 11:31 AM |
| 403 | Council should find a different option to finance the pools than the rate increase. This politic will lead to the situation that some pools will be close down because most ratepayers do not use pools and will protest against the rate increase. | 9/13/2019 10:48 AM |
| 404 | Because I think pools are an asset to the community and I would be willing to pay more in order to keep them. | 9/13/2019 9:57 AM |
| 405 | Not sure of the amount of pools are being used to there full extent. | 9/13/2019 9:40 AM |
| 406 | Important part of my life in summer. All my children partipated in swim club, training and carnivals when growing up in Eden, so my family used the poola lot | 9/13/2019 9:24 AM |
| 407 | The counsil should find other ways to fund this project or leave things as they are. The Cobargo pool is perfect the way it is. | 9/13/2019 8:48 AM |
| 408 | Our rates are already high (certainly much higher than anywhere else we have lived) and we don't seem to get a lot for our meant given how high the states are compared to other places. We love the pools and with a young family we use them frequently in summer when they are open. It's so important for our community to have local pools so if it means them closing down, I suppose we would have to pay more rates but everywhere else we have lived, the councils pay for the pools. It still costs us entry to the pools so why should we also have to pay to keep them open? | 9/13/2019 8:45 AM |
| 409 | Families are struggling with the high cost of rates and high cost of living. Bills go up, income does not. Shire becoming unaffordable | 9/13/2019 8:41 AM |
| 410 | I think enough rates are paid to cover the cost of the pools. It is a very valuable asset to the community, but to put the cost on to home owners who are already paying huge rates mortgages and insurance is a little unfair. | 9/13/2019 8:26 AM |
| 411 | Our rates are already quite high. It's never been an issue before so why is it now that it will come at the rate payers cost. | 9/13/2019 7:58 AM |
| 412 | I rent | 9/13/2019 7:55 AM |
| 413 | Our rates are high enough. Our local businesses are dying in town. We should be focusing more on that. | 9/13/2019 7:55 AM |
| 414 | Public pools are important for small communities. They provide recreational facilities for youth and there are a lack of activities for young people. It is also important for water safety and keeping the community healthy. | 9/13/2019 7:48 AM |
| 415 | Our rates are amongst the highest in the state. If we were to pay this, as a ratepayer I would like to see a voucher like the tip vouchers paying for or subsidizing a family pass. Shire employee rates of pay are much higher than similar roles in the private sector. | 9/13/2019 7:46 AM |
| 416 | Pool opening hours are limited and chances to swim for exercise have only small windows. I would love an increase in availability, then I would be happy to pay more. | 9/13/2019 7:41 AM |
| 417 | They are an important aspect of each unique community | 9/13/2019 7:26 AM |
| 418 | Because rates are already very high | 9/13/2019 7:24 AM |
| 419 | Our community's NEED their pools. It's not optional in my eyes. | 9/13/2019 7:24 AM |
| 420 | Kids need to learn to swim | 9/13/2019 7:17 AM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 421 | Our rates appear to extremely high compared to urban areas | 9/13/2019 12:16 AM |
| 422 | I wonder if it will really be spent on the pools .. will council be transparent on this . Will smaller community pools be sacrificed in comparison to the Bega pool ! | 9/12/2019 10:08 PM |
| 423 | Valuable asset for the shire | 9/12/2019 8:46 PM |
| 424 | Would like to know more about how monies raised from the rate rise would be allocated fairly, as some pools cost less to run than others. | 9/12/2019 5:03 PM |
| 425 | At nearly \$3000 per year, our rates are extremely high and a major source of financial stress. I am not happy to pay more. | 9/12/2019 1:27 PM |
| 426 | If it helps to keep them open | 9/12/2019 1:03 PM |
| 427 | I am not a ratepayer, I don't feel it is fair to burden just rate payers with this increase. Perhaps if ratepayers are getting SRV they get cheaper entry into the pools and non ratepayers pay a higher entry at the pool allowing the funding to be better spread across the whole community | 9/12/2019 11:14 AM |
| 428 | Maybe council should check on the productivity on their workers and Dave some money there. I am a local bus driver and all I see is council utes during around with two people in each doing nothing. Example yesterday at the airport one man watering a plant the other on his phone in the Ute. Today two men spraying weeds Main Street merimbula one spraying one taking selfies. All the kids on the bus noticed. One council worker lives in our street. Most of the time the Ute is at home except Sunday where the worker goes out to get Sunday rates on his pay. I have 25 years owning my own transport company but when applying to get a job working at the tip I couldn't even get a interview, how Degrading. My brother in law applied for a job in heavy machinery on council once again didn't get a interview only to find out that the person who got the position had no experience but new someone doing the interview. Unless you know someone at BVSC you never get employment and it's not just me the list is endless. We have some of the highest rates in the country with some of the lowest wages (unless you work for council). As a bus driver I see so many families struggling and how you can possibly raise rates again I don't know how you sleep at night. We have a huge ocean with other waterway why don't we start using them instead of wasting money on pools that don't get used. If rates go up again I know we will be selling, moving my family where we get more value for money. BVSC is a joke. | 9/12/2019 11:05 AM |
| 429 | As a ratepayer I should not be forced to pay more on our already high rates for an optional activity. As a visitor to the pool I feel it is quite cheap to take my kids (\$12 for myself and two children to swim) and I would still take them to the pool if the entry fee went up. However should my rates go up, I cannot say that I would be able to afford to take them as regularly, if ever. | 9/12/2019 10:09 AM |
| 430 | Our rates are already extremely high with not much in return. The benefits to the community of maintaining these local pools far outweighs the consequences of shutting them down. | 9/12/2019 8:10 AM |
| 431 | Because our pool is not run properly it is not run for the people of bemboka | 9/12/2019 7:56 AM |
| 432 | Because I believe the council rates are way to high already and the council never spends our rate money on our cobargo anyway . We pay for Merimbula Pambula Tathra south shire gets it all . Pambula pool has already been closed for maintenance, cobargo pool hasn't been painted for so many years paint peeling off . But no council maintenance. Where are the rates going again????? | 9/12/2019 5:42 AM |
| 433 | i think council wastes money | 9/12/2019 4:37 AM |
| 434 | Important for our community | 9/12/2019 1:38 AM |
| 435 | Because at present the Bega pool does not service the whole community as it is closed for half the year and when it is open it is totally focused on swimming club and does not open at times to suit people who work until 5.30pm. It also shuts sometimes before the advertised times on the weekends. I am really dissatisfied with the accessibility for Bega pool. | 9/11/2019 11:08 PM |
| 436 | I already pay to much in rates to get nothing back in Bega don't even have toilets at the new park near the pool | 9/11/2019 10:27 PM |
| 437 | Rates are already outrageously expensive | 9/11/2019 10:25 PM |
| 438 | Should be user pays | 9/11/2019 10:13 PM |
| 439 | I understand that everything needs to be sustainable. | 9/11/2019 10:04 PM |
| 440 | Everyone should not have to pay for the pool if they do not use it. Bemboka pool has limited opening hours and I don't see how this is going help the bemboka pool or the community. We fund raise to help keep our pool open. Who else has to do this? | 9/11/2019 9:53 PM |
| 441 | Depending on how they changed the facility as to why I would go more | 9/11/2019 9:46 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 442 | I feel we already pay enough rates in our shire. I think it is unfair to ask for more money for ratepayers such as myself. Surely the council can manage the existing budget for pools accurately. We are in a drought and struggling with supplying drinking water, little lone paying more for recreation swimming. | 9/11/2019 9:35 PM |
| 443 | Nobody in my family uses the pools, should be user pay | 9/11/2019 9:26 PM |
| 444 | I don't understand why council has not being putting aside funds each year since the pools were first established. All public assets require a plan for major repairs, upgrades or replacement over the assets life and funds should have been put aside over the years to contribute to this cost. Can council confirm if this has been the case and if not, why not. | 9/11/2019 9:24 PM |
| 445 | I believe there is could be better management to find funds | 9/11/2019 9:11 PM |
| 446 | They are too cold and should be available all year | 9/11/2019 8:32 PM |
| 447 | Are there any other solutions then just rate rises being investigated? | 9/11/2019 8:04 PM |
| 448 | I don't nor do any of my family use public pools | 9/11/2019 8:03 PM |
| 449 | Current and previous rates should already include the day-to-day running costs and planning for upkeep/upgrades. As I imagine would be the case with libraries and town halls. | 9/11/2019 7:42 PM |
| 450 | There should be less pools but in better condition. | 9/11/2019 7:20 PM |
| 451 | I don't use the pool never will . And rates are already to high | 9/11/2019 7:07 PM |
| 452 | User pays is the norm for all Council services. | 9/11/2019 7:02 PM |
| 453 | We need to keep the Bemboka pool open. And we need for it to be open longer. Easter is usually hot, and the pool is closed!! | 9/11/2019 7:00 PM |
| 454 | Because rates in the bega valley are the highest in the whole area I don't think they need to be increased any more take the money from office jobs. Or the rates we already pay. | 9/11/2019 6:35 PM |
| 455 | Because my family would get a tangible benefit. | 9/11/2019 6:27 PM |
| 456 | Renter | 9/11/2019 6:24 PM |
| 457 | Because I think local government should cover the cost. Having a pool/leisure centre has multiple benefits for any community, rates are already high. Put up rates in other areas. | 9/11/2019 6:07 PM |
| 458 | The proposed Special Rate Variation being considered by council is a dishonest attempt by council to over-recover the cost of operating, maintaining & funding the replacement costs of the pools, by not taking account of the current contribution being made by ratepayers. At the same time, council has provided no evidence that it has seriously examined alternate options to a Special Rate Variation. | 9/11/2019 4:58 PM |
| 459 | living in an isolated area we already have to travel for facilities. we need to keep the pools open to allow maintenance of current facilities- at minimum | 9/11/2019 3:26 PM |
| 460 | User pays , bad management has caused issues, we don't use the pool . Council rates already higher than city areas that have much higher land values and still we have serious amount of others works that need attention . Council needs to figure out how to manage its funds better rather than asking for more and more | 9/11/2019 7:35 AM |
| 461 | I wouldn't get value at all as I hardly ever visit the pool | 9/11/2019 6:54 AM |
| 462 | I believe it is important to maintain Candelo Pool for the health and wellbeing of our community. It is a place to meet, keep cool, have fun and exercise. It helps to keep the young people active in summer, when they might otherwise stay indoors on devices et cetera... | 9/10/2019 9:27 PM |
| 463 | I'm not happy with paying more rates to be wasted. I don't use Pambula pool let the star power the managed to get it built, at the cost of the other pools in the shire pay. | 9/10/2019 8:10 PM |
| 464 | I have it on good authority that there is already gross wastage of funds by the council...why would the community want to give council more. Better option to look at efficiency within and determine other ways to reduce current asset costs | 9/10/2019 7:08 PM |
| 465 | The availability of Swim club swimming lessons in Eden is important to families who cannot or will not travel elsewhere to let their kids learn and participate | 9/10/2019 3:50 PM |
| 466 | We really enjoy using the pool | 9/10/2019 3:39 PM |
| 467 | Council budgets need to be allocated to the essential items in our shire. Pools are essential to towns in our shire and the users especially children learning to swim - a life saving skill all should learn | 9/10/2019 3:35 PM |
| 468 | Our current rates should be more than sufficient. As a pensioner I cant cope with a rate rise | 9/10/2019 3:15 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 469 | I think you will continue to get a lot of opposition from rare payers who don't use or have close access to the pools. I think you should never have reduced the cost of a season pass, and should also provide a more expensive option that allows access to more than one community pool. For example I have a season ticket at Bega but pay casual at Candelo, would be happy to pay more on my season ticket if I could nominate a second pool to attend | 9/10/2019 2:22 PM |
| 470 | Our rates are high enough. Cost cutting should occur elsewhere | 9/10/2019 1:44 PM |
| 471 | because I already help low income families with pool membership to enable their kids to learn to swim. Manage the resources better & in particular the overspend on Pambula pool. | 9/10/2019 12:30 PM |
| 472 | I never use the pools myself and my children only use them through school swimming lessons. I feel it is extremely unfair that ratepayers have to foot the bill. What about all the non-ratepaying residents of the shire? If this rate increase happens will all rate payers be entitled to free entry to any of the 6 swimming pools all season? | 9/10/2019 12:28 PM |
| 473 | I believe that in this currently disconnected society, the local pool can be a hub for contacts and supports for all ages and abilities. | 9/10/2019 12:27 PM |
| 474 | I believe we pay enough rates. | 9/10/2019 11:52 AM |
| 475 | A very important asset | 9/10/2019 11:33 AM |
| 476 | Our rates are already expensive enough - and they've steadily increased every year. The pools should be able to be managed within existing budget - BVSC should invest more widely instead of all the airport debacles in the last decade, wasting money on shoddy work and unnecessary runway extensions. | 9/10/2019 7:49 AM |
| 477 | Because council have a dubious record in spending and wasting finances. | 9/9/2019 10:56 PM |
| 478 | Rates are already expensive and although I like the idea of having a local pool for the community and may possibly use it in the future for lap swimming, I currently do not use it. | 9/9/2019 8:35 PM |
| 479 | I done use the pools | 9/9/2019 7:31 PM |
| 480 | Important service | 9/9/2019 6:48 PM |
| 481 | It should be a user pays facility supplemented by NSW government on the basis ion water safety and community health and fitness. | 9/9/2019 6:26 PM |
| 482 | Swimming pools are an important community asset I would be willing to invest in. | 9/9/2019 5:27 PM |
| 483 | Many reasons. If Council has had 6 pools for the past 30 years, why hasn't Council budgeted to renew 6 pools? Why is it now the current ratepayers responsibility to fund assets that have been neglected for the past 30 years? Where is the evidence that Council has sought additional revenue from users or contractors? A general rate should be the last option not the first? | 9/9/2019 5:14 PM |
| 484 | Low income and Job security is an issue for me. | 9/9/2019 2:47 PM |
| 485 | The council should be receiving income from Bega & Cobargo pools, not giving those people a license to print cash | 9/9/2019 2:34 PM |
| 486 | It should be user pays. Ratepayers are sick of council squandering rates on follies such as the Hotel Australasia and the Tura Beach Tavern | 9/9/2019 12:45 PM |
| 487 | THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY POOLS IN THE SOUTH COAST AREA. ONE MAIN ONE IN BEGA WOULD BE COMPLETELY FINE. IT'S A COMPLETE WASTE OF TAX PAYER'S MONEY TO KEEP 6 POOLS OPERATIONAL. | 9/9/2019 12:14 PM |
| 488 | Our rates are way over priced already we shouldn't have to fund something that doesn't involve us | 9/9/2019 12:05 PM |
| 489 | I think it is important for small country towns to maintain their infrastructure; build community and promote healthy outdoor activities. | 9/9/2019 10:47 AM |
| 490 | I do not use pools and should not have to pay for there keep. | 9/9/2019 10:10 AM |
| 491 | I'm willing to pay for upgraded facilities at key regional pools (Bega and Pambula) however not at all six pools. Asset rationalisation needs to be part of the solution | 9/9/2019 9:20 AM |
| 492 | I love the local pools, they are an asset | 9/9/2019 9:13 AM |
| 493 | I'm not a user of this service | 9/9/2019 8:59 AM |
| 494 | There is absolutely no need to spend excessive amounts of money to make these pools "modern". We should be grateful to have anything with water in it at the moment. Any "modern" improvements are only a smoke screen for consumption and marketing. I'm happy to have my rates increased, but only if it goes towards a project of substance that will benefit every single individual for the long term. | 9/9/2019 1:59 AM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 495 | Wages have stagnated, the cost of living has increased. Financially I like many others are experiencing a huge financial stress. Council needs to cut back in other areas before extorting more money- for very little from its over stretched rate payers. If this variation goes through what next- an increase to maintain sports grounds, playground....I think not | 9/8/2019 9:41 PM |
| 496 | Because the council wastes so much money in other areas they should be cutting those things before raising rates | 9/8/2019 8:22 PM |
| 497 | Lap swimming in the mornings is part of my family exercise and wellbeing activities | 9/8/2019 6:33 PM |
| 498 | I want there to be a lap lane at all times when I use Bega, it is very busy | 9/8/2019 6:30 PM |
| 499 | It is very important for health and wellness | 9/8/2019 6:17 PM |
| 500 | As part of the Bega Swimming Club we are already forced to find the money for basic pool facilities (lane ropes of which everyone uses, gas bottles for bbq's that the whole community use, seating, benches, paint for rooms etc). Also special rate variations seem occur frequently and are quite often followed by a councilor wage increase. | 9/8/2019 6:01 PM |
| 501 | Bega needs modern pools and facilities, larger pools and pools with disabled access and change room etc | 9/8/2019 5:39 PM |
| 502 | We presently pay BVSC rates on 3 properties. I would prefer to see any rate increase go towards asset protection in the likelihood of fires. | 9/8/2019 5:20 PM |
| 503 | Because in the first instance, council needs to reconsider the economic impact that their continual erosion of community-led governance and management has had on the overall cost of operating a whole host of facilities across the LGA. For generations, voluntary committees were able to deliver at lower or no cost comparable or better outcomes than the increasingly centralised governance has provided. Paid staff do not necessarily deliver better results. | 9/8/2019 10:37 AM |
| 504 | I would just hate to loose our pool, | 9/8/2019 9:43 AM |
| 505 | The value of my home and future concerns for my retirement concern me. If the towns continue to die and have inferior infrastructure and non existent facilities and jobs no one will want to live here or buy a home here. I want to prevent a ghost town appearance and keep the town alive. Children and families deserve a pool and something to do. Despite being surround by ocean not everyone likes to swim in the sea. | 9/8/2019 9:02 AM |
| 506 | Rates are already too high and we don't get much service for this. People in places like Eden subsidise facilities in Bega and we should not lose any service we currently have. | 9/8/2019 9:00 AM |
| 507 | We pay high rates already | 9/8/2019 8:22 AM |
| 508 | We pay enough in rates as it is,council should allow separate funds for pools | 9/8/2019 7:59 AM |
| 509 | Our rates are high enough as it is. | 9/7/2019 10:44 PM |
| 510 | BVSC rates are high and should not go higher | 9/7/2019 10:40 PM |
| 511 | I think Six pools in the Bega Valley is too many. | 9/7/2019 9:26 PM |
| 512 | Not sure where councils priorities lay and how high its on there agenda to keep these pools open or is it just a community nuisance for the them ! | 9/7/2019 7:12 PM |
| 513 | I am willing to pay more in rates if the pools are actually improved AND operated better. Council is looking significant income potential by keeping the pools sub par and average. | 9/7/2019 4:10 PM |
| 514 | Obviously the pools are unsustainable if we do not and I think it is important to keep all 6 pools open for community access. Community groups cannot expect to raise funds to build these pools and then not expect to pay for the year to year upkeep. | 9/7/2019 3:24 PM |
| 515 | I don't use any of them so should not be charged. User pays so increase entry fees and upgrade things over winter. | 9/7/2019 1:10 PM |
| 516 | I'd like to see the usage rates, the costs of running the pools, and alternative options. | 9/7/2019 12:45 PM |
| 517 | I feel our rates in Pambula beach are already extremely high and that in Pambula beach itself we fall short of other facilities and upgrades eg parks and roads that other towns in the shire have. | 9/7/2019 10:52 AM |
| 518 | I have 5 children and we work as hard as we can to stay on top of our mortgage and bills there is no way we should have to pay more rates!! We already have some of the most expensive rates in Australia. I don't believe council is doing anything in the best interests of young families in the area. And especially not considering what we want, as was shown when they chose the location of the park that was least voted by community | 9/7/2019 10:02 AM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

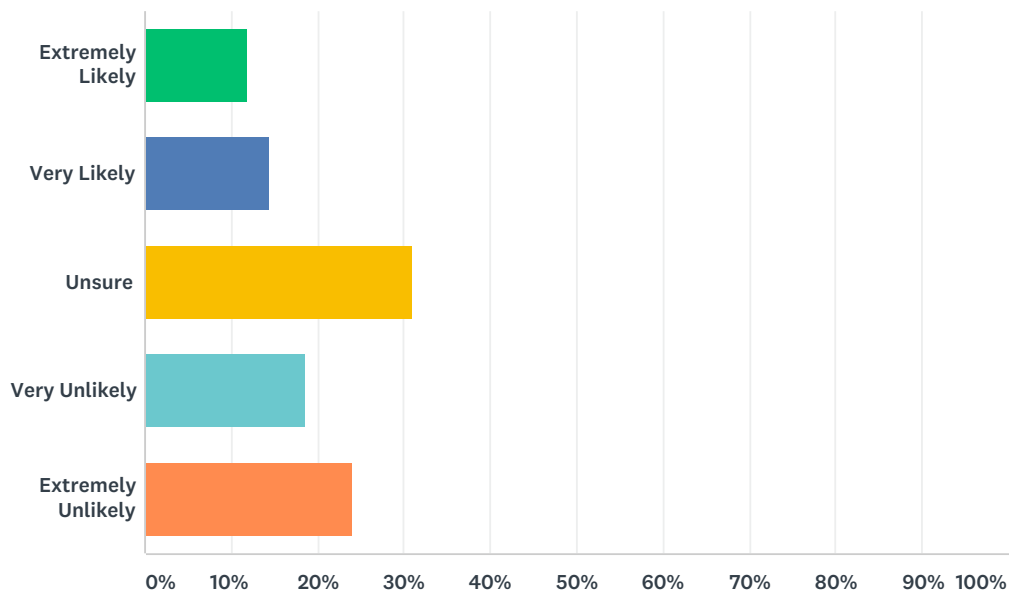
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| 519 | Because as a small community we get so little already.. nogreen bins, no fogo, half our roads are unsealed.. the gutters out the front of the primary school are so deep and dangerous it's embarrassing! How many cars does the council have that it's workers drive around???? Reduce that wasted money and put it back into things that help our community's! | 9/7/2019 8:44 AM |
| 520 | Because it would be a great opportunity to have upgraded facilities | 9/7/2019 8:28 AM |
| 521 | BVSC rates are already very high. In an economic climate where wages are not increasing, I am concerned that a rate increase would be an extra economic burden for many people. However, I understand that there needs to be a long term funding strategy to keep the pools maintained. Perhaps external govt funding is needed. | 9/7/2019 7:55 AM |
| 522 | Because surely there has to be another way to pay for this in the councils budget. | 9/7/2019 12:29 AM |
| 523 | I would like to see all avenues presented to us and see ll possible revenue sources explored. | 9/7/2019 12:17 AM |
| 524 | We don't use them. | 9/7/2019 12:12 AM |
| 525 | Council needs to be sacked for mismanagement. We already have one of the highest rates in the state, with not much positiveness to show for it. Cannot afford basics as it is due to council greed, let alone being able to afford going to the pool. Entry fees are already too high, stopping the community from participating in an activity which supports health. Many other councils seem to keep their pools viable without raising rates. You seriously should hang your heads in shame! | 9/7/2019 12:07 AM |
| 526 | I already pay thousands of dollars per year for my children to compete in swimming all over NSW and ACT. Our little pool at SAC also receives thousands of dollars in income from my family. This increase in rates is insignificant to my family in the scheme of things. Despite this, I would be happy to pay the extra rates so that other children and families could have the opportunities and experience success like my children have in swimming. | 9/6/2019 11:10 PM |
| 527 | Pools in local villages are not an essential service for a community. Rationalising assets would be a start to funding these heavily subsidised assets. | 9/6/2019 10:47 PM |
| 528 | Unsure of what is meant by 'upgrade'. I would like to see an indoor yr round extended hours swimming pool in Bega. That I would be willing to pay for. And I'm sure bemboka and candelo would travel for without necessarily upgrading, though maintaining, their own for summer use. | 9/6/2019 9:49 PM |
| 529 | We pay way too much in rates already. Council does not spend wisely. They constantly rip us off. | 9/6/2019 8:44 PM |
| 530 | \$146 per year is less than a cup of coffee per week | 9/6/2019 8:29 PM |
| 531 | WE need to have a 8 lane 50m outdoor pool in Bega so that we are not left behind and so that we are n the 21st century. Bega will continue to grow, so we need a pool that meets the needs of the community. The current one does not. It is too small. I cannot do laps after school as there is no room for lap lanes due to learn to swim, squads and general public. It is very crowded in the mornings 6-8am due to squads and lap swimmers. Bega needs a bigger pool. AND the current one will not last forever - what is the council going to do if it is deemed unfixable one day? They need to get finances together so that a new pool can be built for Bega ASAP. There are at least 6 school s that use the pool, plus all the learn to swim lessons - it would be a shame if they could not go to the pool one season due to lack of finances for a new pool. | 9/6/2019 7:30 PM |
| 532 | I don't use the pools. My family every year purchases Magic Mountain passes which allows us unlimited use of the waterslides and other entertainment. The pools are too boring to the kids, basically just a pool... Away in other towns we see pools with large water slides etc. Here our pools are only set up for swimming laps or splashing around. Unless the facilities have "amusement" features such as slides (and more than just a small basic slide), my family are unlikely to use the pools so paying more rates for something we won't use is a waste. | 9/6/2019 6:06 PM |
| 533 | It is very important children learn to swim and it is a great way to cool off and keep fit over summer. Offers an alternative to swimming at beach. | 9/6/2019 6:00 PM |
| 534 | I believe the pools are very important assets and should be seen as having long term benefits to the community and should be a budget priority for Council. | 9/6/2019 5:40 PM |
| 535 | I believe access to swimming pools are vital for the wellbeing of people of all ages; from children learning the lifelong skill of water survival and swimming skills, to older children and adults enjoying lap swimming for fitness to older folk keeping active; to people using pools for physical rehabilitation activities. | 9/6/2019 4:07 PM |
| 536 | I do not think the amount of swimmers through the gates warrants 6 pools in our Shire. Rationalisation of the pools and the use of our rates is paramount | 9/6/2019 3:57 PM |
| 537 | I am the sole income earner form my family and rates are already very expensive | 9/6/2019 3:05 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 538 | I want the pool and I need the pool it's my lifeline in summer | 9/6/2019 2:57 PM |
| 539 | I do not pay rates. Although if I did, I am unsure how I would feel about it. | 9/6/2019 2:00 PM |
| 540 | Currently all the pools are in a place that doesn't require excessive travelling from anyone in the shire. An increase in rates may be necessary to ensure people continue to receive access to a place they can exercise and/or enjoy cooling off especially in summer | 9/6/2019 1:59 PM |
| 541 | The per capita to pool ratio is significantly unbalanced compared to other population centres/regions. The financial strain this has on council trying to manage 6 facilities based on the population is ridiculous. The money could be better spent on essential infrastructure like failing roads, bridges or stormwater structures. Considering the close proximity of beaches and rivers I would not consider maintaining the levels of services relating to the pools an essential service for council to provide. Considering in most other towns/cities you are required to drive at least 30-40 minutes to get to an aquatic centre this could be still kept achievable with only 1 or 2 facilities in the shire considering once again our close proximity to the ocean, closed estuaries and rivers. | 9/6/2019 1:39 PM |
| 542 | It should be the user pays system. Very unfair for all rate payers to pay for something they may now use. | 9/6/2019 12:47 PM |
| 543 | I believe it is important to keep the pools open and operating. | 9/6/2019 12:46 PM |
| 544 | BV needs swim pools but rationalisation required - happy to pay more but not for six pools | 9/6/2019 12:41 PM |
| 545 | I believe 6 pools is too many to be maintained via a special rate variation. Focusing on a smaller number of pools too reduce the special rate variation or increase the level of service provided at 3 pools would be more appropriate. | 9/6/2019 12:36 PM |
| 546 | I only have interest in the Bega Pool and do not care about any of the other public pools | 9/6/2019 12:28 PM |
| 547 | These are very important pieces of public infrastructure as they provide so many social and health and wellbeing benefits | 9/6/2019 12:25 PM |
| 548 | I do not think it is sustainable to have 6 pools across the shire and Council should focus on say 3 pools and do them really well | 9/6/2019 12:19 PM |
| 549 | I think it should be user pays. I do not wish to ever use the local pools and none of my family do either. Why should I pay an extra \$85 per year for other people's benefits? | 9/6/2019 12:19 PM |
| 550 | I'm on the fence, I see pools as important, however feel I pay enough rates | 9/6/2019 12:14 PM |
| 551 | Depends on the increase in rates... if it is not a large amount than that would be okay | 9/6/2019 12:14 PM |
| 552 | I can afford it and it is good for the whole community. | 9/6/2019 12:10 PM |
| 553 | pools are important to have | 9/6/2019 12:06 PM |
| 554 | Living in Bemboka we are a long way from anywhere else to swim and this is usually our only option. | 9/6/2019 11:42 AM |
| 555 | Important to keep pool open for the community | 9/6/2019 11:41 AM |

Q15 How likely would you be to support reducing the opening hours to better manage costs for operating the pools?

Answered: 616 Skipped: 43



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----|
| Extremely Likely | 11.85% | 73 |
| Very Likely | 14.45% | 89 |
| Unsure | 31.01% | 191 |
| Very Unlikely | 18.67% | 115 |
| Extremely Unlikely | 24.03% | 148 |
| TOTAL | | 616 |

Q16 Why did you say this?

Answered: 494 Skipped: 165

| # | RESPONSES | DATE |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Access is vital to reaching a range of users in the valley | 10/22/2019 2:35 PM |
| 2 | Closing a pool (or restricting opening times) makes it very difficult for people to access and use the facility! | 10/22/2019 2:01 PM |
| 3 | Community assets if available should be available for maximum usage within reason balanced against cost | 10/21/2019 2:04 PM |
| 4 | opening hours are already useless to someone who works full time. And I love to swim at dusk & pool is closed even on weekends | 10/21/2019 1:53 PM |
| 5 | Because we don't use the pool and because of the above comments | 10/21/2019 1:45 PM |
| 6 | All groups needs to have reasonable access school children learning and fitness Hydro access included Non-weight bearing rehabilitation clinic Lap swimming Family social outing | 10/21/2019 1:43 PM |
| 7 | Depend on reduction and what days | 10/21/2019 1:38 PM |
| 8 | Our pool in Bemboka is not open enough at the moment why would we offer to pay MORE for LESS hours of usage | 10/21/2019 1:34 PM |
| 9 | Many types of people would like to access the pools. Open them at times the old, young and middle aged can benefit from the water activities. Employment & volunteering patterns are shifting so pools need to be available to encourage healthy lifestyle choices. | 10/20/2019 11:18 PM |
| 10 | Income generation and cost cutting measures are the way to address Pool issues, not another rate increase. | 10/20/2019 9:12 PM |
| 11 | Keep access available to suit many different needs of our community members. | 10/20/2019 7:56 PM |
| 12 | Because for the pools to be run as efficiently as possible it would seem logical they stay open as much as possible not limiting their use | 10/19/2019 3:34 PM |
| 13 | Another shit question. This survey is an attempt is terrible. Do the world a favour and go get or trade or something | 10/19/2019 11:02 AM |
| 14 | User Pays | 10/19/2019 8:50 AM |
| 15 | It would be nice to see the opening hours stay the same but if there is an opportunity for the pool to be closed in days where it does not get much usage then that seems reasonable. | 10/18/2019 1:02 PM |
| 16 | The reduced hours would have a negative impact on the attendance and utilities. | 10/18/2019 11:25 AM |
| 17 | customised locality opening times are preferred, rather than overall reductions | 10/17/2019 8:46 PM |
| 18 | Pools should be a priority not a luxury item in this day and age | 10/17/2019 5:51 PM |
| 19 | Probably cheaper for the users. | 10/17/2019 5:09 PM |
| 20 | I would use the pool more frequently if the 6am openings were more than twice a week. | 10/17/2019 2:25 PM |
| 21 | You cannot swim while swimming club takes the pool every night | 10/17/2019 10:02 AM |
| 22 | pools should support themselves I don't use them why should I pay for them? | 10/17/2019 5:33 AM |
| 23 | Because I don't want my rates to go up | 10/16/2019 10:13 PM |
| 24 | because i dont use the pool. | 10/16/2019 9:24 PM |
| 25 | Hours already trduced | 10/16/2019 9:14 PM |
| 26 | Better to rationalise pool operation than close them. | 10/16/2019 8:39 PM |
| 27 | I don't want to pay any more for pools that I don't use and I am a rate payer. Our rates are extremely high compared with most towns and localities. I'd rather see a skate park, parks, parking and better public toilets. | 10/16/2019 8:01 PM |
| 28 | Which pool is costing the most | 10/16/2019 6:13 PM |
| 29 | if the people who want pools & use them can't pay for them to exist, then I don't want to. | 10/16/2019 5:30 PM |
| 30 | Cost saving measure to avoid rates increases to cover cost. | 10/16/2019 5:13 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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|----|--|---------------------|
| 31 | As not stated what hours would be reduced morning or evening | 10/16/2019 2:39 PM |
| 32 | Well that way it shouldn't fall back on rate payers | 10/16/2019 1:23 PM |
| 33 | The opening hours are suitable now. | 10/16/2019 11:43 AM |
| 34 | don't think it's going to make any difference to the cost anyway | 10/16/2019 10:53 AM |
| 35 | Irrelevant | 10/16/2019 9:39 AM |
| 36 | the pools where this has been trialed (first eden and bemboka, then candelo) have had extremely negative outcomes: you can't get more patronage and thus more income when you slash services. meanwhile it costs the same to maintain the pool. Bega and Cobargo pools are run under contract and have the best services (in the oldest pools) in the shire. it is imperative that pools are open without random operating hours to allow access to patrons. | 10/16/2019 8:49 AM |
| 37 | I think it unfair to cut down the hours to be open for the public | 10/16/2019 7:45 AM |
| 38 | Not applicable to me | 10/16/2019 7:41 AM |
| 39 | A review of operational expenditure needs to occur prior to consideration of an SRV or reduced hours | 10/16/2019 7:40 AM |
| 40 | Pools should be accessible as much as possible | 10/16/2019 7:37 AM |
| 41 | If it means I don't pay money then I'm open to you doing anything to reduce costs | 10/16/2019 7:26 AM |
| 42 | Less time for those who work outside of the town to access the pool. | 10/16/2019 5:07 AM |
| 43 | I guess it depends on what the hours will be? Maybe better than refusing daily hours it would be better to just say close on one or two weekdays and only be open five days per week. However, I feel it's important to stay open weekends. | 10/15/2019 11:47 PM |
| 44 | Currently don't use the Cobargo pool due to distance in combination with it not being heated, but if necessary to remove SRV costs then agree | 10/15/2019 8:27 PM |
| 45 | If this was based on demand | 10/15/2019 8:09 PM |
| 46 | I have no idea when they are open and when the users prefer to use them. | 10/15/2019 5:08 PM |
| 47 | Very inconvenient plus how do you employ staff on a on/off rota? | 10/15/2019 4:27 PM |
| 48 | Would depend on impact on current staff-they should not bear cost thru reduced wages | 10/15/2019 4:15 PM |
| 49 | The Bega and other community pools are currently open for 6 months of the year. I would support an increase in the opening hours. Swimming is a low impact activity | 10/14/2019 4:22 PM |
| 50 | this will be dependent on the needs of those who use the pools | 10/14/2019 4:17 PM |
| 51 | reducing patronage would result in further loss of income routine annual maintenance would reduce costs | 10/14/2019 4:13 PM |
| 52 | The more flexibility in time open, the better! | 10/13/2019 3:55 PM |
| 53 | Running costs must always be under consideration | 10/13/2019 1:21 PM |
| 54 | There are quiet times and reduced hours should be considered. Particularly outside season holidays | 10/13/2019 1:15 PM |
| 55 | Because I don't understand how that would work !!!! | 10/12/2019 8:31 PM |
| 56 | I believe if paying some one to be employed at the pool all day and no-one is going then close it and open the hours someone is there. Get involved with lifesaving agencies and train young people and seniors to do community lifeguard roles along with paid staff to develop skills make it part of work experience programs for fitness students and community students. Get solar electricity to operate on no cost electricity after set up costs you might even be bale to fund raise with the CEFE people to achieve this type of model. Think outside the box on how to fund them through community resources. | 10/12/2019 5:16 PM |
| 57 | The limited opening hours have caused me to leave the Sapphire Aquatic Centre gym to a 24 hour facility in Merimbula. Also, lap swimmers are the lowest on the food chain. We get a go basically when noone else wants it. If hours were reduced i would do my swimming in bar beach like a lot of other disgruntled lap swimmers. | 10/12/2019 2:33 PM |
| 58 | To be cost effective, pools needs to be utilised more. Shorter opening hours will not help with this. | 10/11/2019 12:00 PM |
| 59 | Reducing the hours means someone will miss often those people who are working. | 10/11/2019 9:50 AM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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|----|---|--------------------|
| 60 | The pools open too early in the year. I think a month or at least 2 weeks later would be better. I realise that the pool has covers and they help but if you look at the number of people that attend the pool early in the year it would be minimal. With 2 lifeguards this must be very expensive. | 10/10/2019 4:55 PM |
| 61 | Need more information on the impact this would have on public access | 10/10/2019 9:46 AM |
| 62 | the hours do not need to be so long | 10/10/2019 8:18 AM |
| 63 | I am not sure of the hours in all the pools, but the Sapphire aquatic centre hours are fine for us | 10/9/2019 9:42 PM |
| 64 | Because it would be a good strategy to reduce costs | 10/9/2019 4:20 PM |
| 65 | So that it doesn't cost myself and other people that don't use the facilities | 10/9/2019 4:03 PM |
| 66 | Perhaps start the season later and extend over the April holidays as still warm. | 10/9/2019 1:27 PM |
| 67 | I work full time and appreciate the convenience of longer hours | 10/9/2019 7:33 AM |
| 68 | At certain times of the year this might be achievable. Closing a pool for one weekday may work. In actual fact I think night swimming could be very popular over the summer ie an increase in hrs on some days. What about split shifts when attendances are low? | 10/8/2019 6:35 PM |
| 69 | Council should support the Pambula centre and apply for state funding for Bega (as with Batemans Bay) | 10/8/2019 7:56 AM |
| 70 | For the value that pools provide, I believe staffing cuts could be made elsewhere to keep the current opening hours. | 10/7/2019 9:32 PM |
| 71 | Sapphire aquatic is our local pool and it's opening hours serve our family's needs well enough. | 10/7/2019 8:56 PM |
| 72 | I am unsure if that is likely to change the operating costs in a significant enough way, and I think this would have to occur in consultation with each local pool's community. | 10/7/2019 11:25 AM |
| 73 | The pools obviously need to be managed better | 10/7/2019 9:03 AM |
| 74 | Close Cobargo and Bemboka problem solved | 10/6/2019 4:19 PM |
| 75 | Really! How serious is council. Reduce the number of pools not the opening hours. Maintenance costs are the same regardless of the hours they are open. | 10/6/2019 3:39 PM |
| 76 | It is of no consequence as I do not use the pool | 10/6/2019 10:28 AM |
| 77 | Pools are a very valuable asset for communities and the more access to them the better. | 10/6/2019 8:43 AM |
| 78 | People love going to the pools. People like to swim after work hours. | 10/5/2019 3:49 PM |
| 79 | During school hours very quiet, so maybe be open-early morning-after school-late arvo during Summer and holidays during day | 10/5/2019 3:43 PM |
| 80 | if reducing the hours is down in a productive way-split day hours | 10/5/2019 3:39 PM |
| 81 | It would depend on operation hours | 10/5/2019 3:35 PM |
| 82 | The range of open-hours directly corresponds to our usage. | 10/5/2019 3:32 PM |
| 83 | Operates these current schedules to meet swimming squads lessons & other purposes needs | 10/5/2019 3:01 PM |
| 84 | You have to be realistic in management. | 10/5/2019 2:57 PM |
| 85 | Bega operational hours cover a range of options for people in different careers. Could be improved if open later on really HOT!! Days. And continue into school holidays. | 10/5/2019 2:53 PM |
| 86 | -impact on school use or individual use depending on which hours are reduced (Bega) -areas with low pool populations could reduce hours-dependent on community need | 10/5/2019 2:40 PM |
| 87 | Important to be able to fit all needs in kids, squad, adult laps need the hours | 10/5/2019 2:31 PM |
| 88 | I think the pools probably open too early in the morning and the season runs too long. We have a wonderful group of volunteers in the local area and I think they should be brought in to staff the pools. Public pools could also be staffed/maintained by those who have job seeking requirements/obligations through Centrelink. | 10/5/2019 2:05 PM |
| 89 | In candelo it can still be high 30's or 40+ degrees at closing time. We need relief from the dry heat. I'd rather it open a little later | 10/5/2019 11:42 AM |
| 90 | Anything to reduce the cost to ratepayers | 10/4/2019 11:36 PM |
| 91 | Depends on the amount of reduced hours | 10/4/2019 5:28 PM |
| 92 | Because this doesn't affect me | 10/4/2019 4:46 PM |
| 93 | If it saves the ratepayers money I'm all for it | 10/4/2019 3:54 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

| | | |
|-----|--|--------------------|
| 94 | same as above | 10/4/2019 3:27 PM |
| 95 | Because it will save me money | 10/4/2019 2:56 PM |
| 96 | due to full time work, swimming after work and weekends is all I can do. | 10/4/2019 2:02 PM |
| 97 | UNSURE | 10/4/2019 1:58 PM |
| 98 | Manage costs with the BVSC budgets. | 10/4/2019 1:55 PM |
| 99 | The recent reduction of hours to Candelo pool on weekends (ie shutting at 4)-means you have to swim in the hottest part of the day when UV is highest. I personally value the chance to do early morning lap swimming before work. | 10/4/2019 1:44 PM |
| 100 | Not sure how this would affect me | 10/4/2019 1:25 PM |
| 101 | I would like them open for longer periods of the year | 10/4/2019 12:52 PM |
| 102 | Better 3 pools fully open than 6 with reduced opening | 10/4/2019 12:48 PM |
| 103 | As stated above. Bemboka Pool is rarely open as it is. | 10/3/2019 9:32 PM |
| 104 | I realise the economic tension that the Council faces but there are many other reasons for maintaining current opening times. | 10/3/2019 9:10 PM |
| 105 | Because I don't know the current hours and you have provided no info on proposed changes. Therefore, it's impossible to be anything but unsure. | 10/3/2019 8:07 PM |
| 106 | It's extremely important to the community to have access to the facility. Decreased hours limits the access. The more people that are able to use it, the more income it will be creating. | 10/3/2019 7:10 PM |
| 107 | Have no idea how much would be saved. | 10/3/2019 6:38 PM |
| 108 | The opening hours aren't too extravagant at the moment | 10/3/2019 5:42 PM |
| 109 | Still believe it should not happen | 10/3/2019 5:33 PM |
| 110 | it doesn't affect me as we don't use them | 10/3/2019 5:23 PM |
| 111 | See above close all pools bar Bega and Pambula | 10/3/2019 1:52 PM |
| 112 | Most people, with whom I spoke at Pambula Pool, said that they are flexible. | 10/3/2019 12:32 PM |
| 113 | That's just a poor thought and not supporting of the community | 10/3/2019 7:07 AM |
| 114 | Not sure it will make enough of a difference. | 10/2/2019 10:33 PM |
| 115 | Council has managed the pools for years there is no reason for this changing. | 10/2/2019 9:00 PM |
| 116 | For the reasons I have stated in answer 14 above. | 10/2/2019 7:48 PM |
| 117 | If your going to have this greta asset utilise them as much as possible | 10/2/2019 6:05 PM |
| 118 | Depends how much they are cut back | 10/2/2019 4:33 PM |
| 119 | Rate payers mostly work and need to use facilities after work | 10/2/2019 3:18 PM |
| 120 | Because I'm unsure. | 10/2/2019 2:29 PM |
| 121 | If that's what it takes! Or perhaps stop wasting money on artwork that nobody wanted! | 10/2/2019 2:18 PM |
| 122 | Better to have fewer hours and an open pool | 10/2/2019 1:05 PM |
| 123 | If it saves money then reduce the hours | 10/2/2019 11:37 AM |
| 124 | It's realistic | 10/2/2019 11:18 AM |
| 125 | But only If it made a significant difference to the cost of running the pools . Some times of the day are rather quiet at the pool which is really suitable for older folk doing fitness and exercise. | 10/2/2019 10:55 AM |
| 126 | We utilise the current opening hours | 10/2/2019 10:47 AM |
| 127 | Surely this could be adjusted to match the needs of the communities. It would be easy to see that operating 7 days a week in October is over kill, maybe part time operations and school group afternoon opening in November?? | 10/2/2019 8:25 AM |
| 128 | It would depend again how this would effect Eden. Would we suffer to keep other pools open? | 10/2/2019 8:15 AM |
| 129 | Have no comment on this | 10/2/2019 8:11 AM |
| 130 | Paid rates for years and my whole family have rarely used any of them. 2 heated pools for year round use and teach to swim. BEGA and Pambula. 20 minutes to most schools. | 10/2/2019 7:58 AM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 131 | Reducing the operating hours just puts people off swimming. It's frustrating turning up for a swim only to find the pool closed | 10/2/2019 7:46 AM |
| 132 | The owners work as hard as they can as long as they can and are always booked out. If you reduce hours, more children miss out on swimming lessons. | 10/2/2019 7:08 AM |
| 133 | Bemboka has very restricted opening hours already ie I work in Bega and find it very difficult to access the pool because of the restricted opening times. | 10/2/2019 6:58 AM |
| 134 | Why would we reduce hours of entry after upgrades.....make it worth while spending that amount of money so that hours can be utilised effectively... | 10/1/2019 11:48 PM |
| 135 | Pools should be accessible to all in the community | 10/1/2019 10:54 PM |
| 136 | Better option | 10/1/2019 10:50 PM |
| 137 | I don't have the data but pools like all assets should be open if they are being used. If they have no one using them then alternative opening hours may be an option. | 10/1/2019 10:12 PM |
| 138 | Cut the hours, cut the staff and save money that way! Don't touch my rates you already rip us off for what we get | 10/1/2019 9:56 PM |
| 139 | The outdoor pools can stay closed in winter that should save money. Sapphire aquatic centre should stay open all year round. | 10/1/2019 9:15 PM |
| 140 | If its targeted to peak usage times then saving a few dollars is a great idea. Not in favour if we have to pay a levy and have reduced hours. | 10/1/2019 9:09 PM |
| 141 | Cutting back hours will only hurt oeople in wanting to attend the pool. | 10/1/2019 9:03 PM |
| 142 | Why have pools if they are not available all the time? | 10/1/2019 8:15 PM |
| 143 | Well who wants to go to the pool middle of the day midweek ?? Have restricted hours if that is what it takes to keep them opened | 10/1/2019 8:01 PM |
| 144 | Schools need to be consulted in this so sports programs can run. Need early and late times for workers and training sessions. | 10/1/2019 7:34 PM |
| 145 | For smaller pools (Candelo/Bemboka/Cobargo) Usage before business hours (6-9) and after school hours for families (3 - 7) & selected hours for school swimming sessions on week days. Weekend days 10-6 | 10/1/2019 7:20 PM |
| 146 | Depends on how reduced the opening hours are . The more people that use the pool , the more income it generates | 10/1/2019 6:16 PM |
| 147 | Open less time less time to use the pool I work 7am to 4pm can't take the kids if it closed at 5pm | 10/1/2019 6:03 PM |
| 148 | It's not ideal but is better than them being closed. | 10/1/2019 5:41 PM |
| 149 | I'm not sure how the finances work | 10/1/2019 5:26 PM |
| 150 | I like being able to attend when I want to swim. How does restricting opening times manage pool upkeep? How have you allowed this community resource to run down to such a state where we are threatened with closure? | 10/1/2019 5:18 PM |
| 151 | If not I'm use majority of the time on certain hours seems a good solution but may need more detail and exactly what this looks like and is equitable | 10/1/2019 4:58 PM |
| 152 | As per my reply to Q.14 | 10/1/2019 4:14 PM |
| 153 | I work so the best time for me to swim is in the morning or of an evening. I also enjoy swimming later on a weekend. | 10/1/2019 10:35 AM |
| 154 | We often like to use the pool early or late..before and/or after work. | 10/1/2019 9:00 AM |
| 155 | The pools should be able to support themselves | 10/1/2019 8:58 AM |
| 156 | Why bother opening it at all. Yeah blame the Bembokans anout whinging, but we have a point. Why are other pools opened longer, and why we pay full price the same but less hours opened! | 10/1/2019 12:08 AM |
| 157 | We have too many pools for our population Reduce the amount of assets and improve half the pools to great facilities | 9/30/2019 10:21 PM |
| 158 | Bega pool is pretty full for the hours it is open. Other pools need seriously consideration into opening hours. | 9/30/2019 6:47 PM |
| 159 | why not | 9/30/2019 5:34 PM |
| 160 | it is important to having them open as much as possible | 9/30/2019 3:24 PM |
| 161 | Keep costs down and relieve rate payers of burden for community | 9/30/2019 3:21 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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|-----|---|--------------------|
| 162 | If this is the only option and the majority of responders do not accept a rate increase then this is a sensible option | 9/30/2019 3:19 PM |
| 163 | If it means keeping the pool open for users then work out hours that suit the relevant users and go from there | 9/30/2019 2:51 PM |
| 164 | Bega is only open 5 months a year. This is a disadvantage to local competitive swimmers and pool patrons. Bega is packed out over the season. Why not extend the season? | 9/30/2019 2:44 PM |
| 165 | I don't think that the cost of operating the pools are the problem it's the maintenance. Surely there are council workers to assist with this | 9/30/2019 1:59 PM |
| 166 | Costs are contained by rationalising the number of pools | 9/30/2019 11:08 AM |
| 167 | They are already reduced hours | 9/30/2019 9:22 AM |
| 168 | How will the opening hours be managed and will it depend on who is using it most at the most convenient times? | 9/30/2019 9:19 AM |
| 169 | The Bega pool is already only open 6mth of the year and opening hours need to be flexible for workers as well as school groups and squads | 9/30/2019 9:04 AM |
| 170 | Anything is better than slugging rate payers with higher rates. | 9/30/2019 8:54 AM |
| 171 | I regularly use the local BEGA pool when the lanes are available for lap swimming. Unfortunately due to the large number of private lessons in the pool I find it difficult use the pool based on the current available hours, if the hours were reduced this would be very impacting on myself and I'm sure, other members of the community who wish to swim laps in the "council pool". | 9/30/2019 5:43 AM |
| 172 | We pay a membership.. Opening hours are fine as they are for our local pool. | 9/29/2019 11:04 PM |
| 173 | I depends what the opening hours would be. | 9/29/2019 4:53 PM |
| 174 | A better plan would be to close down the pools which don't pay their way. | 9/29/2019 4:05 PM |
| 175 | A stupid question, what, reduce by how many hours, days? | 9/29/2019 12:18 PM |
| 176 | Reduced hours equals reduced costs | 9/28/2019 9:09 AM |
| 177 | They need to be reliably available or people won't get there | 9/28/2019 8:21 AM |
| 178 | i do not use any of the shire pools | 9/27/2019 8:08 PM |
| 179 | Will never use it | 9/27/2019 7:38 PM |
| 180 | If the pool is open people can use it. Perhaps activities can be planned to attract more people at slow times of the day. | 9/27/2019 3:50 PM |
| 181 | Because logic dictates that you don't open the pool when general use is low. | 9/27/2019 3:33 PM |
| 182 | I don't use the pools. | 9/27/2019 2:31 PM |
| 183 | My support for reducing opening hours would be dependent on what was proposed, whether it would reduce access options for myself and for other important community groups including children learning to swim, sports/ fitness groups, and other regular users | 9/27/2019 11:00 AM |
| 184 | Because I do not use the pools | 9/27/2019 7:50 AM |
| 185 | Reducing hours does not reduce the time it takes to run a pool, it still needs to be maintained 24 hours a day regardless of whether people use it or not. Water quality and hygiene still need to be managed even when the pool is closed, which is turn means they still age at the same rate as they are now. | 9/27/2019 7:11 AM |
| 186 | You should try to make the pools self funded. Cutting costs is one option. | 9/26/2019 8:47 PM |
| 187 | save staff costs | 9/26/2019 10:57 AM |
| 188 | They have already been decreased. | 9/25/2019 7:12 PM |
| 189 | I believe hours have already been reduced enough and hours need to be reasonable to allow users to fit in use out of work/school hours etc. | 9/25/2019 7:06 PM |
| 190 | Already limited hours open last summer | 9/25/2019 4:59 PM |
| 191 | not sure of the impact on those that do use | 9/25/2019 2:28 PM |
| 192 | The rate payers already contribute significantly for the upkeep of the pools. Further revenue needs to come by reducing costs and user pays. | 9/25/2019 9:38 AM |
| 193 | Bemboka pool hours are good as they are. Cutting back reduces flexibility of attendance for patrons. | 9/25/2019 5:29 AM |

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| 194 | Our pool hours have already been greatly reduced in bemboka. | 9/24/2019 11:01 PM |
| 195 | Our hours got reduced last year and it was very inconvenient | 9/24/2019 10:20 PM |
| 196 | I'm not sure of the current hours for all pools, however consultation with the main users would be needed to ensure they are open for training, those who want to use them before and after work etc | 9/24/2019 9:52 PM |
| 197 | The Bemboka pool has limited opening hours already! | 9/24/2019 9:47 PM |
| 198 | Depends on the hour reduction. Close earlier or open later?? Would need to make sure each pool knew it's peak times so you don't reduce the number of people using it | 9/24/2019 9:38 PM |
| 199 | im not a part of this as I wont be party to the decision of pool operating hrs as this is a decision made by the uses and the trainers | 9/24/2019 8:24 PM |
| 200 | My local pool bemboka is only open for a few hours in the holidays as well. Mostly starting at 11-2 but it would be better for hours to be longer as more people would be able to actually go to the pool after school like when it was owned by the locals it was open from 10-6 and even later some times that's when the pool would get profit aswell | 9/24/2019 7:10 PM |
| 201 | Based on figures supplied re usage | 9/24/2019 5:43 PM |
| 202 | Why would you want to close them earlier , less money opportunities and less community involvement, humans are creatures of habit keep them coming at a set time and then they will keep coming and if you change times or stop it they won't start back up again. | 9/24/2019 5:27 PM |
| 203 | Different pools can be opened at different hours. | 9/24/2019 12:10 AM |
| 204 | we need to manage costs , in the real world all budgets have limitations | 9/23/2019 11:54 PM |
| 205 | That sounds like an interesting idea. Remembering that you are providing community jobs. Perhaps look at a mother running the pool, as there are lots of women out of work in the valley and it could be there perfect job, or a collective of mother's on rotation so they can all have access to work and fill in if they or kids are sick. | 9/23/2019 10:26 PM |
| 206 | When my children were young the pool would close just before school holidays plus it's no good have a pool if it's closed all the time. I realise we can't contr the weather | 9/23/2019 6:08 PM |
| 207 | Because I think the pools could be open longer | 9/23/2019 5:19 PM |
| 208 | If it helps keep costs within limits it would be worth it! | 9/23/2019 4:08 PM |
| 209 | I'll support what is necessary to ensure the pool doesn't close. | 9/23/2019 3:57 PM |
| 210 | Depends on the local community's requirements and usage. | 9/23/2019 3:06 PM |
| 211 | Far more choice of times available make it easier to use the pools | 9/23/2019 3:00 PM |
| 212 | Far more choice of times available make it easier to use the pool | 9/23/2019 2:58 PM |
| 213 | Swimming is essential to my mental & physical health and there are only 4 lanes in our pool which limits the times you can go when swim squad/learn to swim are not on | 9/23/2019 2:55 PM |
| 214 | Because we use this at all hours of the day through the week | 9/23/2019 2:49 PM |
| 215 | As long as they were kept open in the school holidays and on weekends, and after school in the summer, maybe some restricted hours would be okay | 9/23/2019 2:47 PM |
| 216 | I do not support that at all for our pool (Cobargo) | 9/23/2019 2:46 PM |
| 217 | not sure of the impact | 9/23/2019 2:42 PM |
| 218 | Children in area need it and Elderly. Need more programmes/exercises etc. to get greater participation/attendance | 9/23/2019 2:06 PM |
| 219 | We rather see an increase in opening the pool by one additional month to April. This is a very busy month, being the Easter month. | 9/23/2019 2:01 PM |
| 220 | Because they are limited in opening hours already | 9/23/2019 1:55 PM |
| 221 | short opening season as it is | 9/23/2019 1:51 PM |
| 222 | People have different routines and limited time to access the pools | 9/23/2019 1:47 PM |
| 223 | DO NOT KNOW THE OPENING HOURS | 9/23/2019 1:32 PM |
| 224 | Depends on what the reductions would be | 9/23/2019 10:46 AM |
| 225 | Our swimming classes are full throughout the week. Jim is outstanding in Cobargo always trying to meet community needs. | 9/22/2019 9:31 PM |

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| 226 | Need to know more details about reduced opening hours. | 9/22/2019 8:31 PM |
| 227 | Because we do not use the pools. | 9/21/2019 11:57 AM |
| 228 | Need to do what is best | 9/20/2019 12:57 PM |
| 229 | Why have the asset in the first place then? | 9/20/2019 12:55 PM |
| 230 | People who swim or for health and exercise need pools to open early and late so they can swim before and after work. The way they do in the city. | 9/20/2019 10:04 AM |
| 231 | don't use them | 9/20/2019 9:08 AM |
| 232 | If council can't run services properly due to funding issues they need to work out why themselves. We barely get essential services as is. No hard waste for people with no trailer etc | 9/19/2019 9:36 PM |
| 233 | Access to pools at different times cater for different needs. I'd like to see the pools open more into the evening for film nights etc | 9/19/2019 9:21 PM |
| 234 | Residents can't afford expensive rates...they end paying more rates and spending less in the local economy. | 9/19/2019 7:06 PM |
| 235 | The pool is open from October to March, the hot months | 9/19/2019 6:31 PM |
| 236 | Why not | 9/19/2019 8:15 AM |
| 237 | I don't want an increase in rates | 9/19/2019 7:41 AM |
| 238 | How is having it open less going to make them more \$\$\$ viable - unless your planning the shuttages from 11-2pm during the hottest part of the day for skin cancer reasons | 9/18/2019 8:26 PM |
| 239 | I think this would depend on patronage. The more popular pools could stay open longer and the outlying ones have shorter hours. | 9/18/2019 8:15 PM |
| 240 | We pay enough to keep our facilities. If the money can't be managed better maybe we need a new lot of councillors | 9/18/2019 7:52 PM |
| 241 | If a business if not running efficiently, opening houses are a sacrifice they must make to make it efficient rather than expecting rate payers to cover costs | 9/18/2019 7:51 PM |
| 242 | No doubt all pools in shire are used by some people but surely annual usage could be easily gauged by Council to decide this point. | 9/18/2019 5:54 PM |
| 243 | I think a special variation is unfair to residents who do not use your pools | 9/18/2019 4:49 PM |
| 244 | Depending on hours of operation | 9/18/2019 3:57 PM |
| 245 | I think maybe a slight decrease in hours over winter but definitely not summer. I like that the pool is open 7days a week and after 5pm, this gives people who work full time the option to go after work or on the weekend. I like it's opened on Sunday and wouldn't like it this changed. | 9/18/2019 2:57 PM |
| 246 | Cobargo pool has limited opening hours already, | 9/18/2019 2:19 PM |
| 247 | I think that the opening hours should be made flexible to suit patrons and weather. Possibly opening into the night on weekends and early in the mornings on weekdays for fitness and training to suit workers. | 9/18/2019 12:08 PM |
| 248 | If it reduces cost why not | 9/18/2019 11:46 AM |
| 249 | If this keeps my family costs down then this may do it | 9/18/2019 11:31 AM |
| 250 | really??? these pools are community assets that we already pay rates for | 9/18/2019 11:24 AM |
| 251 | If costs are an issue then they need to be managed by reducing costs or raising user fees. | 9/18/2019 11:13 AM |
| 252 | Because it doesnt concern me what hours the pools are open | 9/18/2019 10:58 AM |
| 253 | don't use the pools | 9/18/2019 10:19 AM |
| 254 | I value the flexibility of hours at the eden pool. | 9/18/2019 9:47 AM |
| 255 | Not open long enough now | 9/18/2019 9:18 AM |
| 256 | Im a pensioner and I just don't need a rate increase | 9/18/2019 9:08 AM |
| 257 | If council cannot afford to keep the pools open at current hours, they should only open them for the hours they can afford. | 9/18/2019 8:44 AM |
| 258 | All people should have access to public pools and times one can go to swim varies with work and school commitments | 9/18/2019 8:25 AM |
| 259 | Cut hours to save money, not increase rates | 9/17/2019 10:40 PM |

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| 260 | Again, if we can't afford to keep all six pools running we shouldn't. | 9/17/2019 10:30 PM |
| 261 | If that is a way to achieve council's goal without increasing rates, then I would support it. | 9/17/2019 10:08 PM |
| 262 | Because the hours that the pools are open now are based on experience and demonstrated need. Cutting costs by reducing hours is an inadequate response to the requirements to fund the continued maintenance and improvements of the pools. | 9/17/2019 8:21 PM |
| 263 | Do not use | 9/17/2019 7:00 PM |
| 264 | Users of pools more relevant | 9/17/2019 5:29 PM |
| 265 | Patronage is lower in various seasons. Cost effective principles should be applied as per standard business responsibility | 9/17/2019 4:51 PM |
| 266 | I use the pool 5 days a week. | 9/17/2019 4:23 PM |
| 267 | see above | 9/17/2019 3:46 PM |
| 268 | I rarely use the pool | 9/17/2019 3:41 PM |
| 269 | Reduce cost to rate-payers. | 9/17/2019 2:52 PM |
| 270 | Depends on when and how many opening hours would be reduced. | 9/17/2019 2:48 PM |
| 271 | I never use public pools | 9/17/2019 1:55 PM |
| 272 | What does the data show ? How can this question be answered so simply ? | 9/17/2019 1:48 PM |
| 273 | I don't want to pay any more rates. Already exorbitant with a number of previous special rate variations applied. | 9/17/2019 1:24 PM |
| 274 | Cost is my primary driver | 9/17/2019 1:04 PM |
| 275 | YOU ARE TRYING TO SCREW THE OAP ONCE AGAIN . I WILL NOT PAY THIS PROPOSED LEVY EVER . | 9/17/2019 1:01 PM |
| 276 | Reducing hours only makes it more difficult to increase the usage. I'm very unlikely to purchase a season pass if the pool is closed when I want to use it. | 9/16/2019 11:24 PM |
| 277 | Presumably the times that could save the most staff cost would be the times that most working families would want to use the pools ie weekends | 9/16/2019 10:51 PM |
| 278 | I feel that most of the outdoor pools don't need to open at 6 | 9/16/2019 10:38 PM |
| 279 | Because the pool is not open late in the evening or at night when it is hot and that is when my family likes to swim that is why we put the pool in, in the first place so cutting hours does not matter to me,But I don't want the rates to go up any more. | 9/16/2019 9:52 PM |
| 280 | Working people like to swim too. | 9/16/2019 7:28 PM |
| 281 | Because I don't use them so the hours of operation don't affect me at all | 9/16/2019 7:16 PM |
| 282 | There are people who work non standard hours - how is it fair to them as a rate payer that there rates go up but accessibility reduces?? | 9/16/2019 5:24 PM |
| 283 | I'm unsure... | 9/16/2019 5:12 PM |
| 284 | The opening hours are already cut back, and after school work times are ideal to visit. | 9/16/2019 3:59 PM |
| 285 | I think that shorter opening hours will reduce the number of patrons coming through the gate. Less people can make it as they might have other commitments during pool opening hours. It would be better to have smart opening hours to accommodate various groups in the community. A few hours in the early morning, one or two hours before school finishes, a couple of hours after school for school kids and families. | 9/16/2019 2:18 PM |
| 286 | Bemboka pool is already limited in opening hours. | 9/16/2019 1:08 PM |
| 287 | Don't use the pool | 9/16/2019 12:29 PM |
| 288 | I don't know the most used times. And I'd like the pools to be as available to the community as possible. | 9/16/2019 12:28 PM |
| 289 | Because I'm not sure what the proposed opening hours are for this season. I know they were reduced already last season. | 9/16/2019 10:50 AM |
| 290 | Bemboka pool is not used all day. A session for seniors and preschoolers then after school for kids would be good. | 9/16/2019 9:50 AM |
| 291 | Why?? I have spend years growing up swimming at cobargo pool and still hold state records for my swimming I think you will just kill any local talent within the area | 9/16/2019 9:11 AM |

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| 292 | Pool is not open at the right times now. | 9/16/2019 8:36 AM |
| 293 | Depends on times | 9/16/2019 7:37 AM |
| 294 | this is blanket statement and doesn't mention which pools are being considered to have their opening hours reduced - some pools already have reduced hours and services and that model has utterly failed local communities - will these be reduced even more? | 9/16/2019 7:15 AM |
| 295 | If people are paying more money for less access, it defeats the whole purpose. | 9/16/2019 5:31 AM |
| 296 | Work out better ways to make the pools viable instead of cutting things back. Get some serious funding from State and Federal governments! | 9/16/2019 12:46 AM |
| 297 | Swimming is an essential life skill and if hours were reduced, it could affect people's ability to learn to swim. | 9/15/2019 9:52 PM |
| 298 | Pool has already got reduced opening hours. | 9/15/2019 9:21 PM |
| 299 | I think the bega pool should have longer opening hours through the week. | 9/15/2019 9:00 PM |
| 300 | it would be good for the pools to be open when they are most needed, before/after school, school holidays, weekends and public holidays | 9/15/2019 8:00 PM |
| 301 | Would need to know if this again impacts the viability of the pool, Having a pool open for only 2 hrs a day is no good if no one uses it. | 9/15/2019 7:53 PM |
| 302 | better to have | 9/15/2019 7:06 PM |
| 303 | Our hours are already only 4 hours a day, so I would not be in favor of reducing them further. | 9/15/2019 6:04 PM |
| 304 | I have asked some questions the last 2 weeks and to better manage costs, council should get income from the leased pools. It is the biggest rip off to ratepayers that council pay all running costs for the pools, pay the lessees and the lessees pay no rent, and they put all the cash from the entries, season passes and swimming lessons in their pockets. They charge for spectators which is so wrong, it stops grandparents taking kids to the pool. Now the council wants rate payers to cough up. How could a council have a contract inplace that gives two people a six month workplace and endless cash and no expenses, shame on BVSC | 9/15/2019 1:29 PM |
| 305 | I have flexibility in when I attend. | 9/15/2019 9:03 AM |
| 306 | Because the pools should be open for the people to use for all the reasons I mentioned above. | 9/15/2019 8:02 AM |
| 307 | We pay high rates so we need something for our community | 9/14/2019 10:04 PM |
| 308 | Because it's a sensible option. | 9/14/2019 8:09 PM |
| 309 | The pool must pay for itself.If the pool runs at a loss increase the cost of use to those who use it. | 9/14/2019 8:05 PM |
| 310 | Do all six pools require to be open everyday??? | 9/14/2019 7:05 PM |
| 311 | If opening hours arw shorter and school swimming is between 9.30 and 3.30 there is very little time for lap swimming | 9/14/2019 5:13 PM |
| 312 | The longer hours the pool is open, the more money it would make. People who work may enjoy attending the facilities in the evenings. | 9/14/2019 4:41 PM |
| 313 | Pools are used by different groups at different times of the day and should be available at all times. Cutting our pool hours is not an option. | 9/14/2019 3:51 PM |
| 314 | to keep entry costs affordable | 9/14/2019 1:46 PM |
| 315 | You need to look at who uses the pools when and why, as everyone have different needs. | 9/14/2019 1:11 PM |
| 316 | People have six pools to choose from in this Shire | 9/14/2019 11:15 AM |
| 317 | Depends on the detail | 9/14/2019 11:03 AM |
| 318 | Reducing hrs open would reduce ability of 9 to 5 workers access during the week. | 9/14/2019 8:33 AM |
| 319 | Depends on the hours. It does seem there is less use in the middle of the day. Lap swimmers like mornings. Kids need afternoons. | 9/14/2019 8:11 AM |
| 320 | Reducing the opening hours would be if it some but not all | 9/14/2019 1:09 AM |
| 321 | I like to swim laps, so off-peak hours are important. | 9/14/2019 1:02 AM |
| 322 | Depends what the reduction was specifically. | 9/13/2019 11:27 PM |
| 323 | Rescued pool numbers should see reduced expense. | 9/13/2019 11:21 PM |
| 324 | If it will help, sure | 9/13/2019 11:11 PM |

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| 325 | Economic reality - we need to be efficient | 9/13/2019 10:31 PM |
| 326 | Pools have to be open to cater for the vastly differing working hours of BVSC residents in the emerging gig economy.. We don't all have the luxury of the traditional 9-5 jobs. | 9/13/2019 9:42 PM |
| 327 | If that helps reduce costs. Open during peak heat of day. | 9/13/2019 9:10 PM |
| 328 | I only swim at the pool at Cobargo. The Narooma pool hours do not accommodate for workers . | 9/13/2019 8:16 PM |
| 329 | I swim at 6:00am because it suits my working hours. I would not buy an annual membership if I could not swim at that time. | 9/13/2019 7:55 PM |
| 330 | Obvious reasons | 9/13/2019 7:43 PM |
| 331 | It would depend on what the hours look like | 9/13/2019 7:32 PM |
| 332 | Outdoor pools are only needed to be open in hot months, not all year round. | 9/13/2019 7:00 PM |
| 333 | Why reduce the hours! How's that going to work??? | 9/13/2019 6:55 PM |
| 334 | How can the reduction of open hrs reduce the cost of operation????? Aren't the filtration systems and chemicals used going to be similar??? No proffer in the reports given at all. It appears the reports have been compiled over 4 years and a summary couldn't be given, really. Some much for all the justifications. Very disappointing summary yet we are expected to pay a 11% increase, really. | 9/13/2019 6:37 PM |
| 335 | I think the hours as they stand suit the different age groups | 9/13/2019 6:36 PM |
| 336 | It's hard to cater for everyone | 9/13/2019 6:28 PM |
| 337 | get some volunteers | 9/13/2019 6:19 PM |
| 338 | I believe the pools should be open longer in summer, even into the evening. Hold family events to encourage families to come pool. | 9/13/2019 6:06 PM |
| 339 | Cobargo pool is only open minimal hours anyway | 9/13/2019 5:31 PM |
| 340 | Because the pools need to be open to be used! | 9/13/2019 5:30 PM |
| 341 | Not sure of the financial impact/ savings this would offer without more specific information. | 9/13/2019 5:28 PM |
| 342 | Pool use needs to be available at different times so that a range of people in the community can have access. | 9/13/2019 4:59 PM |
| 343 | i dont use the pool early in mornibg but i know the squad kids do | 9/13/2019 4:19 PM |
| 344 | We need the pools open as long as possible | 9/13/2019 4:09 PM |
| 345 | As I am retired I could work around reduced hours, but I'm not sure how it would affect others. | 9/13/2019 4:06 PM |
| 346 | would like to see a proposal, and surely the cost to maintain a clean pool would remain basically the same so cutting the hours of operation would mainly impact on the amount of revenue bought in | 9/13/2019 3:57 PM |
| 347 | Because I would rather that then having to pay higher rates. | 9/13/2019 3:00 PM |
| 348 | This is a BVSC RATE payer asset. Visitation to local pools should be seriously looked at. Why are people not using the facility? what can be done to increase visitation, what can be done to subsidise the cost to the rate payer, appropriate staff to manage the facility - ie someone who likes people, likes seeing lots of community activity, wants to see our pools kept open etc etc. | 9/13/2019 2:31 PM |
| 349 | Cause I would like to see what is being offered | 9/13/2019 12:55 PM |
| 350 | The hours in Eden are cut back already and it's pathetic. Maybe if they drop the entry fees people would go there | 9/13/2019 12:54 PM |
| 351 | It's OK here as it is | 9/13/2019 12:23 PM |
| 352 | As it is the Bega pool closes early on weekend evenings in summer when families would have used the facility to help their children cool down before bed. May be they need to look at closing during the day when there are less people using the facility and open early for people before work and after school and work. | 9/13/2019 11:32 AM |
| 353 | The hours at Eden pool have already been reduced | 9/13/2019 11:31 AM |
| 354 | I see possibilities for better management elsewhere than in the reduction of the opening hours. | 9/13/2019 10:48 AM |
| 355 | Maybe do like a split shift system? Open early 5-11. Break then reopen 3-8? | 9/13/2019 9:57 AM |
| 356 | No information | 9/13/2019 9:40 AM |
| 357 | Eden already runs on reduced hours and feel it would stop further use for community. | 9/13/2019 9:24 AM |

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| 358 | I do not believe closing public pools is the way to save money in our community. We need the Coargo pool for Bermi kids learning to swim, for their safety. | 9/13/2019 8:48 AM |
| 359 | The opening hours are already sporadic and if you work, it's is hard to even find time to visit the pools when they are open. Candelo has to close for a lunch break which is terribly inconvenient as a family to visit the pool in the middle of the day with children which is when families often want to get out and about. Surely reduced operating hours will further limit people's usage of the pools. | 9/13/2019 8:45 AM |
| 360 | Only open so many months | 9/13/2019 8:41 AM |
| 361 | Its still hot in the afternoons during summer, | 9/13/2019 7:55 AM |
| 362 | Depends on your client base numbers. | 9/13/2019 7:55 AM |
| 363 | Some pool hours are already quite restricted. They need to accommodate for all the community. | 9/13/2019 7:48 AM |
| 364 | This has been trialed in EDEN. This works so long as it is open for working people early in the morning or later in the afternoon but has been difficult for school students to use as it then was closed on the school sports days when school needed to use. Maybe if they kept it open all day on day Wednesday's (high school sports day) and weekends. Liaise with schools as this was not done last time limited opening hours were implemented. | 9/13/2019 7:46 AM |
| 365 | I think it's important for health and education to keep all pools open due to the size of the shire. | 9/13/2019 7:42 AM |
| 366 | I want increased hours not reduced. | 9/13/2019 7:41 AM |
| 367 | Because better than closing them down completely | 9/13/2019 7:24 AM |
| 368 | I'd have to know details | 9/13/2019 7:24 AM |
| 369 | Our opportunities are already so limited in a rural town, it would be dire to go more backwards. | 9/13/2019 7:08 AM |
| 370 | Have council pay lifesavers to run pool instead of contracting out and council would receive all profits | 9/13/2019 12:16 AM |
| 371 | The pool hours are already low compared to pools in other areas of NSW and Victoria I am familiar with. | 9/12/2019 10:08 PM |
| 372 | Not sure of the difference it would make? | 9/12/2019 8:46 PM |
| 373 | This has already been in place at Bemboka so I wouldn't want any more reduced hours! | 9/12/2019 5:03 PM |
| 374 | If the facility is going to be provided it should be available to all. Not everyone can attend during business hours. | 9/12/2019 1:27 PM |
| 375 | Pools should be kept open as long as possible, especially during very hot weather | 9/12/2019 1:03 PM |
| 376 | My children use the pool for squad (early morning) personal enjoyment and swim club weekly, and SASC events held at other pools in the shire. Reducing the opening hours reduces their "Kids active health and wellbeing", it will reduce numbers in our very large swim club group as older children will lose interest increasing our already very limited youth activities in this shire or force family to drive outside the shire to continue their commitment to swimming (funding other shires with better facilities) | 9/12/2019 11:14 AM |
| 377 | Nobody uses them that's why you want to raise our rates | 9/12/2019 11:05 AM |
| 378 | You could incorporate costs to Memberships who utilise the earlier opening hours at SAQ. As a family, we generally only visit the pool on a weekend, late morning or early afternoon (within "reasonable" hours). | 9/12/2019 10:09 AM |
| 379 | The pools are already not open enough. Eden is the most decent pool and was only open 10-5 over summer on weekends. I would go swim 5-7km and get so sunburnt as this is the peak of the day. You need to be open more hours or different hours, e.g early and late. Need to increase visitation to cover costs not reduce hours. Pay all the money for the facility to be there and then its not open half the time. Feel like the pools are targeted towards novelty swimmers and kids for playing. You can make the most money and most visitation from habitual swimmers and squads who would train morning and afternoons around work/school. Shohuld be giving people in the area the opportunity that people would have in citys to excel in sport and have greater access to pool facilities more of the year. Squads would train all year in a heated pool like the Bega one. | 9/12/2019 9:47 AM |
| 380 | Eden have already tried this. It makes it difficult when you live out of town and want to use the pool-trying to factor swimming laps into your other jobs while in town or just wanting to cool off on a hot windy day when the beach isn't that pleasant. Unless you ring first you can find it closed, opening late, full of school kids etc. consistent daily hours is much more likely to attract regular users | 9/12/2019 8:10 AM |

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| 381 | Because the pool should be run to accommodate the town not open at 11am and then tell patrons the pool closing for lunch then the kids have to go and come back after lunch and pay again | 9/12/2019 7:56 AM |
| 382 | Our pool is already only open 6 months of yr why would I want it closed more | 9/12/2019 5:42 AM |
| 383 | Because we don't benefit that much from. councils expenditure and or rates are costly as it is. | 9/12/2019 1:38 AM |
| 384 | See last comment. Bega pool is already really inaccessible for working residents | 9/11/2019 11:08 PM |
| 385 | Some people can only get to the pool in the early morning or late afternoon | 9/11/2019 10:27 PM |
| 386 | There are already limitations on opening hours that prevent me having greater use. To reduce them more would mean I was even less able to use the pool as the current opening hours do not suit my available time. | 9/11/2019 10:04 PM |
| 387 | Our pools hours are already reduced | 9/11/2019 9:53 PM |
| 388 | The pool already has short opening hours | 9/11/2019 9:46 PM |
| 389 | A survey of operating hours and history of customer entry times should be reviewed. Why pay for pool management when most are at school or work? | 9/11/2019 9:35 PM |
| 390 | Don't use the pools | 9/11/2019 9:26 PM |
| 391 | Bemboka pool already has limited hours. | 9/11/2019 9:24 PM |
| 392 | I believe some pools could accommodate less hours where others need to be opened longer hours for example Bega Hours are great. Early and late | 9/11/2019 9:11 PM |
| 393 | Our pool opening hours are convenient and provide what is needed by the community | 9/11/2019 8:04 PM |
| 394 | I don't use pools | 9/11/2019 8:03 PM |
| 395 | I am not in a position to know how reducing opening hours would impact on the community other than myself. Or how it would impact the livelihood of the management. | 9/11/2019 7:42 PM |
| 396 | If it makes my rates stay as they are I'm happy | 9/11/2019 7:07 PM |
| 397 | Not enough knowledge of current operating hours | 9/11/2019 7:02 PM |
| 398 | As long as its not Bemboka. We have nothing else to occupy the kids.. | 9/11/2019 7:00 PM |
| 399 | If u decrease opening hours u decrease the people that will swim I finish work at 5.30 pools closed by time I get home at least I can swim with family on weekends | 9/11/2019 6:35 PM |
| 400 | I think the pools close too early on Summer afternoons as it is, particularly weekends. | 9/11/2019 6:27 PM |
| 401 | We use Cobargo before opening for squad and swimming club | 9/11/2019 6:24 PM |
| 402 | Because it's seasonal any way! Hours are already limited!!! | 9/11/2019 6:07 PM |
| 403 | Reducing service levels will only serve to reduce patronage, while doing nothing to attract an increase in patronage. It is a false economy. | 9/11/2019 4:58 PM |
| 404 | not sure what do you mean about reducing hours. it depends on the times whether i would reduce my usage... i work full time so have limited availability as it is. i found this an ambiguous question | 9/11/2019 3:26 PM |
| 405 | Maybe a volunteer group could assist with opening hours. | 9/11/2019 11:48 AM |
| 406 | Pool opening hours are already limited they should be extended especially for the price the public have to pay to use them | 9/11/2019 7:35 AM |
| 407 | I don't want to pay more in rates | 9/11/2019 6:54 AM |
| 408 | Candelo Pool hours are currently insufficient. In summer it is boiling hot and light well into the evening. It would be nice to have picnic dinners around the pool, it should close at 8pm on weekends. It should also be open for a longer period throughout the year, as the temperature is rising and it is hotter for longer periods of time. | 9/10/2019 9:27 PM |
| 409 | Is it going to be all pools? Or only the ones in the more needed areas (Cobargo, Bega, Candelo and Bemboka) These areas need these service. Shut Pambula if they want it open extra hours get them to pay. | 9/10/2019 8:10 PM |
| 410 | Don't believe that is the solution | 9/10/2019 7:08 PM |
| 411 | Depending on the the season obviously summer holidays should be extended. | 9/10/2019 3:50 PM |
| 412 | We make use of the pool before and after work hours | 9/10/2019 3:39 PM |

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| 413 | By reducing the opening hours you will impact the private contractors. Not to mention the accessibility of pools to everybody | 9/10/2019 3:35 PM |
| 414 | We hardly have many opening hours now in Bemboka | 9/10/2019 3:15 PM |
| 415 | In smaller towns maybe but definitely not in bega where the pool is well utilised and often too busy to attend in peak hrs for lap swimming | 9/10/2019 2:22 PM |
| 416 | That would be a waste of resources and make people search for alternatives | 9/10/2019 1:44 PM |
| 417 | It would prohibit people being able to use the pool before & after work/ school etc. | 9/10/2019 12:30 PM |
| 418 | I don't use the pool so the hours it is open doesn't make any difference to me | 9/10/2019 12:28 PM |
| 419 | would like to have consultation first | 9/10/2019 12:27 PM |
| 420 | The use of the asset needs to grow. Other strategies to increase its function such as marketing and co located fitness session e.g. gym, yoga, minigrid base, community library. | 9/10/2019 11:33 AM |
| 421 | Swimming pools should be considered asa community service to promote the health and well-being of us all. They need to be accessible and affordable - that means options opening times and inexpensive entry. | 9/10/2019 7:49 AM |
| 422 | I think pool hours would be better suited to weekends for families and evenings during the week for people that work. School groups etc. that wish to use the pool during the day can book and pay for restricted time slots and days in order to use the pool. | 9/9/2019 8:35 PM |
| 423 | As above | 9/9/2019 7:31 PM |
| 424 | Less use | 9/9/2019 6:48 PM |
| 425 | It would not impact me. | 9/9/2019 6:26 PM |
| 426 | Early mornings and later afternoons suit lap swimmers and therefore better meet the needs of all pool users. | 9/9/2019 5:27 PM |
| 427 | I think that pools should be largely funded by the users of pools. If the users of pool can't fund pools then why should the broader community. | 9/9/2019 5:14 PM |
| 428 | Not fair on pool operator if that means closing during part of the day (split shift) or reducing their opportunity to make sales from shop. | 9/9/2019 2:47 PM |
| 429 | Because I don't know if that strategy would work | 9/9/2019 12:45 PM |
| 430 | THE HOURS MAKE NO DIFFERENCE TO ME. IF YOU HAD ONLY ONE POOL IN THE AREA (IE. BEGA) IT COULD DO EXTENDED HOURS (MORNINGS AND EVENINGS). WE ONLY NEED ONE POOL. | 9/9/2019 12:14 PM |
| 431 | Anything to stop increasing our rates | 9/9/2019 12:05 PM |
| 432 | If we only had a few key pools there would be no need to reduce the opening hours to better manage costs for operating the pools. | 9/9/2019 10:59 AM |
| 433 | Bemboka Pool is already restricted to minimum hours and this already makes it more difficult for me to utilise it. | 9/9/2019 10:47 AM |
| 434 | I would not support reduced operating hours at the regional pools (Bega & Pambula) however understand this would be likely at the other pools | 9/9/2019 9:20 AM |
| 435 | for certain pools this could potentially work | 9/9/2019 9:13 AM |
| 436 | Because proper management is obviously wiser then just charging more. | 9/9/2019 1:59 AM |
| 437 | Eden pool already has reduced hours | 9/8/2019 9:41 PM |
| 438 | The hours at bemboka pool are already reduced. Do not reduce them anymore | 9/8/2019 8:22 PM |
| 439 | Working parents and school children need the later times to attend the pool for swimming and classes | 9/8/2019 8:11 PM |
| 440 | Hours were reduced last year so often when we had time to go to the pool in the afternoon it would be closed. | 9/8/2019 6:33 PM |
| 441 | I like the hours they are now | 9/8/2019 6:30 PM |
| 442 | Time constraints with shift work and overcrowding if hours are reduced | 9/8/2019 6:17 PM |
| 443 | The Bega pool is only open 6 months of the year as it is which is putting our competitive swimmers at a distinct disadvantage. | 9/8/2019 6:01 PM |
| 444 | Reducing Bega pool's operating hours will increase congestion at the pool. Reduce the hours at pools that are not well attended eg Bemboka. | 9/8/2019 5:39 PM |

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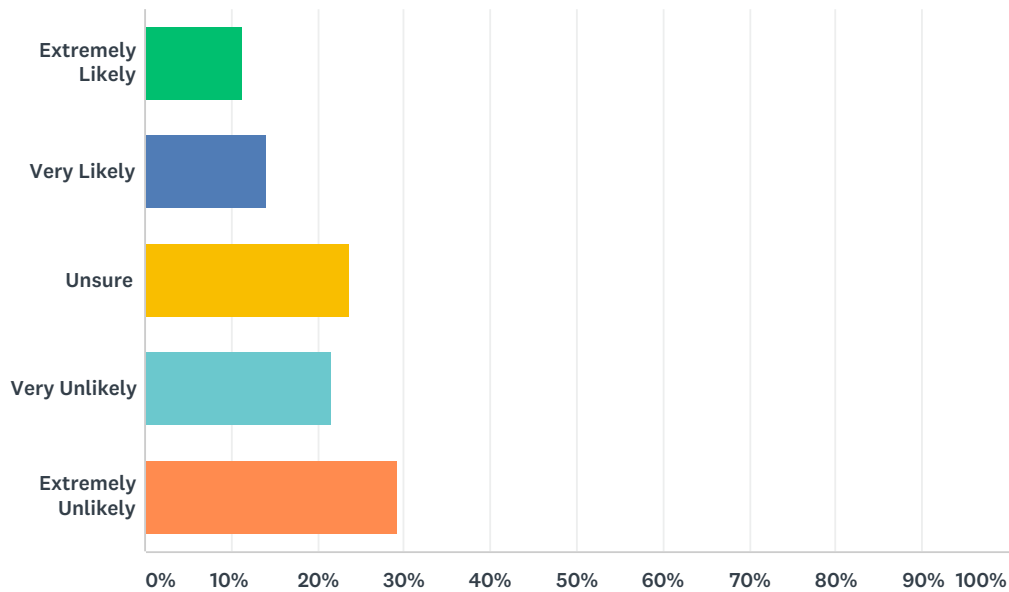
| | | |
|-----|--|-------------------|
| 445 | See question 14 | 9/8/2019 10:37 AM |
| 446 | As I said before I don't want to loose our pool ,,so what ever it takes to keep it ,I would be happy to go along with. | 9/8/2019 9:43 AM |
| 447 | Limiting opening hours may save on wages and running costs but it presents as inflexible and limiting to people's schedules. Opening time restrictions ultimately reduces casual patronage which may see visitor numbers reduced. If anything, particularly in summer, families don't want the pool closed at 6pm they want the option to turn up after work and dinner at say 8:30pm. Why not adopt the city approach and try a 24hr or late venue opening operation. Be accommodating to all areas of the market ie. shift workers, truck drivers and the like. Cater to your demographic. | 9/8/2019 9:02 AM |
| 448 | Anything to help | 9/8/2019 8:22 AM |
| 449 | Why are council not managing the funds in a more efficient way | 9/8/2019 7:59 AM |
| 450 | As someone that works shift work, it is imperative the pools remain open for hours outside the 9-5 times | 9/7/2019 10:44 PM |
| 451 | The pools should be open when people will most use them. Long opening hours cater for working people. | 9/7/2019 10:40 PM |
| 452 | Sometimes it's nice to swim after work in summer. | 9/7/2019 9:26 PM |
| 453 | The public needs options. | 9/7/2019 7:12 PM |
| 454 | The pool hours are already extremely poor in eden. Maybe other pools there is room for that but it has already been reduced so much in Eden. At Sapphire Aquatic Centre the pool already closes too early to bring a family there after school. | 9/7/2019 4:10 PM |
| 455 | If this reduces cost then yes, as long as it is open for schools and learn to swim programs. | 9/7/2019 3:24 PM |
| 456 | Don't use them so irrelevant | 9/7/2019 1:10 PM |
| 457 | I don't know what the current hours are. | 9/7/2019 12:45 PM |
| 458 | The opening hours if anything should be extended | 9/7/2019 10:52 AM |
| 459 | I go to Narooma pool because the other pools are either terrible or too far away. | 9/7/2019 10:02 AM |
| 460 | They are hardly open as it is!! | 9/7/2019 8:44 AM |
| 461 | Because I think you should just leave the opening hours alone | 9/7/2019 8:28 AM |
| 462 | Bemboka pool isn't open long enough as it is! | 9/7/2019 12:29 AM |
| 463 | a backward step; people cant go if the gates not open ; we need to make the pools more attractive & accessible | 9/7/2019 12:17 AM |
| 464 | Why should our tax money be wasted if these facilities are making such huge losses. I'd rather have clean water at home, that council still can't manage. | 9/7/2019 12:12 AM |
| 465 | Who on earth came up with this ridiculous question? Reducing hours certainly would NOT manage costs to a beneficial degree. Do they not know basic economics? Logic is definitely not their strongest point. | 9/7/2019 12:07 AM |
| 466 | My children train at SAC before school every day as well as one afternoon after school and Saturday mornings. They also train all school holidays. Once the Eden pool is open they will also recommence swim club and extra afternoon training sessions in the 50m pool which is essential to their training. If the opening hours are reduced this could severely compromise their preparation for important meets and training schedule. | 9/6/2019 11:10 PM |
| 467 | It doesn't remove the need for renewing and maintaining the expensive infrastructure. | 9/6/2019 10:47 PM |
| 468 | See And at 14 | 9/6/2019 9:49 PM |
| 469 | Close pools in smaller centres and save money. | 9/6/2019 8:44 PM |
| 470 | If you need to reduce costs perhaps Pambula needs to close when quiet | 9/6/2019 8:29 PM |
| 471 | Depends on which pool. It does not make sense to open some pools that have a low patronage. It would be cheaper for the council to bus the school kids from these pools to other pools to have their learn to swim lessons. | 9/6/2019 7:30 PM |
| 472 | I'm not sure when ask 6 pools are open. It is important to have time for various groups. After school is very busy in Bega with lessons and squad. | 9/6/2019 6:00 PM |
| 473 | I believe with climate change Council should be looking at extending pool hours to allow families to have places to go to cool off. Similarly, if pools were open for more extended periods it would assist our obesity problems. | 9/6/2019 5:40 PM |

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| 474 | I think the pools, specifically the Bega pool, is not open long enough as it is and has already reduced its weekend hours compared with about five years ago. | 9/6/2019 4:07 PM |
| 475 | As above | 9/6/2019 3:57 PM |
| 476 | My only time I have available is early in the morning or at lunch times. | 9/6/2019 3:05 PM |
| 477 | We get very limited hours as is in bemboka | 9/6/2019 2:57 PM |
| 478 | No use having things open when not many using. | 9/6/2019 2:20 PM |
| 479 | The opening hours of SAC in particular are convenient for those who use it. | 9/6/2019 2:00 PM |
| 480 | The Eden pool increased the opening time to 6am two days and a lot of people used it. Shutting in the pool in the middle of the day is detrimental to schools trying to use the facility. Perhaps if the pools were open longer to allow for more people to access at a time that suits them council would see an increase in usage and thus a reason to maintain all six pools. | 9/6/2019 1:59 PM |
| 481 | Reducing the operating hours will not reduce the cost of maintenance required to keep the pools open. The assets themselves are what need the funding not additional staffing wages. | 9/6/2019 1:39 PM |
| 482 | It is the operating hours that make it useable for me, I swim every morning before work. | 9/6/2019 12:46 PM |
| 483 | IF community pays for the asset - keep it open for as much/long as possible | 9/6/2019 12:41 PM |
| 484 | opening pools only during peak hours in order to reduce operating costs could be an effective strategy. | 9/6/2019 12:36 PM |
| 485 | The hours are already somewhat restricted. | 9/6/2019 12:28 PM |
| 486 | No sure if people want this service we should be prepared to pay for it. It part of living in a community | 9/6/2019 12:25 PM |
| 487 | I do not think it is sustainable to have 6 pools across the shire and Council should focus on say 3 pools and do them really well | 9/6/2019 12:19 PM |
| 488 | Because I don't use them | 9/6/2019 12:19 PM |
| 489 | Bega Poo; is only open half a year, this already reduces that time | 9/6/2019 12:14 PM |
| 490 | Depends on location. I would not want the hours at the Eden pool to be cut. | 9/6/2019 12:14 PM |
| 491 | because we need to have the pool open longer then we have now | 9/6/2019 12:06 PM |
| 492 | People will not come. we need people through the gate. and if it is closed they will just not use it | 9/6/2019 12:05 PM |
| 493 | Bemboka pool is only open 4 hours a day now. How much further could it be reduced? | 9/6/2019 11:42 AM |
| 494 | Bemboka Pool is only open for reduced hours already community wants to extend hours! | 9/6/2019 11:41 AM |

Q17 How likely would you be to support reducing the season length to better manage costs for operating the pools?

Answered: 611 Skipped: 48



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----|
| Extremely Likely | 11.29% | 69 |
| Very Likely | 14.08% | 86 |
| Unsure | 23.73% | 145 |
| Very Unlikely | 21.60% | 132 |
| Extremely Unlikely | 29.30% | 179 |
| TOTAL | | 611 |

Q18 Why did you say this?

Answered: 446 Skipped: 213

| # | RESPONSES | DATE |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Seasons are shifting as the planet warms science communicates this, I listen and I have noticed the changes | 10/22/2019 2:35 PM |
| 2 | refer to my response in Q16. And I feel certain that our summers are becoming long and hotter. In fact, the science supports this. | 10/22/2019 2:01 PM |
| 3 | Would need more info re: length of season & amount of usage logged for previous seasons | 10/21/2019 2:04 PM |
| 4 | Its an alternative that seems to be fair | 10/21/2019 1:53 PM |
| 5 | not likely | 10/21/2019 1:45 PM |
| 6 | What is council planning to do to better manage costs if the season is reduced | 10/21/2019 1:38 PM |
| 7 | We don't need new pools just need maintaining and open enough time to make it worthwhile | 10/21/2019 1:34 PM |
| 8 | keeping the pools open can offer surf lifesavers more time to get and stay swim fit. Those training for competitions want access to swimming when they need it. Pools offer a safe environment for developing bodies to train their muscles and then future visits to the beaches may be more enjoyable as they are swim fit. | 10/20/2019 11:18 PM |
| 9 | I'm not sure how much Pool numbers vary over the season. the | 10/20/2019 9:12 PM |
| 10 | people who use swimming training facilities need to have access to be swim fit for a range of activities eg surf patrol, competitive swimming, & healthy lifestyle. | 10/20/2019 7:56 PM |
| 11 | As above | 10/19/2019 3:34 PM |
| 12 | User Pays | 10/19/2019 8:50 AM |
| 13 | As previously stated | 10/18/2019 6:54 PM |
| 14 | See above answer | 10/18/2019 1:02 PM |
| 15 | Present season length reflects required a period for swimming clubs and other groups to complete the activities they have. Carnivals, training and social events. The surf clubs also use the facility to train the members. | 10/18/2019 11:25 AM |
| 16 | Personally not affect me . Disturbing to think kids not being able to learn how to swim . | 10/17/2019 9:02 PM |
| 17 | same as above...customise locaality times | 10/17/2019 8:46 PM |
| 18 | Pools should be a priority for social, family and health reasons | 10/17/2019 5:51 PM |
| 19 | As above | 10/17/2019 5:09 PM |
| 20 | I try to swim for the full length of the current season. | 10/17/2019 2:25 PM |
| 21 | You what use for pool | 10/17/2019 10:02 AM |
| 22 | As per previous answer | 10/17/2019 5:33 AM |
| 23 | Because I don't want my rates to go up | 10/16/2019 10:13 PM |
| 24 | other people say it is not open long enuf. | 10/16/2019 9:24 PM |
| 25 | Feel pools close a few weeks to early already | 10/16/2019 9:14 PM |
| 26 | Same as previous answer. | 10/16/2019 8:39 PM |
| 27 | A waste of money if not used by locals. Visitors access pools in hotels and van parks and come here for our beaches. | 10/16/2019 8:01 PM |
| 28 | Which pool is costing the most | 10/16/2019 6:13 PM |
| 29 | to bring the cost down & the users pay | 10/16/2019 5:30 PM |
| 30 | With variable climate, this could impact on early seasonal closure when weather warrants continued opening days. | 10/16/2019 5:13 PM |
| 31 | Little point in having outdoor pools operating in cold weather | 10/16/2019 2:39 PM |
| 32 | The season lengths suit me now. | 10/16/2019 11:43 AM |

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| 33 | more hot days mean more people which means more money | 10/16/2019 10:53 AM |
| 34 | Irrelevant | 10/16/2019 9:39 AM |
| 35 | the season is already very short for competitive swimmers and older folk requiring appropriate exercise are already stuck with only being able to access local pools (SAC excepted) for 6 months of the year -- also - for competitive swimmers, the PSSA and All schools state carnivals already occur up to a month or more after our current season ends -- to cut the season shorter still would make participation in these completely impossible | 10/16/2019 8:49 AM |
| 36 | everyone will benefit from their local pools but having them closed will make people that plan to use the pool those day not able too | 10/16/2019 7:45 AM |
| 37 | Not applicable to me | 10/16/2019 7:41 AM |
| 38 | Children need extra time at these facilities | 10/16/2019 7:37 AM |
| 39 | As above | 10/16/2019 7:26 AM |
| 40 | Currently don't use the Cobargo pool due to distance in combination with it not being heated, but if necessary to remove SRV costs then agree | 10/15/2019 8:27 PM |
| 41 | If based on demand | 10/15/2019 8:09 PM |
| 42 | As above in Q16 | 10/15/2019 5:08 PM |
| 43 | If it's there use it. What options were considered for winters for outdoor pools? IE skate parks, fishing ponds. What are other Council's doing? | 10/15/2019 4:27 PM |
| 44 | See above | 10/15/2019 4:15 PM |
| 45 | 6 months is already a very short season | 10/14/2019 4:22 PM |
| 46 | See response to Q16 | 10/14/2019 4:17 PM |
| 47 | Reducing the season would be a direct saving | 10/14/2019 4:13 PM |
| 48 | It depends on the weather to me! | 10/13/2019 3:55 PM |
| 49 | Each season needs to be taken into consideration based on numbers | 10/13/2019 1:21 PM |
| 50 | IT MAKES SENSE! | 10/13/2019 1:15 PM |
| 51 | As above, don't understand ! | 10/12/2019 8:31 PM |
| 52 | If we want to keep the valuable asset that pools are, and many of our pools while old are quite charming and could remain embracing older style but hours that are more cost effective. My whole family grew up in a swimming club with swimming as our sport and we all now have gone for a swim for the rest of our lives. Its lifelong- swimming - it needs to be available but if curbing hours & days sometimes can assist then look at that but we expect you to do more for us by BVSC to stop wasting our money and then putting a hand out for more every year every decade it never stops if you were a private enterprise you would have to make it work without more out of your pocket. | 10/12/2019 5:16 PM |
| 53 | Yes, except Sapphire Aquatic Centre. | 10/12/2019 2:33 PM |
| 54 | Again, this defeats the purpose. You end up having to pay more for maintenance in the long term. | 10/11/2019 12:00 PM |
| 55 | I suspect they're short enough as it is. | 10/11/2019 11:15 AM |
| 56 | They are not open that long now. | 10/11/2019 9:50 AM |
| 57 | As above, too cool in October to get much swimming in. If the squad wants it open maybe the pool could be open for them when they want to train. | 10/10/2019 4:55 PM |
| 58 | Need more information on the impact this would have on public access | 10/10/2019 9:46 AM |
| 59 | The seasons are short enough | 10/10/2019 8:18 AM |
| 60 | I think with global warming and higher temperatures for a longer period each year we will need to leave them open for longer over summer. We are headed for longer heat waves every summer. With higher fuel prices people living away from the beach will want to use the inland pools more and more. | 10/9/2019 9:42 PM |
| 61 | Because the aquatic centre is open all year if u are that keen | 10/9/2019 4:20 PM |
| 62 | So that it doesn't cost myself and other people that don't use the facilities | 10/9/2019 4:03 PM |
| 63 | refer to above | 10/9/2019 1:27 PM |

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| 64 | It's fairly short anyway, the only pool open all year round is the sapphire complex. For the others a later opening eg November would be ok for me | 10/8/2019 6:35 PM |
| 65 | you can't square the circle that way | 10/8/2019 7:56 AM |
| 66 | Because my family use pools primarily for health & fitness and a reduced season reduces opportunity to get our preferred exercise. | 10/7/2019 9:32 PM |
| 67 | Everyone in the community deserves equal access to swimming pools. | 10/7/2019 8:56 PM |
| 68 | I understand the logic behind opening hours, but I think the season pass holders who use the pool for sporting purposes need a long a season as possible, especially as other sporting seasons finish during the summer. | 10/7/2019 11:25 AM |
| 69 | Our pool is open all year anyway and it's important for learning to swim. | 10/7/2019 9:03 AM |
| 70 | As above it's just common sense to close Cobargo and Bemboka. both locals have very small populations it does not add up. As for the next question below. There seems to be a funnelling of effect in play in relation to the answers most for this questionnaire. Why is there no box asking why I have answered in the manner that I have? | 10/6/2019 4:19 PM |
| 71 | See above! | 10/6/2019 3:39 PM |
| 72 | It is of no consequence as i do not use the pool | 10/6/2019 10:28 AM |
| 73 | Pools are a very valuable asset for communities and the more access to them the better. | 10/6/2019 8:43 AM |
| 74 | Because we need to swim in the pool when it's hot. Quite often it is hot in late April etc. | 10/5/2019 3:49 PM |
| 75 | Already a short season but needs to be hours to suit after school. Late arvos on weekends. Close during day. | 10/5/2019 3:43 PM |
| 76 | Cut the season shorter. Drop March where numbers are down. | 10/5/2019 3:39 PM |
| 77 | More inclined to support an end of year extension | 10/5/2019 3:35 PM |
| 78 | The pools are excellent value for the length of time they are open. | 10/5/2019 3:32 PM |
| 79 | Like the way it is. | 10/5/2019 3:01 PM |
| 80 | Upgrades could lengthen the season | 10/5/2019 2:57 PM |
| 81 | Needs to be open in school holidays | 10/5/2019 2:53 PM |
| 82 | Bega-the pool we access is only open Spring & Summer-no reduction needed other pools in low population areas could be reduced | 10/5/2019 2:40 PM |
| 83 | Look into all year round pools | 10/5/2019 2:31 PM |
| 84 | It doesn't need to run so late in the year. The season could end in March some time. | 10/5/2019 2:05 PM |
| 85 | If statistics show that visitors aren't frequent in spring i would support opening in mid october | 10/5/2019 11:42 AM |
| 86 | See earlier comment | 10/4/2019 11:36 PM |
| 87 | For the same reason as 17 | 10/4/2019 4:46 PM |
| 88 | To save ratepayers money | 10/4/2019 3:54 PM |
| 89 | same as above | 10/4/2019 3:27 PM |
| 90 | once again it will save me money | 10/4/2019 2:56 PM |
| 91 | Happy to support anyway to keep them open | 10/4/2019 2:05 PM |
| 92 | I like to swim as much as I can. | 10/4/2019 2:02 PM |
| 93 | Meet school holidays | 10/4/2019 1:58 PM |
| 94 | Sometimes a bit cold at beginning of season esp for early morning swimming. But with climate change I'm sure we'll be wanting to cool off well into March. | 10/4/2019 1:44 PM |
| 95 | I use the pool for the full length of the existing season | 10/4/2019 1:25 PM |
| 96 | Short enough now-the shorter you run it the less likely to get enough revenue | 10/4/2019 1:08 PM |
| 97 | As before | 10/4/2019 12:52 PM |
| 98 | As previously-3 pools all year around | 10/4/2019 12:48 PM |
| 99 | As stated above. | 10/3/2019 9:32 PM |
| 100 | Weather is the key component to usage, other than at Pambula. With climate change affecting weather patterns hotter days are more likely. | 10/3/2019 9:10 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 101 | as above | 10/3/2019 8:07 PM |
| 102 | Really only need to be open during the warmer months. | 10/3/2019 6:38 PM |
| 103 | The season for the outdoor pools is already quite reasonable | 10/3/2019 5:42 PM |
| 104 | Doesn't affect me as I dont use them | 10/3/2019 5:23 PM |
| 105 | Reduce the amount pools to save money | 10/3/2019 1:52 PM |
| 106 | The pools are closed to much already | 10/3/2019 7:07 AM |
| 107 | As above no reason for council now to change infrastructure after maintaining pools for years. None are new. | 10/2/2019 9:00 PM |
| 108 | With climate change seasons are changing summer lingers, maybe extend the swimming season? | 10/2/2019 6:05 PM |
| 109 | Depends by how much | 10/2/2019 4:33 PM |
| 110 | It's getting hotter at both ends of the Seasons | 10/2/2019 3:18 PM |
| 111 | It's a long summer but is cold in December | 10/2/2019 2:29 PM |
| 112 | See Q17 | 10/2/2019 2:18 PM |
| 113 | The season is not long enough | 10/2/2019 1:05 PM |
| 114 | If it save money then reduce the season | 10/2/2019 11:37 AM |
| 115 | Also realistic | 10/2/2019 11:18 AM |
| 116 | Pool open season is short enough as it is. If anything a longer season would be desirable and another heated pool option for enhancing exercising capability for rehabilitation and exercise for the elderly and for babies and young people to maintain and consolidate their water safety training. it is too far to the heated pool at Pambula - from Cobargo over the winter. | 10/2/2019 10:55 AM |
| 117 | We utilise the current season opening times | 10/2/2019 10:47 AM |
| 118 | No comment on this either | 10/2/2019 8:11 AM |
| 119 | Reduce numbers of pools increase public transport in | 10/2/2019 7:58 AM |
| 120 | The season is short enough now!! | 10/2/2019 7:46 AM |
| 121 | It's already short enough not having it indoor for cooler months | 10/2/2019 7:08 AM |
| 122 | Longer opening season and times equal more people able to access the pool, more revenue and greater support. | 10/2/2019 6:58 AM |
| 123 | I dont agree with reducing the season.....where is the sense in that.....no these places are too important our children and adults need to be able to access a safe public pool..if as we keep hearing, climate change is the agenda its just getting hotter...why would we reduce access to a functional cooling meeting area | 10/1/2019 11:48 PM |
| 124 | Its already short. Bega town should have a year round pool. | 10/1/2019 11:33 PM |
| 125 | As above | 10/1/2019 10:54 PM |
| 126 | Better option | 10/1/2019 10:50 PM |
| 127 | If they are being utilised then they should remain open. | 10/1/2019 10:12 PM |
| 128 | Cut costs don't increase rates | 10/1/2019 9:56 PM |
| 129 | I would hope that the Sapphire Aquatic Centre would stay open all year round and maintain current opening hours | 10/1/2019 9:50 PM |
| 130 | Same as above, outdoor pools stay closed during winter and maybe beginning of spring end of autumn | 10/1/2019 9:15 PM |
| 131 | I thinkthe swimminh season is good. If people think that it weather affeted we should look at how to keep people coming in the shoulder season. | 10/1/2019 9:09 PM |
| 132 | Again trying to cut cost. Open it for longer. | 10/1/2019 9:03 PM |
| 133 | Season is too short already. Same reason you should consider building an Indoor Aquatic Centre in a Regional Centre such as Bega that can be used 12 months a year. | 10/1/2019 8:15 PM |
| 134 | I think you have the length of the season correct. | 10/1/2019 7:34 PM |
| 135 | Season is short enough. Would be happy to pay additional fees if season is extended due to weather conditions. | 10/1/2019 7:20 PM |

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| 136 | Put them all undercover and make them all year round | 10/1/2019 6:29 PM |
| 137 | It's not ideal but is better than them being closed. | 10/1/2019 5:41 PM |
| 138 | The pool in Eden isn't open enough as it is. | 10/1/2019 5:26 PM |
| 139 | The same reasons as above. Would you close the Recreational Grounds or parks for the same reasons? It does not make sense. | 10/1/2019 5:18 PM |
| 140 | As per my answer to Q.14 | 10/1/2019 4:14 PM |
| 141 | We should be focusing on increasing the swim season not decreasing it to make the most of the facilities given the capital cost to build them. | 10/1/2019 10:35 AM |
| 142 | I would love to see the pool season extend. | 10/1/2019 9:00 AM |
| 143 | Same as previous answer | 10/1/2019 8:58 AM |
| 144 | You already have reduced our hours , now you want to reduce the time frame! | 10/1/2019 12:08 AM |
| 145 | Promote the facility by extending hours not reducing And take back control It's very hard to swim at the BEGA pool as it is constantly full of swimming club lap swimmers I gave up trying to swim laps there as there was 1 lane available and I constantly got jumped on by kids playing | 9/30/2019 10:21 PM |
| 146 | There are better ways to reduce costs. The weather and swimming seasons will remain the same.....or get hotter!!! | 9/30/2019 6:47 PM |
| 147 | why not | 9/30/2019 5:34 PM |
| 148 | as per question 16 | 9/30/2019 3:21 PM |
| 149 | people who need rehabilitation or those who train for competition do not consider "seasonal" swimming | 9/30/2019 3:19 PM |
| 150 | I believe over the summer months the pools should be open longer and reduce the times for the cooler months | 9/30/2019 2:51 PM |
| 151 | It's still quite warm in April. Generate more revenue from extended seasons. | 9/30/2019 2:44 PM |
| 152 | I don't think that changing the season length would change management costs very much | 9/30/2019 1:59 PM |
| 153 | It's a limited season anyway | 9/30/2019 9:22 AM |
| 154 | As per previous answer.... | 9/30/2019 9:04 AM |
| 155 | Better than slugging rate payers. | 9/30/2019 8:54 AM |
| 156 | I feel that the season could easily be extended, definitely not reduced. | 9/30/2019 5:43 AM |
| 157 | Pambula pool is open 12 months. | 9/29/2019 11:04 PM |
| 158 | I'm not certain what the season length currently is as I dont use the pools. | 9/29/2019 4:53 PM |
| 159 | Same as above. Closure a better option. | 9/29/2019 4:05 PM |
| 160 | Another stupid question, refer to recent temperature due to climate issues. It is getting hotter. | 9/29/2019 12:18 PM |
| 161 | Reduced hours equals reduced costs | 9/28/2019 9:09 AM |
| 162 | Winter is when folk are more likely than need a pool for many purposes | 9/28/2019 8:21 AM |
| 163 | i do not use any of the shire pools | 9/27/2019 8:08 PM |
| 164 | Still never use it | 9/27/2019 7:38 PM |
| 165 | As above | 9/27/2019 3:50 PM |
| 166 | Because most of the pools are open air and presumably usage is lower in cooler months. | 9/27/2019 3:33 PM |
| 167 | I don't use the pools. | 9/27/2019 2:31 PM |
| 168 | It would appear that the weather impacts water temperature and that this in turn affects access and user numbers. Delaying the opening of the season may recognise the lower utilisation levels caused by weather. | 9/27/2019 11:00 AM |
| 169 | Because I do not use the pools and do not wish to pay for them at all | 9/27/2019 7:50 AM |
| 170 | As stated above, it makes no difference. | 9/27/2019 7:11 AM |
| 171 | You should try to make the pools self funded. Cutting costs is one option. | 9/26/2019 8:47 PM |
| 172 | depends on current demand | 9/26/2019 10:57 AM |
| 173 | It could be shorter , November to end February. | 9/25/2019 7:12 PM |

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| 174 | Personally not affected but swimming clubs probably need longest season possible for training etc. Personally only use on hot days but who can predict these? | 9/25/2019 7:06 PM |
| 175 | Monaro has a shorter season to combat both weather and costs | 9/25/2019 4:59 PM |
| 176 | surely in bega the outdoor pool is only open in summer | 9/25/2019 2:28 PM |
| 177 | Why have pools if they are closed when people might use them instead of going to the beach. | 9/25/2019 10:15 AM |
| 178 | The rate payers already contribute significantly for the upkeep of the pools. Further revenue needs to come by reducing costs and user pays. | 9/25/2019 9:38 AM |
| 179 | Pool needs to be open during warm season - that may start early or later - so open to changed pool hours. | 9/25/2019 5:29 AM |
| 180 | It already closes when it's still quite hot but maybe it could open a little later. | 9/24/2019 11:01 PM |
| 181 | Hmmm it's hot | 9/24/2019 10:20 PM |
| 182 | We have a limited season now, this reduces the period for those who wish to train to use them already | 9/24/2019 9:52 PM |
| 183 | If it's warm enough, the pool should be open. | 9/24/2019 9:47 PM |
| 184 | Planet is getting hotter probably needs to be open more | 9/24/2019 9:38 PM |
| 185 | same as above then why have them if its costing the community large sums of money for a small amount of population. other regions apply for grants for pools, why then is BVSC not applying for these to help with rural cost recovery and rebuilding and maintaining our community? | 9/24/2019 8:24 PM |
| 186 | The seasons already short enough | 9/24/2019 7:10 PM |
| 187 | I think they should be open longer | 9/24/2019 5:27 PM |
| 188 | Council should be promoting exercise in the shire. | 9/24/2019 12:10 AM |
| 189 | as above | 9/23/2019 11:54 PM |
| 190 | It's already too short on the winter end, it needs to go longer Into march . | 9/23/2019 10:26 PM |
| 191 | I feel the pools open too early and close to early in season | 9/23/2019 6:08 PM |
| 192 | The season is already too short | 9/23/2019 5:19 PM |
| 193 | The pools are opened and closed within only a short user period as it is any shorter and the polls would be very overcrowded! | 9/23/2019 4:08 PM |
| 194 | This really depends on the heat each summer really. Seems pointless having a pool closed when it's hot. | 9/23/2019 3:57 PM |
| 195 | Hotter season is itself extending. Cutting operating season seems anathema. | 9/23/2019 3:06 PM |
| 196 | Because I use it for the current 6 months | 9/23/2019 3:00 PM |
| 197 | It is short enough as it is - It should be longer not shorter | 9/23/2019 2:55 PM |
| 198 | The season seems so short as it is | 9/23/2019 2:49 PM |
| 199 | As above | 9/23/2019 2:47 PM |
| 200 | Would like an increase in the season | 9/23/2019 2:42 PM |
| 201 | Needs to be open longer, at least until after Easter | 9/23/2019 2:06 PM |
| 202 | Because of the restrictions in the season already | 9/23/2019 1:55 PM |
| 203 | Its already fairly short | 9/23/2019 1:51 PM |
| 204 | DO NOT KNOW THE SEASONS LENGTH | 9/23/2019 1:32 PM |
| 205 | Some pools don't need to open as early as they do as its still too cold | 9/23/2019 10:46 AM |
| 206 | Our kids need access to our pool to learn to swim. It serves a huge region. Bermi, Digmans, Wandella etc | 9/22/2019 9:31 PM |
| 207 | Because the rivers and oceans are open all year. | 9/21/2019 11:57 AM |
| 208 | Why have the asset in the first place then? | 9/20/2019 12:55 PM |
| 209 | The season needs to be longer, not shorter. I could have swim through April this year and now, in September, I am driving to Pambula. Not good for my petrol consumption, car use and the environment, waiting to swim more locally at the beginning of October. | 9/20/2019 10:04 AM |

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| 210 | Explained above | 9/19/2019 9:36 PM |
| 211 | October to March are the hot months | 9/19/2019 6:31 PM |
| 212 | Warm weather is warm weather | 9/19/2019 8:15 AM |
| 213 | As above | 9/19/2019 7:41 AM |
| 214 | Again - how having them closed earlier is going help with costs, do you want drownings in rivers etc to go up | 9/18/2019 8:26 PM |
| 215 | Same as questions 17 | 9/18/2019 7:52 PM |
| 216 | Anything that will help not increasing rates | 9/18/2019 5:54 PM |
| 217 | Again so people who do not partake in the use of pools do not get extra rates | 9/18/2019 4:49 PM |
| 218 | Water and air at beginning and end of seasons | 9/18/2019 3:57 PM |
| 219 | Cobargo pool has a very short season, which has even excluded the school holidays in spring. | 9/18/2019 2:19 PM |
| 220 | I think it should be relevant to weather and school holidays which could change on a yearly basis. | 9/18/2019 12:08 PM |
| 221 | If it reduces cost why not | 9/18/2019 11:46 AM |
| 222 | I cannot afford any more costs on my family | 9/18/2019 11:31 AM |
| 223 | the operating costs area separate issue to upgrading pools. Why not move some road or water & sewer funds to the pools as these areas have buckets of money. | 9/18/2019 11:24 AM |
| 224 | as above. | 9/18/2019 11:13 AM |
| 225 | It doesn't concern me | 9/18/2019 10:58 AM |
| 226 | The water in October has not had time to warm and pool is not well used during October. The weather is still often quite cool at this time of the year. Delaying opening would help a little with costs. | 9/18/2019 9:56 AM |
| 227 | too short now, and a covered pool would be a year round facility | 9/18/2019 9:18 AM |
| 228 | As above | 9/18/2019 9:08 AM |
| 229 | As above. | 9/18/2019 8:44 AM |
| 230 | same as question 16 | 9/17/2019 10:40 PM |
| 231 | If we can't afford to continue doing what we're doing it should be changed to what is affordable. | 9/17/2019 10:30 PM |
| 232 | Same answer as for question 16 | 9/17/2019 10:08 PM |
| 233 | It depends really. I think the smaller pools may have to accept reduced hours. But, Bega and Sapphire, Candelo need to stay open longer. More people use these I would think. | 9/17/2019 9:38 PM |
| 234 | See comments on previous question. | 9/17/2019 8:21 PM |
| 235 | Users of pools more relevant | 9/17/2019 5:29 PM |
| 236 | Patronage is lower in various seasons. Cost effective principles should be applied as per standard business responsibility | 9/17/2019 4:51 PM |
| 237 | As above | 9/17/2019 4:23 PM |
| 238 | see above | 9/17/2019 3:46 PM |
| 239 | Reduce cost to rate-payers | 9/17/2019 2:52 PM |
| 240 | Depends on which season and for how long. | 9/17/2019 2:48 PM |
| 241 | I never use public pools | 9/17/2019 1:55 PM |
| 242 | See above | 9/17/2019 1:48 PM |
| 243 | I don't want to pay any more rates. Already exorbitant with a number of previous special rate variations applied. | 9/17/2019 1:24 PM |
| 244 | If we have the facility and you want people to use it it needs to be available. The season is already short enough. Opening longer and encouraging more usage and participation with advertised activities and community events will benefit us all through a healthier community. | 9/16/2019 11:24 PM |
| 245 | To encourage usage and learning I feel the pools need to be open longer instead of shorter. People travel to Narooma pool in the Winter month's so that they can continue swimming year round so if there was a heated pool in the north of the shire that was open year round, i think it would be used more. | 9/16/2019 10:51 PM |

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| 246 | I don't believe that people who don't go to the pool should pay especially when they have a pool of there own with these costs | 9/16/2019 9:52 PM |
| 247 | If it's warm enough to swim, people want to swim. Not everyone likes the beach. | 9/16/2019 7:28 PM |
| 248 | Because I never use them it would make no difference | 9/16/2019 7:16 PM |
| 249 | Cobargo season is already reduced - how much further do you go?? | 9/16/2019 5:24 PM |
| 250 | Option worth considering, | 9/16/2019 5:12 PM |
| 251 | No its already only open seasonally | 9/16/2019 3:59 PM |
| 252 | In the past water temperatures were very low towards the start and the end of the season as the solar hot water was not working. So there were only a few people using the pool and it would have been sensible to reduce the season back then for cost saving reasons. Different story though if the water temperature is fine. I would expect that more people are keen to use the pool as long as water temperature and weather are fine. | 9/16/2019 2:18 PM |
| 253 | People in Bemboka , at a distance from the sea, need the pool open for as long as possible. | 9/16/2019 1:08 PM |
| 254 | Don't use the pool | 9/16/2019 12:29 PM |
| 255 | I'm always keen for the season to start so I can swim outdoors again. | 9/16/2019 12:28 PM |
| 256 | Early season the water is very cold. | 9/16/2019 9:50 AM |
| 257 | What land to you lot live in?? That isn't a very good business move not a way to make money that's for sure | 9/16/2019 9:11 AM |
| 258 | Pool closes too early for the season just before school holidays SERIOUSLY!! | 9/16/2019 8:36 AM |
| 259 | Should be open longer during the year | 9/16/2019 7:37 AM |
| 260 | the 5 pools open during summer season only already have a reduced season - the only pool to consider a reduction of season is SAC which is open all year (apart for a couple of weeks closed for maintenance) | 9/16/2019 7:15 AM |
| 261 | Same as previous question. | 9/16/2019 5:31 AM |
| 262 | As per above | 9/16/2019 12:46 AM |
| 263 | It is already too short, particularly for elite swimmers. | 9/15/2019 9:52 PM |
| 264 | Could possibly be reduced by 2 months, i.e. open from November to March, as water temperatures too low anyway. | 9/15/2019 9:21 PM |
| 265 | Season is already too short. | 9/15/2019 8:00 PM |
| 266 | See answer to Above, It sounds practical but no Numbers on what this really means | 9/15/2019 7:53 PM |
| 267 | I have enjoyed the seacon length we have previously had. | 9/15/2019 7:06 PM |
| 268 | Our pool is already only open 1/2 a year, and I wouldn't want it to be open less than that. | 9/15/2019 6:04 PM |
| 269 | The council should be operating all the pools and then there would be some money in the bank for new pools. I really hope the council operates the new Bega pool. | 9/15/2019 1:29 PM |
| 270 | Early November to late Feb is ok. I go to Narooma for a warmer pool through the cooler months. | 9/15/2019 9:03 AM |
| 271 | It should be open for the people. | 9/15/2019 8:02 AM |
| 272 | You need to provide service for your community | 9/14/2019 10:04 PM |
| 273 | Because the summer is short enough. | 9/14/2019 8:09 PM |
| 274 | As above.Increase the price of use. Do not increase rates. | 9/14/2019 8:05 PM |
| 275 | Not sure how much you're asking to reduce season by. | 9/14/2019 7:05 PM |
| 276 | Again, I would lose out on health benefits by shortening the season. It always takes me month to regain my fitness level and then the pool closes already. | 9/14/2019 5:13 PM |
| 277 | Depends mainly on the climate, no point in closing early if the warm weather persisted longer. | 9/14/2019 4:41 PM |
| 278 | Family currently swims all year and would like a pool to be available all year. We leave the shire and swim in Narooma for 6 months. Facilities up there supercede anything in Bega valley. Pambula pool is not accessible to everyone in the shire and is an unpleasant pool to swim at. Shorter season and reduced hours are NOT an option. Why is the community being punished for your inability to plan | 9/14/2019 3:51 PM |
| 279 | summer is enough | 9/14/2019 1:46 PM |

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| 280 | The climate is changing all the time, but if you keep to a certain time people usually are happy but you need to be consistent. | 9/14/2019 1:11 PM |
| 281 | This Shire is not in the Tropics | 9/14/2019 11:15 AM |
| 282 | Depends on the detail | 9/14/2019 11:03 AM |
| 283 | This would effect squad in smaller towns | 9/14/2019 8:33 AM |
| 284 | The climate is warming. The pools are being kept warm. I'd like to swim for as long a season as possible. | 9/14/2019 8:11 AM |
| 285 | The pool should be open for the same time but run differently | 9/14/2019 1:09 AM |
| 286 | Same reason as above. | 9/14/2019 1:02 AM |
| 287 | Depends on specifics. | 9/13/2019 11:27 PM |
| 288 | Upgrade Bega pool to all year like sapphire aquatic this shire has a north and south option. | 9/13/2019 11:21 PM |
| 289 | If it will help, sure | 9/13/2019 11:11 PM |
| 290 | It makes sense | 9/13/2019 10:31 PM |
| 291 | The rates increase would enable an extended opening season. | 9/13/2019 9:42 PM |
| 292 | My kids participate in swimming lessons, squad and Bega swimming club. They enjoy swimming. Reducing the season length would impact on their participation and development of swimming skills | 9/13/2019 9:27 PM |
| 293 | Anything that would stop the rates going up. | 9/13/2019 9:10 PM |
| 294 | The season is not long enough now. | 9/13/2019 8:16 PM |
| 295 | I only use the pool in summer | 9/13/2019 7:43 PM |
| 296 | As already mentioned Pambula pool is very practical during winter, however there is certainly a time during the year that perhaps this would make sense | 9/13/2019 7:32 PM |
| 297 | As above. | 9/13/2019 7:00 PM |
| 298 | The season isn't long enough now. | 9/13/2019 6:37 PM |
| 299 | Depends on the weather if it was heated under cover it could be used all year | 9/13/2019 6:36 PM |
| 300 | It should be increased use solar !! | 9/13/2019 6:28 PM |
| 301 | as above | 9/13/2019 6:19 PM |
| 302 | I am not sure what the season length is now, but I would love to see family events encouraged at pools. | 9/13/2019 6:06 PM |
| 303 | With hotter weather for longer periods the hours need to be extended. | 9/13/2019 5:31 PM |
| 304 | Put more things in place so pools can be used for longer | 9/13/2019 5:30 PM |
| 305 | When it's 'the season' i.e hot in Cobargo, we need the Pool open. | 9/13/2019 5:28 PM |
| 306 | An indoor pool needs to be available Year 'round. | 9/13/2019 4:59 PM |
| 307 | i think it is appropriate at the moment | 9/13/2019 4:19 PM |
| 308 | Competitive swimmers need pool open to train | 9/13/2019 4:09 PM |
| 309 | We already have long hot summers and they look like getting worse. We need to increase the season rather than reduce it. | 9/13/2019 4:06 PM |
| 310 | as above, if the pool is not being used it still needs to be maintained | 9/13/2019 3:57 PM |
| 311 | Because I would rather that then having to pay higher rates. | 9/13/2019 3:00 PM |
| 312 | Why have an asset like this and then reduce access to it? It just does not make sense. I think council should be looking at this from a completely different point of view - ie as a positive contribution to the health and well being of our communities. Its not all about money however these assets need to be more self supporting - possibly seek corporate sponsorship, government grants etc etc | 9/13/2019 2:31 PM |
| 313 | Cause now the Eden is heated it is lovely to be in there for the 6 months | 9/13/2019 12:55 PM |
| 314 | AS above | 9/13/2019 12:23 PM |
| 315 | If it prevents my rates being increased then I would support this. | 9/13/2019 11:32 AM |

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| 316 | I don't eat the season reduced in Eden. Council has to realise that some of the businesses it owns will run at a lose. | 9/13/2019 11:31 AM |
| 317 | Used all year | 9/13/2019 9:40 AM |
| 318 | Will it affect swimming club, yes. | 9/13/2019 9:24 AM |
| 319 | The Cobargo pool is only open for a short time, as it is. | 9/13/2019 8:48 AM |
| 320 | The season length down here doesn't even correlate with our weather patterns! It's rarely warm enough to visit when the pools open in October yet they close when the weather is still very warm! It would be very frustrating if the season ended sooner than it does not but probably wouldn't matter if the pools opened slightly later than they do already. | 9/13/2019 8:45 AM |
| 321 | Better to encourage more use not enforce less access | 9/13/2019 8:41 AM |
| 322 | It is already to short | 9/13/2019 8:26 AM |
| 323 | . | 9/13/2019 7:55 AM |
| 324 | Same as above | 9/13/2019 7:55 AM |
| 325 | As above. | 9/13/2019 7:48 AM |
| 326 | Our pool is already only open 6 months of the year. | 9/13/2019 7:46 AM |
| 327 | If we were to pay a levy, I would expect it open for the same length of time. | 9/13/2019 7:42 AM |
| 328 | Public need more opportunity to swim , not less. | 9/13/2019 7:41 AM |
| 329 | Season lengths are limited enough. Squads and elite swimmers deserve access to pools all year round. This is vital to their training requirements. | 9/13/2019 7:24 AM |
| 330 | The 6 month summer season is needed to stay in line with Swimming New South Wales calendar , as well as the school sport programs. | 9/13/2019 7:08 AM |
| 331 | upgrade to use pool for longer periods. | 9/13/2019 12:16 AM |
| 332 | If climate change is the be all for council then surely they can see we need the pools open longer ! | 9/12/2019 10:08 PM |
| 333 | Same response as 16 | 9/12/2019 8:46 PM |
| 334 | Depends on how long... opening slightly later might be feasible | 9/12/2019 5:03 PM |
| 335 | They are there to be used! | 9/12/2019 1:03 PM |
| 336 | the pool is already closed for 6 months of the year, why close it for longer in such warmer months swimming has such great benefits for a persons health and wellbeing, reducing the timeframe will only add to the lack of active people in our society. Recovery from injury or ongoing medical conditions that rely on water activities will cause people to either live in pain or again leave the shire to access other facilities and increasing the funding of neighbouring shire assets. | 9/12/2019 11:14 AM |
| 337 | As above | 9/12/2019 11:05 AM |
| 338 | Considering we live on the beach, the SAQ could be closed over the summer period. | 9/12/2019 10:09 AM |
| 339 | Again reducing the time the pool is open loses people, I would normally swim year round but have found other activities due to the lack of opening hours. if pools were open for longer you could have half season or full season passes (at a greater costs). | 9/12/2019 9:47 AM |
| 340 | Now that the pool in eden is heated it would be a shame to reduce the season length further. | 9/12/2019 8:10 AM |
| 341 | Because it better run as a quality pool for a short time than a poorly run pool for a long time | 9/12/2019 7:56 AM |
| 342 | Why don't u manage the spending on one of your pools better and spread that funding over the six pool. Pambula pool has with all its refixing has had its over share of our money . council maybe needs someone to look at managing their money over shire equal. | 9/12/2019 5:42 AM |
| 343 | It isn't reasonable to cut the hours | 9/12/2019 1:38 AM |
| 344 | See comments above.. I want more access not less | 9/11/2019 11:08 PM |
| 345 | The season was prescriptive yet there was warm weather after the season closed. The ski season is lengthened if weather conditions allow this to happen, so too should the swimming season. | 9/11/2019 10:04 PM |
| 346 | Perhaps open in November but increase the times the pool is open for. This would work. | 9/11/2019 9:53 PM |
| 347 | As the temperature cools it would be ideal to close if there are no customers. | 9/11/2019 9:35 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

| | | |
|-----|--|--------------------|
| 348 | Bemboka pool already had a limited season. | 9/11/2019 9:24 PM |
| 349 | Each pool could be assessed | 9/11/2019 9:11 PM |
| 350 | The season is a good length accommodating needs of swimming club and the weather | 9/11/2019 8:04 PM |
| 351 | I don't use pools | 9/11/2019 8:03 PM |
| 352 | Some people would be more likely to use a pool in summer, while others would use a heated pool in winter. Neither should be disadvantaged. | 9/11/2019 7:42 PM |
| 353 | Rates | 9/11/2019 7:07 PM |
| 354 | Having pools open during the season is highly desirable. | 9/11/2019 7:02 PM |
| 355 | We need Bemboka pool to incorporate the Easter holidays. | 9/11/2019 7:00 PM |
| 356 | If it was open longer people would still use it. | 9/11/2019 6:35 PM |
| 357 | I wish Cobargo opened 2 weeks earlier and closed after the Easter school holidays | 9/11/2019 6:24 PM |
| 358 | As before. | 9/11/2019 6:07 PM |
| 359 | See response to question 17. | 9/11/2019 4:58 PM |
| 360 | ? by how much? | 9/11/2019 3:26 PM |
| 361 | As above | 9/11/2019 7:35 AM |
| 362 | I don't want to pay more in rates | 9/11/2019 6:54 AM |
| 363 | As above! | 9/10/2019 9:27 PM |
| 364 | I would support a pay cut for the numb nuts that waste money on letting contract out for poor services and inconvenience (the road works around Bermagui, this survey in to pool usage which seems to be happening more often) May be council should look at way to stop the wastage at the top? | 9/10/2019 8:10 PM |
| 365 | A selection of pools should have a longer season...one winter pool in Pambula is not enough | 9/10/2019 7:08 PM |
| 366 | I'm unsure because there is no clear plan | 9/10/2019 3:50 PM |
| 367 | I think the season is short enough as it is. | 9/10/2019 3:39 PM |
| 368 | Once again you are limiting the access to lessons and training facilities for children and adults. | 9/10/2019 3:35 PM |
| 369 | We don't have a long season now | 9/10/2019 3:15 PM |
| 370 | I think bega pool could actually be open for much longer than the current season and be well utilised. Smaller towns may warrant a later opening date in spring when the water is freezing and they don't have the solar heating option | 9/10/2019 2:22 PM |
| 371 | We have a limited time to get our children swimming lessons & fitness through swimming. Don't reduce it further | 9/10/2019 12:30 PM |
| 372 | I don't use the pool so the length of time it is open doesn't make any difference to me | 9/10/2019 12:28 PM |
| 373 | current season for outdoor pools is wrong. out by a month. try Nov - May | 9/10/2019 12:27 PM |
| 374 | Climate change lengthening hot season. Clever use of solar heating capture (minigrid) | 9/10/2019 11:33 AM |
| 375 | The season is already a bit short - It's always astounded me that you close at the start of school holiday periods instead of staying open for the kids during the school break at Easter. Pools in other areas are innovative and creative to draw customers in ... BVSC have a lot they could improve. | 9/10/2019 7:49 AM |
| 376 | Since when does council turn the pumps off when everyone leaves the pool. staff are on salary so no extra cost. | 9/9/2019 10:56 PM |
| 377 | Some people wish to swim all year round for fitness, particularly if the pool is indoors and heated. This may not be necessary for outdoor pools? | 9/9/2019 8:35 PM |
| 378 | As above | 9/9/2019 7:31 PM |
| 379 | The season just covers the ideal time | 9/9/2019 6:48 PM |
| 380 | As above | 9/9/2019 6:26 PM |
| 381 | I already feel the season could be lengthened for the outdoor swimming pools, hence I would be unlikely to support shortening the season. | 9/9/2019 5:27 PM |
| 382 | I don't see how this will reduce the capital cost of renewing the pool though? | 9/9/2019 5:14 PM |
| 383 | Squad and swimming clubs need this season length. | 9/9/2019 2:47 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

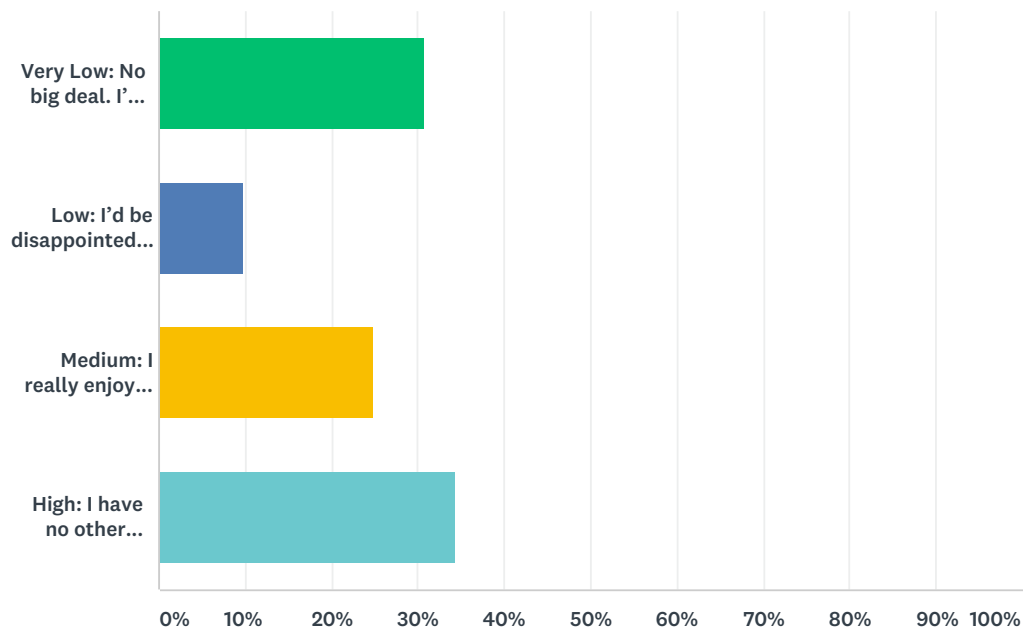
| | | |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 384 | Same as 16 | 9/9/2019 12:45 PM |
| 385 | AS I PREVIOUSLY STATED: IF THERE WAS ONLY THE ONE POOL, IT COULD BE OPEN MORE DAYS AND LONGER HOURS. MAKES MORE SENSE | 9/9/2019 12:14 PM |
| 386 | Same reason as above | 9/9/2019 12:05 PM |
| 387 | Same as above | 9/9/2019 10:59 AM |
| 388 | The Period of opening is appropriate. | 9/9/2019 10:47 AM |
| 389 | With warmer climate and longer potential swimming seasons, reducing the swim season seems counter-intuitive | 9/9/2019 9:20 AM |
| 390 | unsure | 9/9/2019 9:13 AM |
| 391 | There has to be a smarter way of managing these resources other then shutting them down. | 9/9/2019 1:59 AM |
| 392 | Because it's only a 6 month season now. We want to be able to use our pool when it's warm. | 9/8/2019 8:22 PM |
| 393 | I lap swim for as long as I can | 9/8/2019 6:33 PM |
| 394 | Bega is only 6mths now | 9/8/2019 6:30 PM |
| 395 | Already to short | 9/8/2019 6:17 PM |
| 396 | As above. | 9/8/2019 6:01 PM |
| 397 | Same reason as above. Bega pool is extremely well attended for the total time it is open. | 9/8/2019 5:39 PM |
| 398 | See question 14 | 9/8/2019 10:37 AM |
| 399 | I think with the sola blanket,,we could go long with our season. | 9/8/2019 9:43 AM |
| 400 | Unpredictable weather seasons these days make it hard to say. Best spend money on heating the facilities for all round year use and adopt activities ie. water polo club, swim club, swimming lessons to keep patronage up. Also, most of the pools have excess land around them which could be utilised for all year round - Play centres, tennis courts, cafe etc.. | 9/8/2019 9:02 AM |
| 401 | It is important for children and those doing rehab that the pool is open. | 9/8/2019 9:00 AM |
| 402 | Hours are good | 9/8/2019 8:22 AM |
| 403 | The 'hot' season is getting longer and longer and therefore the pools need to meet that demand and stay open longer | 9/7/2019 10:44 PM |
| 404 | Depends on weather for outdoor pools. | 9/7/2019 9:26 PM |
| 405 | In Eden definately not, especially when I am aware a number of community members fund raised and paid into a pool cover to increase the season. | 9/7/2019 4:10 PM |
| 406 | We have one all-year round facility, the others only need to be open during the busiest and warmer 3 months. | 9/7/2019 3:24 PM |
| 407 | Don't use them so irrelevant | 9/7/2019 1:10 PM |
| 408 | I'd have to see usage rates across the season. | 9/7/2019 12:45 PM |
| 409 | Maybe making the opening date slightly later as the weather is still cool and the outdoor pools maybe don't get utilized until later in the year | 9/7/2019 10:52 AM |
| 410 | The season length at Cobargo is already to short | 9/7/2019 10:02 AM |
| 411 | So sad that this is an option! | 9/7/2019 8:44 AM |
| 412 | Because in Eden, our season is already short enough | 9/7/2019 8:28 AM |
| 413 | Because we use the pool between October and March. | 9/7/2019 12:29 AM |
| 414 | as above | 9/7/2019 12:17 AM |
| 415 | As above. | 9/7/2019 12:12 AM |
| 416 | Are you serious? Season length should be increased, not reduced. We live in a rather hot environment. Being active is beneficial to the community. Council really wants to reduce health of their citizens? | 9/7/2019 12:07 AM |
| 417 | I presume this applies to the outdoor pools. If the season length is reduced this would, as I stated previously, compromise my children's preparation and training as they need to train in the 50m pool over summer (Eden). | 9/6/2019 11:10 PM |
| 418 | The swimming season is already short. | 9/6/2019 10:47 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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|-----|--|-------------------|
| 419 | See And at 14. Bega needs a yr round extended he's pool for fitness, health and rehabilitation purposes. | 9/6/2019 9:49 PM |
| 420 | Not interested in keeping poor quality pools open. | 9/6/2019 8:44 PM |
| 421 | Perhaps start the season later when warmer | 9/6/2019 8:29 PM |
| 422 | Depends on which pool. The pools with low patronage could be have reduced season length. OR Shut them altogether and use the money for the other pools. It is the same really, for any council resource. It doesn't make sense to have a library or depo or offices in every major town of the shire. Same with the pools. | 9/6/2019 7:30 PM |
| 423 | Not sure when they all open but we tend to go in November-March depending on the weather. | 9/6/2019 6:00 PM |
| 424 | As above. | 9/6/2019 5:40 PM |
| 425 | We can only swim 6 months of the year as it is due to pool closure. | 9/6/2019 4:07 PM |
| 426 | As above | 9/6/2019 3:57 PM |
| 427 | The season is already short as it is | 9/6/2019 3:05 PM |
| 428 | Not enough as is | 9/6/2019 2:57 PM |
| 429 | Heated pools increase usability for patrons | 9/6/2019 2:41 PM |
| 430 | No use having things open when not many using. | 9/6/2019 2:20 PM |
| 431 | I do not often use the seasonal pools. | 9/6/2019 2:00 PM |
| 432 | The only way this would work would be if it opened later in the season. The pools are still used the whole way till the end of April when it shuts as it's still warm. | 9/6/2019 1:59 PM |
| 433 | Reducing the operating hours will not reduce the cost of maintenance required to keep the pools open. The assets themselves are what need the funding not additional staffing wages. | 9/6/2019 1:39 PM |
| 434 | If anything they should be open for longer. | 9/6/2019 12:46 PM |
| 435 | as 16. above | 9/6/2019 12:41 PM |
| 436 | If anything the shire should be looking to enclose key pools and extend season length. This could potentially increase the number of patrons to each pool over its design life. | 9/6/2019 12:36 PM |
| 437 | The season is already to short. It should be lengthened given that there are heating arrangements that could extend it opening for a further month. | 9/6/2019 12:28 PM |
| 438 | You reduce the benefits of having the pools by too much. | 9/6/2019 12:25 PM |
| 439 | I do not think it is sustainable to have 6 pools across the shire and Council should focus on say 3 pools and do them really well | 9/6/2019 12:19 PM |
| 440 | Because I don't use them | 9/6/2019 12:19 PM |
| 441 | October and March seem to have lower visitations numbers at the regional pools, Eden etc. I could swim at SAC during those months instead | 9/6/2019 12:14 PM |
| 442 | 6 months is a period that most swimmers need to get fit, strengthen their swimming techniques etc - especially for children. | 9/6/2019 12:10 PM |
| 443 | because we need to have the pool open longer then we have now | 9/6/2019 12:06 PM |
| 444 | Again people will not come, there are a lot of regular lap swimmers and children who are in as soon as the season opens in Bemboka | 9/6/2019 12:05 PM |
| 445 | Our season is short as it is. | 9/6/2019 11:42 AM |
| 446 | Already minimal season | 9/6/2019 11:41 AM |

Q19 What would be the impact on you be if your local pool was closed due to asset failure or lack of funding?

Answered: 605 Skipped: 54



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|--|-----------|-----|
| Very Low: No big deal. I'd go to another pool or I'd do another activity. | 30.74% | 186 |
| Low: I'd be disappointed, and I'd have to make some changes, but I'd work it out. | 9.92% | 60 |
| Medium: I really enjoy the pool. I'd have to make major changes to keep swimming. | 24.96% | 151 |
| High: I have no other options and the pool is really important to me. I'd have to stop swimming. | 34.38% | 208 |
| TOTAL | | 605 |

Q20 Thank you for completing the survey. Before you finish, do you have any final feedback or comments about the provision or management of aquatic facilities and services in the Bega Valley area?

Answered: 385 Skipped: 274

| # | RESPONSES | DATE |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Keep the Bega Valley (my Home) liveable, sustainable and renewable. Many residents here want facilities that support community health & promote a connected community. As work requirements shift (may lessen) we need activities that encourage time spent on healthy activities. As a bushfire evacuee I understand the need to keep the body temperatures cool - pools are important to us all particularly PUBLIC POOLS! | 10/22/2019 2:35 PM |
| 2 | I would like to think that the focus is on providing and maintaining services that benefit the local community rather than closing or withdrawing or limiting such services. Local pools are in fact just one example of this. A public toilet facility used to exist in Bega park (just above the swimming pool) near to the children's playground & now new BBQ facility). Surely a toilet facility in a location such as this would be seen as essential. | 10/22/2019 2:01 PM |
| 3 | Schools could be approached re: fundraising as most users of pools would be school students. Pools are necessary for their students to learn to swim - Possibly mandatory contributions required - pro rata number of students | 10/21/2019 2:04 PM |
| 4 | I think this survey is hard to completed because the questions refer to all six pools not just our local one. E.g. would I be happy to pay more rates so that a pool in say Cobargo stays open when no-one uses it. Perhaps each community could come up with events to help finance e.g. picnic at the pool in the evening | 10/21/2019 1:53 PM |
| 5 | I am staggered that Council cannot find funding in current income. Funding from ratepayers is a very poor request. Poor Financial Planning = rate increase every time | 10/21/2019 1:34 PM |
| 6 | Please help to generate more interests in people increasing their visits to the Public pools. pools could be a space that movie nights happen, on demand buses could help increase pool visitation to communities like Candelo, fundraising in the local economy (AKA low socioeconomic) - please note; then we also need to access money from the more affluent communities of Australia where wealth is concentrated. Pambula aquatic centre is very near to a Private school (Lumen) and I would hope that they contribute a fair amount (NOT subsidised) when they use this Public pool. This could also apply to SCAC in Bega. Encourage families to use their Active Kids Vouchers to the the pools. Charge more for private pool ownership in BVS as this option may be reducing Public pool usage. Apply for funds from State & Federal government. | 10/20/2019 11:18 PM |
| 7 | We mostly use Narooma pool on a fairly regular basis. It is an excellent facility. It is suggested that BVSC study the Narooma Pool business model to see if BVSC can learn anything from this Pool. | 10/20/2019 9:12 PM |
| 8 | Public pools are essential in Australian communities and help to develop a strong social fabric. | 10/20/2019 7:56 PM |
| 9 | Council are proposing to double dip funds half of which they are already collecting, they need to be open and honest with the ratepayers as to what they plan to do with the money already being collected each year for pool maintenance? | 10/19/2019 3:34 PM |
| 10 | Seriously these results are not statistically valid due to the question and approach.... | 10/19/2019 11:02 AM |
| 11 | Roads are abysmal and Council says " User Pays". Therefore same Council Guideline must be adopted for pools - USER PAYS. | 10/19/2019 8:50 AM |
| 12 | All I can say is that Bega Valley Council rates are ridiculously high for what we get . Please try and work to get the rates down , not put them up at every opportunity you get. Maybe the councillors can take a pay cut I'm sure you wouldn't mind. | 10/18/2019 2:51 PM |
| 13 | The public swimming pools play a vital role in our communities. The levels of service provided is adequate and council is required to keep the assets up to standards. If some of the facilities are not being used enough ,for example Eden, maybe there should be some questions asked locally. Is the water too cold? Would the divestment of underutilized facilities be a way of funding the rest? As council has pointed out that grants are not guaranteed, they should be applied for as to bolster the funding of these important assets. Other coastal areas have netted beaches, which may be a good all year alternative. Good luck | 10/18/2019 11:25 AM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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|----|---|---------------------|
| 14 | What happens with the profits made at Bega & Cabargo pools. | 10/17/2019 9:02 PM |
| 15 | - integral part of any society - contribute to every aspect of wellbeing, especially mental health - vital rehabilitation tool for physical injuries - focal point for socialisation, in a most beneficial manner | 10/17/2019 8:46 PM |
| 16 | I cannot believe that in this day and age that pools are not a normal part of each town's contribution to the residents and visitors to our region. | 10/17/2019 5:51 PM |
| 17 | It gets back to what I said before, we fund raised, donated our time, to build the pool in Eden, if people want to use it, pay the dollars. | 10/17/2019 5:09 PM |
| 18 | I am a regular user of Eden pool on the early opening days for lap swimming twice a week. I would use the pool more frequently but don't like to go later in the day to avoid skin cancers so am limited to early mornings. I live closer to the Sapphire Aquatic Centre than I do to Eden, but much prefer the outdoor 50m pool than the 25m indoor pool. The pools are a great asset and its a pity they don't have more usage for people who could use some exercise. | 10/17/2019 2:25 PM |
| 19 | We have beautiful beaches, to us rates free,it just another ripe off from council. | 10/17/2019 10:02 AM |
| 20 | A lot of rate payers don't use the pools I'd say the majority of them not fair to put the cost of maintaining pools onto them. It should a user pays system | 10/17/2019 5:33 AM |
| 21 | Do not raise rates most family's are struggling as it is. Do you really think anyone will have left over money for pool entry when they're struggling to pay all the essentials? Do you think people would choose pool entry over electricity or food? The answer is no you might get new pools but no one will be able to afford to use them so that seems like a stupid idea to me. | 10/16/2019 10:13 PM |
| 22 | i dont think raising rates is the answer,up the entry fee i dont use the pool. | 10/16/2019 9:24 PM |
| 23 | We havs lost so much in the shire do we have to lose these as well | 10/16/2019 9:14 PM |
| 24 | As a child I swam regularly. I was a swimming club member and loved the pool. In my senior years I still love to swim which I do regularly at the Blue Pool, the Brucesteer Pool the Narooma Pool and the beach . I believe swimming has played a major role in my overall health and fitness. I think it is vital that children have the opportunity to learn to swim and enjoy swimming as a healthy and fun activity. To that end I hope BVSC will find a way to keep the 6 pools open. Although not a user of any of the pools I would be happy to make a contribution for this to happen. Any levy should be shared equally by all rate payers and used ONLY for maintaining pools . Although pools must be maintained to appropriate standard they don't need to be turned into adventure playgrounds. Keep it simple to keep costs down. | 10/16/2019 8:39 PM |
| 25 | The pools and rates cost too much already. we used to have a family pass and didn't go enough anyway, only to squad or lessons now kids aren't interested either. | 10/16/2019 8:01 PM |
| 26 | A part of Asset Management is Captial Cost & MPM. So who wasn't doing their job and if this is not the case who stole the money for another project. | 10/16/2019 6:13 PM |
| 27 | no | 10/16/2019 5:30 PM |
| 28 | I commend the staff and the operation of the Sapphire Aquatic Centre It appears to cater to most of the community requirements in a friendly & community minded manner. I find the standards at this centre to be very good. | 10/16/2019 2:39 PM |
| 29 | Why are our rates so much higher than the majority of Shires in NSW? What are we receiving that other Shires are not? How do other Shires keep their rates at a reasonable level? | 10/16/2019 12:43 PM |
| 30 | Any rate increase should also fund maintaining the shire's ocean pools. | 10/16/2019 11:43 AM |
| 31 | If I could go to swim lanes without feral kids jumping all over me, I'd use the pool but since that won't happen, I refuse to pay for something I don't and won't use. You can't force anyone to pay for something they don't use. | 10/16/2019 10:53 AM |
| 32 | Charge swimmers more at the gate. This is very unfair trying to increase our rates... I'd rather out that extra money into buying more feed for my livestock.... | 10/16/2019 9:39 AM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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|----|--|---------------------|
| 33 | The Otium report highlighted the importance of swimming pools and how each pool in this shire operates. It is clear from this report that the pools in Bega and Cobargo, operated under a contract system rather than management by the BVSC, offer the best services, value for money and opening hours - yet these are the oldest pools in the shire with antiquated and desperately inadequate change-rooms and auxiliaries. BVSC needs to think why these pools (both of them identified as DISTRICT rather than local pools, who provide vital, irreplaceable functions in their respective communities) have worked so well for so long with minimal investment. Given that BVSC has committed to 6 pools (however silly that situation is as seen retrospectively - it shouldn't have occurred, but it has.....) BVSC must provide for those pools. It is not right or fair to hit all ratepayers for an SRV (especially to hit them based on land valuation) to maintain these pools. BVSC needs to go back to basics - look at the totality of their expenses and assets - think clever: consolidate services and assets -- perhaps provide a pool/library/play centre at bega? how about a combination pool/gallery (as is happening in eurobodalla) rather than going for the hip pocket of ratepayers over and over and over and over again. | 10/16/2019 8:49 AM |
| 34 | Thank you for the opportunity to have our say | 10/16/2019 7:41 AM |
| 35 | I believe children should have the opportunity of learning to swim and enjoy this activity. They can improve their skills and should always have an accessible local pool. | 10/16/2019 7:37 AM |
| 36 | I guess the council only understands the numbers that go through the door but maybe reinventing what the pool offers could be a way of making more money. At Pambula for example, I take my children regularly on school holidays, often sitting with other mums while our children swim. Having a proper cafe on site would encourage us to go more often as a destination where we can also get lunch and a coffee etc. Doesn't need to be fancy, even just good quality toasted sandwiches and decent coffee. | 10/15/2019 11:47 PM |
| 37 | Bermagui residents generally do not have the benefits of a local pool (other than 2 x unheated ocean pools) but are being expected to subsidise others further afield for benefits they do not get. The Shire has a structure of user pays for all other aspects of running the Shire and providing services, and as such the pools should fall under the same criteria, and if those costs are excessive then reduce the amount of times & hours they are available. | 10/15/2019 8:27 PM |
| 38 | I believe because of I Climate pools need to be heated and covered to encourage use. Was it a mistake to build pools without considering location. eg a pool central in Merimbula/Tura Beach makes more sense. Good Luck | 10/15/2019 8:09 PM |
| 39 | Maybe the Blue Pool should be considered....or is it better just left happily alone? :) | 10/15/2019 5:08 PM |
| 40 | Why didn't you have public meetings in Tura Beach I didn't see any advertising for meetings- was it in the Council email or library email? What are our rates spent on? A breakdown would be good to see. Is the shortfall a failure of budget management? | 10/15/2019 4:27 PM |
| 41 | Re Cobargo-it is the major publically funded facility for young people in the district. I appreciate the bind the Council is in (re low rating base) but pools are very important -hope you can find a way to balance the cost-any rate increase will have to be strongly argued from conversations I've had. Thanks You. | 10/15/2019 4:15 PM |
| 42 | Essential to maintain understand the costs problems but it would be ideal if all pools could be heated with solar heating | 10/14/2019 4:22 PM |
| 43 | water safety and education in the shire is important | 10/14/2019 4:17 PM |
| 44 | Any increase in household costs is a burden on me. Particularly as I am retired and on a fixed income. I do not use any of the pools | 10/14/2019 4:13 PM |
| 45 | If rates are used to cover costs then each contributing household could be given several family vouchers each year like the tip. | 10/13/2019 1:21 PM |
| 46 | Do not impose aadditional rates on rate payers. Manage within council budget. Improve efficiency of council to find money | 10/13/2019 1:15 PM |
| 47 | I am violently against special rate increase, as this seems to me an instant band-aid solution, unlikely to solve the problem long term. We have beautiful beaches, why not support Surf life Saving ,for example, to patrol more of these, particularly in School holiday times. Costs of maintaining public pools will only increase , and is obviously not a sensible Council proposition, when so many other ,more important maintenance items are required.....think roads, parks, community buildings and services. And public meetings regarding information and discussion re this matter were held ONLY in towns where these six pools are located !!!!! I am sure I am not the only one in this shire who has to work hard to balance a budget..... if we can't afford luxuries, we must do without them till we can. In other words, till Council can afford to support them within their annual budget. Rates already increase yearly, as we have all noticed !! I am of the understanding we are generally in the low income bracket in this shire..... raise money by donation, if necessary, not by rate increases. | 10/12/2019 8:31 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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|----|--|---------------------|
| 48 | I have not used the pool as often due to other issues, but if you ever went to a business house race at Cobargo pool, or took your family to Pambula pool or drove past Bemboka little community and saw the kids in the pool or even went to our wonderful ocean pools (which by the way we love untouched not wrecked by your urbanisation of Bermagui) - maybe you would see how much they mean. I challenge you to tell us you see the same at Tura Beach Hotel or the pub in Eden - and explain why you would pay for those over swimming. Why would you build a concrete path in a country town that survived all its life without it, just to beautify it or make it look modern yet not fix a pool in a little town - it does not really make much sense to any of us. Now you want to avoid more parking spaces and get a parking officer to earn \$75000 so I hope you will put that straight into the pools. I urge you all to watch The Pool and not be moved by the value of these assets in our lives, and refocus on the things that matter. Lets get everyone swimming, ask the lifesaving community, go to nippers or a swimming club and see how important swimming in a pool, or a beach, or a river is to Australia. Talk to a family where someone has drowned and get onboard with the intrinsic value of swimming and pools. Thank you. | 10/12/2019 5:16 PM |
| 49 | What I don't get is I can go to the Tura Library day in day out, do all sorts of wonderful things for zero cost.(Incidentally I have never been there. No plans to go. Sell it by all means) By contrast I can go to the Sapphire Aquatic Centre and have to pay entrance fees. Why is that? Originally libraries were provided for free information for a community that would be less informed otherwise. Nowadays with the internet, there is no longer a need for this service. At the very least if people wanted it they should pay. The other thing that has changed is the community is now so overweight, unhealthy and unfit. And yet we charge people who are doing something about their health issues. If council was financially responsible for health care, you would encourage people to exercise. Not deter them. | 10/12/2019 2:33 PM |
| 50 | Given the area that we live in, we need to be prepared to travel some distance to utilise facilities. For example, I have to travel to Bega or Canberra for hospital services. Reducing the number of pools to 3 and having those pools upgraded so that they can be used for longer periods, i.e. heated in winter with users travelling to those locations makes more sense than keeping 6 pools going. | 10/11/2019 12:00 PM |
| 51 | I am appalled that BVSC hasn't included any of the ocean pools. Nor are there any close options for people in Bermagui and surrounds. | 10/11/2019 11:15 AM |
| 52 | As a self funded retiree I cannot afford any increase in rates, especially an increase that subsidizes some one else's recreational activity with absolutely no benefit to me! | 10/11/2019 10:53 AM |
| 53 | I think that is you have a membership for one pool, you should be at the very least given a discount for other pools in the area. Concerned that the SRV may not all go to pool maintenance and improvement. | 10/11/2019 9:50 AM |
| 54 | The maintenance of the pools to a safe standard is essential, however this is not the same as making a pool keep up with modern expectations. I want a safe environment for my family to swim. This does not mean it needs to look like a swanky day spa! Nor does it need to have splash parks, water slides or other additional entertainment that may be considered keeping up with modern expectations. I also support the consideration of making the rural pools self-supervised for some periods. So long as the pool itself is safe and secure, can we consider making the pool self-accessible? Electronic access akin to a 24hr gym. Or even reduced staff. My last visit to Candelo pool saw 3 staff members present. Is that completely necessary? Our loss of personal responsibility is impacting the cost of many elements in society. Perhaps we need to consider brave alternatives to having fully manned or overstaffed pools. | 10/11/2019 7:05 AM |
| 55 | I think that the number of life guards to the number of swimmers needs to be looked at. Often there are less than 10 people at the pool and 2 lifeguards. It would be good to have aquarobics at the pool. There were classes a while back but the time was inconvenient for people that work therefore the attendance was poor. The Eden pool is very clean and the life guards are great. It would be nice to see some young people working as a summer job, but I guess there aren't many that apply. Maybe running classes to get the qualifications and advertise these classes at the schools might help. | 10/10/2019 4:55 PM |
| 56 | Council has made a rod for their own back by increasingly excluding community rights and responsibilities in the management of a whole range of public facilities including our pools, facilities that were by and large created by the community for the community. Rather than looking for road blocks, perhaps council needs to look beyond the Sapphire Aquatic Centre at Pambula and start seeking community input to organise or allow others to organise, a greater range of activities at the other public pools to increase, not decrease, livability of the local community - these could include, for example, children's swimming lessons over the entire opening season; senior / adult swimming lessons held during school hours to prevent, as far as possible, embarrassment that attendees may feel; aqua aerobics; swim squad; add picnic tables and bbqs in the grounds to improve amenity and group usability of sites; encourage use of facilities for staging of events such as the film evening held at the Eden pool; pool parties; explore offering packages such as children's birthday party packages...the list goes on. | 10/10/2019 9:46 AM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 57 | No rate hikes. Use whatever you can get from the SRV | 10/10/2019 8:18 AM |
| 58 | We have some nice facilities. A key reason I moved to Tura was the location of the Sapphire aquatic centre. I need this facility for rehabilitation after 2 hip replacements. Unlike others residing at Tura, I am more than happy to keep swimming centres open for all in the valley to use even if it means a rate rise. Climate change is with us and I can promise you the effects are just starting now. I follow the science of climate change closely and the incidence of heat waves and water shortages are just beginning. Please maintain the current facilities for all to enjoy as an emergency water supply for our ever increasing bushfire risk. | 10/9/2019 9:42 PM |
| 59 | Find another way so that it doesn't cost rate payers that don't use the facilities. We already pay enough as it is | 10/9/2019 4:03 PM |
| 60 | Edens numbers have been impacted by the withdrawal of swimming lessons and squad training. When my children were young, when afternoon squad started it influenced my decision to keep my children in swimming lessons and later on squad training. Those kids sold the product and if I had not visually seen the kids in action, I would not have continued the swimming journey. Eden is low socioeconomic and the cost of driving back and forth to Pambula impacts the budget and also creates an unnecessary carbon footprint when the service could be offered in a 50m pool. Eden also has an ageing population, initial feedback from members of this sector of the community would like to see aqua aerobics reintroduced down at Eden | 10/9/2019 1:27 PM |
| 61 | I do not believe that adding more to our rates is equitable. We are all struggling to meet payments already. Please find a way to better manage the funds you all ready have access to. Do you really want the far south coast only to be affordable to the wealthy and tourists? Who are going to be let to provide services ? Think carefully please. | 10/9/2019 10:36 AM |
| 62 | Eden is one of the best pools i have ever swam in, & i've swum in many over my years. The tiling is such a special feature, & the grounds are expansive but bare. Plant some trees, put in a barbecue & invite the community to gather, they will come & they will bring their kids too. | 10/8/2019 6:35 PM |
| 63 | Pools should be user pays. If council decides otherwise it should fund this social subsidy by asset recycling and cost reduction. Higher rates help drive fixed income retirees back to the capital cities and inhibit Canberra and other baby boomers retiring to Bega Shire, a key source of future jobs and growth. Council should look at: reducing its oversize machinery pool and staff; selling or leasing buildings like the Merimbula learning centre, new Council chambers; taking steps to reduce its 230 staff enjoying above-average working conditions and benefits by eliminating peripheral, non-essential programs; introducing user-pays for other services; using more volunteers. Council should be more active in generating income through more rapid land release, easing height and other development restrictions; lobbying State planning authorities for improved and more relevant planning rules. Bega Shire's Gross Regional Product declined - 3.3% in the 12 months to June 30, 2018 and most likely has not improved since. Rate rises will be a hot issue in the 2020 Council elections due to this pool controversy. | 10/8/2019 7:56 AM |
| 64 | I understand that the pot of money is limited but believe that pools represent significant recreational, health and social benefits to rate payers. My family are regulars at Bega pool so I cannot speak for the other town pools but it would significantly impact us if there was a reduced service. I am aware that Council has to support the continuation of Sapphire Aquatic Centre but consider it poorly placed to service rate payers. It generally requires a vehicle to access and is not in a high population area. | 10/7/2019 9:32 PM |
| 65 | Install coin operated lockers at sapphire aquatic and other pools... it is not sufficient to say the pools management is not responsible for our belongings and yet have nothing for people to keep their belongings safe. Ask the government for a special levy to bring operating standards up to modern day standards. | 10/7/2019 8:56 PM |
| 66 | If the pools are been run at a loss they need to look at why and what they can do to increase patronage and revenue. Like any business the pools need a good business plan and the right people running them not someone who is fleecing them. Do not add this to my rates I won't be paying it. I am already paying 3k a year in rates, I also don't think it's fair to ask other people to pay for something they don't use. | 10/7/2019 9:03 AM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 67 | <p>According to the 2016 census Bemboka has 577 people. Cobargo has 776. a combined figure of 1353 people. It is difficult to follow any logic that supports these pools staying open for such a small number of people. The expenditure to maintain and staff Bemboka and Cobargo pools must be re directed to provide Bega with a current century 50 metre olympic swimming pool. A rate increase to achieve this goal is low resolution thinking at its best. Question: What type of dysfunctional leadership allowed the pool that Bega should have had to be built in Candelo for a current population base of 400 people ? When Bega has 10 to 12 times that population. The ageing new arrivals flooding into Bega and surrounds from the cities particularly in the last three years have done so in part because they feel secure enough to do so because of our brand new mega hospital. Which is running at 150% of its capacity and is an accident waiting to happen. But that's another story. The 50 metre Olympic pool Bega deserves would provide the entire community with a healthy living resource and in particular keep a lot of the elderly out of hospital because of the health benefits a pool befitting Bega's stature would provide. Dear reader. I kindly have drawn you a common sense road map minus any rate rise. Now please be sensible and don't fuss and get on with it. Thank you.</p> | 10/6/2019 4:19 PM |
| 68 | <p>- I don't support the six pool policy. - I didn't support council spending money commissioning the six pool policy when it already knew operating and maintaining 6 pools in the shire is financially unsustainable. I object to an SRV to run the shire's aquatic facilities because: a) It is unreasonable to have a handful of rate payers in Bemboka/Candelo/Cobargo hold the entire shire ransom for the operations of unsustainable pools?. In Sydney residents often have to drive over 30 minutes to access a pool. Moreover the pools they access are fit for purpose aquatic centres - ie: Olympic pool, warmup pool. wading pool etc.... Not a set of six half baked/ill considered maintenance intensive water troughs - fit for nought! b) An SRV is just another avoidance tactic by COUNCILLORS who don't want to take responsibility for the running of their ILL DEvised six pool strategy. c) Any SRV is an unfair and inequitable levy - when considering less than 5 per cent of the population use the pools. d)The SRV is council double dipping as it already has one in place to fund pools. e) The proposal for an SRV has been poorly managed by council. If council wants to levy all rate payers it should send a letter to all ratepayers (including absentee landowners!) - not just place an advertisement in the local newspapers, and put a survey on its website. The SRV meetings have also only been held in towns that have pools - which will no doubt produce biased results. Why were meetings not held in towns, whose residents will be paying the most under this SRV? f) There is no mention of how long this SRV will be needed for? The shire's Aquatic facilities are a hotch potch of pools, developed by vested interests and handed over to council. Councillors now need to man (or woman) up and realise - not everyone can be a winner and have a pool on their doorstep - and an SRV is not going to make it so! WHAT TO DO: Shut all but two pools (Bega/Eden). Redevelop Bega pool into a year-round heated 10 lane, 50 metre Olympic sized pool, with a boom slide allowing it to be reduced to two, 50 metre pools. This facility can stage the region's swimming carnivals, swimming lessons, aquatic sports etc..... AND YES - I will still have to drive 25minutes to access it! -</p> | 10/6/2019 3:39 PM |
| 69 | <p>I find it a poor decision to burden ratepayers who do not use the facility, such as senior citizens etc.</p> | 10/6/2019 10:28 AM |
| 70 | <p>Though I rarely use our local pools, Bruce Steere and the Blue Pool, I know they are valued by many locals who do, as well as being very good for tourists. Bermagui is a tourist town and any facility we provide for local is important for visitors, too. Therefore, maintaining our pools, though not on your list, is very important for Bermagui. Please include our pools and if at all possible, keep them in good functioning condition.</p> | 10/6/2019 8:43 AM |
| 71 | <p>Pools should be more of a priority for Council funds-Bega Valley people want it. Swimming is important for maintaining good mental health & general health. Important for swimming training-especially Candelo 50m pool (children & youth)</p> | 10/5/2019 3:49 PM |
| 72 | <p>Perhaps a combined effort by community & BVSC to promote use of pools.</p> | 10/5/2019 3:35 PM |
| 73 | <p>Pools contribute to social engagement, health, financial benefits (no bored kids = less vandalism, etc) and great fun.</p> | 10/5/2019 3:32 PM |
| 74 | <p>Keep all pools open is vital to communities-youth/development</p> | 10/5/2019 3:01 PM |
| 75 | <p>60 years ago few people had access to cars and access to beaches, I've had to bring these assets up to today's standards. (Anyone who owns an asset 60 years old knows you have to do the maintenance and upgrades.</p> | 10/5/2019 2:57 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 76 | IWOULD NOT like my rates to go up. I would like the pools maintained. I WOULD like A moderate ROOF SPAN OVER Each to provide shade. POOL and SOLAR HEATING Installed on them. I WOULD like to see a CAFE/Tea/coffee/House options, this would generate income & provide extra employment Locally, also the convience of not having to Leave to get meals. The POOL IS A SCHOOL A safe place, nurturing, a meeting place for Therapy & Relaxation Healthy Stimulus for competitions. Rehabilitation for special needs people its calming. I'm happy with locals managing the pools I don't want strangers coming in from management groups. I would also like a wet area with water spouting decoration-a non swim area. Thankyou. | 10/5/2019 2:53 PM |
| 77 | the pools in the high population areas need to remain open-low population areas could bear the brunt of reduced hours/season if necessary | 10/5/2019 2:40 PM |
| 78 | I love Bega pool. Zoe & Mark are great | 10/5/2019 2:31 PM |
| 79 | Candelo families only have the pool for amusement in the hot summer. Considering it was paid for privately, the least you can do is maintain it. The kids need it. It keeps us fit, social with the community and gives us relief from the heat. The amenities are the cleanest in the shire and we appreciate it | 10/5/2019 11:42 AM |
| 80 | No, it's highly unlikely that you'll take much notice of my views anyway | 10/4/2019 11:36 PM |
| 81 | You are hurting the people who pay the rates even further to fund this. There has to be other options and increase in fee entry during busy times like school holidays. Or having sausage sizzles at the pool during the day that will be donated back to the pool funds. Raffles or a volantery section on your rates she people wish to pay they could making those who use it more often have the option to pay the rate veriston and for those who are never going to use the pool or less likely to use the pool have a choice. Instead of punishing the lot ask a few to pay and give them incentives with extra tip vouchers or something by like that. | 10/4/2019 6:08 PM |
| 82 | No | 10/4/2019 4:46 PM |
| 83 | Maybe the council should sell the pools to private operators? | 10/4/2019 3:54 PM |
| 84 | lived here for 25 years, i have never used any of the pools and never will, i can not stand the chlorine, i can not even drink the town water so why should i pay for something i will never use | 10/4/2019 3:27 PM |
| 85 | Put the fees up the people who enjoy the pools won't mind paying a bit more. | 10/4/2019 2:56 PM |
| 86 | SRV options please perhapse SRV For Capitol expense only & operation not SRV? Just suggestion Also can we replace some pools with ocean pools | 10/4/2019 1:58 PM |
| 87 | Need more flexibility re opening times. If the season is good, extend opening. Mike Kelly got any funds-War Memorial swimming pool Any Federal grants? | 10/4/2019 1:08 PM |
| 88 | As a NSW Education Dept. swimming teacher, the 6 BVS pools are very important to the local schools - state or independent. With the School Swimming & Water Safety Program we teach 320 state primary pupils per year in the BVS. This program began in 1955. Independent schools do similar programs. I teach in primary schools - high schools provide a whole new approach to the use of pool usage. School curriculum policies are assisted majorly by the use of your pools. Safety is a top priority in our work. Water & swimming are part of an Australian lifestyle. The BVS helps provide the venue, the opportunity, the education provision & the health & safety for this lifestyle to be maintained. Health ramifications go far beyond the school years. The schools help add to the BVS pools viability. Internal Bega Valley tourism (residents visiting other towns & areas) and external tourism within the BVS need to incorporate the pools. | 10/3/2019 9:10 PM |
| 89 | You have designed this survey in an attempt to direct answers towards a desired outcome. For example, Q19. provides no option to say No effect, I don't use pools. | 10/3/2019 8:07 PM |
| 90 | The only reason we have community pools is because the community worked hard and raised funds over many, many years. The community owns the pools, so it doesn't seem right that the council can take them away. | 10/3/2019 7:10 PM |
| 91 | A hydrotherapy pool would be a better option | 10/3/2019 5:37 PM |
| 92 | Instead of taxing more out of ratepayers through mis-management of funds focus on the important issues at hand. Most pool I believe were funded by fundraising hint hint. Instead of erecting new state of the art playgrounds, concentrate on the pools instead. You just slugged us for bin service we don't have for maintaining tips plus we pay to use them bit rich of you Council | 10/3/2019 5:23 PM |
| 93 | Rationalise the pools to reduce costs. They are losing money, the patronage of the small town pools does not warrant the cost or increase in rates. | 10/3/2019 1:52 PM |
| 94 | It is disappointing that BVSC did not see fit to organise a public meeting on this matter in one of the main revenue-source areas, i.e. the Merimbula-Tura Beach section. Looks like manipulation! | 10/3/2019 12:32 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 95 | Bega is the community hub and doesn't have the ocean at its doorstep thus should be an aquatic centre the vet is proud of not the dinosaur it currently is . It should so be open a yr round | 10/3/2019 7:07 AM |
| 96 | Council needs to manage their funds better. Rates are already extremely high. No justification to make them higher. | 10/2/2019 9:00 PM |
| 97 | The impact on the community would be massive with the loss of any of the local pools The many advantages to the community definitely out way the small cost you are suggesting, the Swimming Pool Strategy is a wonderful initiative by the Council | 10/2/2019 6:05 PM |
| 98 | Bega pool needs a major upgrade council should look at one like candelo we travel there instead of Bega it's too crowded and small. | 10/2/2019 3:18 PM |
| 99 | A hydrotherapy pool would be nice for ailing bones and muscles | 10/2/2019 2:29 PM |
| 100 | Consider covering the Candelo pool for year round usage. Increase fees and this will help with upkeep and social interaction | 10/2/2019 1:05 PM |
| 101 | If you need to keep the pools open then I believe there must be a user pay system. Please do not add this extra charge for people that do not use them. | 10/2/2019 11:37 AM |
| 102 | If every time there is a funding issue a rate hike happens, where will this leave the community? Homeless, bankrupt unable to pay heating bills ? Raise wages not rates ! | 10/2/2019 11:18 AM |
| 103 | I feel strongly that the pools should be maintained in a serviceable fashion. But no need for full scale renewals or flashy upgrades to all of them Cobargo pool is a bit old - but it seems pretty solid. It has had a long history of community input and forms an important part of the community. I would really like to see Cobargo Pool open for a longer season and kept warm into the autumn at least Your paper says its Candelo Pool needing major fixing and its one of the newest !. New doesnt always seem to mean better these days - older things are often more solid and last longer. Serviceable working order is more important than flashy , plastic colour. One or two pools in the shire could be made like fun parks - but the others just plain will do in my book. | 10/2/2019 10:55 AM |
| 104 | These facilities that are utilised on a daily basis are vital to the health of our children and the wider community! | 10/2/2019 10:47 AM |
| 105 | Rate paying families are struggling enough in the Bega Valley, while pool facilities are an asset to the community a balance needs to be struck the increase in rates may be at the cost of a child attending swimming lessons and that is of more value to seaside community in my opinion. | 10/2/2019 8:25 AM |
| 106 | Increase rates increase rent. I get very disappointed seeing the under utilisation of the facility's the shire has and offers. Everyone wants however most don't even use. Maybe measure use age and budget accordingly. Not just pools but all amenities. | 10/2/2019 7:58 AM |
| 107 | More could be done to encourage the public to enjoy swimming. The Eden pool is beautiful but there appears to be a lack of organised activities. What about adult learn to swim classes, aqua aerobics, water confidence classes. Pambula has these but I have not seen any thing but individual lap swimming at Eden | 10/2/2019 7:46 AM |
| 108 | Council does very little for Bemboka community and our community doesn't have free access to beaches and waterways that most of the other towns in the district do. People of all ages access our pool and whether or not it is a money earner is irrelevant - we don't get tarred roads, kerb and guttering ior garbage service so council needs to give something back to our community. I can appreciate that people who have access to the ocean might not want council to maintain pools, but I believe council need to support the pools for those who don't have such free and easy access to water. Perhaps a swimming in the ocean tax / entry fee might be a good idea!! | 10/2/2019 6:58 AM |
| 109 | My personal opinion is that these pools should all be upgraded so that they are enclosed and able to be accessed all year around....big doors that can be opened through the hotter months. The functionality of the doors are imperative for all year weather....more access more revenue....imagine that | 10/1/2019 11:48 PM |
| 110 | Candela pool is the best pool in Australia! | 10/1/2019 10:54 PM |
| 111 | Provide a discount for season passes for rate payers if the funding rate variation is approved. Also have a season pass holder have access to all of the council pools. | 10/1/2019 10:12 PM |
| 112 | I own 5 properties, the rates I pay in Merimbula are equal to the rates of the other 4 properties and equal to nearly 3 times the value! You increase my rates I will sell and move, no wonder Merimbula is dead and everyone hates you guys for it | 10/1/2019 9:56 PM |
| 113 | Building an Olympic sized Pool at Candelo was a big mistake. While I commend the huge efforts of the community in raising the money for this pool I feel the pressure on the council at the time was unfair. | 10/1/2019 9:50 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 114 | Maybe if the staff were more friendly it may help. Do special one off deals on weekends to get people in that usually wouldn't go. Advertise more what's available on local school Facebook pages. Make it known it's for everyone, the older population make out it is for them only and get cranky at the families. Please make it mandatory no mobiles in pool area, especially at Pambula, parents may actually supervise their own kids instead of leaving it to others to do, where those may not return cause they aren't there to supervise other people's kids, so they just won't go. | 10/1/2019 9:15 PM |
| 115 | Lift your game BVSC | 10/1/2019 9:03 PM |
| 116 | Unfortunately not everyone can be accommodated. At some stage the council needs to pull rank make a hard decision and do what's good for the future. Building one large indoor aquatic centre will be a boost for the greater region. It would be in use 12 months a year, squad swimming could be 12 months a year allowing our local juniors to train in a proper sized pool all year round. The fallout would be huge, but forgotten once you give us an amazing facility. | 10/1/2019 8:15 PM |
| 117 | It's appears council needs to balance books / I hope the money spent in Pambula is paying for itself !!! Or will others twins suffer from this ! Pools are an important part of a community just need to look at how best to use resources & funding available. | 10/1/2019 8:01 PM |
| 118 | Love the aquatic centre in Pambula. The pool in Eden is a great BVSC asset because of its size. | 10/1/2019 7:34 PM |
| 119 | Increase pool entry fees (double), with possible discounts for concession card holders & pensioners and school swimming sessions Candelo Pool is overstaffed, worked fine with a single contractor We are disappointed that the current repair works are undertaken now, while we (and the pool staff) already knew of the leaking pool more than a year ago. Stop having 2 people at the garbage tip Start charging late fees for library books | 10/1/2019 7:20 PM |
| 120 | Use ur brains and stop wasting money on crap! Fix our roads and water and put some shades in for all local areas like Littleton's gardens and the local park | 10/1/2019 6:29 PM |
| 121 | It would be nice to have baby change facilities in the change rooms. I always feel guilty using the baby change facilities in the disabled change rooms in case it is needed. | 10/1/2019 5:41 PM |
| 122 | I am always so heartened by what I see at our pools. People show their best selves there. The staff are incredible and their interactions with kids who have challenges need to be seen and recognised. Often these kids get little support in other areas of their lives but at the pool they are valued and everyone smiles. I think pools are quite magical. Do you really want our kids heading to our beaches without swimming lessons? Will it take a spate of drownings for you all to see sense? | 10/1/2019 5:18 PM |
| 123 | Please take consideration of this choice and see where expenditure can be redeemed . | 10/1/2019 4:58 PM |
| 124 | I think assets such as pools, libraries, galleries etc. are important assets for the community. I think more astute management of council's budget would go along way to improving services in the area. While as a ratepayer I understand that we need to pay for services, again, where does the existing \$900,000 go that is allocated to pool maintenance | 10/1/2019 4:14 PM |
| 125 | Why can't the council put in for grants, like other shires, for the upkeep of the pools. | 10/1/2019 10:42 AM |
| 126 | Previous councils and community groups have delivered the council an unworkable situation where we have to many pools to manage economically and sustainably. It is a tough call to shut pools but i believe a criteria for keeping a pool open needs to be set so they can be assessed and informed decisions made. The criteria can be communicated so communities understand what is required to maintain the asset they desire and their attendance improved. It is one thing to want a pool. It is another to utilise it appropriately. | 10/1/2019 10:35 AM |
| 127 | Keep the pools pls. It's so important for education , health , recreation and health. Don't go overboard on upgrades... do the necessary improvements. Nothing too fancy or Ultra modern. Keep it simple and cost effective. Thank you. | 10/1/2019 9:00 AM |
| 128 | Tura beach is a very big ratepaying area in the shire and would have to support those areas that have pools even though we don't have one. I may feel differently if we had a pool. At least our money would help subsidise something we would have access to. Most people in the shire have access to rivers, lakes and the beaches so I feel having so many pools is totally unnecessary that are and will be an ongoing cost to ratepayers. Maybe the pools should be privately owned and not provided by the council as our rates are one of the dearest in the state and most of us being on low incomes cannot keep paying for unnecessary costs otherwise we will have no choice but to consider moving elsewhere. Pools are a luxury in this day and unfortunately with on going costs we can't continue to keep funding something that only to provide facilities to the minority of rate payers. | 10/1/2019 8:58 AM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 129 | I'm not here to tell you how to run your job, as that's why you get paid a wage, but for goodness sake, leave ratepayers along. We are a small community in a Valley. Majority are farmers in a drought, or low income families. It's a disgrace council can't manage their funds, that's your job! I'm sorry but NO, it's not acceptable. Waste, Waste, Waste. Maybe do some cutbacks on wages and staff, reduce your power bill by turning off water treatment plant lights. Must cost a fortune to run that fluoride making plant !!!!! | 10/1/2019 12:08 AM |
| 130 | Many years ago the argument was raised about candelo pool, the community markets funded it but who was going to maintain it. The BEGA pool needs extending, roofing heating and expanded to an aquatic facility that caters for all ages and stages, not just private swimming lessons. I spent a lot of time as a child driving to Narooma in winter so we could continue our swimming training That was a choice we made and we all car pooled to make it happen Punishing rate payers for other people's personal choices is not a viable answer. Pools are a very expensive luxury our population does not cover the cost of these 6 luxuries in our little shire There are many other more worthwhile needs in our community that our rates should be spent on | 9/30/2019 10:21 PM |
| 131 | Forget the general 6 pool policy. Each pool needs to be reviewed individually and decisions made. You are not going to make everyone happy.....those that complain most, ask for options re funding | 9/30/2019 6:47 PM |
| 132 | Swimming in the ocean is wonderful BUT rehab in the ocean poses some difficulties for people with spinal or joint problems | 9/30/2019 3:19 PM |
| 133 | Why keep 6 pools? How can it be justified to maintain pools at small centres like Bemboka, Candelo and Cobargo? If these are to be retained it should be user pays | 9/30/2019 3:14 PM |
| 134 | I think if council worked out a time strategy with the regular pool users, by reducing the times the pools are open, you would have to save costs. I'm not happy about an increase in my rates going to pools when Bermagui doesn't even have a pool. Increase the rates in the towns that want the pools but leave ours alone. They are already too expensive. | 9/30/2019 2:51 PM |
| 135 | I feel that council should look within at their own budget issues and costings before thinking that the poor old rate payer can get slogged again. Enough is enough. | 9/30/2019 1:59 PM |
| 136 | To maintain all pools is irresponsible | 9/30/2019 11:08 AM |
| 137 | Budget effectively. Start doing your job properly. Stop wasting money on things rate payers don't want! If you did your job properly you wouldn't need community engagement strategies. Fogo Council functions Redoing roads that don't need redoing, while failing to provide adequate roads where it is required - in Bemboka and in other areas. Our street sign in bemboka has 2 different spellings - do it right! That's why we don't want to pay extra. You already take so much money from rate payers, building developments, sporting grounds. When there are so many staff inside Council doing- we don't know what? You get flex time, you have smaller working hours than everyone else... We do not want a rate rise! | 9/30/2019 9:22 AM |
| 138 | There will be a lot of rate payers who do not use the pools and/or cannot afford to pay extra so that others can use them. Perhaps the people who do use the pools should be the ones who pay extra for doing so. | 9/30/2019 9:19 AM |
| 139 | I have been utilising facilities at the bega pool for the best part of 30+ years.... my children now swim there and are part of the community... We even lived in Canberra for 15 years and would still travel to have summers in the valley... and kids would have lessons at the Bega pool every season until we moved back home permanently. Its not just a pool, like many others it's part of our family history | 9/30/2019 9:04 AM |
| 140 | Increase visitation fees. Pay to play. Not hit rate payers who don't use the facilities. Go to the beach. They are amongst the best in the world. | 9/30/2019 8:54 AM |
| 141 | I feel that the BEGA pool is very well managed, however feel that the pool is run based on private lessons and heating of the water to a level that is unacceptable to anyone other than children having lessons. The temperature of the water is not appropriate for lap swimmers or general use. 30 water temperature is not necessary | 9/30/2019 5:43 AM |
| 142 | The pools dont affect me personally at present but are important to many others and the community. Council must find the money without hitting all ratepayers. The pools do not need to be fancy! The only other option would be user pays, which would be sad for those who cant manage an unacceptable price. Only other thing I can think of is for the local communities to own the pools. Shame on you BVSC for allowing the situation to come to this. | 9/29/2019 4:53 PM |
| 143 | There are many other assets in need of much better management than pools for a privileged few. Also, why are none of the community sessions being held in areas that have no pool, such as Tura Beach? It is those areas which are being asked to pay for them. | 9/29/2019 4:05 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 144 | WHY DIDN'T COUNCIL ADVISE RESIDENCE THAT THEY WERE GOING TO APPLY A RATE LEVY IN THE GENERAL RATE NOTICES. THIS APPEARS TO BE A DELIBERATE WITHHOLDING OF INFORMATION TO SUIT COUNCIL'S OBJECTIVES. | 9/29/2019 12:18 PM |
| 145 | Sounds like the whole issue has been badly managed. Ratepaters should have been informed if this huge increase with their rates notices. Meetings should have more widely advertised and in areas outside the locations of the pools | 9/29/2019 12:17 PM |
| 146 | Please don't increase rates again | 9/28/2019 11:01 PM |
| 147 | i do not believe that the shire should increase rates for all residents, which are excessive to start with, to keep open pools that are used by only a small percentage of the shire population. | 9/27/2019 8:08 PM |
| 148 | I'd wonder what percentage of ratepayers use the pools and if it is below 20% then I'd like to know why all ratepayers are expected by council to take on a huge increase in their rates. I would think that Bega, being inland, needs a pool, and Pambula's pool, being more an aquatic centre should probably remain but the lakes, rivers and sea in the shire provide ample swimming opportunities. Councillors have had an increase in pay recently but the general public, pensioners and people living on the paltry returns on investments HAVE HAD NO INCREASE IN INCOME and the cost of living continues to rise. How can council even begin to think that such a massive increase in the already exorbitant rates can be considered for one second. Council seems to have made no forward planning for pools and it should consider a moratorium on all grants and excess expenditure on non-core projects for at least three years before yet again burdening the ratepayers who pay their wages but who are treated as mindless cash cows who can be imposed upon with impunity. | 9/27/2019 3:33 PM |
| 149 | Please do not increase our rates, pool admission and the Council should cover the cost of maintaining pools in our Shire. | 9/27/2019 3:02 PM |
| 150 | I don't use the pools. | 9/27/2019 2:31 PM |
| 151 | The local pool is more than a swimming facility to me. Like the library it has become a community hub. While there are other pools in the Bega Valley that may seem accessible to the external eye (like the SAC) they may not be easily accessible for people like me with limited income, difficulty with transport costs or who have post-surgery mobility issues and limited transport support options. Its great that BVSC is taking the time to speak with the community about the issues of pool utilisation. I would encourage those responsible for the review to consider that like many other council services, pools offer more than what is seen face value or in an examination of cost vs utilisation etc. Some aspects cannot be captured by the bottom line on a spread-sheet. Please consider these too in your decision making processes. | 9/27/2019 11:00 AM |
| 152 | I do not wish to pay for the pools in my rates.. | 9/27/2019 7:50 AM |
| 153 | You need to rethink how you approach these community assets. If the community don't use them regularly then why are you fighting to keep them all open. Additionally, these pools are businesses and as such should be run like one. Two of 6 are being run as that and 1 - the most expensive of the pools has been declining in patronage over the past 4 years and is costing a fortune. If staff were better trained, understood the benefits of quality customer service and provided quality programs then the council would be in a better position to fight for these community assets. However when the staff wages do not justify the level of patronage it's just really poor management. | 9/27/2019 7:11 AM |
| 154 | Reduce the number of pools to 2 i.e. Sapphire Aquatic Centre & Bega. | 9/26/2019 8:31 AM |
| 155 | Where is the water to fill six swimming pools coming from? Reduce the number of pools in order to conserve water. | 9/25/2019 8:12 PM |
| 156 | I think the idea of rate payers paying SPR is wrong. Why should it be just rate payers, what about renters, visitors. Our rates are already high, with little return. Why has BVSC not already had a provision for this. You say pools built over the last 60 years, in 60 years no fund has been set up for such things as pool maintenance and upgrade. WHY? | 9/25/2019 7:12 PM |
| 157 | As a long term Eden - Bega Valley Shire resident I believe that the pool should be a more social, community friendly venue as it has been in the past. I think the pool should be open till 8 or 9 pm in summer and events held on the grounds (which need a bit of TLC; the lawn area is uncomfortable and uninviting). I'm sure local fundraising events would be successful there eg bbqs, music etc. People would also be willing to pay the entry fee if they knew they could have more than an hour's enjoyment after work and take a picnic or bbq dinner with them on hot summer days and not be pushed out the gate after a quick dip. Not sure if voluntary lifeguards for part of the day would be allowable to cut down on costs. I think the pools themselves are good, it's the grounds and lack of community that needs addressing to increase usage. I would have thought that upkeep was included in rates already and if the pools are shut due to ratepayers unwillingness to pay extra, what is to become of them? The ratepayers and townspeople are already struggling without paying extra or losing an important facility. | 9/25/2019 7:06 PM |

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| 158 | What will council's plans be if they were to close pools? Just leave big empty slabs of concrete to turn into eye sores? Or expect the rate payers to once again just keep putting out more and more money for such an ill run council who do not listen to rate payers! | 9/25/2019 10:21 AM |
| 159 | I don't agree with the strategy. If there is enough demand for pools and they are financially viable then private businesses can run them like gyms, caravan parks or clubs. That way people who actually want to use them would fund them. I don't agree that this is something everyone should have to pay for through rates when so few of the ratepayers will benefit from it. | 9/25/2019 10:15 AM |
| 160 | My rates are already over \$4000.00 a year. Now you want me to contribute another \$172.00. I would rather see the money go to badly needed footpaths, kerbs, gutters & street lighting in my area. | 9/25/2019 9:38 AM |
| 161 | Bemboka pool is vital to our little community. We have precious little other community resources in our village. Closing the pool, as well as putting more financial strain on our residents, would have adverse impacts. Life is tough enough with the drought. | 9/25/2019 5:29 AM |
| 162 | I have children that swim every day during summer and the pool is literally stones throw from home, if it wasn't open they would not have a swim option. | 9/24/2019 11:01 PM |
| 163 | I have put medium as my comment for impact. I currently don't use the pool, however I have grandchildren who will soon be of an age where access to a pool for swimming lessons, recreation, school sport etc will become very important | 9/24/2019 9:52 PM |
| 164 | It should be a priority, to keep ALL the pools open, in the Bega Shire. THERE ISN'T MUCH ELSE HERE ON OFFER!!! As far as recreational activities. | 9/24/2019 9:47 PM |
| 165 | I will reiterate that I strongly feel that it is not appropriate for the council to ask all rate payers to support an increase on our rates to upgrade swimming pools for the community when swimming pools only represent such a small amount of the population and is a very small sporting component within the area. its hard enough for rate payers to manage utilities in every day life and to add more unwarranted dollars to all rate payers and impacting on the financial budget balance for the low income residents in the valley. I feel that there are other avenues that council can access from governments to support this project if it feels it is warranted and so important to the community but not to add an increase - "just because" for swimming pools . I don't agree. I am struggling already with balance and budgeting and a reminder BVSC is a low income socio economic region with problems . | 9/24/2019 8:24 PM |
| 166 | I purchase Magic Mountain passes for my kids and I. For less than \$240 the two kids and I get unlimited access to the water slides, pool and other rides for most of the year. An extra \$170 or so in rates would mean I would push the budget that bit more and mean that I would have to forgo the Magic Mountain passes. Would Council then make pools free? Would they increase entertainment like serious water slides? The Council pools really are rather boring with little features to make visiting "fun". Maybe Council could close pools and support Magic Mountain with grants to boost it. | 9/24/2019 7:33 PM |
| 167 | The pools are needed especially for schools and swimming lessons etc. Pools are a great place to meet up with people but are becoming less popular due to increase in entries, food cost rises etc and opening hours | 9/24/2019 7:10 PM |
| 168 | Bring big and better fun swimming pool for the kids to be entertainened | 9/24/2019 5:27 PM |
| 169 | have a sinking fund for repairs and maintenance, don't always hit the rate payers every time short of cash, a lot of rate payers can't afford the rates as is. | 9/23/2019 11:54 PM |
| 170 | Dont try and make things fancy, keep it simple, just make good pools that are healthy, don't try to be too fancy and modern, just clean and people will have fun like that. A straightforward pool in our community is all we need, a gathering place and a place our kids can learn to swim, and where can get daily exercise. Simplicity. | 9/23/2019 10:26 PM |
| 171 | A lots of our pools where community funded. I have found our pools in the shire to be the most costly ones to attend What are we doing wrong Make them affordable so families and our community can use them instead of have to go to unsafe waterways So sporting goods can use them for Fitness training and over health They are too expensive to just pop in to cool off on your way home or after a hit days work!!!! | 9/23/2019 6:08 PM |
| 172 | The community shouldn't have to keep paying more every Council comes up with an idea. | 9/23/2019 5:19 PM |
| 173 | The season for the pools to open should be longer not shorter - that way I can spend my money at a BVSC pool (Cobargo) instead of at Narooma. | 9/23/2019 2:55 PM |
| 174 | We would like to see an All Pools pass for all the 6 pools. | 9/23/2019 2:49 PM |

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| 175 | The above question is difficult, because it is very individually/self focused. Even if I never use the pool, it would still affect me if it was closed as it would mean the loss of a community asset and many people who rely on the pool for recreation for the family/kids/time out etc, and who may not be able to afford regular drives to the beach for eg, would be unhappy - and that sort of discontent and community impoverishment affects all of us | 9/23/2019 2:47 PM |
| 176 | Thank you (council) for undertaking to keep the 6 pools open | 9/23/2019 2:06 PM |
| 177 | Very Well Done!! | 9/23/2019 1:55 PM |
| 178 | No | 9/23/2019 1:51 PM |
| 179 | COULD THE MANAGEMENT OF THE AQUATIC FACILITIES MAKE BETTER USE OF THEIR FUNDING ? RATE PAYERS NOT USING THE POOLS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR THESE FACILITIES | 9/23/2019 1:32 PM |
| 180 | How did we suddenly have this problem? Why is a rate increase the only option? Why was Cobargo meeting at a time that suit Council not those who actually use the pool with young children. The increase per year might not be much for Leanne Barnes, but did she look at the empty shops in Cobargo while she was there? Have you looked at average household incomes against our other increasing bills. Not sure why Council has a community service Dept. So out of touch with our community. | 9/22/2019 9:31 PM |
| 181 | Swimming pools are important for teaching children how to swim. However we have excellent access to natural water bodies for recreation. Our Shire comprises a lot of low income households and raising rates to pay for pools that are only used by a minority does not seem sustainable. In my opinion, a review should be undertaken with regard to the viability of keeping the Cobargo and Bemboka pools. Alternatively if the pools are very important to the community, funds should be made available from Council's existing funds by finding efficiencies within Council's operations. | 9/21/2019 11:57 AM |
| 182 | Disappointed for community members. If we lost pool in Cobargo-it's so important so many young families. | 9/20/2019 12:57 PM |
| 183 | We cannot have all these little towns with pools etc. the shire cannot afford them. Consolidate and make what is left better, people will travel. Our sporting facilities in general in this shire are woeful, travel around the state and have a look at what other places have, we never get any state level sporting carnivals held here because of them. Candelo Bowling Club has recently shut, it was a community built asset but unfortunately is no longer viable. There used to be a golf course and squash court in Cobargo, both gone. Along with Cobargo, there were golf courses at Kameruka and Nimmitabel, gone as well. Things change, and you cannot keep living in the past forever. | 9/20/2019 12:55 PM |
| 184 | I think we are very lucky to have the facilities we have. I know the Bega and Cobargo pools are old and in need of an upgrade. Learning to swim and for safety in the water, to use a pool as a rehab facility, to gently recover fitness and better health, to exercise via water aerobics, or to develop a talent for swimming which may lead to the Olympics are all extremely valid and necessary reasons for having well- maintained and good swimming pools. Being a regional and spread out community should not be a reason for Council to shut down or make it financially difficult for the people under its care to have access to this vital facility. To me, it comes under the heading of duty of care. | 9/20/2019 10:04 AM |
| 185 | 6 pools seems an excessive amount...We have enough facilities at the beach for most users. | 9/19/2019 9:36 PM |
| 186 | I see the pools as important public assets and would like to see them available for future generations- not just for my own needs. Need to think beyond the now and ensure we are leaving well cared for community facilities for the future. It's more important to me to have pools than other sporting facilities. Pools are very important for children and you g people. I hope youth are also being consulted around this proposal. | 9/19/2019 9:21 PM |
| 187 | Making the Bega Valley an affordable place to live means making some some sacrifices. Thank you | 9/19/2019 7:06 PM |
| 188 | As a resident who pays rates i think the rates are currently high enough as there has been an increase every year i have paid rates.i think you should look else where for funding. | 9/19/2019 1:47 PM |
| 189 | How haven't you people had a plan for this since upkeep of facilities is your job. Is the same thing going to happen at community halls and sporting grounds that you've taken over. | 9/18/2019 8:26 PM |
| 190 | No | 9/18/2019 7:52 PM |
| 191 | Please consider the elderly aged pensioners in the Bega Valley Shire because we are not alone in this regard. | 9/18/2019 5:54 PM |
| 192 | I do not want to pay extra rates for swimming pools | 9/18/2019 4:49 PM |

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| 193 | You might put some effort into finding a sponsor or benefactor to donate a lump sum of money, put their name on some advertising maybe. | 9/18/2019 2:19 PM |
| 194 | All pools in the shire should be made accessible to all, [ratepayers, non-ratepayer residents, tourists] and possibly free of charge or for a very low token charge, then I would then be more willing to pay the extra rates needed to keep the pools open. Facilities enhance a town, closing them would not. | 9/18/2019 12:08 PM |
| 195 | I think that our rates are already expensive enough!! For people who don't use these facilities I think it is a bit tough on them especially for those who are in a tight financial situation. | 9/18/2019 11:46 AM |
| 196 | We live near the sea and my family can swim there for nothing. | 9/18/2019 11:31 AM |
| 197 | council need to upgrade our pools to modern standards. council need to find the money by doing internal budgeting to fund the upgrades. asking rate payers to pay now after many years of little or no maintenance is just wrong. borrow from the road maintenance budget. | 9/18/2019 11:24 AM |
| 198 | Thank you for doing such a good job on this report and explaining the issue so clearly. I understand pools are important for therapy, training, and sporting events but I do not support high cost facilities simply for recreation, particularly given that we are mostly a coastal community with access to numerous beaches and estuaries. | 9/18/2019 11:13 AM |
| 199 | User pays. The cost of upkeep on the pools shouldn't be the responsibility of rate payers | 9/18/2019 10:58 AM |
| 200 | NOT INTRESTED IN PAYING HIGHER RATES AS WE DON'T USE THE POOLS HAVEN'T USED THEM IN 30 YEARS AND DON'T INTEND TO START NOW | 9/18/2019 10:19 AM |
| 201 | I would like to see better signage and promotion of the Eden pool as discussed at the public meeting (our table added comments to the sheet on the table). I would also like to see exercise classes for adult run at the Eden pool - general fitness/aerobic and things like classes catering for special groups ie.older people, arthritis etc. This was tried a couple of seasons ago however the time was NOT well considered and led to low numbers of people attending. Example - aerobics class at 4:30pm - lots of younger women would have liked to attend but that time is NOT suitable for working women/men or people with children. Timing and promotion is extremely important if these things are to be successful. I loved the idea discussed at the public meeting of adding play equipment, bbq's, etc to the grounds. Free vouchers as with tip ones for a 'free' entry to come and visit pool good idea. Having a fish and chips night at the pool - invite a food truck to park outside pool to sell and have pool 'toys' happening. The pool can become a great public space if we work on it together. | 9/18/2019 9:56 AM |
| 202 | Please don't close Eden pool. | 9/18/2019 9:47 AM |
| 203 | Try getting funding from Sydney for local pools to be spent in our area instead of building unnecessary football stadiums in the metropolitan area. | 9/18/2019 9:18 AM |
| 204 | Could bega pool pleas stay open till 6.30- 7 in summer to cater for after work swimmers. Non public servants work longer hours. | 9/18/2019 8:25 AM |
| 205 | Bad management of resources leads to situations where upgrades and ongoing maintenance plus running costs = assets which are no longer viable. If I was attempting to run 6 cars and they weren't well maintained and were wearing out it would be ludicrous to consider to continue to run 6 cars. Even stupider to expect the users (my kids) to foot the bill. The very obvious answer is to reduce assets to what is affordable. Stop being so risk averse and step up to be strong managers who can make tough decisions when needed. | 9/17/2019 10:30 PM |
| 206 | If improving the pools is a necessity, I think it's better to have fewer pools than to increase rates again so soon. | 9/17/2019 10:08 PM |

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| 207 | <p>We are a couple of elderly residents living in Tathra. We have been here for ten years. As you know, we don't have a local pool. The closest pool to us is the pool in Bega which we have never visited. One of us, however, has used the Pambula pool for a couple of months for exercise and for rehabilitation after a knee replacement. We have also visited the Candelo pool on a couple of occasions and were happily surprised and delighted with the facilities and the friendly people who were running it. At various times in our lives, however, we have made great use of local swimming pools. One of those was the Queanbeyan swimming pool which was heavily used by residents and visitors during the whole year (it has a heated pool as well as the outdoor Olympic size pool). Our experience of that pool only reinforced for us what we already knew - and that was that community swimming pools are a fantastic resource for residents. They are absolutely necessary for teaching kids how to swim, rehab facilities for those that need weight supporting exercise, for getting kids off the streets and giving them a great, healthy place to have fun together. So we would be voting for the council retaining and Improving the existing facilities. As far as we are concerned the improved and well-maintained pool versus run-down falling apart pool is a no-brainer. The question of how you are going to fund it though is the main issue of contention. We can see the validity in the argument that if the community wants these facilities maintained and improved they will be required to pay for them. We can see the attractiveness for the council in sheeting home these additional funding requirements to a rate increase but, and we're sure others will be pointing this out, the rates increase is going to fall more heavily on those members of the community who use the facilities less than others. Owners of houses on land valuation at the higher end of the scale are likely to be older and not frequent or even sometime users of these facilities. Then again, people who are renting in the shire are getting a free ride because they are paying no more than before -- and it is probably these residents, more than others, who have kids who will be using the facilities. (That's not a bias coming through there.....we all know that most people have kids when they are younger and are trying to put together a deposit for a house. Been there, done that!) So, while we agree with the principle behind the promotion of community swimming pools as an asset for all residents, we think this funding model places the heaviest burden on those who would be using the facilities the least. So we would be suggesting to council that it looks more closely at a funding model that is more equitable in terms on its impact on various segments of the community. Several years ago the council was audited and it got a big tick for the way it managed its financial resources. It was way ahead of some other councils in terms of financial responsibility, for the way it managed to provide adequate resources on a fairly small taxpayer base. However, it was marked down by the expert auditor for not borrowing enough for infrastructure development. It was recommended that they borrow more because they were going to find that when it came time to maintain essential infrastructure the budget wasn't going to cover it. Perhaps this is one of those situations where these particular assets could be maintained by borrowing. Surely this is worth considering in a climate of low interest rates. The annual repayments on these infrastructure costs might be met by a rate variation that was the same for every rate payer.</p> | 9/17/2019 8:21 PM |
| 208 | Rates are already very high for people living on low income. Because I am a low income earner but still working, I get no pensioner discount. | 9/17/2019 7:00 PM |
| 209 | Routine general maintenance would reduce overall costs. We don't use any pools therefore an increase in rates to maintain pools would be unfair and an extra financial burden to retired pensioners such as us. | 9/17/2019 5:39 PM |
| 210 | Pools are a local council responsibility. Perhaps there is a need for an efficiency study carried out within the Shire, including all paid staff. | 9/17/2019 5:29 PM |
| 211 | I think the pools are important to the community and obviously the local townsfolk are very passionate about the aquatic facilities here. There needs to be some more data on how many people use the pools etc. In summer not all children and families can drive to the beach everyday (Bemboka, Candelo, Cobargo and Bega) so having a swimming facility in town is really important. Membership fees could increase and shorter seasons for when they are open could help. | 9/17/2019 4:59 PM |
| 212 | The Sapphire Aquatic Centre was developed with the guarantee that additional community funds would not be allocated. That promise proved void. I would drastically oppose any further funding allocations for additional funding and would actively oppose any rate variation application. Council should employ its discretionary capabilities and regulate the industry in an appropriate financial manner. Six pools for such a low population is patently absurd. This situation can now be rectified given local government common sense attitudes | 9/17/2019 4:51 PM |
| 213 | As Bermagui does not have a pool many of these above questions are not applicable to us in Bermagui. The number of pools in the Shire is a luxury that many people cannot readily access and is also obviously unaffordable to the Shire so removal of some smaller ones is an option to be considered. The so-called higher impost on those who use them under a "user pays basis" is no different to the impost you are placing in reverse on those who do not use the pool by applying the Special Rate Variation which is also then totally unjust. A & B Judge 83 Murrah St Bermagui 0438514518 | 9/17/2019 4:30 PM |

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| 214 | The pool in Pambula is a joy to me and a lot of people my age. It is the most important thing in my day. | 9/17/2019 4:23 PM |
| 215 | A rate variation? give me a break. Is every cent of current rate income being wisely expended? | 9/17/2019 3:46 PM |
| 216 | The citizens of BVS will not want the rates raised even for swimming pool upgrades. Find the money elsewhere. | 9/17/2019 3:27 PM |
| 217 | Council should seriously consider privatising the pools to reduce the financial burden on rate-payers who do not use the pools. | 9/17/2019 2:52 PM |
| 218 | Fund the pools by reducing the management salaries of shire staff such as the general manager. Don't suck anymore funds out of the residents. And again I never use public pools. | 9/17/2019 1:55 PM |
| 219 | Your material is full of jargon, generalisations and unfounded assertions. It lacks data on every issue and is directed towards getting some kind of blanket approval for a macro strategy which is far beneath any level of business case justification. | 9/17/2019 1:48 PM |
| 220 | The council should focus on managing their costs better rather than taking the easy option of applying a special rate variation to households. | 9/17/2019 1:24 PM |
| 221 | The pools in their current form are simply boring. For \$78 each person, I can buy a pass to Magic Mountain which gives us unlimited waterslides and other amusements. The Bega pool is simply a basic pool. They used to put a blow up slide in it, but it wasn't that great. Bega Pool has a huge hill behind which would support a large water slide. The kids pools could have smaller slides are splash entertainment. Bemboka pool costs residents across the Shire too much per visitor - it would be better to subsidise travel into Bega during summer and close the Bemboka pool. | 9/17/2019 1:12 PM |
| 222 | please try a user pay system , & stop this lessee crap , the lessees get rich & council , that is ratepayers have to pay for the upkeep of the pool , while lessees get all the profit . Stop this out of date crap . | 9/17/2019 1:01 PM |
| 223 | Please consider all other options before looking at slugging ratepayers! The Eden Pool offers great highway frontage, I'm sure businesses would pay \$\$ for sponsorship and signage. Maintenance costs could be reduced by staff maintaining grounds and amenities during slow times. Source Grants for swimming programs, disabled ramp access, lighting, volunteer labour for picnic tables, BBQ areas, playgrounds etc etc | 9/16/2019 11:24 PM |
| 224 | I do feel that the pools are important to the local communities, however I also feel that the quality of the pools are more important and if they can't be maintained to a standard and if they are not financially self sufficient then we need to look really hard at whether it is viable to sustain them. The reason that more people don't use them now must be due to the quality of the facilities. Personally I often feel the pool water is cold and there is little protection from the weather although it is nice to have the pool to myself when there. I don't think that rate payers will be happy to increase their rates permanently to pay for something that they would not use given that most pools except Bega will not be upgraded for some years to come. Admittedly, I also don't feel that you could raise usage/membership fee's sufficiently to cover the cost of maintaining the six pools. Clearly another solution has to be found and perhaps that may mean closing some pools to enable the construction of a better facility in Bega that can be enhanced in years to come as the other pools close. If the lifespan of pool is 60 years then perhaps we need to be designing something that will still provide what the community needs in 60 years time, not something that we can afford now but will outgrow in 20 years. Perhaps a combination of a smaller rates increase together with a usage/membership fee increase and a cost reduction across the other pools could finance a more sustainable enterprise that would be more acceptable across the community. I feel that the communities perception is that we already pay one of the highest rates in the State and that perhaps the council's use of these funds aren't always as efficient as they could be. There does seems to be a lot of money wasted on less important projects and now an increase in rates to subsidise more. | 9/16/2019 10:51 PM |
| 225 | There is no 'local pool' in my area. | 9/16/2019 10:45 PM |
| 226 | I feel the aquatic centre in pambula is very beneficial to the area it is not sesonal it is usable all year round and from my experience of when I'm there it is very popular... | 9/16/2019 10:38 PM |
| 227 | Do it like the rubbish tips.That works for council but not for the rate payers. | 9/16/2019 9:52 PM |
| 228 | Whenever BVSC is finding it hard to pay for things they go for a SRV. How about being a bit more careful with the money like the rest of us have to to get by. | 9/16/2019 7:28 PM |
| 229 | I knew someone who worked at the pool, she got paid petrol to drive to and from work and got paid a high rate of pay, I think the council should look at how they pay certain people and maybe use the unnecessary money to pay for the pools instead | 9/16/2019 7:16 PM |

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| 230 | I think you really, really need to consider how viable it is to have certain pools open V population demographics. Bemboka for example. Is there enough demand to keep this pool open?? If someone wants to use a facility - they will, parents travel during the winter months into Bega for hockey / football, they can travel in summer for a swim. | 9/16/2019 5:24 PM |
| 231 | Please make accessibility a priority for any facility - overall access for those less mobile in our shire is very poor. | 9/16/2019 5:12 PM |
| 232 | I love our pool at Candelo, it is well run and a really valuable resource for the community and my family find it convenient (the beach is just too far and not always safe with kids to go on a regular basis) | 9/16/2019 3:59 PM |
| 233 | At my age I am not a pool user but I feel strongly that this amenity should continue to be available. | 9/16/2019 1:08 PM |
| 234 | I really appreciate the friendly and helpful manager, Jim, at the Cobargo Pool. He helps make coming in for a swim really enjoyable. | 9/16/2019 12:28 PM |
| 235 | I consider the most important use of the pool is to enable Primary School kids to have their learn to swim classes and swimming for sport. | 9/16/2019 9:50 AM |
| 236 | Cobargo pool is an assest to the town to close that pool you will kill cobargo and bermagui not only will it effect the town but think and Jim who has ran that pool for over 30 years and the level of swimming he teaches you don't get state records for nothing that just shows how good he really is | 9/16/2019 9:11 AM |
| 237 | Do more research on how other shires manage their pools and model a best fit solution | 9/16/2019 7:37 AM |
| 238 | Sporting and health facilities get a poor go in this shire. If the extra money is utilised correctly and not siphoned off into some other mundane council run purpose then I support the rate rise. | 9/16/2019 5:31 AM |
| 239 | Yes - this looks remarkably like the Council setting up the pools consultation for a failure. Come up a better more innovative plan. Do something remarkable for a change... | 9/16/2019 12:46 AM |
| 240 | Rates is already my biggest utility expense. It costs more then electricity or my car maintenance. I would have thought the council would already have pool maintenance budgeted in. | 9/15/2019 10:35 PM |
| 241 | Bega should have a 50m, 10 lane indoor pool open all year round. Unfortunately our shire suffers from the mentality that every town should have the best of everything. Creating a "Super Centre" would enable people to maintain a healthier lifestyle all year round. The Pambula 25m centre does not cut the mustard and is in the wrong location. The other existing shire pools could then run more restricted hours to complement the Super Centre. | 9/15/2019 9:52 PM |
| 242 | I don't mind paying a bit extra to attend the pool. I don't think increasing the rates is fair on the ratepayers. | 9/15/2019 9:00 PM |
| 243 | The fact that Bega pool is not olympic length is frustrating. Candelo is a better option in this regard and is a beautiful pool which need sot be better promoted and better managed. | 9/15/2019 8:00 PM |
| 244 | All in all council has maintained and or added infrastructure in the valley well above what what I would have expected for a large area and low rateble area. Well done. I'm not sure the valley needs 6 pools ? and no where have i seen any financial number to prove/disprove of this. | 9/15/2019 7:53 PM |
| 245 | I think it's great that council has decided to keep all 6 pools, and I will support the proposed financial measures required to make this happen. I think it's a good proposal. | 9/15/2019 6:04 PM |
| 246 | Bega pool is a gold mine and BVSC are doing the wrong thing by all rate payers, year in, year out with pool contracts. BVSC should be receiving income from Bega pool and the sad thing is people think by going to Bega pool this helps the council. From my findings the last 2 weeks there is the biggest scam going on in Upper street bega. Hopefully the ratepayers association come across this finding. The town deserves to know the whole story, especially if the council wants ratepayers to help fund these projects Maybe the people running the bega pool may like to make a significant contribution to a new pool, because they are the ones with all the tax free cash money. I wonder why they wont install an EFTPOS machine. Wrong, wrong BVSC. We need a COMMUNITY pool that council gets the rewards for. Please open till 6pm on weekends with no lessons. | 9/15/2019 1:29 PM |
| 247 | I reiterate it is vital for children to learn how to swim and to have a recreational activity offered to them . It is also vital for so many members of the community to keep fit and the pool is a perfect opportunity. It is a perfect way to cool down on hot summer days . Many people are not safe swimming at the beach . | 9/15/2019 8:02 AM |
| 248 | I am horrified that Council is even putting this out to the community. We pay our rates. Councils job is to manage the budget. I'm disgusted at the attitude. | 9/14/2019 7:21 PM |
| 249 | Council need to better manage their money to keep faculties up to standard. | 9/14/2019 7:05 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 250 | If you are renewing the Bega pool, I would love 50m lanes. The pool is often too crowded and older slower swimmers seem to get in the way for faster swimmers. Or even a covered pool for all year round swimming. Many older people moved to Narooma because of the pool! | 9/14/2019 5:13 PM |
| 251 | Leave our pools alone they have far more value to the community than a bottom line figure. For everyone who complains that they don't use them and don't want to pay, there's plenty of assets in the shire that we don't use eg art galleries, boat ramps, parks but we still pay for them. Children and adults need to have access to pools. Where will kids learn to swim? Where will our schools swim? Where will elderly people go for a swim? Consider the bigger picture. | 9/14/2019 3:51 PM |
| 252 | Not everyone in the community has access to the beach like I do, and also these pools provide a need for many people who have no means of transport to access another pool in another town, and the local transport is very poor in the Bega area. We need these pools so that our future children will be able to swim and enjoy being able to exercise. These places are a place of meeting and forming friendships within the communities, it is essential that all people no matter how old need to be able to swim. | 9/14/2019 1:11 PM |
| 253 | Tathra used to have an Ocean Rock Pool until it was destroyed like the Ring Road. This infrastructure was never repaired. In the last Census Tathra had a bigger population than Bermagui who still have their Blue Pool. It is about time Tathra was provided with more Footpaths and Curbing especially when there is no access in many areas for wheelchairs other than use the roadways. It will be interesting to see how a wheelchair or scooter is going to access the new Headland Walking Track when there is no footpath linkage to the Upper Tathra shops. | 9/14/2019 11:15 AM |
| 254 | This is just one aspect of Council's performance and gouge the ratepayers strategy that is extremely disappointing Suggest you read https://www.afr.com/politics/councils-should-fix-potholes-not-try-to-save-the-world-20190913-p52qx3 | 9/14/2019 11:03 AM |
| 255 | All pools in each town is important to each community. Our children need these pools especially in smaller towns. | 9/14/2019 8:33 AM |
| 256 | I know they are costly to run but they are an extremely important service. Kids need to learn to swim in them. They are very good for low impact exercise as we age. We may have to pay more but please don't close them! | 9/14/2019 8:11 AM |
| 257 | Why does this council waste money on Bega. We elect a new council and they seem to just follow in the footsteps of the last lot. Bega is never going to be the hub of the sapphire coast as people come here to be on the coast. Don't look at permanent population, look at rates collected from each town and distribute money according to that. We need to go back to the old council set up where Bega wasn't apart of our council and our council always run in the black. Instead we had to inherit their debt. Wake up | 9/14/2019 7:55 AM |
| 258 | A pool is important to families with children and grandchildren as they provide a safe and secure place for youngsters to swim. | 9/14/2019 1:02 AM |
| 259 | With \$80 million of projects in various stages with BVSC it's not lost on the community that council has likely failed to account for how it's going to maintain those future assets also. This won't be the last SEV you want to impose and it's time Council seriously looks at it engineers and project managers to find out why we keep building more assets that are over designed and don't instead manage the facilities we already have. | 9/13/2019 11:21 PM |
| 260 | Sapphire Aquatic Centre is a drain and should not have been converted- we drive to candelo to use a pool now... Don't waste money - we haven't got it to give to you to waste. | 9/13/2019 10:31 PM |
| 261 | Pools are a social hub for many communities and must be maintained at existing levels for the overall health of those communities. | 9/13/2019 9:42 PM |
| 262 | Bega Pool needs an urgent physical upgrade to their facilities, however, Zoe and Mark provide a fantastic, welcoming service to our community. | 9/13/2019 9:27 PM |
| 263 | Love that the pools are here. | 9/13/2019 9:10 PM |
| 264 | The pool at Cobargo is very well run . I prefer to swim there than Narooma as the hours are more accommodating to working people. | 9/13/2019 8:16 PM |
| 265 | The eden pool is one of the very few places children can go to have fun over summer in a supervised safe environment | 9/13/2019 7:43 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 266 | Perhaps if the pools were upgraded they would actually get used more. As a mother with young kids (under 4) the Pambula pool has very little in the way of facilities to assist in being able to change and shower little ones. There is absolutely nothing to change babies unless u can get the one toilet for this. The pools themselves are also quite cool despite being "heated". The splash zone area which has been specifically designed for small people never seems to be turned on due to lessons - what is the point in this?? Every time I enquire I'm told no because there's lessons on. Lessons take place the majority of the day! The six pools that are currently open are no where near each other. If we want kids to learn to swim these must stay open! Surely there is a way to do this other then increasing rates. | 9/13/2019 7:32 PM |
| 267 | See above. Water parks would be better. Look at Cairns Esplanade. Leave the Pambula Aquatic Centre as is, can be used all year round for swim teaching, rehab etc. Technology - eftpos machine at Bega pool would be a good start. | 9/13/2019 7:00 PM |
| 268 | What about kids wanting to continue learning to swim? Will we have more drownings? Where would the swimming squad go? More obese children.. | 9/13/2019 6:55 PM |
| 269 | Cobargo pool was dug, built and fund raised by the community. Nothing in Cobargo ever gets done by council apart from upkeep to assets. We the community have worked tirelessly to have what we have for betterment of Cobargo. No thanks to council. We, Cobargo are NEVER given anything from council. Now you are wanting us to pay more to keep the pool that the community provided. COBARGO IS ALWAYS TOTALLY OVERLOOKED. Priorities are NEVER looked at. | 9/13/2019 6:37 PM |
| 270 | I think my local Bega pool is run extremely well and council should look at other options rather than rates to fund them | 9/13/2019 6:36 PM |
| 271 | Council needs to start listening at the grass roots level and looking to give the community something that is not politically motivated or pushed by the elite few with their head in the clouds | 9/13/2019 5:30 PM |
| 272 | Please consider other funding options, instead of increasing rates in times of drought. Our farming town values it's pool and sees it as a unique asset to our community, offering a connect point for health (mental and physical), social and family life. Drawing Funding from increasing rates of landowners, a significant portion of whom are farmers in our town, in a time of drought is unnecessary and an extra financial burden on our community. | 9/13/2019 5:28 PM |
| 273 | Don't put up the rates!!!! | 9/13/2019 5:16 PM |
| 274 | Sapphire Aquatic Centre is a great community resource, and my family and I would be very upset to see a reduction in access. Perhaps more advertising about what it offers would be worth considering. The benefits to the community - learn-to-swim classes, fitness, rehabilitation etc - should be a council priority. | 9/13/2019 4:59 PM |
| 275 | Even though I don't use the pool at this stage, it is where my children learned to swim. It is where our school goes for learn to swim and swimming for sport. You would have very disappointed children in the community with no place to go when it is hot. Also the school would have to transport students to Bega or Narooma for learn to swim classes which the cost of getting student to these place would be a great strain on families and school budgets. | 9/13/2019 4:25 PM |
| 276 | swimming is a safety issue for every child. the pool is a safe place to lurn. | 9/13/2019 4:19 PM |
| 277 | I cannot believe that you are even thinking about this, if our roads were great, if there was no rubbish around, if the reserves were well looked after and , generally , if we the rate payers felt that we were being given a fair go then yes this would be ok. i think its time that the lurks and perks need to be addressed and a proper financial strategy to be implemented (the Australasia hotel debacle is a prime example) of council wasting money. Running something of this scale is the same as running a business the only difference is a business needs to run at a profit while a council needs to at least break even, while fulfilling all of its requirements, including a long term stratagy for such occasions . councilors used to be respected now they are in the same class as bank managers and used car salesmen | 9/13/2019 3:57 PM |
| 278 | BVSC needs to be smarter with their money. We rate payers are already charged an enormous amount for rates and see nothing in return. Clearly there needs to be smarter financial planning in place. The amount of money that is wasted on nonsense is astounding. | 9/13/2019 3:00 PM |
| 279 | It seems that present councillors and BVSC staff are only concerned with rates, rubbish and roads. There is more to our local communities than these three things. To ensure the health and wellbeing of communities COUNCIL plays a MAJOR role in facilitating and supporting community assets such as pools, sporting grounds, libraries, community hubs etc etc. It is time the present Councillors, & BVSC employees, look from another perspective and that is to support our communities to be the best they can, not continually selling of assets to pay for more council staff to do negative impact work!! The glass is half full, NOT EMPTY. This is a great part of the world, lets not just look at our assets in purely financial terms and please do not take away ANOTHER Eden community asset at the expense of BEGA!! | 9/13/2019 2:31 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 280 | Years ago when younger, the Eden pool was the place to be, there use to Family nights with bbq's available, hours longer on Friday nights it was fun, and affordable to go with the family! Now it's hard for some families to be able to take there families there as it's so expensive. During daylight savings time and over summer the pool should be open later for the public, 8pm on weekends, AND HALF THE POOL SHOULDNT BE LANED OFF.. if people are paying for the use of the pool then they should get the use of the whole thing! | 9/13/2019 12:54 PM |
| 281 | Without the accessible pools for the brought public, fewer people learn how to swim, which increase the danger of drowning. The way how BVSC handling the needs for the pool upgrades is wrong. It is a matter of the value of human life and it can not be linked with the rate increase for everyone. It is a tough time these days and people can't afford to pay more. I'm afraid that the majority of residents would oppose the rate increase, simply because they do not use swimming pools. Is the BVSC going to find money elsewhere then or will just say residents are not willing to pay, let's close some pools? Lives are in the hands of the BVSC and it should be their commitment to protecting it. BTW, do you know that the value of one statistical life is over \$ 4 million? Much more than you need for the pools... | 9/13/2019 10:48 AM |
| 282 | Keep pools open, beneficial to our communities health. Felt that Eden has turned a corner last year with management and heating it was a pleasure to use the dacity again, well done. | 9/13/2019 9:24 AM |
| 283 | The Cobargo pool is extremely important to our community in Bermagui. It is small but the facility is run extremely well. Our children thrive there at learn to swim & squad & some swim at a competitive level. We are happy the way it is. | 9/13/2019 8:48 AM |
| 284 | Such waste in many areas eg Merimbula bypass failure, and facilities that are present should be maintained for residents. Maybe if Bega was not getting a new pool at huge cost other towns won't have to loose theirs. Eden has an awesome, huge pool it would be utter selfish madness to close such a setup down. Once you close them that's it. Maintain what you have, it's just common sense. Council needs to listen to residents and not keep removing assets from towns. Stop waste - fogo - in other areas. The rates are crippling families already. | 9/13/2019 8:41 AM |
| 285 | Please keep Eden pool. It is an important facility for the local schools as well as the wider community. | 9/13/2019 7:48 AM |
| 286 | We already have to travel great distances to engage in fitness activities for ourselves and our children. It becomes very expensive and exhausting due to the time it takes to travel. A rate rise will impact even more on our family budget especially if there is no subsidized pool entry for ratepayers. It is becoming increasingly expensive to life in this shire and to take away important facilities takes away some of the desirability to live here. | 9/13/2019 7:46 AM |
| 287 | Growing up with a big swimming upbringing. Attended swimming club . Never had the issue of half the pool being closed for swimming club. Always had full use of pool and was a fun place to attend. Was run very well by council employee. Need to have facility that encourages attendance and promotes peoples health and wellbeing. | 9/13/2019 12:16 AM |
| 288 | Our council is becoming somewhat the laughing stock of NSW for poor decision making and management. Just where are our rates going ? Too much wasting of funds so I suspect the pools aren't just either going to Be shut down or users slugged while so many people in our valley probably don't even bother paying rates anyway ! | 9/12/2019 10:08 PM |
| 289 | from my understanding Cobargo pool was built in the 60's by the community and that same community later funded and built the building of the club house. In a small town like Cobargo we have an amazing community that bands together. To lose the pool would also make us a ghost town. Swim club has members from Brogo, Tilba, Bermagui, Quaama and Cobargo that attend each week 6 months of the year. If this pool closes the health and wellbeing of locals will suffer and it would add to the death of yet another activity in the area. I do not agree that ratepayers should be the only ones funding the pools, is there any possibility of Grant funding, community committee of each pool increasing fundraising and upkeep of the pool reducing the costs to council? | 9/12/2019 11:14 AM |
| 290 | Do not raise our rates We already pay more than anyone else. | 9/12/2019 11:05 AM |
| 291 | Please do NOT increase my rates. Why should we stay in this beautiful area and raise our family here if you just keep taking? Thank you. | 9/12/2019 10:09 AM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 292 | Having moved here from perth in the last 12 months I was pretty disappointed by the pool facilities. Being involved in surf life saving and swimming squads my whole life it was hard to come here and not have the same access to facilities and see kids not getting those opportunities sport wise. Especially when there are a lot of pools it seemed a waste to have limited hours and limited season. To me costs of heating etc are continuous even if the pool has reduced hours during the season. Pools have minimal staff so not a lot of extra costs to be open longer days and that would also increase job opportunities in the shire. I would prefer a few of the decent pools Eden (50m) and Bega to be open for more of the year and extended hours to better allow for swimming pre and post work. Bega has a strong swim squad and think by allowing those habitual swimmers to continue usage for more of the year you would make more money as opposed to relying on casual swimmers to cover the costs. Disagree with changing the Bega pool to 25m, although 33m is an odd length, reducing the length will make the pool feel busier and more cramped. In a major town centre think a 50m pool would be more worth the money and open opportunities to host events, swim meets, carnivals etc. Also 50m pools and more lanes again would increase visitation. Know myself I hated using bega or Pambula as they were too busy so was driving all the way to eden for a decent pool and lane space. Think some of the lack of profit is due to the facilities being maxed out, Bega and Pambula are too busy and not enjoyable to swim in so I chose the ocean instead. That's a missed opportunity to make money and increase usage. Worth investing in upgrading a few of the key pools and usage will increase. | 9/12/2019 9:47 AM |
| 293 | Can I just say I ran the bemboka pool for long time and you must meet the town's needs.when I ran the pool if it was a hot day I would stay open till 8pm.and may I suggest the pool could run fundraising to help council with funding thanks for letting me have a say steve | 9/12/2019 7:56 AM |
| 294 | Cobargo needs it's pool . This pool means so much to us . Council needs to really look at where they are spending our money on these pools . Pambula is so high on the list of spending money on its not fair . Cobargo has a great pool and great community don't touch it please . | 9/12/2019 5:42 AM |
| 295 | It's important for ALL children to learn to swim and to be encouraged to continue to do so as they grow, as water, swimming and sunshine has countless benefits for one's mental and physical health. | 9/12/2019 1:38 AM |
| 296 | We need more access not less.. More people would use Bega pool if it were open longer hours and upgraded. Make the pool a priority and stop it being completely high jacked by the swimming club | 9/11/2019 11:08 PM |
| 297 | Don't close Bega pool it is needed by the community | 9/11/2019 10:27 PM |
| 298 | Public transport is more important than public pools. | 9/11/2019 10:13 PM |
| 299 | There have been many improvements made to the Bemboka pool in recent years. Having a 'local' lifesaver/operator is a real bonus as with that came town 'ownership' and a sense of pride. The cleanliness of the pool was very noticeable and much appreciated. | 9/11/2019 10:04 PM |
| 300 | Keeping facilities like these open are far more important than funding enormous metal welcome signs or buying statues/artworks for towns. Some major rework on priorities is needed. | 9/11/2019 9:53 PM |
| 301 | Bemboka community rely on this little pool to get us all through summer. The kids love it there and its a great social aspect. We have very little in the way of thing fir kids to do in Bemboka please don't take another thing off us. | 9/11/2019 9:46 PM |
| 302 | I think a season pass for one pool is restrictive. Perhaps another shire season pass could be an option for an additional surcharge allowing users to go to more than one pool on the pass. | 9/11/2019 9:35 PM |
| 303 | I do not believe I should pay more in rates, my family live out of time and I don't use the pools nor do my family | 9/11/2019 9:26 PM |
| 304 | Would like clarification of note made above. | 9/11/2019 9:24 PM |
| 305 | Each pool needs to be assessed individually and measures taken based on this information. I feel the community pool is a great asset to have and closing pools would be a negative for the community, For example bemboka pool- closest other pool 30 min away. This is not a viable option for some families weather it be due to financial restrictions or time. | 9/11/2019 9:11 PM |
| 306 | Without the Cobargo pool 3 schools (over 200kids) miss out on access to a pool for swimming carnivals and life saving swimming lessons | 9/11/2019 8:04 PM |
| 307 | Don't raise rates to cover this | 9/11/2019 8:03 PM |
| 308 | Pools in this area should be covered, heated and open year-round, with access for all abilities. These facilities are necessary for an aging population to provide a non-impact physical activity and improve wellbeing. I have listed myself as a non-user, because my local pool does not meet these requirements. (I may not be in the aging population yet, but have physical restrictions.) | 9/11/2019 7:42 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 309 | Yes all town should have one good asset, ie pool, hall or cemetery. Invest well in these facilities.. less is more. Ps add kalaru to the town options in this survey | 9/11/2019 7:20 PM |
| 310 | This is disgusting are you mismanaged to be asking rate payers to pay up | 9/11/2019 7:07 PM |
| 311 | Further rate rises are not warranted. There are many areas of councils budget that could be trimmed to pay for the pools. Other efficiencies should also be considered. | 9/11/2019 7:02 PM |
| 312 | Cobargo pool is very important to our family it has taught me to swim and my children. The next closest pool is half hour drive away and we would never go. | 9/11/2019 6:35 PM |
| 313 | Being at the Nth end of the shire if the pool closes we would end up traveling to Narooma for squad | 9/11/2019 6:24 PM |
| 314 | Jim who runs the Cobargo Pool is a living legend! The Cobargo pool is an excellent pool and this should be recognised by the shire. All 6 pools are an important asset to the Bega Valley Shire Council and everything should've done to ensure they are maintained and that the long term future is secure. | 9/11/2019 6:07 PM |
| 315 | I believe that the management of the larger pools should be brought back in-house. Under present arrangements, as I understand them, the operators keep all of the revenue while meeting none of the operating or maintenance financial obligations attached to the running of the pools: a classic example of privatising the profits & socialising the losses. Clearly council knows very little about running a business. | 9/11/2019 4:58 PM |
| 316 | Of course I would have to stop swimming if it was closed- there are no other options. It would be devastating to take away a community service in a small, isolated regional centre. Jim at Cobargo Pool is an incredible asset. The Cobargo Pool is always very well presented, clean and neat. Jim is always very personable and welcoming. He does a wonderful job as glue for the wider Cobargo community. He remembers everybody's names and has a personal interest in people and families. | 9/11/2019 3:26 PM |
| 317 | Make the entry cost more rather than increasing rates because only a small percentage of rate payers actually use the pools so it's an unfair tax on the majority of rate payers. Reduce the length of season and opening hours. Close the 2 least viable pools. | 9/11/2019 6:54 AM |
| 318 | Indeed. Perhaps people need to pay more for this wonderful facility because we need to keep it. Rural towns have a higher incidence of poor mental health and obesity, so why would you close the pools!? Increase the entry fees, also, ask ratepayers if they wish to purchase a Yearly Family Pass to their local Pool and if so they pay an additional amount, an extra cost to be determined, when their rates are due. | 9/10/2019 9:27 PM |
| 319 | I am one of the luck ones I can use the Narooma pool. My children (now adults) all learnt to swim at Cobargo they spent years doing squad training with Jim Gustard and being members of the Cobargo swimming club. This is very important to the towns of Bermagui, Cobargo and Quarma. Not to mention the local schools. I hope the numb nuts at the council can see a way of keeping these smaller pools open. The pools in Candelo, Bemboka and bega are just as important to these communities. Get the poeple of Pambula to pay more for the aquatic centre. It not the jewel in the crown it's a bottom let pit. | 9/10/2019 8:10 PM |
| 320 | Stop wasting money on stupid feasibility reports and crap and hands off the pool. Not much council money is spent in Bemboka anyway. | 9/10/2019 3:15 PM |
| 321 | Look at how busy bega pool is. It's run like a business with multiple add ons such as ongoing swimming lessons, squad, adult swimming programs, fitness classes, canteen etc. offer great services and users will pay to keep it open. | 9/10/2019 2:22 PM |
| 322 | Health and well-being of community has continued to be underfunded for the past 10 years. Reducing staff in community services, no enhancement to parks or green gyms that were developed with out community fundraising. The priorities need to return to this important area. Maybe cost reductions could occur by not having staff cars for personal use 24/7 and fleet cars pools only available for work ours or priorities. | 9/10/2019 1:44 PM |
| 323 | Serious lack of judgement with managing resources. The blowout of costs at Pambula negatively affects our basic pools that are absolutely wonderful | 9/10/2019 12:30 PM |
| 324 | Perhaps BVSC should consider selling the pools so they can be privately managed and quit wasting the money of ratepayers | 9/10/2019 12:28 PM |
| 325 | Let the vision be about community and what pools offer. Branch out with activities offered at all sites. What other stakeholders can be bought into the picture? | 9/10/2019 12:27 PM |
| 326 | I believe the pool is very necessary in Eden for the young people and the swimming club. Also in holiday season for the visitors. | 9/10/2019 11:52 AM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

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| 327 | Candelo was built by the community under an expectation of its continuation. It is a significant asset. we should be thinking about how to use its attractive qualities to draw people to regional life and re-imagine it's potential within future needs and emerging technology applications | 9/10/2019 11:33 AM |
| 328 | Please keep OUR community assets like swimming pools for the community - accessible and affordable. BVSC seems to have trouble with the idea of how essential these community assets are, especially for are young families - while I don't have children at home anymore, we just about lived at the pool when they were little - it was such a good space. Entry price is now an issue and its ridiculous to contemplate further increases. With the amount of money BVSC reaps in through rates, they should be able to balance the books and maintain our community assets without seeking a SRV. The previous SRV for the airport runway was a total waste and totally unnecessary - a reflection of poor decisions and mismanagement very worried that Council learns nothing with time and here we go again with the pools. Madness!! | 9/10/2019 7:49 AM |
| 329 | I like having the option of a local pool, although I currently do not use it, but I may in the future. Some pools may be better utilised than others such as Pambula and Bega, so the major pools should be kept open and perhaps the other ones closed. Pambula and Bega are central and accessible by most townships in the Bega Valley Shire. | 9/9/2019 8:35 PM |
| 330 | I do not wish it have my rates increased so the the council can upgrade the pools. | 9/9/2019 7:31 PM |
| 331 | Should be seen as a high priority- funds should be directed to the pools from other less popular or well used facilities- less projects supported to a higher standard | 9/9/2019 6:48 PM |
| 332 | USER PAYS! It is unfair to (Rate) tax residents who do not use, or benefit from these facilities. | 9/9/2019 6:26 PM |
| 333 | I don't understand. If Council has a problem funding pools then what has it done since the report was received in 2016 to alleviate this problem. Please demonstrate that Council has considered drawing more income from users, or explain why private operators are paid to open community pools and keep the revenue when those pools are losing substantial money and now will need to be subsidised by the public? Why don't they pay more? I am sure they aren't losing money? I don't necessarily disagree with the idea of the public paying more, but I disagree with Council assuming the first option to pay for the mismanagement of pools over 30 years is to simply ask the public for more money. Council needs to demonstrate that rate increases are the last resort, not the first. | 9/9/2019 5:14 PM |
| 334 | Make the pools free. It is very expensive for young families to pay entry and then might only stay for a short time because someone has a tantrum, etc (who may or may not get full use from a pool pass). If the pool entry was free more people would use it and buy things at the shop. Maybe council could take a cut? | 9/9/2019 2:47 PM |
| 335 | User pays ! | 9/9/2019 12:45 PM |
| 336 | UPGRADE THE BEGA POOL - MAKE IT BIGGER AND BETTER, EXTEND THE SEASON + EXTEND THE OPENING HOURS AND CLOSE ALL OTHER POOLS. MAYBE EVEN INCLUDE A SALTWATER MAGNESIUM OPTION (CHLORINE IS SO BAD). IT'LL SAVE MONEY HAVING ONLY ONE MAIN POOL AND KEEP EVERYONE HAPPY (MOST PEOPLE, ANYWAY). | 9/9/2019 12:14 PM |
| 337 | Definitely need to come up with some other way of funding for pools | 9/9/2019 12:05 PM |
| 338 | As a resident of Tathra I travel to use the Bega or Pambula pools. We can't have everything at our finger tips. Residence in Candelo and Bemboka for example would also get used to travelling to use a Shire pools if they had too. Its seems ridiculous to increase rates to keep 6 pools going when there are other options for people, it just may mean a little drive to get there. We could have 2 exciting pool spaces rather than 6 older ones. I know what I would rather see in our Shire. | 9/9/2019 10:59 AM |
| 339 | My household do not use any of the local pools we go to the beach to swim. Pools such at Bemoka, Eden, and Candelo should be closed as they are not frequented enough. The Sapphire Aquatic Centre could be closed when patrons are able to use the refurbished Bega memorial pool. Increasing the length of the Bega memorial pool to 50 metres will cover the loss of the Eden 50 metre pool. Reducing the number of pools will reduce the burden on the council and therefore rate payers. We strongly object to rates increases to pay for amenities that we don't use. | 9/9/2019 10:10 AM |
| 340 | Some pools in smaller towns are not needed as much compared to the ones that are closer to the coast. Candelo and Bemboka pools don't have many residents to service | 9/9/2019 9:13 AM |
| 341 | Focus on taking care of the resources we have instead of improvement or "modernising". A blanket rate rise is not a justifiable solution as it does not accurately reflect the real needs or actual wants of the majority. | 9/9/2019 1:59 AM |
| 342 | The maintenance and running costs of all the pools should already be factored into the rates. I do not agree with council increasing rates to keep the pools open. Council should learn to budget and stop wasting ratepayers money. | 9/8/2019 9:16 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

| | | |
|-----|--|-------------------|
| 343 | Please look at your internal costs before taking away our pools or raising rates. What you do is not fair. The council needs to look at its primary role and core business. Stop wasting our money and actually use it for things we want and need Waste Roads Pools and recreation, library Building | 9/8/2019 8:22 PM |
| 344 | Please keep morning swimming in Candelo and if possible return weekend closing time to 6pm | 9/8/2019 6:33 PM |
| 345 | Bemboka doesn't need to be there, they can drive to candelo or Bega if needed | 9/8/2019 6:30 PM |
| 346 | Bega pool should be year round remain outdoor and same size or increased to 50 meters as in other major centres | 9/8/2019 6:17 PM |
| 347 | Am very disappointed at the moment at the lack of support the Bega Pool currently gets in maintaining it's facilities. | 9/8/2019 6:01 PM |
| 348 | I feel that is is time for Council to act on the pool situation NOW, so thanks for organising this survey etc. It is crucial that Bega have a larger pool - 8 lane 50m would be the only realistic option as Bega is a growing town with lots of schools and people using the pool. It is OK to have it open for the summer season only, as it is only viable to run one all- year round pool in the Valley. It is imperative that learn to swim lessons are available every year, so please do something about the pool at Bega before it is too late, and it is closed due to asset failure and kids can't learn to swim for a year or 2 while council arranges funds etc to build a new pool. Surely there are state and federal grant available for pools? Lets get Andrew Constance and Mike Kelly involved - get them to visit on a hot summer's afternoon on a school day and see how inadequately small Bega pool is. It is time for a new larger bigger pooler Bega NOW, not in 3 years time. Will the pool last that long? | 9/8/2019 5:39 PM |
| 349 | BVSC clearly needs to reconsider the cost / benefit impact their continual moves to take over management and control of community owned facilities, as, in many cases, it has clearly shown poor and / or negative outcomes. | 9/8/2019 10:37 AM |
| 350 | Look far and wide (internationally and nationally) for enhancement ideas to our current pools. Spend money to make money and put the shire on the map. Be impressive so as people want to spend their time and money at your facilities and want to come here. Water slides and wow factors, water features, fountains, spas and saunas, bbq areas, playgrounds.....Get inovated and positively enhance the place please. Step up and surprise us. | 9/8/2019 9:02 AM |
| 351 | If the pools were enclosed, how much would that cost vs how much income it would generate? | 9/7/2019 10:44 PM |
| 352 | The council pools are an important asset to everyone, but particularly people with injury or are elderly and infirm. It is imperative for schools Learn to Swim programs that save lives. | 9/7/2019 10:40 PM |
| 353 | Too many pools for relatively small population. | 9/7/2019 9:26 PM |
| 354 | I find this very hypocritical considering the advertising that goes on in the media advising kids not to swim in creeks or rivers for fear of the hidden dangers involved and then propose closing down the local pools forcing kids back in to creeks and rivers! | 9/7/2019 7:12 PM |
| 355 | You need a shire wide pass or at least a Sapphire Aquatic Centre plus 1 pool pass. I think the pools are not well used because you do not offer incentive to visitation. No sauna, no children's activities, no inflatables, no bbqs, no outdoor activities, no shade, no community development - movie nights, clubs or after school camps. Why would users pay to use the pools when they can do more than they can in the ocean or rivers? There is a real gap locally for activities for visitors and so much potential at pools. Give parents and visitors a reason to take their clothes off an jump in rather than sit on the sidelines while their children do activities or to come in the summer months too. Eden pool would really benefit with a huge upgrade that would result in interest from visitors and the ability to charge more. Perhaps a water park with play features? Take from the example of the pools in small towns in North America and Europe or Australian city's that charge \$12-\$20 a visit but are always busy because you get something in return. Quite simply put our pools are boring and don't offer enough incentive to visit except for essential reasons. Therefore I would hate to loose Eden or Pambula pool but would also like to see then have more infrastructure and offer reasons for visitors to pay to use. When I go to the city or overseas I seek out and pay to use epic pools and they are so well used. | 9/7/2019 4:10 PM |
| 356 | Thank you for your hard work in trying to manage these big community assets. | 9/7/2019 3:24 PM |
| 357 | User pays. Increase entry fees. We don't use any pools as last time we did was when my youngest has swimming lessons at Pambula pool and he was constantly sick which caused his epilepsy to flare up. Season tickets are too expensive too. | 9/7/2019 1:10 PM |
| 358 | I'd like further information on their usage rates and how they assist the community - especially lower income / disadvantaged persons. | 9/7/2019 12:45 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

| | | |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 359 | Prices are so high to go to the pool as it is.. yet you want more from us.. it's so hard already trying to bring up kids and supply them with options, we bought a season ticket last yr.. the pool hardly opens.. and if you go to another pool.. you have to pay more.. why not have the season ticket work for all pools in our shire! | 9/7/2019 8:44 AM |
| 360 | I would love to see the swimming pools kept open. Bemboka is 45 minutes away from the ocean, and I don't fancy driving 30 minutes away to the next closest pool. Surely council have another way to find the funds for this than to raise the rates. Bega Valley Shire is already one of the most expensive in NSW. When will it stop? In summer we use the pool heaps. I would also like to add, that council should make a change to the season ticket rule. We buy a season ticket and do occasionally go to other swimming pools in the shire for other events. Can council make the season pass holders able to use ALL swimming pools in the shire please? | 9/7/2019 12:29 AM |
| 361 | Our pools need to be upgraded to be accessible and available to the less mobile in the community; many people including those in aged care facilities could use them if there were ramps. many of these people cannot swim at beaches because of difficulty walking in deep sand and swimming in waves. Our Eden pool is a beautiful pool and I'm sure it would be better patronised if there was easier access and maybe some more convenient open times. Very rarely have I seen any promotional events held there; you need to get some people in the grounds to introduce them to the idea of using the pool ; give them a reason to go. After a very long tenure of a contractor who was not "people friendly" this community is still feeling the effects as far as using the pool goes. Being one of the 2 50m pools in the shire it is very valuable; with a strong and active swimming club . I will be doing my best to make the meeting at the log cabin on 17th Sept. | 9/7/2019 12:17 AM |
| 362 | Do the pools get clean water? Or do they get the same brown stuff we get? | 9/7/2019 12:12 AM |
| 363 | Community health is obviously not important to BVSC. Hang your heads in shame! So bloody sick of our rates being used for greed and non-important projects. Due to now classed as being disabled, I can no longer access any of the beaches at Bermagui (yet another issue BVSC can't be bothered with), therefore Cobargo pool is a vital alternative. Perhaps if the pools were opened all year round, as heated pools and with more shading, then there would be less of an issue, and may actually provide more income to keep them at operational costs. | 9/7/2019 12:07 AM |
| 364 | For the benefit of my children and their fellow squad members I would like to see improvement in our local facilities not a reduction. My children have grown up spending a significant part of their lives with their swim family. It is such a shame that so many of our local athletes have to move away to access better coaching and facilities, please don't let swimming be next! | 9/6/2019 11:10 PM |
| 365 | I would support closing down the village pools and concentrating funds towards the pools in the three main centres. | 9/6/2019 10:47 PM |
| 366 | The Bega pool as is has limited accessibility to me due to season, and operating hours its actual demise would not affect my situation. But I would be very disappointed on behalf of many others who are able to enjoy. I, personally, would use a pool every day if it was accessable yr round early mornings and late evenings. Bega needs to get together and fund raise as a community for a centre that includes a modern aquatic and other wellbeing leisure potentials. I am unsure about raising rates to simply maintain 6 decaying pools. | 9/6/2019 9:49 PM |
| 367 | History shows poor management of pools, poor quality workmanship and high overheads. We don't need them all. If kept, let those rate payers who don't use them be exempt from rate increases. Pensioners paying again. BVSC, buy a mirror and take a long hard look at yourselves. | 9/6/2019 8:44 PM |
| 368 | Yes Eden has two State Schools if the Eden pool was close the students will not learn to swim as the logistics of transporting students would eat into other lessons - this will impact 1 000 students. The main beach in Eden is full of rips and there is no life club this would put the community at risk | 9/6/2019 8:29 PM |
| 369 | The report that the council paid for a few years ago has false figures. The numbers pool users for The Sapphire Aquatic Centre included gym membership and 12 months of the year. The numbers of pool users for Bega was only for 6 months of the year. This should have been shown clearly in the report, but wasn't. Bega is the most used pool and does not meet the needs of the community any longer as it is way too small. It is a shame that kids are turned away from learn to swim lessons due to lack of space for them - there is limited space. I encourage the councillors and General Manager to come to Bega pool on a hot summers afternoon after school and see for themselves the pool in action. AND see the need for a 8 lane 50m pool for Bega. Surely there are government grants out there for rural councils to build major and necessary infrastructure? What about the politicians - get them to visit and see the need. It would be a major catastrophe if Bega pool had to shut for a season or 2 due to asset failure, while council got finances together for a new one. With the numbers of drowning rising in the past 3 years, a new pool for everyone is vital. Where would all the schools learn to swim? There isn't enough time to bus them to another pool. Where would all the private lessons happen? Kids would be at a much greater risk without a pool to learn to swim in. | 9/6/2019 7:30 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

| | | |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 370 | Our local pools are boring... They are just a hole in the ground filled with water to swim laps or splash around in... We need exciting features like large and various water slides (not just a sprinkler or a tiny slide). If Bega pool had a range of amusement features such as several types of very large / long water slides and features such as those found in local caravan parks (for climbing and big splashes) my kids and I would be interested in using the pool often. | 9/6/2019 6:06 PM |
| 371 | With the South East Regional Hospital located in Bega plus ancillary medical services, I think there is an opportunity for Bega pool to offer rehab options. Also, with two high schools and 5-6 primary schools, a modern aquatic facility in Bega could offer lots of options for swimming for children. | 9/6/2019 4:07 PM |
| 372 | Pools like our playgrounds need to be rationalised. Less pools but with better facilities and operational hours like the reduction of playgrounds and introduction of super playgrounds seems a better option than the upkeep of 6 pools with an increase in our rates. | 9/6/2019 3:57 PM |
| 373 | I believe that pools in Pambula and Bega should be upgraded to meet a level amenity and service that is enjoyed by people in metropolitan centres. I also think that Eden, Bemboka, Pambula and Carbargo should be closed and resources diverted to Bega and Pambula so that a SRV is not needed. | 9/6/2019 3:05 PM |
| 374 | Bemboka people need this facility!!! I need this facility. | 9/6/2019 2:57 PM |
| 375 | I think the potential on imposing a \$146.62 (approx.) SRV on all the rate payers in the shire is an incredibly unfair solution to this problem. Why should everyone be forced to pay for facilities that they do not utilize? For some families this additional fee on top of their rates may mean that their kids cant play a sport in which they actually want to participate in, instead they have to pay for pool facilities that they will never use because they go to the beach instead. I personally do not have any children but I struggle to pay sporting club memberships so due to this I no longer purchase a season pass at the Bega pool simply because I could not afford to participate in that activity. This proposal for an SRV is potentially forcing me to pay for facility upgrades and maintenance for an activity which I cannot afford to participate in anyways which I believe is fundamentally wrong. Pools should not be considered an essential service for council to provide. As previously stated there are roads, bridges and stormwater structures failing that requiring the funding for more than keeping 6 pools open for a small portion of the communities to use. | 9/6/2019 1:39 PM |
| 376 | Reducing the number of pools within the shire would be a great shame. These are an asset to the community. | 9/6/2019 12:46 PM |
| 377 | the issue is simple! 22,000 Bega V rate payers cant afford SIX swimming pools. get real ...Bite the bullet - provide 2 (or 3max) up to date and properly equipped indoor pools/sports centres in strategic locations the good burghers of the Bega Valley will just have to travel to these pools Sydney NW outer suburbs with over 30 times BV population has basically 5 public swimming pools Blacktown, Castle hill, Galston , Riverstone ... all at least 20km apart by road thru the Sydney traffic similarly Melbourne East outer suburbs - again 30x the pop'n with 6 ...Dandenong, Cranbourne, Knox, Kilsyth, Pakenham ... and all accessed 20km + thru the traffic, paid parking in most locations etc etc | 9/6/2019 12:41 PM |
| 378 | Bega Pool must be replaced with at least a 50 metre Olympic pool 8 lanes wide. This is critically important to ensure our children are not disadvantaged in competitive swimming events and to continue to attract regional swimming event to Bega. | 9/6/2019 12:25 PM |
| 379 | As mentioned I beleive having six pools acorss our relatively small popuslation base is unsustainable and its my belief that Council should focus in say 3 pools (Bega, Pambula and Eden) our large population bases and do them well. | 9/6/2019 12:19 PM |
| 380 | I understand that roads, rubbish and rates are not all that Council do, but somewhere along the way you need to remember that the ratepayers pockets (just like Council's pockets) are finite - the ratepayers own wages can only stretch so far. I can clearly understand the need for rates, with rubbish included (as well as sewer and waster for those properties who benefit from sewer and water) but a special rate variation for pools is something I am opposed to. Only those people who benefit from the use of sewer and water pay those levies, why should everyone pay for Pool special rate variation when not everyone wants to use those facilities. In particular the number of pools (6) is far too many for Council to achieve best practice in all the pools. I would imagine a lot of staff are used to keep Pambula pool up and running and I often wonder if the pool is breaking even dollar wise - maybe it isn't? | 9/6/2019 12:19 PM |
| 381 | Could rate payers be given a family season pass to a pool of their choice to subsidise the rate increase? | 9/6/2019 12:14 PM |

BVSC Swimming Pool Discussion Paper Survey

| | | |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 382 | The SAC gym could be improved to increase revenue to the pools... the aqua aerobics and other fitness classes are regularly oversubscribed - so you could run 2 classes each morning instead of one. The fitness classes are also at times that are very difficult to attend if you work full time. Would increase visitation if you has early morning and early evening classes available - and more variety, better instructors (eg. including yoga and pilates and Les Mills classes). I highly value the Eden pool and hope that it remains open with convenient hours. | 9/6/2019 12:14 PM |
| 383 | Please keep them open for the health and well being of our people. Children need to learn to swim and as for Bamboka for many children this is the only exposure they get to water and learning to swim. The school is coming regularly as part of the curriculum, and it also gives employment to the local towns people. In summer it is a meeting place for many, and giving rise to children who are active swimmers and when the pool is closed over winter they have been traveling to Pambula, so all pools are benefiting from the pool being open summer and winter. | 9/6/2019 12:05 PM |
| 384 | If the council sold off some assets like unusable blocks of land like the one in Auckland Street and buildings like Australasian Pub in Eden this money could be used to maintain and replace the facilities that people use. | 9/6/2019 11:42 AM |
| 385 | The Council should be reducing the salaries of the management level of Council to help fund community projects. It is clear that they are not doing their jobs properly. The Council should divest themselves of useless real estate such as the Australasian Hotel, the vacant block in Auckland Street, the learning centre in Merimbula and the Library at Tura Beach. These should never have been purchased. About time that this Council was sacked and an administrator was bought in to sort this mess out! | 9/6/2019 11:41 AM |

Appendix 3- Telephone survey report- IRIS Research

IRIS Research Summary Report

BEGA VALLEY SHIRE COUNCIL SPECIAL RATE VARIATION 2019

INTRO

Hello, my name is ... and I'm calling on behalf of Bega Valley Shire Council from IRIS Research. We are conducting a short survey about the financing options being considered by Council for securing the future of pool facilities in the Shire.

First, is this household in the Bega Valley Shire Council area? **[IF NOT THANK & TERMINATE]**

May I please speak to an adult decision maker of this household aged 18 years or older? Is that you?
[IF NOT ARRANGE A CALLBACK]

Do you own or rent your current dwelling in the Bega Valley Shire Council area? **[IF RENT THANK & TERMINATE]**

Are you an employee or elected representative of Bega Valley Shire Council? **[IF YES THANK & TERMINATE]**

The survey will take about 6 minutes to complete, can we do it now? **[IF NOT ARRANGE A CALLBACK]**

Before we start, I have to inform you that my supervisor may monitor this call for quality control and training purposes.

PART A – DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

A1. First, what is your gender?

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Male | 1 |
| Female | 2 |
| Other | 3 |
| Prefer not to say | THANK & TERMINATE |

A2. What is your age?

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 18 to 34 years | 1 |
| 35 to 49 years | 2 |
| 50 to 64 years | 3 |
| 65 plus years | 4 |
| Prefer not to say | THANK & TERMINATE |

A3. What suburb do you live in?

| | |
|------------|----|
| Bega | 1 |
| Bemboka | 2 |
| Bermagui | 3 |
| Berrambool | 4 |
| Candelo | 5 |
| Cobargo | 6 |
| Eden | 7 |
| Kalaru | 8 |
| Merimbula | 9 |
| Pambula | 10 |
| Quaama | 11 |
| Tathra | 12 |
| Towamba | 13 |
| Tura Beach | 14 |
| Wolumla | 15 |
| Wyndham | 16 |
| Other | 17 |

A4. How long have you lived in the Bega Valley Shire Council area?

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Less than one year | 1 |
| 1 to 5 years | 2 |
| 6 to 10 years | 3 |
| 11 to 15 years | 4 |
| More than 15 years | 5 |

A5. Do you have any children under the age of 18 living in your household?

| | |
|-----|---|
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |

A6. What is your employment status?

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Employed full-time | 1 |
| Employed part-time | 2 |
| Employed casually | 3 |
| Self-employed | 4 |
| Retired | 5 |
| Unemployed | 6 |
| Student | 7 |
| Home duties | 8 |
| Other | 9 |

PART B – CURRENT PERCEPTIONS

- B1.** On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means 'very dissatisfied' and 5 means 'very satisfied', how satisfied are you with the following?

| | 1 – Very dissatisfied | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 – Very satisfied | Can't say |
|---|-----------------------|---|---|---|--------------------|-----------|
| The quality of infrastructure currently provided by Council in the local area | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| The quality of services currently provided by Council in the local area | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| The quality of public pool facilities within the Bega Valley Shire | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| The quantity of public pool facilities within the Bega Valley Shire | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

- B2.** In November 2017 Council adopted a goal to keep all 6 swimming pools in the Shire operating into the future.

On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'not at all important' and 5 is 'very important', how important is it.....

| | 1 – Not at all important | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 – Very important | Can't say |
|---|--------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------|-----------|
| to you that Council keeps our six public pool facilities? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| to improve the quality of public pool facilities to modern standards in the Bega Valley Shire? Modern standards means the pool would be compliant, accessible for all ages, sustainable both environmentally and financially and meet the community's expectations. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

- B3. In a regular season, on average, how frequently do you or somebody in your household use public swimming pools?

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 4 times a week or more often | 1 |
| 2-3 times a week | 2 |
| -Once a week | 3 |
| Once a fortnight | 4 |
| Once every 3 weeks | 5 |
| Once a month | 6 |
| Once every 2-3 months | 7 |
| Once every 4-6 months | 8 |
| I do not use the pools | 9 |

IF B3 = 1-8 [RESPONDENT USES PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS]

- B4. Which public swimming pool do you use the most?

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Bega | 1 |
| Bemboka | 2 |
| Candelo | 3 |
| Cobargo | 4 |
| Eden | 5 |
| Sapphire Aquatic Centre | 6 |
| None of the above | 7 |

- B5. What do you consider to be a reasonable distance in KMs to travel to access a public pool?

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Less than 5km | 1 |
| 5-10km | 2 |
| 11-20km | 3 |
| 21-40km | 4 |
| 41-60km | 5 |
| 60km+ | 6 |

- B6. Using a 1 to 5 scale where 1 means 'extremely unlikely' and 5 means 'extremely likely', in order to better manage costs for operating the pools, how likely would you be to support.....?

| | 1 – Extremely Unlikely | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 – Extremely Likely | Can't say |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------|-----------|
| reducing the opening hours | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| reducing the season length | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

ASK IF B6 = 1 OR 5 [EXTREMELY UNLIKELY OR EXTREMELY LIKELY]

- B7. In a few words, why did you say this?

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

PART C – BACKGROUND TO SRV

S1. Are you aware of Council's proposed special rate variation?

| | |
|-----|---|
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |

IF S1 = 1 [RESPONDENT IS AWARE OF SRV]

S2. Have you read information related to the special rate variation or attended one of Council's community consultation sessions?

| | |
|-----|---|
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |

IF S1 = 2 OR S2 = 2 [RESPONDENT IS UNAWARE OR HAS NOT READ INFORMATION]

In order to retain all 6 public pools Council requires additional funding and is considering a Special Rates Variation. It will be a one-off permanent increase to generate an income of \$2.028 million per year above the rate peg. This amount would equate to an 11% increase in the total income generated from general rates. Council's proposal will only affect general rates and not waste, water and sewerage rates.

If Council decides to apply for the Special Rates Variation, it will come into effect on 1 July 2020, and the increase in your rates will depend on the value of your property.

The average increase to ratepayers would be \$1.97 per household per week.

IF S2 = 1 [RESPONDENT IS AWARE & HAS READ INFORMATION]

Let's recap some of the information you may have previously read.

The Special Rates Variation will secure the future of funding all 6 pool facilities in the Shire. It will be a one-off permanent increase to generate an income of \$2.028 million per year above the rate peg. This amount would equate to an 11% increase in the total income generated from general rates. Council's proposal will only affect general rates and not waste, water and sewerage rates.

If Council decides to apply for the Special Rates Variation, it will come into effect on 1 July 2020, and the increase in your rates will depend on the value of your property.

The average increase to ratepayers would be \$1.97 per household per week.

- C1. How supportive are you of Council's proposed permanent general rate increase for operating and upgrade costs for all 6 pools across the Shire? Please use a scale where 1 means 'not at all supportive' and 5 means 'very supportive'.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1 – Not at all supportive | 1 |
| 2 | 2 |
| 3 | 3 |
| 4 | 4 |
| 5 – Very supportive | 5 |
| Can't say | 6 |

- C2. In a few words, what is the reason for your answer?

OUTRO

... and finally, may I ask for your first name, as my supervisor may call you back as she audits 1 in 10 of my calls as part of the quality control process?

First Name

That completes our interview. As this is social research, you can be assured that it is carried out in full compliance with the Information Privacy Act and the information you provided is only used for research purposes.

Again, my name isand my supervisors name is Judy. If you have any questions about this survey, or would like further information about IRIS Research, you can call us on 4285 4446 between 9am and 5pm weekdays. Thank you for your time.



Bega Valley Shire Council

Special Rates Variation Community Survey 2019

Final Report

Prepared for
Bega Valley Shire Council

Prepared by
IRIS Research

November 2019

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following a November 2017 review of pool facilities that included community consultation, Bega Valley Shire Council adopted a goal to keep all six public swimming pools in the Shire operating into the future. Council is considering a Special Rates Variation [SRV] to raise the required funding to achieve this goal.

In assessing support for the proposed SRV, 403 completed survey responses were collected from ratepayers of Bega Valley Shire Council with the survey also examining usage and perceptions of Council's public swimming pools, the importance of maintaining and improving public pools and support for other cost management options.

Usage of public pool facilities and current perceptions

Respondents were categorised based on their public pool usage:

- ▶ **Regular Users** – Twenty-seven percent [27%] of respondents use public pools at least once every three weeks. In total, 23 percent use the pools at least once a week.
- ▶ **Infrequent Users** – Thirteen percent [13%] of respondents use public pools once a month to once every four to six months.
- ▶ **Non-Users** – Sixty percent [60%] of respondents do not use public pools.

Respondents are generally satisfied with both the quantity and quality of public pool facilities in the Bega Valley Shire. Fifty-two percent [52%] are satisfied with the **quantity** of public pools [3.7 out of 5] while 44 percent are satisfied with the **quality** of public pools [3.6]. Respondents are more satisfied with public pools compared to the general **quality of services** [3.2] and **quality of infrastructure** [3.1] provided by Council in the local area.

Perceptions of public pools are higher among those who regularly use the pools. Regular users are significantly more satisfied with the quantity of public pool facilities compared to non-users. Furthermore, both regular and infrequent users are more satisfied with the quality of public pools compared to non-users.

Importance of maintaining and improving public pools

Bega Valley Shire Council ratepayers rated very highly the importance of keeping all six public pool facilities and improving them to modern standards. In total, **76 percent rated keeping all six public pools** as important (4.1 out of 5) and **73 percent rated improving the pools to modern standards** as important. Improving pools to modern standards would mean they are compliant, accessible for all ages, sustainable both environmentally and financially and meet the community's expectations.

Two thirds (66%) of respondents rated keeping all six public pools and improving pools to modern standards as important while only seven percent (7%) rated both goals as not important.

Achieving these goals is most important to regular users of the pools. The average importance ratings for keeping all six public pools are significantly higher for regular users (4.7) and infrequent users (4.4) compared to non-users (3.8). The average importance ratings for improving the pools to modern standards is significantly higher among regular users (4.5) compared to all other respondents.

Support for Council's proposed SRV

Despite high importance placed on Council's goals by ratepayers, there is a low level of support for the proposed SRV. Over half (54%) of respondents indicated they were not supportive of the SRV with 42 percent providing the lowest rating of 1 or 'Not at all Supportive'.

In total, 26 percent are supportive of the SRV with 16 percent giving the highest rating of 5 or 'Very Supportive'.

Support is higher among regular users of the pools compared to infrequent users and non-users. Forty-two percent (42%) of regular users are supportive while one third (34%) are not supportive. In contrast, 65 percent of non-users are not supportive, while 20 percent are supportive. Support is also significantly higher among female respondents compared to male respondents.

Reasons provided by respondents who are not supportive include that they already pay high enough rates and don't support a further increase, that Council should budget wisely and reduce wastage to fund the upgrades and that the higher costs should be imposed on the users of the pools.

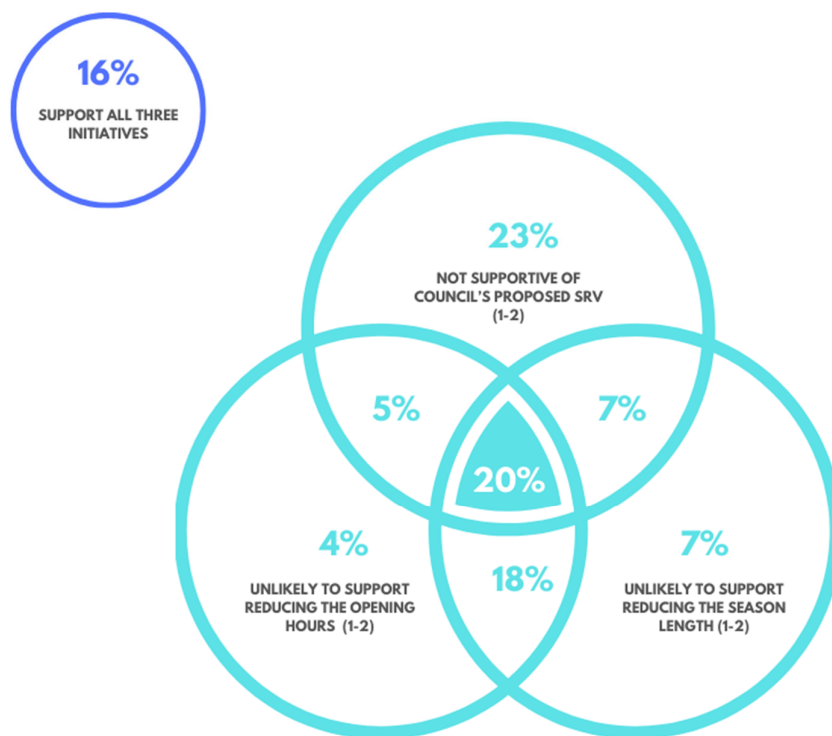
Support for other cost management options

Respondents were also asked how likely they would be to support reducing the opening hours of the pools or the season length to manage costs.

There is a **low level of support** for both options:

- ▶ Forty-seven percent [47%] of respondents are unlikely to support reducing the opening hours of the pools while only 16 percent are likely to support this option.
- ▶ Fifty-two percent [52%] of respondents are unlikely to support reducing the season length while only 13 percent are likely to support this option.


Figure 1 Not supportive of SRV, reducing season length or reducing opening times



In Figure 1, Not Supportive = survey question rating of 1 or 2, and Supportive = rating of 3 to 5.

Key results [from Fig. 1]:

- ▶ One in five [20%] of respondents do not support any of the options included in the survey.
- ▶ Sixteen percent [16%] are supportive of the SRV and are also supportive of the other cost management options of reducing the opening hours of the pools and the season length.
- ▶ Twenty-three percent [23%] of respondents do not support the SRV but are supportive of the other cost management options.
- ▶ Eighteen percent [18%] do not support reducing the opening hours of the pools and the season length but support the SRV.



The proportion of residents not supportive of the SRV (54%) is higher than the proportions who are unlikely to support reducing the opening hours of the pool (47%) and reducing the season length (52%). However, a sizeable proportion of Bega Valley Shire ratepayers (20%) are not supportive of all three cost management options.

Pool facility usage is a driver of support for all three options. Regular users of the pools are more likely to support the SRV and are less likely to support reducing the opening hours or the season length. Non-users are less supportive of the SRV but are more supportive of the other options.

Only 16 percent of respondents are supportive of all three options. As four in ten respondents use the pools, Council's decisions regarding the SRV or pursuing other cost management options will impact a large proportion of the Bega Valley Shire community regardless of the outcome. Council needs to be clear and transparent in their communications about the level of investment required to upgrade the pools.

An option that was not included in the survey but raised by respondents was to raise the entry prices for residents to use the pools. This option is worth further exploration as we know that regular users of the pools are more supportive of paying higher rates to maintain the pools. This option would not impose costs on residents who do not use the pool, which was a key area of concern among those not supportive of the SRV.



INTRODUCTION

IRIS Research was commissioned by Bega Valley Shire Council to conduct a Special Rates Variation [SRV] survey of households to measure usage and perceptions of public pool facilities as well as support for Council's proposed general rate increase for operating and upgrade costs for public pool facilities.

RESEARCH DESIGN

A telephone-based survey was used to collect 403 responses from residents of Bega Valley Shire Council. The survey instrument was a questionnaire with an average length of seven minutes.

A telephone based [CATI] survey was used to secure a response from 403 residents throughout the local government area. The survey unit was ratepayers of the Bega Valley Shire Council local government area. In order to qualify for an interview, respondents had to be adult decision makers of the house aged 18 years or older, own their current dwelling and not be an employee or Councillor with Bega Valley Shire Council.

Interviews were conducted between 14 October to 15 October 2019. Calls were made between 4.30pm and 8.30pm during weekdays. Eighteen interviewers conducted interviews over the course of the data collection period. The survey was implemented under Interviewer Quality Control Australia [IQCA] quality guidelines. Continuous interviewer monitoring was used, and post-interview validations were conducted within five days of the close of the survey. Ten percent [10%] of all respondents were contacted after data collection in order to verify and validate their data.

SAMPLE PROFILE

In order to obtain a clear view of the sample's profile and to conduct comparison tests, demographic characteristics and household information were collected. Tables 1 and 2 detail the sample profile for this survey.

Table 1 Sample Profile

| Gender | % | # | Children U18 living in household | % | # |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|----------------------------------|------|-----|
| Male | 44% | 178 | Yes | 13% | 53 |
| Female | 56% | 225 | No | 87% | 350 |
| Age | % | # | Length of time lived in area | % | # |
| 18 to 34 years | 1% | 6 | Less than one year | 0.5% | 2 |
| 35 to 49 years | 7% | 30 | 1 to 5 years | 5% | 19 |
| 50 to 64 years | 30% | 120 | 6 to 10 years | 10% | 41 |
| 65 plus years | 61% | 247 | 11 to 15 years | 10% | 40 |
| Base: All respondents (n=403) | | | More than 15 years | 75% | 301 |

Respondents had to be adult decisionmakers of the household over the age of 18 years and be ratepayers of Bega Valley Shire Council. As such, renters were screened out of the survey. These requirements meant that the survey sample tended to be older. This is the standard for this type of research. Special Rates Variation surveys place higher importance on geographical representation rather than representation of the community by age and gender.

The proportion of younger respondents was enhanced by Council's decision to purchase 1,000 additional mobile phone numbers registered in the Bega Valley Shire Council area.

Table 2 details the suburb and employment status of respondents.

Table 2 Suburb & Employment Status

| Suburb | % | # | Employment Status | % | # |
|------------|------|----|--------------------|-----|-----|
| Bega | 17% | 70 | Employed full-time | 15% | 61 |
| Tura Beach | 11% | 45 | Employed part-time | 9% | 35 |
| Merimbula | 10% | 42 | Employed casually | 1% | 5 |
| Tathra | 9% | 37 | Self-employed | 7% | 29 |
| Pambula | 9% | 35 | Retired | 63% | 252 |
| Eden | 8% | 33 | Unemployed | 2% | 9 |
| Cobargo | 4% | 18 | Home duties | 2% | 7 |
| Candelo | 4% | 16 | Other | 1% | 5 |
| Bermagui | 3% | 12 | | | |
| Wolumla | 2% | 10 | | | |
| Wyndham | 2% | 9 | | | |
| Bemboka | 2% | 8 | | | |
| Towamba | 2% | 7 | | | |
| Quaama | 1% | 6 | | | |
| Kalaru | 1% | 4 | | | |
| Berrambool | 0.7% | 3 | | | |
| Other | 12% | 48 | | | |

Base: All respondents [n=403]

1 CURRENT SITUATION – USAGE & PERCEPTIONS

This section of the report covers usage of public pool facilities and the perceptions of respondents regarding those facilities.

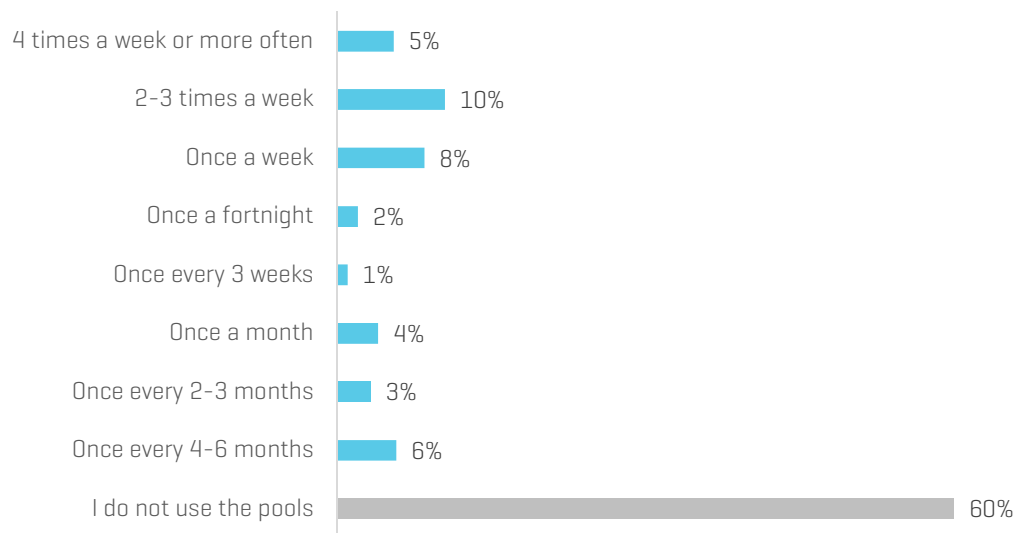
1.1 Usage of public pool facilities

Respondents were asked, on average, how frequently do they or somebody in their household use public swimming pools in a regular season.

In total, 23 percent use public pools at least once a week, with five percent (5%) using the pools four times a week or more often. One in ten respondents (10%) use public pools two to three times a week while a further eight percent (8%) use public pools once a week.

Sixty percent (60%) of respondents indicated they do not use public pool facilities.

Figure 1.1 Frequency of public pool usage



Base: All respondents (n=403)

Respondents were classified into three subgroups based on their usage of public pool facilities.

Regular Users [27%] use pools at least once every three weeks while **Infrequent Users** use pools one a month or less often. **Non-Users** do not use public swimming pools.

Table 1.1 Usage Subgroup

| Frequency | % | # | Usage Subgroup | % | # |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------|-----|-----|
| 4 times a week or more often | 5% | 22 | REGULAR USERS | 27% | 110 |
| 2-3 times a week | 10% | 42 | | | |
| Once a week | 8% | 34 | | | |
| Once a fortnight | 2% | 8 | | | |
| Once every 3 weeks | 1% | 4 | | | |
| Once a month | 4% | 16 | INFREQUENT USERS | 13% | 52 |
| Once every 2-3 months | 3% | 13 | | | |
| Once every 4-6 months | 6% | 23 | | | |
| I do not use the pools | 60% | 241 | NON-USERS | 60% | 241 |

Subgroup analysis showed:

- ▶ A significantly higher proportion of respondents aged 18 to 49 years are regular users [50%] compared to other respondents.
- ▶ Respondents aged 65 plus years are significantly more likely to be non-users [64%] compared to those aged 18 to 49 years [39%].
- ▶ Respondents with children under the age of 18 living in their household are significantly more likely to be regular users while those without are significantly more likely to be non-users.

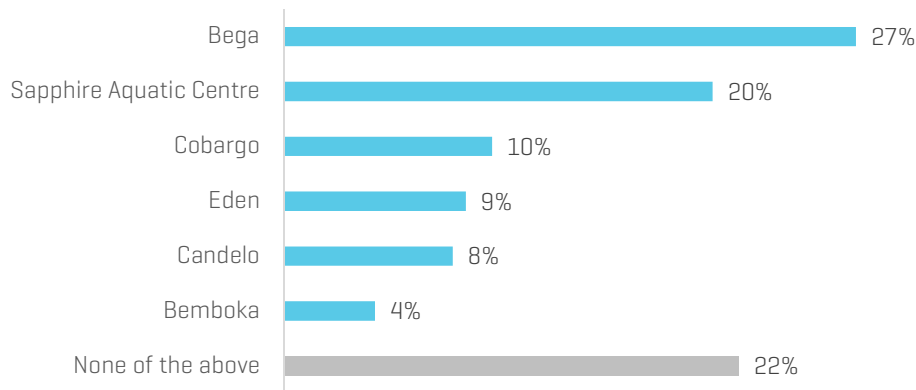
Most used public swimming pool

Respondents who use public swimming pools at least once every four to six months were asked to indicate the public swimming pool which they use the most.

Bega is the most used public swimming pool. Twenty-seven percent [27%] of pool users indicated Bega as their most used pool. This was followed by **Sapphire Aquatic Centre** [20%] and **Cobargo** [10%].

Bemboka [4%] is used by the least number of public swimming pool users.

Figure 1.2 Most used public swimming pool



Base: Use public swimming pools (n=162)

Twenty-two percent [22%] of public pool users use a different pool than the ones listed. The suburbs of these users are listed below.

Table 1.2 Other most used public swimming pool by Suburb

| Suburb | # |
|------------|---|
| Tura Beach | 9 |
| Merimbula | 7 |
| Pambula | 6 |
| Tathra | 2 |
| Eden | 2 |
| Bermagui | 2 |
| Bega | 1 |
| Wyndham | 1 |
| Other | 5 |

Reasonable distance to travel to a public swimming pool

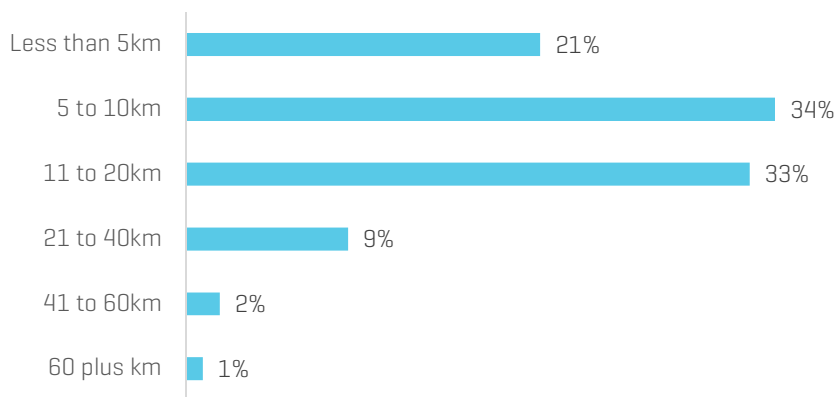
Respondents were asked what they consider to be a reasonable distance in kilometres to access a public pool.

In total, 55 percent [55%] of respondents believe travelling **up to 10km** is a reasonable distance to travel to a pool. Twenty-one percent [21%] believe travelling **less than 5km** is reasonable while 34 percent believe **5 to 10km** is a reasonable distance.

A further 33 percent stated **11 to 20km** is a reasonable distance to travel to a public pool. Only 12 percent of respondents believe travelling **more than 20km** is reasonable.

The average reasonable distance to travel to a public pool is 12km.

Figure 1.3 Reasonable distance to travel to a public swimming pool



Base: All respondents (n=403)

Older respondents are less willing to travel far to a public pool. The proportion of respondents aged 65 plus years who selected **less than 5km** [25%] is significantly higher compared to other respondents. Furthermore, they were significantly less likely to select **21 to 40km** compared to other respondents.

The proportion of non-users who selected **less than 5km** [27%] was also significantly higher compared to both regular users and infrequent users.

1.2 Current perceptions

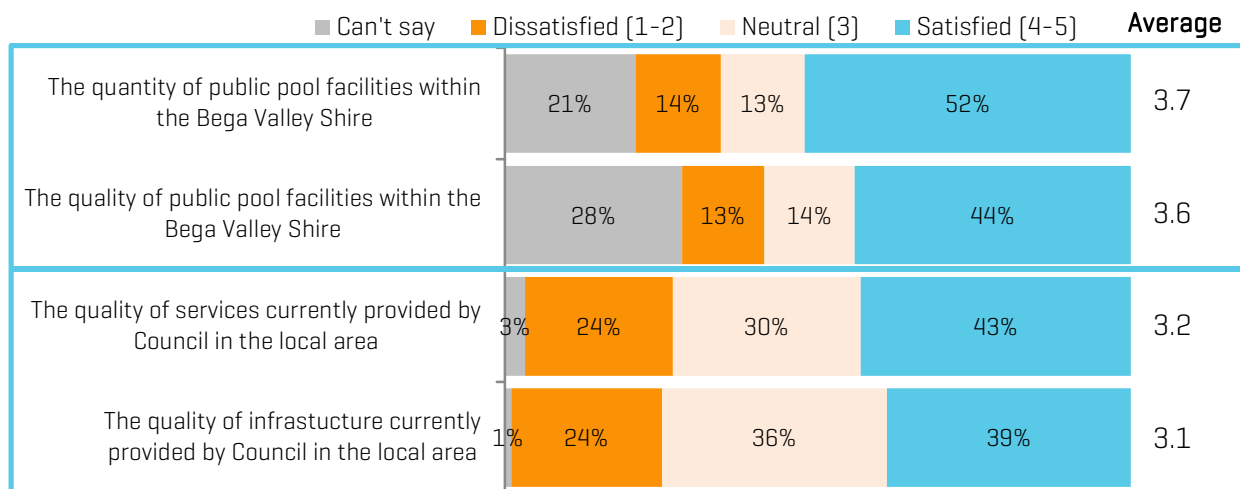
Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with the general quality of services and infrastructure provided by Council in the Bega Valley Shire as well as the quality and quantity of public pool facilities using a five-point scale where 1 meant 'very dissatisfied' and 5 meant 'very satisfied'.

Respondents are most satisfied with the **quantity** of public pool facilities [3.7]. Over half [52%] are satisfied with the number of pools in the Bega Valley Shire. This was followed by the **quality** of public pool facilities [3.6], with 44 percent of respondents satisfied.

Respondents are relatively less satisfied with the general quality of services and infrastructure provided by Council in the local area.

There are no significant differences in average satisfaction by gender. Residents aged 65 plus years are significantly more satisfied with the **quality of services currently provided by Council** compared to those aged 18 to 49 years.

Figure 1.4 Current perceptions



Base: All respondents (n=403)

Table 1.3 compares current perceptions by usage of public swimming pools. Regular users are significantly more satisfied with the **quantity** of public pools compared to non-users. Furthermore, both regular and infrequent users are significantly more satisfied with the **quality** of public pools compared to non-users.

Regular users are also more satisfied with the general **quality of services** provided by Bega Valley Shire Council compared to non-users.

Table 1.3 Current perceptions by Usage

| | Regular Users | Infrequent Users | Non-Users |
|---|---------------|------------------|-----------|
| Quantity of public pool facilities | 4.0 | 3.5 | 3.6 |
| Quality of public pool facilities | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.3 |
| Quality of services provided by Council | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.1 |
| Quality of infrastructure provided by Council | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.1 |

2 SPECIAL RATES VARIATION

This section of the report covers Council's proposed Special Rates Variation. It covers support for the proposed SRV as well as the importance of maintaining and improving public pool facilities and likelihood of support for other cost management options.

2.1 Importance of maintaining and improving public pool facilities

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of keeping all six public pool facilities and improving the quality of public pool facilities to modern standards using a five-point scale where 1 meant 'Not at all Important' and 5 meant 'Very Important'.

Keeping all six public pool facilities

Respondents placed high importance on keeping all six public pool facilities. In total, 76 percent of respondents rated this goal as important, with over half (58%) providing the highest rating of 5.

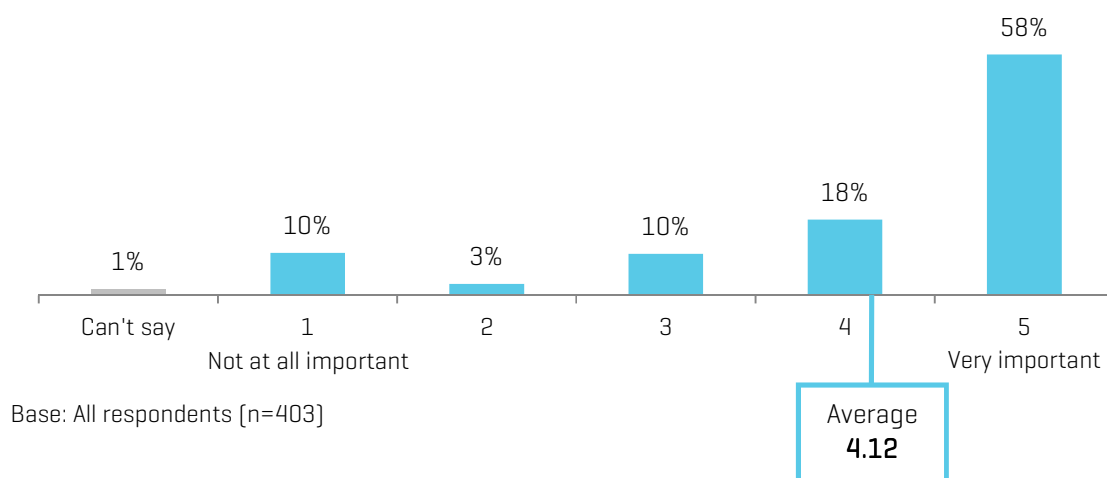
Only 13 percent of respondents rated keeping all six public pools as not important, with one in ten (10%) providing the lowest rating of 1.

These results combined for a high average importance rating of 4.12 out of 5.

The average importance ratings for both regular users (4.7) and infrequent users (4.4) are significantly higher compared to non-users (3.8). Keeping all six public pools is most important to those who use the public swimming pools in the Shire.

The average importance rating is significantly higher for female respondents (4.3) compared to male respondents (3.8). There are no significant differences in average importance by age.

Figure 2.1 Importance of keeping all six public pool facilities



Improving public pools to modern standards

All respondents were read out the following definition of 'modern standards':

'Modern standards means that swimming pools would be compliant, accessible for all ages, sustainable both environmentally and financially and meet the community's expectations.'

In total, 73 percent of respondents rated improving public pools to modern standards as important, with over half (51%) providing the highest rating of 5.

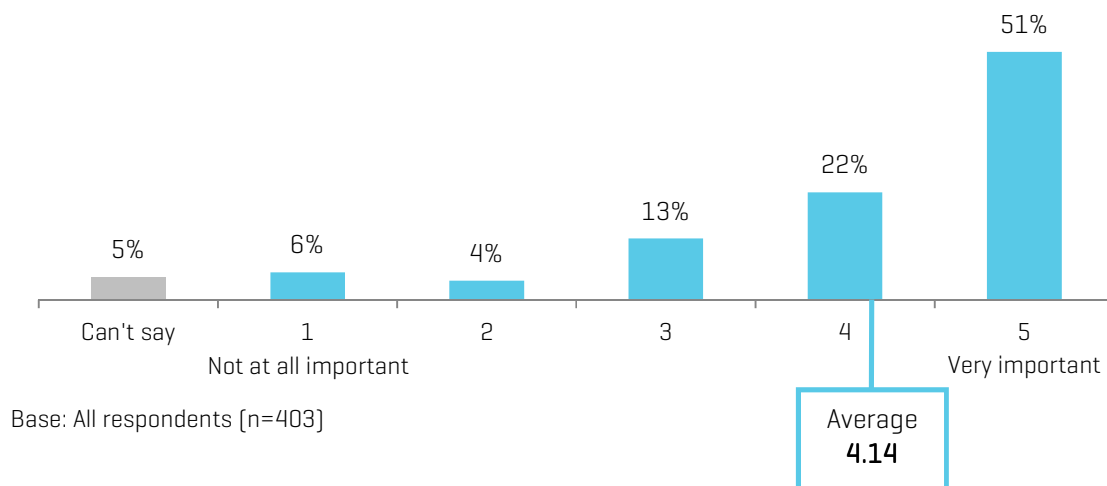
Only 10 percent of respondents rated keeping all six public pools as not important, with six percent (6%) providing the lowest rating of 1.

These results combined for a high average importance rating of 4.14 out of 5.

The average importance rating for regular users (4.5) is significantly higher compared to all other respondents. Improving the pools to modern standards is most important to those who regularly use public pools.

The average importance rating is significantly higher for female respondents (4.3) compared to male respondents (3.9). There are no significant differences in average importance by age.

Figure 2.2 Importance of improving public pools to modern standards



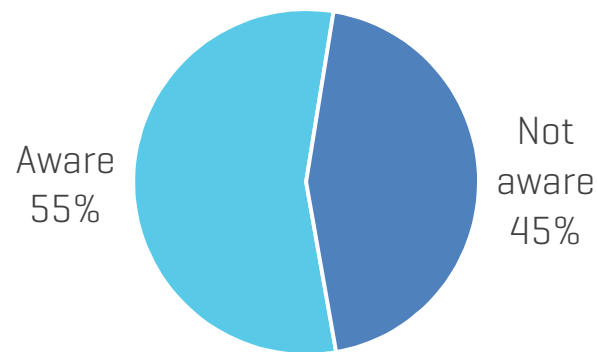
2.2 Awareness and engagement

Respondents were asked whether they were aware of Council's proposed SRV.

Fifty-five percent [55%] of residents were aware of the proposed SRV. There were no significant differences in awareness by gender or age.

There were also no significant differences in the awareness of Council's SRV by usage of public pools.

Figure 2.3 Awareness of Council's proposed Special Rates Variation

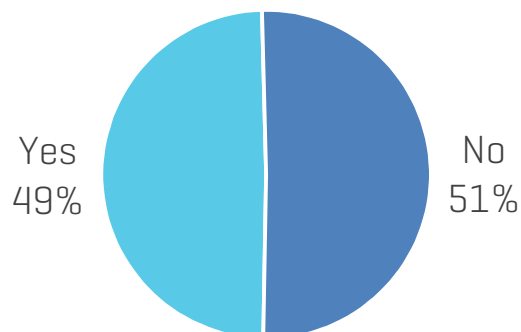


Base: All respondents (n=403)

Respondents who were aware of Council's SRV were asked whether they had read information related to the Special Rates Variation or attended one of Council's community consultation sessions. Again, there were no significant differences by gender or age.

Furthermore, there were no significant differences by usage of public pools. This shows that users of public pool facilities were not more aware - of or engaged with - the SRV process compared to other respondents.

Figure 2.4 Read information or attended a community consultation session



Base: Aware of SRV (n=223)

2.3 Support for Council's Special Rates Variation

Respondents were read the following information relating to Council's SRV:

'In order to retain all six public pools Council requires additional funding and is considering a Special Rates Variation. It will be a one-off permanent increase to generate an income of \$2.028 million per year above the rate peg. This amount would equate to an 11% increase in the total income generated from general rates. Council's proposal will only affect general rate and not waste, water and sewerage rates. If Council decides to apply for the Special Rates Variation, it will come into effect on 1 July 2020, and the increase in your rates will depend on the value of your property. The average increase to ratepayers would be \$1.97 per household per week.'

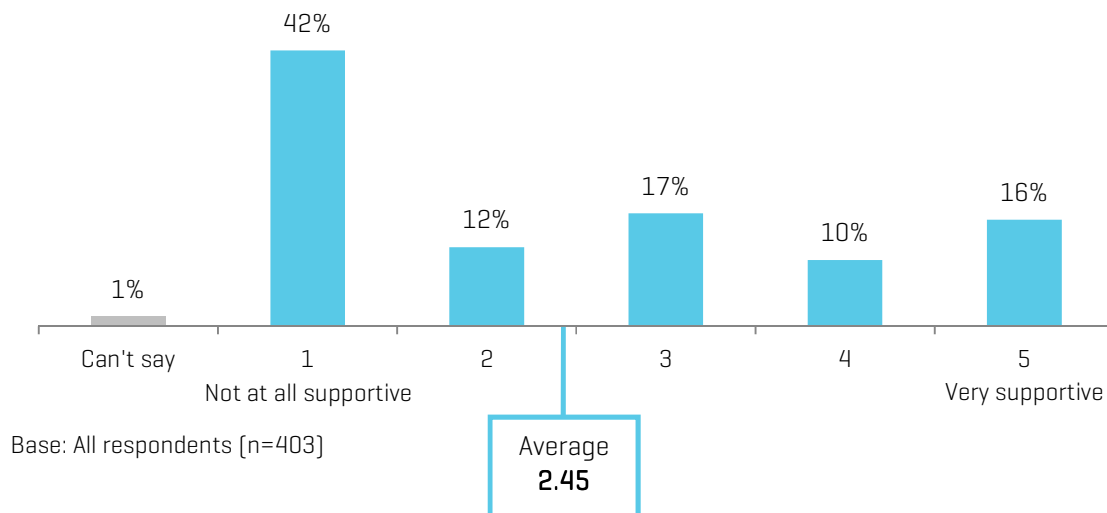
Respondents were then asked to rate their support for Council's proposed general rate increase for operating and upgrade costs for all six pools across the Shire using a five-point scale where 1 meant 'Not at all Supportive' and 5 meant 'Very Supportive'.

There is a low level of support for Council's SRV. In total, 54 percent [54%] of respondents were not supportive of the SRV proposed. Almost half [42%] of respondents gave the lowest rating of 1, indicating they were 'not at all supportive'.

In total, 26 percent of respondents were supportive of the SRV with 16 percent giving the highest rating of 5. Seventeen percent [17%] of respondents gave a neutral rating of 3.

These results combined for a low average rating of 2.45 out of 5.

Figure 2.5 Support for Council's Special Rates Variation



Female respondents and **regular users of public pools** are significantly more supportive of Council's SRV compared to other respondents. There are no significant differences in support by age.

The proportion of female respondents who are supportive of Council's SRV (28%) is similar to the proportion of males (25%). However, fewer female respondents are not supportive and far more are neutral, resulting in a significantly higher average rating.

Only one third (34%) of regular public pool users are not supportive of the SRV. The proportions that are supportive (42%) and neutral (24%) are significantly higher compared to non-users. These results combined for a significantly higher average rating compared to both infrequent users and non-users.

Table 2.1 Support for Council's Special Rates Variation – Subgroup Analysis

| | Male | Female | 18-49 | 50-64 | 65+ | Regular | Infrequent | Non-Users |
|----------------------|------|--------|-------|-------|-----|---------|------------|-----------|
| Not supportive (1-2) | 61% | 49% | 61% | 58% | 52% | 34% | 52% | 65% |
| Neutral (3) | 12% | 51% | 19% | 14% | 19% | 24% | 23% | 13% |
| Supportive (4-5) | 25% | 28% | 19% | 28% | 27% | 42% | 25% | 20% |
| Can't say | 1% | 2% | - | 0.8% | 2% | 0.9% | - | 2% |
| Average | 2.3 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 2.5 | 2.1 |

Reasons provided for rating

All respondents were asked to provide a reason for their rating. The key themes from these responses are summarised below. A full list of open-ended responses has been provided to Council in a separate report.

Not supportive [1-2]

Most respondents who are not supportive of the SRV stated that they currently pay high enough rates and are reluctant to support additional charges. Many respondents suggested that Council should find funds within their budget and reduce wastage in order to meet the funding requirements. A number of respondents attributed their lack of support of the SRV to the fact they do not use the pools. Several of these respondents suggested that users should fund the upgrades by paying higher prices.

Neutral [3]

Respondents who provided a neutral rating of 3 had mixed views on the SRV. Like respondents who are not supportive, many stated that they already pay high enough rates. However, other respondents emphasised the importance of pools but noted concerns regarding the amount being raised and whether the funds could come from other parts of Council's budget.

Supportive [4-5]

Respondents who are supportive of the SRV emphasised the importance of having public pools available in the local area. These respondents are aware of the requirements for ongoing maintenance of the pools and suggested that it is a requirement for Council to keep the public pools available and accessible. Respondents emphasised a variety of reasons why the pools are important including for children to learn to swim, for tourism, for people to use them for physical rehabilitation and to help maintain a fit and healthy community.

2.4 Support for other cost management options

Respondents were asked to rate the likelihood of supporting two methods to better manage costs for operating the pools: reducing the opening hours and reducing the season length. These questions were asked before the question measuring support for Council's SRV. This involved a five-point scale where 1 meant 'Extremely Unlikely' and 5 meant 'Extremely Likely'. Respondents who provided ratings of 1 or 5 for both questions were asked to provide a reason why. These open-ended responses have been provided to Council in a separate report.

Reducing the opening hours

Respondents are generally unsupportive of the idea of reducing the opening hours of public pools to manage costs.

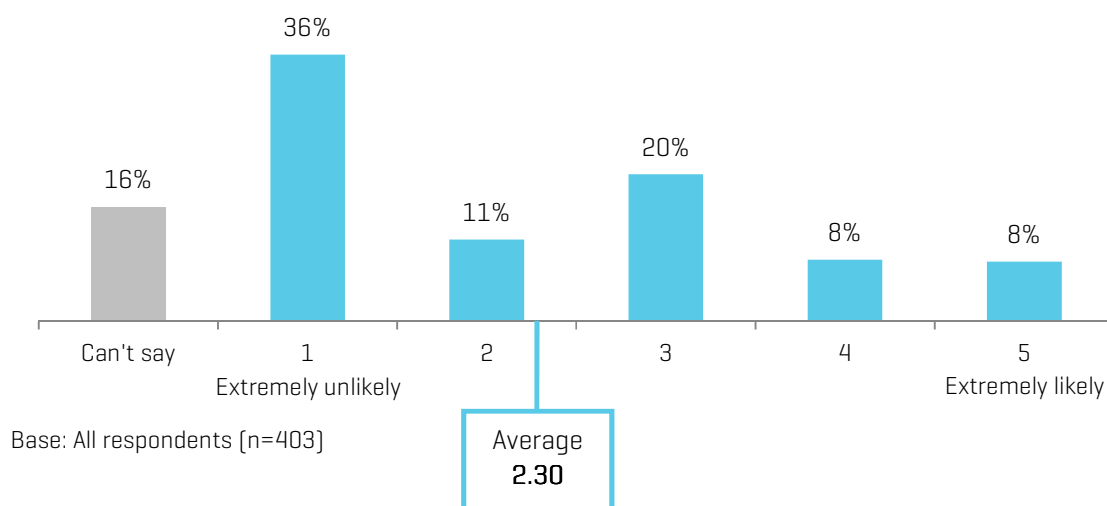
In total, 47 percent of respondents are unlikely to support reducing the opening hours, with 36 percent providing the lowest rating of 1.

Sixteen percent [16%] indicated they are likely to support reducing the opening hours with eight percent [8%] providing the highest rating of 5.

These results combined for a low average likelihood rating of 2.30 out of 5.

Support for reducing the opening hours is higher among those who don't use the pools, with the average likelihood rating for **non-users** (2.5) is significantly higher compared to **regular users** (2.0).

Figure 2.6 Likelihood of supporting reducing the opening hours



Reasons provided for rating

Respondents who provided ratings of 1 or 5 were asked to provide a reason for their rating. The key themes from these responses are summarised below. A full list of open-ended responses has been provided to Council in a separate report.

1 – Extremely unlikely

Respondents who indicated they are extremely unlikely to support reducing the opening hours of the pools stated that the pools need to be accessible for all types of residents who may use the facilities at different times of the day. Groups noted include workers in the morning or late afternoon, retirees during the day and after school for children learning to swim or squad training.

5 – Extremely likely

Respondents who indicated they are extremely likely to support reducing the opening hours of the pools suggested that this option is preferable than closing pools. Some respondents acknowledged that this option would save costs while others indicated that they would not be impacted as they do not use the pools. One respondent noted it was “...better to have a pool sometimes, than no pool.”

Reducing the season length

Respondents are also generally unsupportive of the idea of reducing the season length to better manage costs.

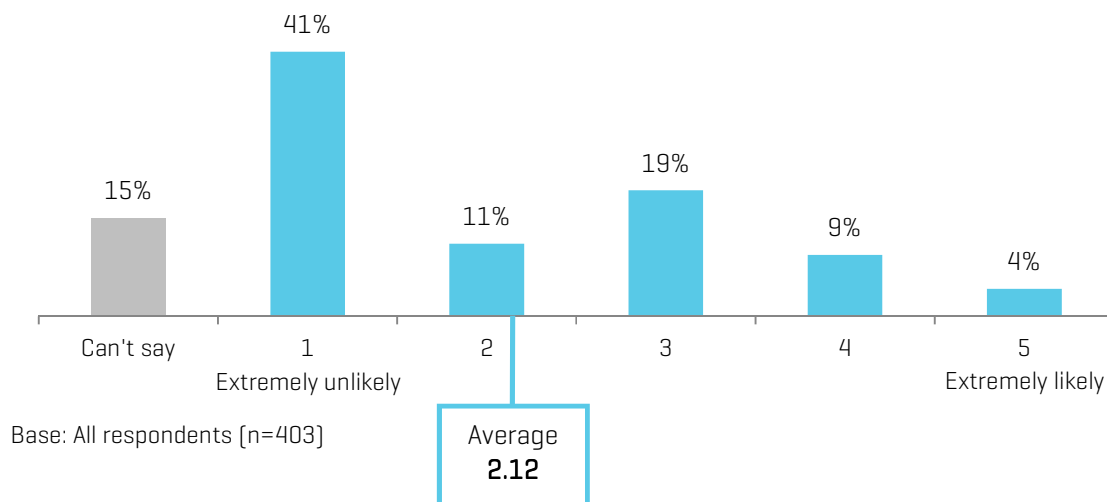
In total, 52 percent of respondents are unlikely to support reducing the season length, with 41 percent providing the lowest rating of 1.

Thirteen percent [13%] indicated they are likely to support reducing the season length, with four percent [4%] providing the highest rating of 5.

These results combined for a low average likelihood rating of 2.12 out of 5.

Support for reducing the season length is significantly lower among those who are regular users of public swimming pools, with the average likelihood for regular users [1.7] significantly lower than both infrequent users [2.2] and non-users [2.3].

Figure 2.7 Likelihood of supporting reducing the season length



Reasons provided for rating

Respondents who provided ratings of 1 or 5 were asked to provide a reason for their rating. The key themes from these responses are summarised below. A full list of open-ended responses has been provided to Council in a separate report.

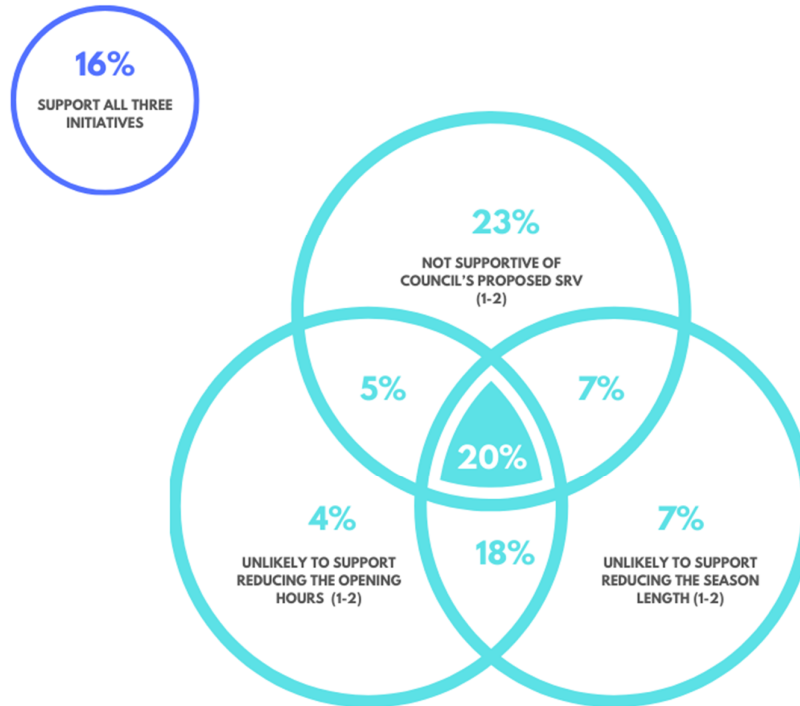
1 – Extremely unlikely

Respondents who indicated they are extremely unlikely to support reducing the season length felt the availability of the pools is important. Many respondents stated that they are dissatisfied with the current length of the season and do not want to limit access to the pools any further. Several respondents specifically mentioned the importance of the pools during hot weather.

5 – Extremely likely

Respondents who indicated they are extremely likely to support reducing the season length stated this is a good alternative that could also reduce the cost of rates. Some respondents noted alternatives such as swimming at the beach or waterholes.

Figure 2.8 Not supportive of SRV, reducing season length or reducing opening hours



Base: All respondents [n=403]

Twenty percent [20%] of respondents are unlikely to support reducing the season length or opening hours and also are not supportive of Council's proposed SRV. This is a significant proportion of residents who are not satisfied with any of the proposed cost management strategies included in the survey.

Open-ended responses from these residents show several key themes. First, these respondents believe that they are currently paying high enough rates. Several of these respondents noted they were unsupportive of the SRV because they themselves do not personally use public pool facilities.

Another key theme emerging from the responses of these respondents is the **perceived mismanagement of Council funds**. These respondents believe Council should be able to find the necessary amount of funding in their budget without an increase in rates.

Finally, some of these respondents proposed that the increased costs should be imposed on the users of the pools in the form of higher user-pays prices.



Bega Valley Shire Council

Special Rates Variation Community Survey 2019

Open-Ended Responses

Prepared for
Bega Valley Shire Council

Prepared by
IRIS Research

October 2019

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SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL'S SPECIAL RATES VARIATION


Not supportive (1-2)

A high proportion of people don't use the pool and rates are very high
A pensioner too expensive as it is, we get not much for what we pay
Always an extra cost needs to manage funds better
Because council mismanage money
Because they already put a tariff on the rates on the pools
Because they don't use the pools people should pay to use the pools
Because we don't need new charges
Bit too much
Build up funds and not always spent on the stated purpose
Can't afford as a pensioner
Can't afford if council need to finance their money better
Community should not have to pay for the pools
Council can cut costs in their department without increasing the rate
Council can finance through other directions not fair to ratepayers to pay more
Council has enough funds we pay high rates already shouldn't have to fund it
Council has enough money they should use it properly and there would be no problem
Council has enough revenue and lot of families in this area that can't afford it
Council needs privatise pools
Council should be more efficient
Council should be better with their money instead of wasting it
Council should better spend the money they collect
Council should cover the cost and not residents
Council should find the money elsewhere
Council should have budgeted as we already pay double the central coast
Council should incur the costs not us
Council spend too much money on other things like trips abroad
Council wastes too much money as it is
Current rates need to be used more wisely
Decisions on where rates are being spent is a concern
Don't get good services anyway
Don't have much to do with them
Don't manage rate payer's money properly
Don't need a rate variation just for pools
Don't use pool often - i feel increase in admission fee could help support in cost
Don't use pools
Don't use pools and on fixed income
Don't use pools other facilities need maintaining like road
Don't use the pool
Don't use the pool - council saving money on the roads - use that for the pools
Don't use the pools
Don't use the pools
Don't want rates any higher
Don't want rates up more
Don't want the rates to increase more- pay enough now

Entry to pool is expensive as is rates are expensive and they are not managing funds
 Extra money being paid out for nothing
 Has done the numbers and knows how much it costs us its more than a dollar a week
 He believes the issue of funding is a contested issue
 I already pay high rates
 I am a pensioner and at the moment not getting enough to live
 I believe it should be user pay
 I can't afford it we pay enough as it is council needs to better fund money
 I don't attend pool and nobody in my family does
 I don't have a pool within 45kms of my place don't use pools rates are high enough
 I don't use the facilities but appreciate that they are there for another s
 I don't use the pool - don't trust the council
 I don't want to pay more rates council needs to find resources from previous levy
 I get no services so not paying for pools that i don't use
 I get very little for my rates as it is
 I own a few properties and it will affect me
 I think user has to pay
 I think council have a right to upkeep these facilities- public money was put into the Eden pool
 I think they should manage better with reduced hours
 I-m a pensioner and Bega rates are higher than a lot of other areas- can't afford
 If they can't do it without increasing the rates, they need to amend it some other way
 If you use it, you pay for it
 I'm an aged pensioner and the rates are way too high to start with
 I'm not using these facilities
 It is obvious to me that it is a user pay not a flat rate for all in the shire
 It is unnecessary
 It might stop people who haven't got a lot of money using the pool due to high rates
 It should be funded by general funds they have now
 Keep putting up the rates every year
 Leave rurally rates would be very high
 Lot of people don't use the pool and would have to pay anyway
 Money has been wasted on other things avail funds should be spent more wisely
 Money needs to be used on other resources e.g. roads - lifesavers at the beach
 More rates increase is not good
 My rates are high enough and i don't use the pools
 Need to shorten and reduce season and hours to see how much - they save
 No, a pool user
 No pool here- why should i pay for them
 No swimming pool
 Not efficient enough in the work they are doing now
 Not everyone uses public pools- one is community owned- our rates keep going up already
 Not supporting upgrade but supporting operating
 Not to keep pools going
 On a fixed income so will be difficult and i don't use this facility
 On a pension so would find the increase difficult
 Only homeowners get to pay and not everyone. Everyone who uses them should pay
 Only if it is a once off as it will benefit the health of our community

Only people who use the pools
 Other ways to fund the pool instead of raising rates
 Our pool was privately built with community funds don't take it away
 Our rates are already very high compared to other places in the state
 Our rates are one of the highest- rates should be enough for the pools
 Our rates go up every year. It's very rare we have a year that it doesn't go up
 Our rates or so high already and we don't even have kerb or guttering
 Oversupply of pools and with mobility of population don't need as many
 Pay enough rates
 Pay enough
 Pay enough
 Pay enough
 Pay enough
 Pay enough already
 Pay enough in rates as it is
 Pay enough rates already
 Pay enough rates already and have nothing to show for it
 Pay enough rates now- pool access should be cheaper
 Pensioner can't afford more rates
 Pensioners
 People using pool should pay more to use the pool
 People who use the pools should be paying
 Personal
 Privatising them is a better idea- so i don't have to pay because i don't go
 Public facilities should be kept that way and a levy in past has already been put in place for pools
 Rate has increased before money has gone elsewhere
 Rates are already very high compared to other councils
 Rates already quite high- don't use the facilities often enough
 Rates are already to high
 Rates are already very high in this shire
 Rates are expensive as they are- don't use the pool
 Rates are high already- cut back elsewhere
 Rates are high enough as it is
 Rates are high enough increase may cause financial difficulty
 Rates are so dear now- - i don't use that facility me
 Rates are too high
 Rates are too high already- we are a poor town- our rates are higher here than in Canberra
 Rates are too high now
 Rates are too high now
 Rates are very in this shire compared to other councils
 Rates go up every year anyway not using funds appropriately as it is
 Rates have doubled in 13years so support a hug job in the pools
 Rates have gone up all the time and can't retire have to work to pay rates
 Rates high enough as it is- i don't use the pools
 Rates is heavy enough as it is
 Rates should be paying for it


Rates that we pay now should cover the costs
 Rates too high as it is
 Revenue could be raised by pool entry fees
 Shire has too many pools- leave 3
 Should be shared with users
 Should be user pays i don't use the pools
 Should not have to -pay for pools i don't use
 Should request funding from government
 Shouldn't have to pay for the pools if not used too many in the area
 So many people who don't pay rates that use all the facilities
 Some have already had upgrades- expensive to run and not much patronage
 SRV not to be used for the upgrade and maintenance of pools
 Take away green bins to pay
 The continual slug against the ratepayer is getting ridiculous
 The council get enough from the current rates to maintain the pools
 The council is not providing any good services in the area and we pay a lot.
 The council needs to better fund their finances
 The council rates are too high already
 The council rates are too high we are only pensioners
 The pools are over staffed- cut back on staff and they can cut back on money
 The proposal is an assumption that everyone wants a pool
 The rates are already expensive
 The rates are already too high and mismanaged
 The rates are going up all the time it is difficult for fixed income
 The rates are too high, and they need to better budget and look elsewhere for money
 The rates are too expensive now and i-m retired
 The rates are too high as they are
 The rates keep on sneaking up all the time
 The SRV will stay permanently - we have raised the money for the pool
 The way they are spending the money at the moment
 There are more important things to spend rates on
 There are other ways to pay for it -user pays may be the answer-
 There must be other monies available that council can use on recreation
 There too many pools already
 They don't do enough to warrant more money from us
 They have already applied and been granted an SRV for pools about 3-4 years ago
 They need to be looked after
 They need to cost cut and not waste money- organized groups are complaining
 They need to look at their finances in other ways- manage the funds that you have
 They need to look at their overall spending and funding.
 They should manage our money better
 They spend money of consultants they should get their act together b proactive
 They waste money elsewhere and better manage funds to provide as its rates are too high
 They waste too much money on other infrastructure, and they have to get the balance right.
 Think the pools should be privatised- not enough people use it
 To many rate hikes
 Too much money now and they are only wasting it



Too much money spent on arts and community
Too much waste with council funds already
User pay policy would be more efficient
Users should pay pensioners should not have to pay extra rates
Waste of money
Wasting money, they need to manage affairs much better rates already to high
We already have an SRV. so don't want another one
We already pay a levy where's that money going-
We already pay big rates and don't get a very good service
We already pay enough rates
We already pay higher rates
We already pay higher rates than any other area in the state
We are already paying for the pools in our rates
We are in drought and we are already spending too much money on feed
We are pensioners and can't afford an increase in rates
We don't use the pool
We don't use the pool- pool uses should pay at gates
We don't use the pools
We don't tend to use the facility
We don't use them- when should don't pay for people who use them- they should pay
We have our own pool- council should live within their means- manage money better
We need better roads
We pay enough in rates
We pay enough in rates as it is so money could go to pools
We pay enough rates as it is
We pay enough rates as it is
We pay high enough rates to Bega Valley Shire Council
We pay high rates now and don't want to pay more
We pay our rates, and, in those rates, the upkeep was in the rates so wears the --
We pay the highest rates already compared to other shires - councils
We pay the highest rates- they should look at alternate ways of raising that income
We pay too much now
We pay too much rates and pool is far away
Would get absolutely no benefit and i think that it should be a user pay situation
You don't use the pools they should fund from elsewhere not ratepayers

Neutral [3]


Being a rate payer, you have to sometimes look where things are coming from to keep it open for the pe
Cost of living is rising and so are the rates- on a pension
Council gets enough money
Council needs to keep pools, but a pensioner finds it hard to find the money
Council should balance the budget
Don't think it should be on the size of your land but more on the property itself
Don't want to have to spend any more money
Eleven perc is a large increase there should cheaper ways to achieve
Gonna increase them anyway so doesn't matter
Happy to have increase but they need to reduce other costs- e.g. consultants
Haven't any pools in Tura beach or Merimbula
I am a user and would pay the increase
I believe it should be a user facility
I think very important for young people to have a pool to use
I think we need the pools but if they are not being used, they do not need to be supported
I think we pay enough rates
I understand that council needs to spend money to upgrade
I'm self-funded and can't afford and don't need any more expenses
I'd be happy to work as a volunteer to reduce costs
If the pools need upgrade someone has to pay
I'm not using the pools
Indifferent
It may be too much for some over the year
It would depend on many hours they would open the pool and what the state of them
It's a lot money per year
Know the facilities are important but you don't use them and shouldn't have to pay
Local children need these places to learn to swim
No problems paying to have the facility available if money divided across pools equally
Not against it because kids need a pool
Not all rate payers use facilities the majority is supporting the minority
Not everyone can afford extra cost harsh for some people
Not happy with the level of communication with the community- no information about meetings etc
Not happy to support pools that aren't being used e.g. Bemboka
Nothing in Bermagui but does affect other communities
On a pension and another rate hike hurts
Ongoing pressure of rising costs
On the pension and don't use the facilities
Pay enough
Pay enough rates
Pay enough rates as it is
Rates are already very high
Rates are expensive as is and the increase should be a one off per year does not increment per year




Rates high as it is
Rates keep increasing don't think this the best one
Sitting on the fence
So, few people use the pools- should be user pays
State govt should take more responsibility for health and wellbeing of reside
Support for people who do need pool but it's not me
Swimming is important
The Candelo pool wasn't built by the council, so they never paid for it in the first place
The funding has to be evenly distributed amongst all pools
The rates are expensive here as it is, they don't get much back for a rate
The rates are pretty high at the moment and an increase could cause hardship in some homes
The system of user pays would seem to be fair.
There are better things they could spend the money on -e.g. roads or ocean pool
They can cut costs in other areas. We're in a drought and they're mowing playing fields
They spend foolishly on other things
Understand we need these community facilities for everybody
Very important that we share the cost in keeping them open pool user pay more
We pay enough rates now- should be better managed
We are heavily taxed with rates and have lost count on how many rate variations they have-
We are in a rural area and wouldn't use it, but grandkids do so split in middle
We are retired and not working rates are hard to pay
We don't use facilities
We pay one of the highest rates- would prefer toilets at gorge griffin oval
We pay very high rates already
Will support providing the money goes to pools and not to general funds

Supportive [4-5]

An affordable increase
An important amenity for all ages
As a community member i see the value of keeping the pool open and up to standard
As a parent- learning to swim is important for my children. Swimming is integral for Australians
As a swimmer we need pools for the future
Believe that most of the pools should meet their potential
Cause they're going to do it anyway
Cost is spread across the shire and it's a long-term solution
Depends on personal funds
Despite the fact that we don't use we think they are very important
Every community needs their own pool
Everybody would be contributing
For physical fitness for the community
Hate pools to close
I believe in supporting the council
I believe it's necessary for the pools to be open all year round
I support it for public health- general health don't want other services reduced
I think the pools are a great service to those who don't have their own swimming pool- we can pay
I think they should be kept and maintained, and we need to pay for it some how
If guaranteed to not pay more than -2 week would support
If the pools are there, they need to be used
If they don't have the money pools will close
If we want extra services, they have to be paid for
Important as a social aspect
Important facility- a lot of people can't go to the beach and its a social place
Important infrastructure that needs supporting
Important social and educational facility
Important to keep facilities open
Important for families to have year-round access to an important commodity
In favour of council continuing to provide swim. Pool facilities as long as users don't bear x-cost
It brings in the tourist and its good for the locals
It is important for kids to swim and for the fun factor
It is necessary to keep our pools
It needs to have the pools
It seems to be an affordable amount
It's a little amount and costs go up all the time anyway
It's a function of the Australian lifestyle
Keep the pools going
Kids need to learn how to swim
Kids need to learn to swim and need the pools available
Learning to swim is most for our children and general population
Lots of kids in area they need access to pools



Mismanagement of funds
 Money to be only used for the pool upgrades and not used in consolidated funds
 Need the pools badly- kids need to learn to swim
 Need to keep the pools going
 Need to keep the pools going for the community
 No, we pay enough rates highest rates in Australia
 Not worried if needs to be done it needs to happen
 Only if the money collected is used solely for pools and evenly distributed
 Our pools need to be upkept and sustainably fund
 Pay high rates at the moment
 People need to be able to go to the pool during all of the hot weather
 Pools are important
 Pools are important i am willing to pay more for them
 Pools are important and we need to pay if we have to
 Pools are important for community
 Pools are important socially and for the community- could be savings elsewhere
 Pools are not only good for kids but old people as well
 Pools are very important to everyone
 Pools need to be maintained so need paying for
 Pools need upgrading
 Pools should keep open at all costs
 Public pools are important in Australia
 Public pools are important in providing fitness and swim lessons for kids
 Rates that we pay now should already cover the cost of the upgrades maintenance etc
 Service to be maintained for the public
 So the kids and the elderly can exercise
 Such a wonderful exercise for all ages group
 Swimming pools are important for children to learn to swim
 The amount is too much- but would like to keep pools open
 The community rely on pools for their kids
 The facilities are important for the users especially young
 The money has to come from some where
 The pools are there for the kids and they all need to learn to swim
 The smaller regions don't have access to beach would miss our harder 4 youth
 There should be a lot more pools and be left open for kids to learn how to swim
 These facilities need to be kept open
 They have to be maintained in regional area and pools more convenient
 They learn to swim and its local
 They spent money spending building the pools it would be terrible to let them deteriorate
 Want the pools to stay opened
 Warming climate and social aspect not a bad thing to have
 We can't expect these things for nothing
 We elect councillors to make decisions for ratepayers
 We have a large number of pool but i think to close one would a disservice to the community
 We need for it to pay for what it does-
 We need pools for the public and tourists
 We need pools they important especially for children to learn to swim




We need these facilities to help people with rehab-
We need this vital service to continue
We need to be able to teach our children - have family outside get kids of technology
We need to have our pools comply with current standards
We need to look after the future of young people in the community
We should have it even though i won't get any benefits
We use the pools
We use them
Will pay if kids can learn how to swim for free- parents do not pay to watch kids
Would pay if we were given a couple of free days in the pool


SUPPORT FOR REDUCING OPENING HOURS

1 – Extremely Unlikely

A lot of people can only access the pools early morning- late afternoon
A lot of people are more healthy than sitting in front of a computer so more hours would be better
Access needs to reflect the patronage -school children-
Accessibility
An important public facility
Available to all rate payers
Because he believes being a public pool needs to be attractive to people of different backgrounds
Because hours are already pretty short- it should be open longer- especially in the evening
Because it's important for children to be able to use the pool at most times
Because of work hours want it to be accessible to children
Because people need options less hours means less options
Because the opening hrs of the pool is stable all year round accessible
Because there's different personalities. Some love getting up early in the morning
Because there's no point in having it if you don't have access to it
Bega people work hard to keep it open with no help from council
Both work and need after hours
Candelo only open for 6 months of the year not shorter please
Convenient and appropriate that everyone gets access when they need it
Daylight saving people not near the beach need somewhere to swim
Different people have different lifestyles
Different age groups all need the facilities to be available
Different ages use the pool at different times
Don't think they should for those that want to use them they should be open
Don't use pools
Don't see the point why not close altogether if they want to do that
Don't swim
Don't want hours reduced
Don't want people to be put out
For be open long hours to cater for different people
Happy with Cobargo hours
Hours aren't good enough now
I don't attend and not interested
I need the facilities to be open early and late to aid in my rehabilitation
I think the more hours opened the more it gets used
I think the pools are very important and for kids to learn to swim
If i was a swimmer i would be annoyed at reduced hours
If the facilities are there use them to the max
In summer kids need it open to learn to swim
It defeats the purpose you want users to use the pool as much as possible
It reduces access to people who may need to use the pool at other times
It restricts the use of the pool and their opening hours are within shop hours anyway
It should available as much as possible
It should be open longer hours



It's everyone's right to learn to swim
Kids need to learn swim
Kids won't be able to swim after school
Longer they are open more people will use them
Lots of people and children use the pool at all hours
Need a trial
Need enough time for squads' workers and retirees
Need extended hours to cater for different age groups
Need pools open as much as possible
Need them open
Need to have open especially in summer plus add BBQ for more family
Needs to be open as long as possible to cater for many users as possible
No point in having a pool if it is shut
Not open long enough now
Not reduced
Open as they are
Open for everyone when the weather is warmer
Opening hours are enough satisfy the need of the public
Our children need to learn how to swim- need to be able to stay all day
People doing sports- and kids learning how to swim
People have different needs
People need access it needs to be available all day
People need to have more access
People need to learn how to swim
People need to teach their kids how to swim- stay fit and it's good mental health as well
People need to use the pools at all different times
People unable to get to a pool until later in the day
People use the pool at all different times
People wanting to go late hours
People will want the maximum hours available to cover all walks of life
Pool needs to be available to suit everyone
Pools are convenient
Pools are needed all day long
Pools should be open so people can enjoy them
People use the pools a lot and it's good to be opened the times that it is now
Prefer this to levy on rates
Rather pay more and keep the hours
School children
Should be available
Should be available all times
Should be available for all to use
Should be available to all at a reasonable cost
Should be open longer
Should be open more
Should be open morning and night for the kids
Should be opened all hours
Shouldn't change the hours should be as much as they can stay open
So, people have greater access and flexibility



Some people like to go swimming early in the morning
 Some people like to have a dip early in the morning or late in the evening
 Stay as they are
 The Cobargo opens on restricted time anyway
 The hours at the moment are fine and if reduced are not accessible to all
 The hours seem completely satisfactory
 The hours shouldn't be reduced
 The hours they have now are not long enough anyway
 The only time i could use the pools would be early morning or late afternoon
 The opening hours are for training and in summertime- it's not good being hot and can't go to the pool
 The pool is there to be used for as long as the people need them
 The pools are used by kids so let them be used as long as they're open
 The rural pools are very important to the local community and should stay open
 There is a need for people to use at all times of the day
 They don't the pool because of their age no use for it
 They need access at all times
 They need to be as they are
 They need to be open longer especially in summer
 They need to be there for the kids
 They need to be open when people can use them
 They should be accessed as much as they can
 They should be longer open- they should just be privatised
 They should be open 24-7
 They should be open earlier and even later during day light saving
 They should be open longer in the summer especially on really hot days
 They should be opened longer than they are now
 They should be opening as much as possible
 They shouldn't have to do that
 Thinking about all the children- elderly people and people who work and use them
 To fit in with the hours that people use the pools
 To give people a chance to access them at different times of the day
 Very important for pools to be open for everyone to have an opportunity
 Very important that the pool is accessible as much as possible for all
 Want people to use it it's got to be open
 Want pools there it is important for kids
 We all work different hours and need flexibility in opening hours
 We don't use them, but others do
 We need access because pool is used constantly
 We need public pools at all different times for all peoples needs
 We need them available more hours of the day
 We use all year round want some hours
 What is the point of having a swimming pool it is not open
 When you work and with school kids need to go swimming at all hours
 With daylight saving when people going after work the pools already closed
 Working people need some flexibility in the opening hours
 Would like to see them open later in the afternoon due work commitments


5 – Extremely Likely

Because i don't use them and pay for them on my rates- people who use them should pay
Because they don't use them
Better chance they'll stay open
Better to have a pool sometimes than no pool
Cost reduction
Cost saving if no one is frequenting them
Cut the costs
Don't use it
Don't use the pools and they are not used a lot
I think it's important to keep the pools available for children
If it keeps the pools opened
Important for people to have that facility available to them
It will save money, so we don't have to have increase in our rates
More available and cheaper
Mostly not hot in the morning have them opened more later on hot days
Need to find a balance between cost
People can access it when they want it due to work
Prefer that to any of them closing
Reduce cost incurred
Save money
Stay open
The money they save can go towards maintenance if they reduce hours
The times are suitable for you
They don't need to be open all day everyday
To keep them open
To reduce cost
To reduce costs
To save you paying more rates
Want to reduce cost


SUPPORT FOR REDUCING SEASON LENGTH

1 – Extremely Unlikely


Access to the facilities for people in need for all reasons to use pool
Accessible for the season
Access is important for as long as possible
Already a short season unless you are in Pambula
As long as they are open, and kids get to learning to swim
Because he wishes to swim all year round
Because it doesn't bother me the season length
Because it's still hot
Because not relevant
Because when the weather warms up, they need to adjust the opening sections of pool
Because with climate change the weather is going to be warmer and we need pools
Better than paying for a levy
Convenience
Convenience all year round would be better
Don't change it
Don't want that
Don't want the season reduced
Exercising in water very important-
Families need the full season- we need more year around availability
Good opportunity to swim and some people don't have the opportunity any more after closing pools
Growing population swimming is important
I swim 5 days per week so longer they are open the better
I think the benefit of having the pool is access socially and educationally important
I think the season isn't long enough as is
I use it all through winter as well
I use the pool in winter or low season
I would like the longer hours for myself
If it was practical
If its heated keep it open
If people pay for them- they should keep them open. It's up to them
If the pools are there, they should be utilised
If the season is good, it shouldn't be reduced
If they shorten the time that will leave people with less access
Important for community to have access to swimming pools
Important that there are pools open especially for the disabled and elderly
In summer important for all
It has to be times to suit all people from early morning to late evening
It is ideal as it is
It is necessary for those that use the pools for therapy etc
It is still hot when it closes anyway - we teach kids to swim - swim lessons
It should be available for everyone to use as long as possible in warm weather
It should be opened 52 weeks of the year
It's a heated pool and should be open all the time



It's good way it is
 It's important that access to pool is available as much as possible
 It's short enough as it is
 Its short as it is
 It's important that the season is the normal length or longer -e.g. health training
 It's the only time its open
 It's there to be used
 Keep it as long as possible to help children to learn how to swim
 Kids need this service as well as disabled people
 Kids need to know how to swim but if it cuts cost
 Kids need to learn to swim and it's a short time opened now
 Leave as is
 Local pool is inside and no need for it to close early in the season
 Long hot summer all year round if possible
 Lots of people want to use the pool all during the season
 March can still be hot and warrants the pools being open
 More open the better
 More use out of them
 My rehab requires me to have access all year to the pool
 Need access until it's too cold to swim
 Need the season cos its warm
 Needs to be accessible
 Needs to be open all the time
 Needs to be open as long as possible to encourage people to use it as long as possible
 No point in having a pool that cannot be opened for people to swim
 No point in having a pool there in the appropriate season weather
 No shorter season please
 Our pool is open all year
 People don't have any others it should be heated - able to use it longer
 People hang out for the pool to open
 People like to swim during the warmer months
 People need access to the pools
 People need the pools for maximum time in the hot weather
 People need the pools open for extended time
 People need to be able to swim in the warm weather
 People need to have an outlet for exercise
 People need to use them
 People should be able to access the pools
 People shouldn't stop training because its winter
 People swimming all year round
 People use the facilities at all different times and day s
 People would like it longer
 Pool needs to be open in a country town
 Pool should be open to enjoy climate
 Pools needed for the kids
 Pools should be open as much as possible
 Public service
 Rate payers pay for this facility to be open not closed



Season is good for hot weather
Season is long enough don't want to see it reduced
Season is needed for access
Season isn't long enough already
Seasons seem to be getting warmer and they be open longer
Should be available
Should be available
Should be available all season
Should be more flexible with winter closing to accommodate hot weather
Should be open all year
Should be open and heated so kids can use it all year
Should be open when the weather is warmer
So many people use the pool
So that the learn to swim classes will be longer
So, you get your money worth for the season ticket
Some areas stay hot for longer in the summertime
Stay as it is for kids
Teaching people to swim
The children need the facilities open
The hours they're open is good and they could be longer in the summertime
The kids need these facilities open
The people who use the pools use them for the whole time they are open
The pool caters for exercise as well as swimming
The pool should be opened all year round
The pools are heated, and you can acces it as much as possible and don't get sunburnt
The public needs these facilities to be open
The season shouldn't be shortened at all
The season is already restricted
The season is already too short the summer lasts longer
The season is fine at the moment
The season should be longer
There is not a lot to do down here- give the kids something to do
There should be more money spent on it and it should be open longer
They close to early
They should be available to younger people in both winter and summer
They should be open as much as possible
They shouldn't reduce the season at all
To keep it opened
To make to all ages
Up to them to decide how long they have to keep it open
Very few facilities in the shire that people can use all year round
Very short season
Want users to use the pool as much as possible
We have the only indoor pool in the area- need the pool for therapy
We need access for all residents for full season
We need all year-round access to our pools
We need pools open for as long as we can for the kids in the area
We need swimming pools because there's not much to do and the beach is too crowded



We need the access
We want to get tourist not reduced things
Would put the competitive swimmers at a disadvantage

5 - Extremely Likely

Because summer is getting shorter- and have access to heated pool in Pambula
Because this is what people would want
Doesn't get used at the start and end of season
Everything costs money-
Have no interest in rate increase as i don't use pools
I swam in a water hole in the river and that should be good enough for most
Reduce costs of rates
Reduce my rates
So, we don't have to pass it on to the rate payers
They are pools in areas that don't get used much
They don't need to be opened in the winter and autumn
They need to decrease the rates
They should be kept open more
Too save
We have enough beaches

Appendix 4- Media Release

5 September



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: communications@begavalley.nsw.gov.au
www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/news
P. 02 6499 2222

Talk to us about the future of our pools

5 September 2019

Bega Valley Shire Council is seeking feedback from the community on the future of our public pools across the Shire.

Specialist consultants, Otium Planning Group, conducted a comprehensive review in 2016, which resulted in recommendations on the provision, value, costs, opportunities, risk management and the future renewal of our swimming pool facilities.

The comprehensive level of information that came out of the review consequently resulted in Council adopting a goal to have a fit for purpose six pool aquatic strategy that maximises opportunities for the community and visitors to participate and enjoy facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and have pools that are operating at modern standards.

Council's General Manager, Leanne Barnes, said the public swimming pools are highly valued by the community, however they are also high cost assets to operate and build.

"The adopted goal secures the future of the swimming pools and reflects the history, commitment, hard work and fundraising of various community groups to advocate, plan and build our swimming pools over the years," Ms Barnes said.

"Our six public swimming pools were built over the last 60 years and with two facilities due for renewal in the next ten years, as well as managing smaller cost asset renewals across the remaining four sites, Council has significant decisions to make – including how to continue to fund our pools into the future.

"A Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper has been developed in order to advance our conversations with the community around the pools and we are particularly interested to hear the collective view on the best way forward. As a part of this discussion, we are looking at funding models to keep our commitment to maintaining our six pools - this includes the consideration of applying for a Special Rates Variation," Ms Barnes said.

A thorough community information and consultation program is being implemented that will include community information sessions; the establishment of dedicated webpages; formal public exhibition periods; a rates calculator; an independent phone survey; the distribution of information through Council's social media channels, the *Council News* publication and the local media; and a final report to Council.





MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: communications@begavalley.nsw.gov.au
www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/news
P. 02 6499 2222

Community information sessions are being held in each town with a public swimming pool in the coming weeks (all sessions will commence at 5.30pm):

- Cobargo Hall – Monday 16 September
- Eden Log Cabin – Tuesday 17 September
- Pambula Hall – Monday 23 September
- Bemboka Hall – Tuesday 24 September
- Bega Commemorative Civic Centre – Monday 30 September
- Candelo Hall – Wednesday 2 October

To view the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper and provide your feedback, visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay.

For more information on the pools contact Council's Leisure and Recreation team on (02) 6499 2222.

Photograph: Council is seeking input from the public on the future of pools in the Shire.

END



Appendix 5- Traditional media- advertising and media articles

Print Advertising

The below print advertisement appeared in the following publications:

- Merimbula News Weekly (11, 18 September)
- Eden Magnet (12, 19 September)
- Bega District News (6, 13, 20 September)

Swimming Pools Strategy

bega valley shire council

HAVE YOUR SAY

All sessions start at 5:30pm

- Cobargo Hall
Monday 16 September
- Eden Log Cabin
Tuesday 17 September
- Pambula Hall
Monday 23 September
- Bemboka Hall
Tuesday 24 September
- Bega Civic Centre
Monday 30 September
- Candelo Hall
Wednesday 2 October

We are planning for the future of our six pools, which the community has made clear they want to retain, including how we fund them.

To raise the funds needed we are considering an increase to your rates through a Special Rates Variation (SRV).

We need your feedback.

Join us at a community information session or visit Council's website to Have Your Say.

begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay

Radio Advertising

The below pre-recorded advertisement appeared on the following stations:

- 2EC (12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 September – 30 slots in all)
- Power FM (12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 September – 30 slots in all)

2EC + Power FM

Bega Valley Shire Council

Swimming Pools Strategy Key Number SM60110

19/09/19 – 21/09/19

Bega Valley Shire Council are planning for the future of our six swimming pools!

To fund the pools into the future Council are considering a rate increase through a Special Rates Variation.

Council need your feedback and will be holding information sessions starting at 5:30pm:

**Pambula Hall Monday September 23rd,
Bemboka Hall Tuesday September 24th,
Bega Civic Centre Monday September 30th
and at Candelo Hall Wednesday 2nd October.**

Go along to a session to have your say or visit council's website.

bega valley dot nsw dot gov dot au

Media articles

| Date | Media | Story |
|--------|----------------|---|
| 5/9/19 | About Regional | What's your local pool worth? Bega Valley looks to rate rise to pay for it https://aboutregional.com.au/whats-your-local-pool-worth-bega-valley-looks-to-rate-rise-to-pay-for-it/?utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=ar&fbclid=IwAR2HX8gZMq3ZzNJerdX4fY4VD0I5j-EOCmScXEFPJOTP_2u_8FHUmIMsp0s |
| 6/9/19 | ABC South East | Would you pay more to keep the public pools open? https://www.facebook.com/abcsoutheastnsw/posts/2627881323922985 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| 9/9/19 11/9/19 12/9/19 | Bega District News Merimbula News Weekly Eden Magnet | Have your say on shire's swimming pools https://www.begadistrictnews.com.au/story/6374035/have-your-say-on-shires-swimming-pools/?cs=509 |
| 18/9/19 | 2EC/Power FM | Future of Bega Valley's community swimming pools uncertain as council looks to increase rates for upgrades https://www.2ec.com.au/news/92761-future-of-bega-valley-s-community-swimming-pools-uncertain-as-council-looks-to-increase-rates-for-upgrades?fbclid=IwAR0PdBiCbiuIWwVm-q3TLufdBvuHOiafuJUmiMukelxZCN1j6bVgvXhVQ_o |
| 24/9/19 | Merimbula News Weekly | Low response on pool meetings https://www.merimbulanewsweekly.com.au/story/6403972/low-response-on-pool-meetings/?cs=1477 |
| 1/10/19 | Bega District News | Proposed \$2 weekly increase of rates to maintain and upgrade shire's pools https://www.begadistrictnews.com.au/story/6414737/proposed-2-weekly-increase-of-rates-to-maintain-and-upgrade-shires-pools/?cs=509 |
| 2/10/19 3/10/19 4/10/19 | Bega District News Merimbula News Weekly Eden Magnet | Bega Valley pools rate variation already exists https://www.begadistrictnews.com.au/story/6418326/bega-valley-pools-rate-variation-already-exists/?cs=509 |
| 4/10/19 | About Regional | "Double dipping" on Bega Valley pools rejected by Council https://aboutregional.com.au/double-dipping-on-bega-valley-pools-rejected-by-council/ |
| 7/10/19 | Bega District News | Council denies 'double-dipping' ratepayers to pay for pools https://www.begadistrictnews.com.au/story/6424291/council-denies-double-dipping-ratepayers-to-pay-for-pools/?cs=509 |
| 8/10/19 | Merimbula News Weekly | Council decries allegation of 'double-dipping' ratepayers to pay for pools https://www.merimbulanewsweekly.com.au/story/6426369/council-decries-allegation-of-double-dipping-ratepayers-to-pay-for-pools/?cs=1477&fbclid=IwAR0ykhNONXPeOmwdxE9MQLpa8Y3jYHQyAHfJ2M8LjrAGK7wu4gCz_PNPNow |
| 18/10/19 | Bega District news | Pool Feedback period closes this Sunday https://www.begadistrictnews.com.au/story/6446282/pool-feedback-period-closes-this-sunday/ |



"Double dipping" on Bega Valley pools rejected by Council

SAN CAMPBELL | 4 OCTOBER 2019



Mark and Zoe Philpott leading swim squad sessions at Bega Pool. Photo: Ian Campbell

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News

Sport

What's On

Today's Paper

Community

Comment

Recomm

Local News

Court and Crime

Property

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Rural

Investigations

National

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SEPTEMBER 9 2019 - 10:22AM

Have your say on shire's swimming pools

SHARE

TWEET

COMMENTS

Bega Valley Shire Council is seeking feedback from the community on the future of public pools across the shire.

Xium Planning Group conducted a comprehensive review in 2016, which resulted in recommendations on the provision, value, costs, opportunities, risk management and the future renewal of our swimming pool facilities.

'Our six public swimming pools were built over the last 60 years and with no facilities due for renewal in the next 10 years, as well as managing smaller cost asset renewals across the remaining four sites, Council has significant decisions to make - including how to continue to fund our pools into the future.' RVSC general manager Leanna Rarnoc said

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Future of Bega Valley's community swimming pools uncertain as council looks to increase rates for upgrades

18 September 2019

The Candelo Swimming Pool was a major project for the town and is an oasis in the hot weather. Bega Valley Shire Council says it and another five community swimming pools in the valley are not sustainable at current funding levels.

With summers getting hotter and public swimming pools becoming an even more important public space, the Bega Valley Shire Council says the future of its six public pools is uncertain, with it unable to continue to meet the costs of the pools within its current budget forecasts.

The council has put out a discussion paper and is asking the community to have its say regarding the future of the pools and its plan to raise rates through a special rates variation directed at funding the pools.

ABC South East NSW

September 6

WOULD YOU PAY MORE TO KEEP PUBLIC POOLS OPEN?

The Bega Valley Shire Council is about to embark on a series of information sessions to discuss the future of the shire's six public pools.

Some are almost 60 years old, with pools in Bega and Cobargo due for renewal in the next ten years.

The council says ratepayers will have to pay more - an extra \$146.82 each year on average - if the six public pools are to remain open.

You can find out exactly how much you'd have to pay using the council's calculator: begavalley.nsw.gov.au/ratecalculator

What do you think?

Anne Ham, Liz Jassó and 58 others

145 Comments 8 Shares

Appendix 6- Social media outputs

6 September

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2210177452442177>

Reach: 6933

Engagements: 1190

Shares: 23

Reactions: 14

Comments: 34

 Bega Valley Shire Council
September 6 · 🌐

THE FUTURE OF OUR POOLS

We are seeking feedback from the community on the future of our public pools across the Shire.

A Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper has been developed in order to advance the conversation around the pools and we are particularly interested to hear the collective view on the best way forward.

As a part of this discussion, we are looking at funding models to keep our commitment to maintaining our six pools - this includes the consideration of applying for a Special Rates Variation.

Community information sessions are being held in each town with a public swimming pool in the coming weeks (see advertisement for the full details). To view the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper and provide your feedback, visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay



Swimming Pools Strategy

HAVE YOUR SAY

All sessions start at 5:30pm

- Cobargo Hall
Monday 16 September
- Eden Log Cabin
Tuesday 17 September
- Pambula Hall
Monday 23 September
- Bemboka Hall
Tuesday 24 September
- Bega Civic Centre
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Wednesday 2 October

We are planning for the future of our six pools, which the community has made clear they want to retain, including how we fund them.

To raise the funds needed we are considering an increase to your rates through a Special Rates Variation.

We need your feedback.

Join us at a community information session or visit Council's website to Have Your Say.

begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay

  Helena Jones, Tania Lingard and 12 others · 34 Comments · 23 Shares

11 September

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2217427858383803>

Reach: 5128

Engagements: 1116

Shares: 12

Reactions: 12

Comments: 19

 **Bega Valley Shire Council**
September 11 · 🌐

The best way to let us know your thoughts on the future and funding of the Shire's six swimming pools is to complete the survey at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay or to come to one of the community information sessions.

Swimming Pools Strategy



All sessions start at 5:30pm

- Cobargo Hall
Monday 16 September
- Eden Log Cabin
Tuesday 17 September
- Pambula Hall
Monday 23 September
- Bemboka Hall
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We need your feedback.

Join us at a community information session or visit Council's website to Have Your Say.

begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay

 12

19 Comments 12 Shares

15 September

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2217437091716213>

Reach: 3304

Engagements: 442

Shares: 8

Reactions: 9

Comments: 10



September 16

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2217442668382322>

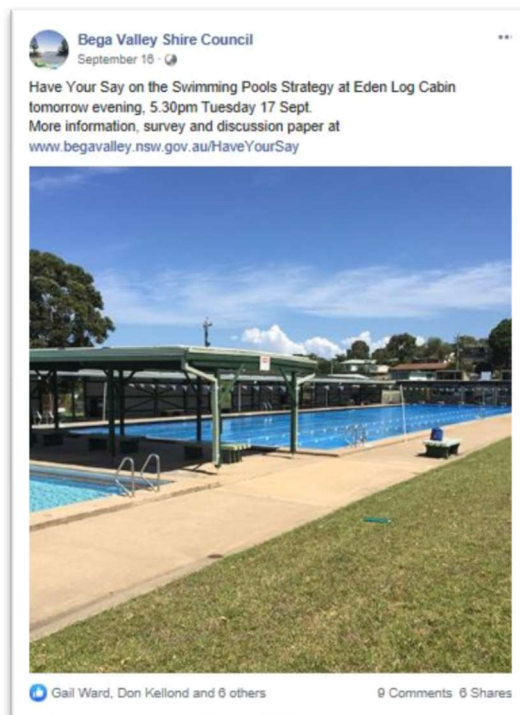
Reach: 3482

Engagements: 377

Shares: 6

Reactions: 8

Comments: 9



17 September

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2228932297233359:0>

Reach: 1787

Engagements: 159

Shares: 3

Reactions: 6

Comments: 0



22 September

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2227313344061921>

Reach: 1850

Engagements: 58

Shares: 1

Reactions: 9

Comments: 2



23 September

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2227320344061221>

Reach: 2104
Engagements: 257
Shares: 3

Reactions: 14
Comments: 4



27 September

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2247322882060967:0>

Reach: 1634
Engagements: 87
Shares: 1

Reactions: 5
Comments: 1



29 September

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2227326940727228>

Reach: 1961
Engagements: 165
Shares: 5

Reactions: 10
Comments: 0

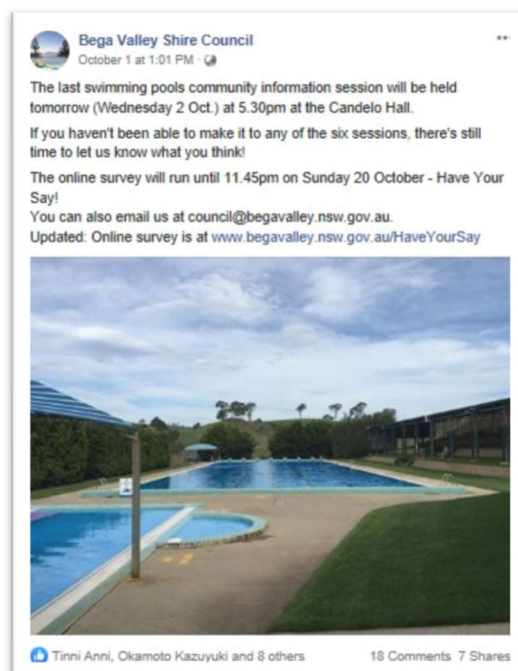


1 October

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2227337400726182>

Reach: 3642
Engagements: 526
Shares: 7

Reactions: 10
Comments: 18



10 October

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2270375089755746>

Reach: 2392
Engagements: 305
Shares: 2

Reactions: 20
Comments: 4



15 October

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2280244535435468:0>

Reach: 1041
Engagements: 22
Shares: 0

Reactions: 2
Comments: 0



15 October

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2280244535435468:0>

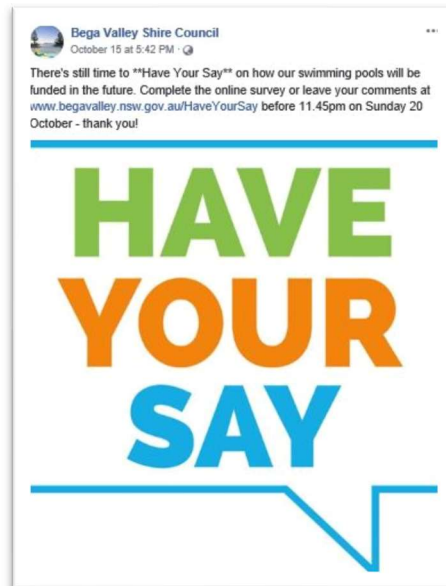
Reach: 1784

Reactions: 2

Engagements: 166

Comments: 4

Shares: 11



18 October

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2285313508261904>

Reach: 2152

Reactions: 6

Engagements: 6254

Comments: 9

Shares: 3



Appendix 7- Summary of social media comments

6 September- <https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2210177452442177>

[Bega Valley Shire Council](#) Thanks to everyone for all your comments here. Your comments will be included with the rest of feedback but if you haven't already completed the online survey, please do so. Also the first community session is on tonight at Cobargo Hall, 5.30pm. Online survey, community sessions schedule and other information is available at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay. Cheers.

[Miriam Dayhew](#) The season ticket should be for the whole Shire. Locals should not be slugged for maintaining tourism attractions

Delete, hide or report this

[Tania Lingard](#) John Grady will have no sympathy for the rate payers of Cobargo!

[Ronnie Ayliffe](#) why do we have to do this again when community input was asked (and received) for the independent report on the pools in the shire completed only a couple of years ago (by OTIUM)? why commission the report if it's tossed aside and/or repeated in-house (which is what the strategy paper appears to be doing - only without the detail or the conclusions of the original report)? why ask ratepayers what they want when they have already indicated they want council to maintain the 6 pools the shire presently has? this looks and smells like a stitch up: it's a box-ticking exercise - council staff are going through the motions of asking the public before they do whatever they have already chosen to do (whack all ratepayers with a SRV and/or close pools/reduce pool opening hours). enough with passing the buck and forcing ratepayers into a lose-lose situation and then use the excuse 'but we asked you and this is what you wanted.'

Council must look at the operational expenses of the pools and have a solid think about why one pool is costing all ratepayers far (FAR) more than all the other pools in the shire COMBINED - what is required is good assets and cost management skills from BVSC NOT public feedback (or do you want ratepayers to tell you how to do your job?)

[Ronnie Ayliffe](#) the OTIUM report - <https://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/file.asp...>

[Gabbi Dummett](#) Apparently one pool costs nearly 3 times more than the rest of those in the shire to run?

If certain pools cost more to run than others, fix the issues causing the cost - organise fundraisers, approach other organisations to help (maybe Swim Australia?)

or use climate change funding to make the pools run more efficiently ... 😊

No more rate rises - people are struggling as it is

[Laura Aranyani Haynes](#) [Gabbi Dummett](#) this 🙄!!! We already have rates among the highest in Australia. We get precious little to justify it & are living in a fairly low socio-economic area. One pool- Pambula- costs a mint to run. Instead of justifying our high rates we are extorted further to keep what little community services we have. This council is asking yet more money from people going through a terrible drought. It's already tough for many to afford the pool season pass, but we do need to teach our kids to swim, especially with dams & rivers around. Seriously Bega council, what are you doing with our money?

[Gabbi Dummett](#) [Laura Aranyani Haynes](#) good question. We need an Independent Audit of council spending and make it public.

Where is the accountability for overspending our rate monies? Buying buildings and selling them at a loss - but wanting to raise rates AGAIN?!

[Laura Aranyani Haynes](#) [Gabbi Dummett](#) yep! Audit!! I'm curious to know why when FOGO was introduced, reducing our general waste collection by half, rates did not only go down, but are being increased. Just curious 😊

[Rhonda Aked](#) [Gabbi Dummett](#) , we have a big pool in our backyard. It's called the ocean or lake. What about a blue water pool like Bermagui has?

[Gabbi Dummett](#) [Rhonda Aked](#) sounds perfect!

[Rhonda Aked](#) [Gabbi Dummett](#) , wouldn't it be nice!!!

[John Richardson](#) The Bega Valley Shire Residents & Ratepayers Association (BVSRRRA) is a strong supporter of council's stated objective of retaining & maintaining the shire's six swimming pools as vital pieces of community infrastructure.

Unfortunately, in the view of the association, council appears to be engaged in a deliberate & entirely cynical attempt to deceive the community by trying to "double-dip" from ratepayers via its proposed SRV.

The association believes that ratepayers should strenuously oppose any SRV that does not take account of the funding already being provided by ratepayers for the operation of the shire's pools & demand a thorough exploration by council of all alternate options available to meet the ongoing pool funding requirements.

Read more ... [://www.begavalleyshireratepayers.asn.au/.../Bega-Valley...](http://www.begavalleyshireratepayers.asn.au/.../Bega-Valley...)

John Richardson

Secretary/Treasurer

[Kay Crocker-George Stilling](#) Yes I think season ticket holders should be able to use all pools in the Shire We need our pools for every one to enjoy young ore old cheers

[Jack Powers](#) Our rates are skyrocketing at the hands of a financially irresponsible and incompetent council. Work out you budgets, do your job and stop putting the burden on us!!!

[Jemma Hemsted](#) I'm sick of these surveys the council doesn't listen anyway. It's just part of their procedure so they can tick a box. Passing more rates onto families is ridiculous. Especially if we go outside the shire for swimming lessons anyway. Council needs to manage their funds better.

[Kathy Miller](#) Our shire council was given very sound direction and advice from NSW sports and Rec at the time of Candelo pool was proposed! Go back and read that report and lean from the outcome . Those meetings were all documented and definitely none of the expert advice taken !The loud noises of a few overwhelmed sense and reasonable outcomes!Swimming and belonging to a positive healthy family club eg your local swimming Club is life changing! And should be considered part of a child's education and ongoing development.

[Janelle Wheatley](#) One can only wonder how much it costs to hold these feel good hearings? Has the councillors ever listened ? I'm sure this lot has there head in the sand .

They all ready have there mind made up , this is just to make out that there doing things right , I'm sure it wasn't long ago they where going to close pools .

If council stuck with mowing parks , grading roads water and general things like they use to instead of green b/s it would be much better.

[Nathan NewAccount Sturgiss](#) Pffffffttt !!!!

If you don't have the funds then stop putting your hands in others pockets !!!!

Because I guarantee 150% your rates won't go down once they have finished !!

This is their job to manage funds better , but as always it's the town's people paying for the stuff ups , use the bin rate money that hasn't been changed

[Mandi Rush](#) I have just done this.

I hope you read my feedback.

My number one gripe, is that our family buy a season ticket. Yet we are limited to only using our local pool. Surely season ticket holders should be able to use all pools within the shire?

[Kathy Miller](#) Also if our Governments are fairdinkum about mental health and all the far reaching disturbances this causes to the individual and the community then healthy exercise and belonging to a positive community eg swimming Club should be subsidised !

[Connie Crawford](#) How much do these reports Cost???

[Jarrod Nicholls](#) Perhaps if you cut back on the refugee signs, climate emergency hoax and started doing proper council tasks you just may find some cash. Stay out of federal issues.

[Angela Robbers](#) Swimming is an essential skill for Australians & the children of the Bega Valley learn to swim in the our shire's pools. Before we had pools they had to try to learn to swim in the rivers, this would not meet community expectations in 2019.

It's the many services these pools provide that's vitally important to our whole community.

Looking forward to all the outdoor swimming pools opening again in October 🏊

[Connie Crawford](#) Try the Government - they happily subsidise pools at Private Caravan Parks etc

11 September- <https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2217427858383803>

[Janet Sharp](#) My husband and I are pensioners, with our rates we pay for rubbish disposal, a service we have never had, having lived in the bush for over 30 years. Our rates probably go to many other things which we don't benefit from, so would be unfair to raise our rates to pay for the upkeep of swimming pools which we don't use. When our children were young they swam in the rivers, creeks and the sea....all for free. My grandchildren enjoy going to the pool now and again, they find it too expensive to go to often. Why not lower the prices of entry so that more kids go more times, especially the kids whose parents are financially struggling.

[Pam Bradford](#) no way how dare you

Delete, hide or report this

[Anastazja Tully Dobrogosz](#) The shire has maintained these pools since I was a little girl what's the Problem in 2019 ? Swimming pools are what make a community if bvsc cannot maintain the pools they have serious problems and people should be losing there jobs !

Wendy Franks FFS aren't our rates high enough!?

We don't even have a pool in Bermagui so why should I pay even more for my already extremely high rates than I do now

Gordon Wills **Wendy Franks** what about the blue pool

Rhonda Drakos **Gordon Wills** they are referring to the Council Pools ie Cobargo Pool, Bega Pool.

Gordon Wills **Rhonda Drakos** ok

Anne Maples **Natasha Mathew Bonomi** fill the survey in

Natasha Mathew Bonomi **Anne Maples** I just did a survey on what I think quaama park does NOT need....

Greg Wiley Just another grab for increased ratepayer funding for a service THEY should be providing. Bring on the amalgamation of shire councils and get competent budget control as well as better time management of staff and a reduction of "desk jockeys"

David Kildea **Greg Wiley** I used to know a few "desk jockeys "

Greg Wiley **David Kildea** yeah but at least we provided a reasonably good service to the community dave not like the bunnys voted in up here

David Kildea Good point we need a good dose of myxomatosis down here to. Good luck

Melinda Cleaver How many times do we have to tell you what we think before you actually listen 🙄 our answers won't change because you keep asking or rephrase the question. Why should I have to pay an increase of rates when I don't use any of the pools? It's bad enough I have had a rate increase and get f all services out here, I refuse to pay even more for a pool that I'll never use! Increase the bloody entry fee and manage money better

Ronnie Ayliffe some questions for BVSC regarding attendance and revenue data: are the attendance figures and the revenue cited in the reports for the venue or for just the pools? some council-operated facilities also contain a gym, cafe/kiosk, swim shop - do the attendance figures also include attendance to gym/cafe (but not necessarily the pool)? - does the revenue at council-operated pools also include revenue from extraneous income streams (cafe/kiosk/shop) or solely pool admission/season tickets?

Bega Valley Shire Council Hi Ronnie, the attendance and expenses are for all activities reported at each venue and revenue from all activities at BVSC managed sites (pool entry, season tickets, programs, gym, kiosk and merchandise). As this all contributes to the ongoing operational cost of each venue, this needs to be considered as recorded and not selectively for the purpose of the strategy and the modelling.

Ronnie Ayliffe soooooooo there's no way to tell what the ACTUAL attendance figures for the mixed facilities are (eg SAC - which has a gym and cafe etc) there's a very real possibility that SAC attendance figures are grossly inflated (whereas pools that don't have a cafe or gym the figures reflect only pool attendance/ pool use)

Ronnie Ayliffe I also notice that the attendance figures used in the draft strategy paper are per annum (despite 5 of the shire's pools only operating seasonally) --- the OTIUM report however also included a summer-only attendance figure for SAC (to better compare usage of all 6 pools) -- the summer-only attendance figure for SAC in 2015-16 season was 58 068 (see page 28) - and given the age of the facility at Bega, its attendance figure of 32 871 (which

reflects just pool use) is an indication of both its popularity and importance (and its operational costs are a fraction of that of SAC! that's amazing value!)

John Richardson The Bega Valley Shire Residents & Ratepayers Association (BVSRRRA) is a strong supporter of council's stated objective of retaining & maintaining the shire's six swimming pools as vital pieces of community infrastructure.

Unfortunately, in the view of the association, council appears to be engaged in a deliberate & entirely cynical attempt to deceive the community by trying to "double-dip" from ratepayers via its proposed SRV.

The association believes that ratepayers should strenuously oppose any SRV that does not take account of the funding already being provided by ratepayers for the operation of the shire's pools & demand a thorough exploration by council of all alternate options available to meet the ongoing pool funding requirements.

Read more ... [://www.begavalleyshireratepayers.asn.au/.../Bega-Valley...](http://www.begavalleyshireratepayers.asn.au/.../Bega-Valley...)

John Richardson

Secretary/Treasurer

15 September- <https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2217437091716213>

Connie Crawford The FOGO initiative worked well ! Congrats but Where is all the \$\$ from the FUTURE sales of the FOGO mulch going to be spent??? \$40. A scoop!

David Porter Connie Crawford BVSC just added addition garbage charges to many properties in the Shire, the council might be saving money but the ratepayers are not benefiting, in fact they are paying significantly higher rates.

Ronnie Ayliffe i think i'd like a link to the OTIUM report as well please

Sharon Wells Ronnie Ayliffe the report was on public display back in 2016. You'd probably need to contact Council to read it now.

Ronnie Ayliffe there was a link on the BVSC site for years - i'm intrigued - is there still a link?

Bega Valley Shire Council Hi **Ronnie Ayliffe**, the report is on the Swimming Pools Strategy Have Your Say webpage - link in post above.

Edit or delete this

Ronnie Ayliffe <https://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/file.asp...>

Destinee Holloway Trisha Ann Olsen

David Porter I don't think this is about swimming pools at all, a Public Consultation is now and "Information Session" meaning Council is going to once again tick the smallest number of boxes needed to gouge ratepayers, we have just had a rate increase, added 501s garbage rates and now another excuse to rate gouge. Face the facts, this council is so poorly managed, spending our money on all the wrong things and crying poor just to make ratepayers suffer financially because of this mismanagement. Our garbage services have been cut significantly with a promise that the reduced costs is "good news for ratepayers" then we are slapped with a significant increase in charges!

Enough is enough BVSC if you cannot perform your duties with the huge revenues you already make then get out of the way and let someone else manage the Shire properly. NO SRV.

Ronnie Ayliffe I would like everyone to note the following findings and recommendations from the OTIUM report in relation to Cobargo pool:

page 30 - Cobargo Pool has the second lowest costs (behind Bemboka - who have substantially reduced operating hours)

page 30 - Cobargo pool has the third highest attendance figures in the shire (behind SAC and Bega - areas with substantially higher population base and larger schools)

page 41 - Cobargo pool has steady patronage across all its opening hours

page 40: Cobargo Pool has the second lowest subsidy rate in the shire

page 41 - Cobargo Pool services a local and district catchment

the long-term recommendation from the OTIUM report relating to Cobargo Pool is found on page 14 and I'll quote:

"When the pool reaches the end of its useful asset life and upgrading becomes necessary, retain current water area for the main pool and expand leisure water area."

The OTIUM report clearly shows that the current management strategy of Cobargo pool is highly successful and just as clearly indicates what council should do : upgrade and maintain the Cobargo Pool

so do it

16 September- <https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2217442668382322>

Maggie Hazelgrove Where is Eden Log Cabin ?

Belinda Rogers These pools are the reason why most of us can swim. we have grown up with them. They are an essential part of growing up in Australia #

Fiona Campbell What a fine looking pool!!!

Melina Caldwell Fiona Campbell the best in the shire by far!

Lucas Scarpin Is there a centralised social media page whereby discussion and comments can be tabled on the pool strategy? I can find posts on individual pools but nothing on the overall strategy? Thank you.

Bega Valley Shire Council Hi Lucas, Thanks very much for your question. We have posted a number of times about the strategy since its release - this is the link to our original post <https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2210177452442177>. We also wanted to provide reminders about the individual information sessions (like this one). All of these are directing the community to the Have Your Say page where there is a survey.

Lucas Scarpin Bega Valley Shire Council Thank you for the quick reply. Just confirming though that there isn't a dedicated page whereby the questions and answers are centralised to save council having to answer the same questions repeatedly? Also, I would imagine that very few people would be able to attend all, if any of the public sessions. A centralised location for questions and answers would mean those of us unable to attend can see what is being discussed.

Bega Valley Shire Council **Lucas Scarpin** Hi again Lucas, the website has a large number of FAQ's on both the Pools and potential SRV. If anyone has questions outside of these we will provide answers.

17 September-

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2228932297233359:0>

22 September- <https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2227313344061921>

Jenny Robbins What about our other pools ?

Bega Valley Shire Council Hi **Jenny Robbins**, community information sessions are being held around the Shire with sessions already held at Cobargo and Eden. The full schedule is at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay. Regards.

23 September- <https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2227320344061221>

Sam Softley I fill out the Survey

Annabel Dobson Sam Softley me too. Hopefully everyone who can't attend will show the Council how important it is by filling out the survey too.

Sam Softley Annabel Dobson I said the same thing as you, why would you want to close it, there is nothing here for the kids as it is. Make the hours longer. Make it more inviting, you have to spend money to make money.

Annabel Dobson Wow it would be terrible if we lost our pool. It offers so many important community functions for people to stay fit, parents and children to meet other locals, elderly to get active, and just to cool off on a hot day. Would be a sad day if the Shire closed it. I hope people come along to the meeting and show their interest in this.

27 September-

<https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2247322882060967:0>

Wally Law Would be great if green garden waste could be taken to the tip for free. How good would FOGO be then!

29 September- <https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2227326940727228>

1 October- <https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2227337400726182>

Emma Britton The 6 Shire Pools apparently cost 2 million a year to upgrade and run over a 60 year period. Pool membership and entry makes up \$875,000 per year of this. Council wants a SRA to cover this. How about council tightens their belt and stops purchasing buildings and "artworks"? Seems to be a lot of dead weight in those council offices as well.

Clay Podger Emma Britton I think this is the feeling of 80%+ of residents.

Fraser Buchanan The Bega Valley Shire Residents & Ratepayers Association supports the Six Pool Strategy but questions the need for a \$2M Special Rate Variation. We think that the residents should be asking Cr McBain why council is planning to "double-dip" ratepayers' pockets via its proposed Special Rate Variation ...
[://www.begavalleyshireratepayers.asn.au/.../Bega-Valley...](http://www.begavalleyshireratepayers.asn.au/.../Bega-Valley...)

Ronnie Ayliffe one part of the stupidity that you have have identified fraser I think should be mentioned more regularly -- and that is how the SRV will affect ratepayers unequally - ie some ratepayers will be paying far more than others - and many pool users are not ratepayers but visitors (or non-ratepaying residents - eg folk who don't own property but rent) - surely just this one point is reason enough for everyone to question the introduction of the SRV ---- yes to the 6 pools strategy (as this was the recommendation of the OTIUM report) a big fat NO to foisting the responsibility for delivering this onto ratepayers by way of SRV

Clay Podger Here's an idea 💡 leave short point exactly how it is and use the money for pools 🐾 problem solved, no extra money required and absolutely no one is affected.

Tennille Schaefer Is there a link to the online survey this is the first time I have known about it.

Delete, hide or report this

Bega Valley Shire Council Hi Tennille Schaefer, here is the link to the survey and supporting information https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp...

Tennille Schaefer Bega Valley Shire Council thank you

Tinni Anni Rightly or wrongly the lifespan costs of these pools, including necessary upgrades required under legislation, have not been adequately accounted for by Council. We therefore have a choice...we can rob Peter to pay Paul by siphoning funds from other areas, or we can acknowledge that that cost of everything is going up and we need to adapt and dig deeper to keep the current levels of facilities and services we have. Personally I'm happy to pay more to not only see the pools stay open but to have the upgrades done when necessary over the coming decades without the constant threat of pool closures.

Anne Sawers Pools in country areas are SO important. These days it is giving kids/adults fairly local options to get some vit D, time off keyboards, face to face social time & of course exercise. It is 1 scheme Council should prioritise from the rates we already pay.

Alexis Creary Build one large indoor aquatic centre with a 50m pool that can be used 12 months a year by everyone.

Rebecca Ashcroft Hope all rate payers get annual family pool passes with our tip vouchers each year

Chris Ellis Keep them all open. Happy to pay.

Sarah Louise Huff Sandy Huff thought Dad might be interested

Kellie Hazelgrove Heffernan Shirl Gray-Balcomb Colby Gray-Balcomb

Kerri Lambden Good idea. If rate payers have to pay. We get free pass. Great idea **Rebecca Ashcroft**

Steve Benjamin Jeremy Gaden

Jeremy Gaden Katherine Branch

10 October- <https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2270375089755746>

Kalpa Goldflam Thanks Mayor, I was in the Chamber yesterday.
You did a great job chairing.

Angela Robbers What a crowd, and Mayor Cr **Kristy McBain** showed consistent leadership for the Bega Valley. Well done BVS councillors & presenters who confidently supported the acknowledgement of the (global) climate emergency.
We the Bega Valley community are having the conversations, taking action & can reassure the next generations we care & are willing to do all that we can to help provide a sustainable future.
Cheers

David Schmidt Thanks **Kristy McBain - Mayor, Bega Valley Shire Council** for the updates. Much appreciated.

Megan Chatterton Liz Faulkner

15 October- <https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2280244535435468:0>

15 October- <https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2280249315434990>

Annabel Dobson There are also hard copy surveys at the Bemboka Post Office. They need to be completed by this Friday in time to be returned to Council on Monday

Bega Valley Shire Council Thanks **Annabel Dobson**

James Coleman More like waste more rate payers money survey

Wendy Franks I just hope you listen to what people say and not just do your own thing regardless.

18 October- <https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshirecouncil/posts/2285313508261904>

Mandy Miller I for 1 is sick of all the rate increases that were get nothing in return for.... way too much spent on admin and such.... we need to restructure and save money

Fraser Buchanan Make saving on your in house expenses that are continually blowing out and don't ask the ratepayers for the same amount twice Double dipping so to speak, the ratepayers have already been stumping up over half of what you want each anyway and now you want that plus double that again it's a rort

Mary Scollen Could someone give ratepayers a ball park figure of how much this will cost. There is some scaremongering going on in the community so please spell it out. If your rates are..... then you will pay that for the year! Just pick two average rate price points . Don't send me to an internet calculator.

Bega Valley Shire Council Hi **Mary Scollen**, there are some FAQs on our website which gives this example: The average increase on individual ratepayers would be \$2.82 per household per week. This is based on a land value of \$204,000 with the increase in general rates being \$146.82 per year. This calculation includes the rate peg amount as well as the above rate peg amount.

Bega Valley Shire Council https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp...

Mary Scollen thanks for that. Just what I was after.

Timothy Crisp Use the windfall from Southern Phone to set up a fund to support local pools.


John Richardson Madam Mayor, while some in our community might not mind you referring to them as "guys", I'm sure that there are many who do. How about showing some respect for the community you were elected to serve? Just saying ...

Fraser Buchanan What do you plan on spending the money you already have been receiving from the ratepayers to maintain the pools on if you are going to get it twice?




Appendix 8- Other information and promotional materials

Swimming Pools Strategy project webpage

https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-PTF-14-66-40



[My Property & Neighbourhood](#)[Community & Leisure](#)[Planning & Development](#)[Environment & Health](#)[Business & Investment](#)[Council & Infrastructure](#)



Swimming Pools Strategy

Council & Infrastructure / Infrastructure & Maintenance / Major Projects

In This Section

- Council works Schedule
- Merimbula airport
- Merimbula STP Upgrade
- Roads, footpaths and cycleways
- Sewerage services
- Tip opening hours
- Waste services
- Water supply services

Related Pages

- Major Projects
 - Bega River Estuary Restoration
 - Bega Sports Complex Building Project
 - Coastal Accessibility Master Plans
 - Commercial Land Strategy
 - Dune Enhancement Project
 - Everyone Can Play Playspaces
 - Green Shoots
 - GreenShore Connections Project
 - Lake Street Shared Path - Merimbula
 - Merimbula Airport Terminal upgrade
 - Merimbula and Back Lake Floodplain
 - Risk Management Study and Plan
 - Merimbula STP Upgrade
 - NSW Boating Now Program
 - Rural Village Playground Upgrades
 - Sealing of West Kamaruka Road
 - Shared path, Tathra Road, Bega

Swimming Pools Strategy

Project Summary/background

In 2016, Council engaged Otium Planning Group to conduct a review of the public aquatic facilities within the Bega Valley Shire. The aim of this project was to develop a strategic document with the purpose of providing direction on the provision, value, costs, opportunities, risk management and the future asset renewal of these facilities.

This review was presented to Council and has been used for a series of workshops with Councillors to understand the history of and future considerations for our aquatic facilities; including how our community uses the pools, what factors affect use, what modern aquatic facilities look like and what the associated costs are.

Following on from these workshops, at the Council meeting on 22 November 2017, Council adopted the following goal:

'To have a fit for purpose six pool aquatic strategy that maximises opportunities for the community and visitors to participate and enjoy facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and have pools that are operating at modern standards.'

Using the adopted goal, Council employees were directed to develop a full profile covering capital, operational, management and funding option for discussion with Councillors and the community. This profile identifies the costs required to meet the adopted goal and continue to provide the existing six swimming pools in the Bega Valley into the future.

Purpose

Public swimming pools provide a variety of health and lifestyle benefits for the community. However, there are significant costs involved in the construction, operation, staffing, maintenance and renewal of these assets and facilities.

Related documents

- Otium Planning Group- Aquatic Facilities Review Final- November 2016
- Draft BVSC Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper
- Council Report - 22 November 2017 Aquatic Facilities Strategy
- Council resolutions - 22 November 2017 Aquatic Facilities Strategy
- Council Report - 8 May 2019 Draft BVSC Swimming Pools Strategy
- Council resolution - 8 May 2019 Draft BVSC Swimming Pools Strategy
- Stakeholder briefing Information

Who to talk to:


- Nicholas Hoynes
Aquatic & Leisure Facilities Coordinator
Bega Valley Shire Council
Phone: (02) 6494 3100
Email: nhoynes@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Timeline of works




- November 2016
Aquatics Facilities Review

Special Rate Variation information page

https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-POZ-44-38-10



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Special Rates Variation (SRV)

My Property & Neighbourhood / Rates & Charges / Special Rate Variation (SRV)

In This Section

- [Rates explained](#)
- [Pay my rates](#)
- [eNotices - Receive notices online](#)
- [FAQs on Rates](#)
- [Fees and charges](#)
- [Pensioner rebates](#)
- [Fire and Emergency Services Levy](#)

Related Pages

- [Special Rates Variation \(SRV\)](#)
- [Rate Estimate calculator](#)

Special Rates Variation (SRV)

What is a Special Rate Variation (SRV)?

A **special rate variation** allows councils to increase rates above the rate peg increase which is set by the Minister for Local Government. There are two types of **special rate variations** that a council may apply for:

- A single year variation
- A multi year variation

Local councils wanting to increase the minimum rate levels - above the rate peg - need to submit an application to IPART (Independent Pricing and Regulation Tribunal) for review and assessment.

Who is IPART?

IPART is the **Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal**, a State Government Agency responsible for determining the maximum price increase for a number of utilities and services including local government rates. For more information on IPART visit www.ipart.nsw.gov.au(External link)

When does the special rate variation application need to be submitted by?

Each year, councils wishing to apply for a special variation apply to IPART in February. The applications are assessed against criteria listed in the Office of Local Government's Guidelines. These include undertaking long term financial planning, ensuring community awareness of the need and extent of the proposed increase in rates, and consideration of the impact on ratepayers and the community's capacity and willingness to pay. In addition, councils must meet criteria related to productivity improvements.

How does IPART assess special rate variation applications?


IPART requires councils to actively engage residents in discussions about the proposed increase above the rate peg. Councils can do this with public hearings and other community engagement tools that suit their population. IPART will consider how effective each council's community inclusion has been before determining its application to increase charges above the set rate.




Councils need to show IPART there is:

- community awareness of their plans
- a demonstrated need for higher increases to charges
- a reasonable impact on ratepayers
- a sustainable financing strategy
- a history of well-documented council productivity improvements

Online rates calculator

https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-VYX-06-71-52



[My Property & Neighbourhood](#) [Community & Leisure](#) [Planning & Development](#) [Environment & Health](#) [Business & Investment](#) [Council & Infrastructure](#)   

Rate Estimate calculator

My Property & Neighbourhood / Rates & Charges / Special Rate Variation (SRV)

In This Section

- [Rates explained](#)
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- [FAQs on Rates](#)
- [Fees and charges](#)
- [Pensioner rebates](#)
- [Fire and Emergency Services Levy](#)

Related Pages

- [Special Rates Variation \(SRV\)](#)
- [Rate Estimate calculator](#)

Rate Estimate calculator

If an SRV application is lodged, and is successful, who pays what is not the same across all ratepayers. Council's general rates are calculated using two parts. The first, the base rate is the same for all ratepayers, the second component is linked to the land valuation for the property. The amount Council applies for is indicated as a percentage rise in income generated and does not directly relate to the increase on each individual property.

The Rate Estimate calculator allows you to see what your rates would look like if this SRV was applied. Please have your current yearly rate notice (2019-2020) at hand to help you make this calculation. This will show what the impact would have been in this year.

This calculator will not work on Internet Explorer below version 11.

Note: This calculator provides an indication only as to the amount of the increase for your property next year.

| Rates | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Description | Charge | Land Value | Rate | Total |
| Land Value | Residential ▼ | \$ 250000 | 0.0040763 | \$1019.07 |


| Description | Charge | Quantity | Rate | Total |
|-------------|------------------|----------|-------|----------|
| Base Rate | Residential B. ▼ | 1 | \$506 | \$506.00 |

Rates Subtotal \$1525.07




| Charges | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|---------|----------|
| Description | Charge | Quantity | Rate | Total |
| Water Charge | 20mm Water Access Residential ▼ | 1 | \$239.5 | \$239.50 |
| Water Charge ADDITIONAL METER | 20mm Water Access Residential ▼ | 0 | \$239.5 | \$0 |

Have Your Say webpage

https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-QTG-74-58-30



[My Property & Neighbourhood](#)[Community & Leisure](#)[Planning & Development](#)[Environment & Health](#)[Business & Investment](#)[Council & Infrastructure](#)



Swimming Pools Strategy

[Council & Infrastructure](#) / [News & Community Feedback](#) / [Have your say](#) / [Consultations and Public Exhibitions](#)

Related Pages

- [Consultations and Public Exhibitions](#)
- [Application Tracker](#)
- [Swimming Pools Strategy](#)
- [Draft Community Engagement Strategy](#)
- [Draft Rural Residential Strategy](#)

Swimming Pools Strategy

Have Your Say

Background

The Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC) has six public swimming pools built over the last 60 years. There is no question public swimming pools are highly valued by the community, but they are also high cost assets. At some point, the current swimming pools will each reach the end of their useful life and we need to plan what to do as that point approaches.

A lot has changed in the past 60 years since the first local pool was built in Bega. Modern swimming pool facilities come in a variety of shapes, sizes, designs and features to meet current standards and community needs and expectations.

Council has adopted the goal:

To have a fit for purpose six pool Swimming Pool strategy that maximises opportunities for the community and visitors to participate and enjoy facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and have pools that are operating at modern standards.

Currently, due to their age, most public pools in the Shire do not meet this goal. The future provision of public swimming pools to meet the goal will come with challenges relating to compliance, meeting needs and expectations, and funding. The most challenging will be funding, as Council currently does not have the significant funds needed to meet the goal and swimming pools are high cost facilities.

For more information visit our [Swimming Pools Strategy project page](#).

Funding option

Related documents

- [Oltum Planning Group - Aquatic Facilities Review Final Report, November 2016](#)
- [Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper - September 2019](#)

Community Information Sessions

Join us at a community information session in your area. All sessions start at 5:30pm

- Cobargo Hall
Monday 16 September
- Eden Log Cabin
Tuesday 17 September
- Pambula Hall
Monday 23 September
- Bemboka Hall
Tuesday 24 September
- Bega Civic Centre
Monday 30 September
- Candelo Hall
Wednesday 2 October

Who's listening

- John Grady
Leisure & Recreation Manager
Ph: 02 6499 2222

Have Your Say Comments

https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-QTG-74-58-30

 Greg

7:41 AM, 12 September 2019

You have got to be kidding your rate charges are already excessive in this shire. Will be a happy day when councils are merged into larger shires which can only result in less running costs, less staff and hopefully less outsourcing of core council services. Should also result in a higher council responsibility in the ways in which ratepayer revenue resources are utilised. Get back to basics, especially when federal resources are reduced or under pressure.

 Reply to this comment

 Alert moderator

 Michelle

1:55 PM, 13 September 2019

Absolutely NOT!! Why should home and land owners have to fork out hundreds of dollars every year INDEFINITELY just so rent payers and visitors can use the pool. How about BVSC raise the cost of the pool entry instead??? The amount in rates we already pay to BVSC is disgusting and we don't see anything for our money. We don't even have a hard rubbish day! How about you look to the people with money in Federal or State funding.

 Reply to this comment

 Alert moderator

 stephen

3:27 PM, 13 September 2019

how about the council leads by example

In this current economical situation where money is tight everywhere and people have to make hard choices about how and where they spend their money, maybe councilors should reflect back to when it was a privilege to be chosen to be a representative of the people.

It would be nice to see members refuse or at least reduce some of the perks associated with the position and maybe be, once again, held in high esteem within the community like they once were.

 Reply to this comment

 Alert moderator

Karen

4:20 PM, 17 September 2019

A very uncomfortable feeling that BVSC constantly raises rates so that they are higher here than in some of our major cities, at the same time Council makes capital purchases of properties and loses ratepayers funds (Hotel Australia Eden). That rural residents with no waste service are now being charged for a catch-all waste charge even though there is also a charge at the waste station. Some ratepayers choose to live where there are virtually no services in order to live a more responsible 'lighter on the land' life. Community swimming pools are Council responsibility and BVSC should not be constantly suggesting extra rate imposts every time there seems to be a financial shortfall. Find another way.

[Reply to this comment](#)

[Alert moderator](#)

Esther

1:22 AM, 19 September 2019

Our rates are already too high and we struggle to pay them. My family does use the pambula pool at great expense as we have to drive over an hour to get there as this is where the childrens swim lessons are. If there is a rate rise I am unsure if my family will continue to use the pool. Just won't be worth it I'll go back to teaching my kids in a river where it's free. So they will loose my \$700 a year... council would be better off asking people to donate money to support their local pool infrastructure improvements rather then forcing everyone to support something they may not even use.

[Reply to this comment](#)

[Alert moderator](#)

Roger

10:10 AM, 21 September 2019

I would say definitely not as we pay some of the highest rates in the State already and the revenue could be put to better use stalling some of these rate hikes.

[Reply to this comment](#)

[Alert moderator](#)

John

8:43 AM, 25 September 2019

Our rates are already far to high. You should be looking at footpaths, kerbs, guttering and adequate street lighting which we don't have, especially in my area. I would think swimming pools would be a long way down on any priority list.

[Reply to this comment](#)

[Alert moderator](#)

Clint

10:57 AM, 25 September 2019

You treat the residents of the shire as cash cows. Note for those running the council, we're not.

We already see each and every resident in the shire with high cost of living expenses, why add to the burden? The shires senior population is increasing year on year and you want these people to give more?

Do the council leadership team read the news? We are in a drought... the Reserve Bank Governor, Philip Lowe said last night that the current drought has led to a fall in Australia's farm output and has seen a sharp drop in farmers income, how many farmers in the area do you think can afford a further increase to their already substantial rates and not to mention other high costs for feeding etc they pay each year?

He also said the drought has lead to an upward pressure on all food prices for every resident in Australia, (BTW if you didn't know this includes our shires residents), and now you want to give each resident an increase in their rates and increase pressure on family income, for what? to upgrade under utilised assets, the council obviously doesn't know what is happening with the economy...

Why dont you look at the bigger picture, use your Data and close down under performing assets and save the ratepayers some money instead of asking for it, a shire this size only needs at most 3 pools in the major centres.

I think it is important to also remind the council that the current wage growth in NSW is only 2.3% and you want to increase the rates to 2.6% and add a further \$140 on top of this and also on top of the increase in waste rates for 2019, what do you think will happen to the families in the shire? They will be put under more pressure to find funds to pay, they can't just request an increase from their employer like you can to the ratepayers.

I wholeheartedly reject this Special Rate Variation and hope the council use their vast staff resources to provide the ratepayers a better option than to increase their rates.

[Reply to this comment](#)

[Alert moderator](#)

Warren Hickson

10:30 AM, 26 September 2019

It looks like BVSC is proposing the easy, and lazy, option to fund its swimming pool deficit viz hit every ratepayer with an additional rate levy irrespective of whether or not they actually use these pools. Council quickly dismisses the obvious, more efficient and equitable, alternative of raising the already low, heavily subsidised, public admission charges, on the grounds that fee increases will deter usage. But that argument ignores the advantages of a properly structured user pays system - it forces customers to place a value on these public assets. If usage declines to uneconomic levels the pool should close. Why keep a pool at Candelo open, for example, when it attracts only 3,000 visits p.a., especially when pools at Bega and Merimbula are only a 20-25 min drive away - same for Bemboka.

BVSC's rates are already amongst the highest in NSW - is it among for the gold record?

So, my suggestion is to conduct a cost benefit analysis on each pool, close the underperformers and progressively raise admission charges towards a level that recovers around 75% (currently 40%) of basic operating costs, excluding major capital works such as renewals and upgrades. Clearly major works will still need to be funded from Council rate revenue, loans, Govt Grants and community fund-raising (like the Pambula aquatic centre).

[Reply to this comment](#) [Alert moderator](#)

denoes

7:36 AM, 28 September 2019

Us older people in the community cant afford any more rate rises as we pay one of the highest rates in nsw rather than tea and scones at the council be better managers of our rates or it sounds like a done deal.

[Reply to this comment](#) [Alert moderator](#)

Richard

12:17 PM, 29 September 2019

If some of the 6 pools are a financial liability, close them. And why does Council need to operate 6 pools. I find it interesting that the SRV was never mentioned in our rate notices or did Council what to limit this information. We have one of the highest rates in the State and what do we get e.g no bulk waste pick ups, no chemical pickups and the maintenance at our parks is well below par.

Local Government Amalgamation must be considered, and don't use the old furphy of this will result in lessor services, look at what we get now!

[Reply to this comment](#) [Alert moderator](#)

🗨️ Sylvia

3:19 PM, 30 September 2019

BVSC special rates variation proposal

1 Very few people know of this proposal.

2 Consultation process appears to be failing badly. Notes should have been sent out to all ratepayers with their rates notices for such a large impost on them. This includes the consultation on pools supposedly done last year, also unheard of by most.

3 Biased having meetings only in pool location. Of course locals will say they want to keep their pool. A Tura / Merimbula meeting hasn't occurred for a very large group of older citizens

4 There are small populations in several of the pool towns e.g. Cobargo, Bemboka, Candelo

5 Pensions and incomes are reducing drastically. Many Centrelink only and fixed income people are already stretched over the limit with many forgoing things such as adequate heating and giving up health insurance in order to survive. Many don't have super.

6 Higher rates of this nature will push up rents and make even more stores close with a likely on flow of job losses in our region. Ghost towns mean less visitors and less money going into our economy.

7 This is a massive increase. (on top of fogo costs which many don't use and cant opt out of)

8 Rates are very high as is without this.

9 Hard to find info on website. Links obscure and when the survey is finally reached it is geared to just the people that use pools.

10 Older people, of which Tura and Merimbula have many, often have no internet and don't drive later in the evening to give their opinion at meetings. These are also right on many retirees mealtimes.

12 Ongoing maintenance costs for 6 pools is too high on impost on non users.

Suggestions

1 Ask state government for a grant for 2 new pools

2 Consolidate. Consider keeping 2 current pools eg for Bemboka, Candelo to serve smaller populations.

Have user pays for maintenance costs

3 Community fund raise. E.g. summer music festival, Fun run, Bike-a-thon,

Swim-a-thon. Etc

4 Private ownership

e.g. Gyms combine for a

private pool useable by all. E.g. School lessons, Hydrotherapy, fitness classes etc.

Have user pays system.

5 Put note with full details of proposal in next rates notice to ALL ratepayers to make transparent consultation available to all.

Convene a meeting for the large populations of Tura Beach and Merimbula

👤 Reply to this comment

🔔 Alert moderator

🗨️ Chris Young

10:35 AM, 01 October 2019

In mid September under the guise of a "fit for purpose six pool aquatic strategy" council announced its proposal for an additional rate increase of 4.42% as a Special Rate Variation (SRV). This huge increase in rates is to fund six pools, we are told. Compared to the current inflation rate of 1.9% and Council's already announced 2.6% rates increase - the pegged maximum - Council is proposing the SRV as a "one off permanent increase to general rate income". Council takes pains to obscure the significance of the proposed total rate increase of 7.02% year after year after year, by providing a "Rate Estimator" in its Webpage link to provide a dollar number for the rate increase, but not its percentage. That this money will always be spent on pools is also debatable.

In its published "Have Your Say" Council states that for the Shire to have pools that are operating at modern standards, a "key focus" is to look at "the 6 swimming pools as a group and not as individual facilities". Here the subterfuge continues; hiding the highly successful Aquatic Centre at Pambula, funded by the Community, Pambula Rotary and State and Federal government grants in among the shires five other seasonal regional pools, none of which are covered or heated. The Sapphire Aquatic Centre at Pambula comfortably supports a catchment from Eden to Bournda and Merimbula to Millingandi and Lochiel. Take Tura Beach as an example, our local pool is Pambula. This is the only heated and covered pool in our shire providing access 12 months of the year plus a gym and child minding facilities. With charges of up to \$16 per day it is self-funding. The pool at Eden which opens only 6 months a year is simply not needed and certainly does not justify the large expenditure proposed for it to "operate at modern standards". So what about the other four? Of these Bega, built in 1962 is scheduled for renewal in 2023 and is central to the other three. Bega is the obvious choice for renewal as a modern aquatic centre similar to Pambula. Council should not try to raise rates by subterfuge but look to construction of a modern aquatic centre at Bega utilising State and Federal government grant funding as at Pambula -and restricting rate rises as much as possible for its already heavily taxed residents.

👤 Reply to this comment

🔔 Alert moderator

Amanda

11:59 AM, 07 October 2019

The elephant in the room is that BVSC spent several millions on the Bega Civic Centre yet most of the shire do not get the benefit. In fact the info on council's own website states that 'The Civic Centre is a multi-function community space for people living in and around Bega'. Many of us do not live in or around Bega but have been expected to foot the bill for construction costs and running costs.

What is the annual running cost of this facility?

BVSC needs to provide services throughout the shire, not just in Bega. BVSC needs to borrow the money to get the pools up to scratch and stop crying poor whenever it suits.

[Reply to this comment](#)

[Alert moderator](#)

Janette Neilson

9:16 AM, 08 October 2019

A special rate variation (sr) if applied as proposed would be very unfair to our farmers as it is applied as cents in the dollar on the unimproved capital value of your land. Farmland in general has a much higher valuation than a residential block in a town. Surely our farmers are being hit hard enough at present.

It would be unfair to commercial rate payers as they will be paying twice, firstly on their private home and then on their business at a much higher amount as commercial land in general has a much higher valuation than a residential block. Our commercial rate payers already pay an extra 13% on their general rates as a sr to support tourism in the Bega Valley.

I consider that a special pools levy applied equally across the whole Shire while it will not bring in as much income could allow for a replacement fund to be set up for the future and some funding towards running costs. I fully support such a levy provided it is applied equally but only for future capital works at the pools.

To completely remove maintenance of pools from the general fund budget is to me an abdication of basic duty by the Council to provide services to the community from the rates already collected each year.

[Reply to this comment](#)

[Alert moderator](#)

Keith

3:32 PM, 09 October 2019

Rather than complain about the Council double-dipping, or failing to provide reasonable basic services at a reasonable rate, or even to hold a gun to the ratepayer's head and say 'pay up or we close them', why doesn't the Council think outside the circle, and analyse the extraordinary costs - \$2 million per year, and reduce them. At least some of the small pools have limited numbers of users. Establish a small local group to manage the pool in terms of maintenance. This will mean that the users pay, but in labour instead of cash. Let those who want to use it, do so for free. From what I can see it costs more money to get people to pay than is raised by entry fees. Get the operating costs down, then approach the community again for say \$25 per household. One additional thing. The 'consultation process' is an awful joke. Unless, heaven forbid, Council was trying to tick the 'community consultation' box, with their left hand while pulling the wool over our eyes with the other. Where are elected reps on this? They have a responsibility to all ratepayers, not just their bailiwick.

[Reply to this comment](#)

[Alert moderator](#)

Irene

6:39 PM, 12 October 2019

YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING we haven't been to a pool in the last 30 years so why should we have to pay for something that we have never use or ever will. It is hard enough to find the money to pay the rates now.

[Reply to this comment](#)

[Alert moderator](#)

Karen Rudd

9:29 PM, 14 October 2019

Scrolling through Council's website, first anomaly encountered was that public meetings were held ONLY in towns with pools! What might that suggest?

Council also maintains that pools are high cost assets...if we can't afford them from Council's household budget, should we have them at all? We all have to live within our means...usually considered good financial advice!!

Increasing rates further is unfair on already stretched residents...and will it ensure a future for the pools, anyway? Costs have a habit of not being contained...future maintenance costs will also increase...what then?

There has to be a better and fairer way to fund rise if all six pools are to be retained in the long term.

I think we, the ratepayers, must have much more detailed information re the actual costs involved in up dating pools, keeping them maintained, justification of usage versus cost...I have never used any of these pools, never will, and strongly resent your present proposal. Think again!!!!

[Reply to this comment](#)

[Alert moderator](#)

Debra

9:15 PM, 15 October 2019

If the council really believed that pools were vital for the community then they would have made adequate allowances each and every year to maintain them. They did not. The rates are already exorbitant and it is disgraceful that council now expects economically straitened ratepayers to pay out even more because they are incapable of properly managing revenue.

It's difficult to obtain accurate figures but from the limited reports on pool usage that I've been able to find the Eden pool was very pleased with its attendance last season, which I worked out to be about 31 visitors a day. Bega pool, over a three year period averaged a little over 60 visitors a day. Bearing in mind that a high proportion of those visitors would be regulars, in just those two pools then all ratepayers would have to find an extra \$150 to accommodate around 90 pool users.

It may have escaped councils attention but the Bega shire is blessed with beautiful beaches and rivers and trying to retain all the pools when nature has provided ample and free swimming opportunities seems ridiculous. For those swimmers who wish to do laps and speed trials then why not just retain 2 state of the art pools using consolidated revenue, manage funds properly, and stop thinking 'oh we're a bit short this year, let's just gouge more money from the ratepayers. They won't worry about it'. Well, actually we do worry. Council needs to adopt the belt-tightening mentality that the rest of us have to do to survive. Stop wasting tens of thousands of dollars on non-essential and often frivolous projects, cut councillors allowances and remember that the economic environment is becoming more and more precarious for all of us. Absolutely NO to a SRV.

[Reply to this comment](#)

[Alert moderator](#)

- CA 3:31 PM, 17 October 2019

All the previous comments point out valid issues against the introduction of an SRV and have my unequivocal support. Go back to the drawing board Council, find other means by which you can operate the shire's pools that don't involve taking more money from ratepayers,

- Ian 5:09 PM, 19 October 2019

I acknowledged that pools can be an important part of particularly small towns, however the pools in the shire for many years been funded from general rate revenue, donations, grants, admission charges, etc. The council now apparently see a "crisis" and would, I understand, propose to increase overall rates by 11% on top of the usual capped rate -indefinitely, in my opinion this is way to excessive and I wonder whether the real "driver" is a means for council to generally increase rates beyond the capped rate under the banner of "save our pools"?

- Geoff Steel 11:14 PM, 20 October 2019

I do not support a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to fund future repairs and maintenance of BVSC swimming pools. BVSC rates are already significantly in excess of metropolitan council rates. BVSC should examine a number of other possible good financial management measures including:

- 1 Adopt a gradual user pays model by increasing pool entry fees by 10% per year.
- 2 Reduce pool operating hours at smaller town pools.
- 3 Investigate greater use of volunteers at pools.
- 4 Shut down one or two less economic pools..
- 5 Investigate business models of other nearby Council pools, eg Narooma Pool, to gain insights into pool ownership, membership, other pool business activities, staffing etc.

A4 and A3 Size Posters

Swimming Pools Strategy

bega valley shire council

HAVE YOUR SAY

All sessions start at 5:30pm

- Cobargo Hall
Monday 16 September
- Eden Log Cabin
Tuesday 17 September
- Pambula Hall
Monday 23 September
- Bemboka Hall
Tuesday 24 September
- Bega Civic Centre
Monday 30 September
- Candelo Hall
Wednesday 2 October

We are planning for the future of our six pools, which the community has made clear they want to retain, including how we fund them.

To raise the funds needed we are considering an increase to your rates through a Special Rates Variation (SRV).

We need your feedback.

Join us at a community information session or visit Council's website to Have Your Say.

begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay

Council News

5 September

- How growth and change will be managed into the future in relation to land use.
- The LSPS will also include:
 - Planning priorities for land use covering areas such as transport, economy, housing, open future.

The Residential Land Strategy will guide future residential development across Bega Valley Shire in terms of land requirements, diversity of needs and preferences, strategic location of residential future.

- The draft Commercial Land Strategy and Residential Land Strategy will be publicly exhibited throughout December 2019 and January 2020.
- A draft LSPS will be publicly exhibited around March 2020.



Swimming Pools Strategy

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BEGA to TATHRA

Sunday 22 September

Community Bike Ride

Raising funds for local schools

facebook.com/BegaTathraSafeRide

22km ride under the supervision of Platinum Traffic Services

Register 7.15-8.00am Bega Cheese Heritage Centre, Depart 8.30am

Arrive Tathra Hotel 11.00am

BOOK NOW on trybooking.com

Adults \$20 Youth 16-17 \$10 Kids 10 & FREE

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27 September

A discussion about the pools

Bega Valley Shire Council is seeking feedback from the community on the future of our public pools across the Shire.

Specialist consultants, Otium Planning Group, conducted a comprehensive review in 2016, which resulted in recommendations on the provision, value, costs, opportunities, risk management and the future renewal of our swimming pool facilities.

The comprehensive level of information that came out of the review consequently resulted in Council adopting a goal to have a fit for purpose six pool aquatic strategy that maximises opportunities for the community and visitors to participate and enjoy facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and have pools that are operating at modern standards.

Council's General Manager, Leanne Barnes, said the public swimming pools are highly valued by the community, however they are also high cost assets to operate and build.

"The adopted goal secures the future of the swimming pools and reflects the history, commitment, hard work and fundraising of various community groups to advocate, plan and build our swimming pools over the years," Ms Barnes said.

"Our six public swimming pools were built over the last 60 years and with two facilities due for renewal in the next ten years, as well as managing smaller cost asset renewals across the remaining four sites, Council has significant



We are seeking feedback from the community on the future of our pools.

decisions to make – including how to continue to fund our pools into the future.

"A Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper has been developed in order to advance our conversations with the community around the pools and we are particularly interested to hear the collective view on the best way forward. As a part of this discussion, we are looking at funding models to keep our commitment to maintaining our six pools - this includes the consideration of applying for a Special Rates Variation," Ms Barnes said.

A thorough community information and consultation program is being implemented that will include community information sessions; the establishment of dedicated webpages; formal

public exhibition periods; a rates calculator; an independent phone survey; the distribution of information through Council's social media channels, the Council News publication and the local media; and a final report to Council.

Community information sessions are being held in each town with a public swimming pool, with Bega (30 September) and Candelo (2 October) remaining.

To view the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper and provide your feedback, visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay.

For more information on the pools contact Council's Leisure and Recreation team on (02) 6499 2222.

Hall kitchens fit for purpose

Brogo and Tarraganda halls are boasting modern and serviceable kitchens thanks to the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Fund Program - Round 2.

Both hall committees have been actively involved in the decision-making process from the start of the project to install non-domestic grade kitchens.

Acting Cemetery and Hall Officer, Katrina Berenguer, said that the new kitchens will attract a range of hirers and will provide users with improved usable spaces.

"Small food producers in these villages will be able to safely and legally produce foods for sale at local markets and wholefood organisations, providing employment opportunities and growth within those communities.

"People hiring the hall spaces will be able to have a streamlined approach to event management and catering," Ms Berenguer said.

Alterations involved removing the old kitchen, patching and painting walls, installing flooring, upgrading electrics and plumbing, installing new stainless steel benches, sinks, tape ware and cabinetry, and providing new appliances.



Brogo Hall's new kitchen increases options for events and catering.

Swimming Pools Strategy



**HAVE
YOUR
SAY**

TAKE OUR SURVEY

Visit the website to
complete the survey and
Have Your Say on the
future and funding of our
swimming pools

We are planning for the future of our six pools, which the community has made clear they want to retain, including how we fund them.

To raise the funds needed we are considering an increase to your rates through a Special Rates Variation.

We need your feedback.

begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay

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15 October

WORKSHOPS

DEMONSTRATIONS

PERFORMANCES

SYNTH 2019 SURFERS

BEGA VALLEY SYNTH FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 19 | 10AM - LATE | MURRAY HALL
2989 TATHRA-BERHADUI ROAD

Workshops, demonstrations and displays throughout the day followed by OSCARFORD show & sign with live performance, plus food and beverages upon arrival at night

www.facebook.com/begavalleyynthfestival Tickets: \$20 (day and night) \$40 (night only) <http://tickets.synthsurfers.com.au>

lighthouse **NAVIGATE ARTS** **CREATE & MAKE** **2pi Software** **library**

Swimming Pools Strategy



**HAVE
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Bega Valley **Commemorative Civic Centre**

Zingel Place, Bega
www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Civiccentre [facebook.com/begaciviccentre](https://www.facebook.com/begaciviccentre)

Visit our
website to
book a space
or see what's
on!



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Bega Valley Shire Council News

Special Edition - Monday 16 September 2019 connecting council and the community

Swimming Pools Strategy

We need your feedback

We are planning for the future of our six pools, which the community has made clear they want to retain, including how we fund them.

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Visit begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay

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Swimming Pools Strategy Have Your Say

The Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC) has six public swimming pools built over the last 60 years. There is no question public swimming pools are highly valued by the community, but they are also high cost assets. At some point, the current swimming pools will reach the end of their useful life and we need to plan what to do as that point approaches.

A lot has changed in the past 60 years since the first local pool was built in Bega. Modern swimming pool facilities come in a variety of shapes, sizes, designs and features to meet current standards and community needs and expectations.

In November 2017 Council adopted the following goal:

GOAL

To have a fit for purpose six pool aquatic strategy that maximises opportunities for the community and visitors to participate and enjoy facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and have pools that are operating at modern standards.

Currently, due to their age, most public pools in the Shire do not meet this goal. The future provision of public swimming pools to meet the goal will come with challenges relating to compliance, meeting needs and expectations, and funding. The most challenging will be funding, as Council currently does not have the significant funds needed to meet the goal and swimming pools are high cost facilities. The key focus of this goal will be looking at the 6 swimming pools as a group and not as individual facilities.

For more information visit our Swimming Pools Strategy project page under Major Projects on our website begavalley.nsw.gov.au/MajorProjects.

Funding option

To fund the six pool Swimming Pools Strategy Bega Valley Shire Council is considering a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to provide long term security of swimming pool services to the community.

POOLS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Visit the website and complete the survey to Have Your Say on the future and funding of our swimming pools

Related documents

- [Ottum Planning Group - Aquatics Facilities Review Final Report, November 2016](#)
- [Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper - September 2017](#)

Visit Council website or drop into your local library to read these documents.

Who to speak to

- John Grady
Leisure & Recreation Manager
R. 02 6499 2222
E. jgrady@begavalley.nsw.gov.au
- Nicholas Hoynes
Aquatics & Leisure Facilities Coordinator
R. 02 6494 3100
E. nhoynes@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Project timeline

- November 2016
 - Aquatics Facilities Review
- November 2017
 - Council adopts six pool aquatic Strategy goal
- May 2019
 - Draft Pools Strategy reported to Council
- July 2019
 - Financial modelling completed
- September 2019
 - Draft Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper on exhibition
 - Community information sessions held
- October 2019
 - Independent telephone survey commences
 - Public consultation closed
- November 2019
 - Report to Council (20 November) on feedback on pools and Council considers its intention to lodge a Special Rate Variation application to IPART

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Swimming Pools Strategy

The purpose of the Strategy

Public swimming pools provide a variety of health and lifestyle benefits for the community. However, there are significant costs involved in the construction, operation, staffing, maintenance and renewal of these assets and facilities.

Developing a strategy to manage the six pools collectively is an important item in the goal adopted by Council. This acknowledges changes, since the current pools were each built as individual projects, and also that there are relationships between the facilities. It will take into consideration what is known about our facilities, establishes what we'd like to provide and how we will provide this.

A Swimming Pools Strategy aims to give direction to meet the challenges in providing public pools relating to compliance, meeting expectations, needs and funding.

We have made a start in a strategy by developing the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper. The Discussion Paper provides information to generate discussion and gives an opportunity for feedback that will be used to develop the strategy.

Pool History

- 6 Swimming Pools constructed and developed over a 50 year + period
- Council has and continues to meet the ongoing cost of operation, maintenance and asset renewal

The six pools we currently have across the shire were originally planned and managed as individual facilities to meet the needs and expectations of the communities they serviced.

This included the types of use, needs, wants, expectations of the community then, as well as the legislation, technology, practices, equipment and resources available at the time.

The community was often extensively involved in the initial fundraising, planning and construction of these facilities. Similarly, they were involved with further improvement and development of the facilities i.e. solar heating, pool covers, shade structures etc.

Swimming Pools Timeline

Bega Swimming Pool
 • Opened Dec 1962
 • Municipality of Bega
 • 33 yard x 5 lane pool, teaching pool and wading pool

Colargo Swimming Pool
 • Opened 1969
 • Mumbulla Shire Council
 • 25m x 4 lane pool, wading pool

Eden Swimming Pool
 • Opened 1980
 • Inlay Shire Council
 • 50m x 6 lane pool, wading/teaching pool

Council amalgamations to Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC) 1981
 Municipality of Bega, Mumbulla Shire Council and Inlay Shire Council

Bemboka Swimming Pool
 • Opened 1981
 • 20m x 4 lane pool
 • Wading pool (later addition)

Pambula Swimming Pool
 • Opened 1995
 • 25m x 6 lane pool, teaching pool, wading pool

Candelo Swimming Pool
 • Opened 1997
 • 50m x 7 lane pool, teaching/wading pool

Sapphire Aquatic Centre (SAC)
 • Opened 2010
 • Upgrade of the outdoor Pambula Swimming Pool to the indoor SAC
 • Indoor 25m x 6 lane pool, Multi-purpose warm water program/teaching pool, and splash pool with water play features

Swimming Pool Goal

Background

In 2016, Council engaged Ottum Planning Group to conduct a review of the public aquatic facilities within the Bega Valley Shire. The aim of this project was to develop a strategic document with the purpose of providing direction on the provision, value, costs, opportunities, risk management and the future asset renewal of these facilities.

This review was presented to Council and has been used for a series of workshops with Councilors to understand the history of and future considerations for our aquatic facilities, including how our community uses the pools, what factors affect use, what modern aquatic facilities look like and what the associated costs are.

Following on from these workshops, at the Council meeting on 22 November 2017, Council adopted the following goal:

GOAL

To have a fit for purpose six pool aquatic strategy that maximises opportunities for the community and visitors to participate and enjoy facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and have pools that are operating at modern standards.

Using the adopted goal, Council employees were directed to develop a Discussion Paper covering capital, operational, management and funding options for discussion with Councilors and the community. This Discussion Paper identifies the costs required to meet the adopted goal and continue to operate and upgrade the existing six swimming pools in the Bega Valley into the future.

Meeting the Six Swimming Pool Goal

Council adopted a six swimming Pool goal which retains all of the current assets. Due to age, some pools do not meet current standards, regulations and expectations. The age of some facilities is also beginning to make operations more difficult and costly and this will begin to affect use. In acknowledging there are problems and challenges with the existing pools, in order to meet the six Swimming Pool goal the questions become:

- What needs to be done to meet compliance standards and expectations?
- What mix of facilities will best meet the community needs?
- How much will that cost?
- How can that be funded?

The challenge will be securing funding to renew (and upgrade where needed) facilities and assets to enable the six-pool goal to be met as well as continuing to fund operational and maintenance costs.

Costs

There will be significant costs involved in renewing six public swimming pools to modern standards and keeping them operating. While this will happen progressively as facilities become due for renewal, the current levels of funding will not be able to meet these costs. A summary of current key cost areas is shown below:

| 6 Swimming Pools Operating Costs | Cost |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Operating and Maintenance costs | \$2,681,000 |
| Minor asset renewal costs | \$118,000 |
| User fees and income | (\$147,000) |
| Total | \$2,652,000 |

Council considers the Ottum Report

This report provided an overview of the current situation regarding the Shire's swimming pools.

Council Resolution = Goal

To have a fit for purpose six pool aquatic strategy that maximises opportunities for the community and visitors to participate and enjoy facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and have pools that are operating at modern standards.

Elements of the Goal

There are three (3) elements to this goal.

1. Having six swimming pools
2. Compliance
3. Meeting modern facility standards.

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Modern Swimming Pool Facilities

Modern swimming pool facilities come in a variety of shapes, sizes, designs and features. Over the last 60 years, changing legislation, facility requirements and community expectations have influenced the design of facilities and require greater funding needs. When looking forward we need to consider what facilities are needed now and acknowledge that public pools are long life assets. What is built now is expected to last 60 years, so it is important to keep in mind how costs, needs and expectations will change over that time.

A key component of the goal is modern facilities, but what does this mean?

What is modern?

- Compliant** - Facilities need to meet legislation, industry guidelines and best practices. This means new and into the future. We have already seen changes in our existing facilities such as updates to public health legislation requiring upgrade of chemical dosing systems, frequencies of water testing and operational practices.
- Accessible** - Accessible to all, including children, recreational users, lap swimmers, older adults and people with injuries or disabilities. Access can also be affected by location, distance and price. This includes having change rooms and amenities that are accessible.
- Sustainable** - Implement environmentally sustainable technology and design to reduce environmental impact and operating costs. This will be a key consideration for our facilities now and into the future.
- Meet expectations** - The facility should engage a range of ages, interests and apply the best use of space and resources to maximise use, whilst meeting users and the community's current and future needs. This can include different designs, features and facilities in each of our pools. Each facility should offer something different or unique.

There are some examples of modern equivalent facilities constructed in the last 5 years.



Adelung Swimming Pool, NSW 2013



Bridgetown Aquatic Centre, WA 2016



Grenfell Aquatic Centre, NSW

What are our Options

AIMING FOR Delivery of the Council adopted 6 pool goal

- This will secure the 6 swimming pools into the future and provide funding to renew facilities and assets as they fall due.
- Make compliant with current standards and upgrades on a use / needs basis. Able to better meet expectations and user needs.
- Meet ongoing operation and maintenance costs.

OTHER OPTIONS Remain as is

- No confirmed funding to plan for facility renewals. Likely major asset failure will lead to facility closures.
- Facilities not meeting expectations.
- Operating challenges and costs.
- Reduction in service provision and maintenance as per available funding.
- Possible 'ad hoc' grant funding opportunities. (Projects reliant on successful grants)

OTHER OPTIONS Consolidation of facilities

- Reduced service provision and maintenance as per available funding.
- Eventual closure of lower use sites as they fall due for renewal or fail.
- Renewal only of higher use sites i.e. Only Bega.

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FAQs - Swimming Pools Strategy

What is the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper?

- It is our starting point to begin conversations on developing a strategy that will help to guide decisions on the provision, value, costs, opportunities, risks, management and future renewal of public swimming pool facilities in the Shire. The Discussion Paper provides information to generate discussion and gives an opportunity for feedback that will be used to develop the strategy.

Why do we need a Pools Strategy?

- Council and the community have significant decisions to make relating to the provision, use and funding of public swimming pools into the future.
- Two of the six facilities in our Shire (Bega and Cabelag) are due for renewal in the next ten years, and the others will require some investment in the short term.
- A collaborative and clear strategy will ensure Council can maximise opportunities for the community and visitors to enjoy facilities that are operating at modern standards.

How did we get to this point?

- In 2018, Council engaged Otium Planning Group to conduct a review of the public aquatic facilities within the Bega Valley Shire.
- This review provided comprehensive information and recommendations on the provision, value, costs, opportunities, risk management and the future renewal of our swimming pool facilities.
- The review was used in a series of workshops with Councilors to understand the history of and future considerations for our aquatic facilities, including how our community uses the pools, what factors affect use, what modern aquatic facilities look like and what the associated costs are. At the Council meeting on 22 November 2017, Council adopted the following goal: "To have a fit for purpose six pool aquatic strategy that maximises opportunities for the community and visitors to participate and enjoy facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and have pools that are operating at modern standards."

- An adopted BVC Swimming Pools Strategy will provide direction on how the goal will be achieved.

Will the community get a say on the strategy?

- Yes, the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper will be put on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.
- Community information sessions will also be held in each of the six towns with a pool and information will be available on Council's website.
- Council will also exhibit draft concept plans for a renewal of the Bega Pool, the first of the six pools due for renewal in 2023.
- You can view the Strategy Discussion Paper and provide feedback at www.begavalleyshire.nsw.gov.au/development.

When will we get a new pool in my town?

- Pools are high cost and long-life assets to operate and build. The first step is to look to maximise value out of what we have. This reflects the significant resources and investment that has, and is, required to plan, build and operate these facilities.
- To do this we use a 60-year facility life expectancy to plan for renewals. Based on this, the scheduled renewal years are: Bega 2023, Cabelag 2029, Eden 2040, Bombala 2041, Candelo 2056, and Sappulpa Aquatic Centre 2075.

Why don't all the pools get the same treatments of funding?

- In order to provide six swimming pools and allocate resources effectively and efficiently, we need to consider how each facility is used and the community it services. This includes the size and type of facilities that are provided at each location, and it is important that the decisions we make reflect this to be cost effective and the best use of the available resources.

Do we really need six pools?

- Six swimming pools is a high provision per capita, however this also reflects the spread-out nature of our Shire and the distance between our communities.
- Throughout the 2018 Otium Planning Group's Aquatic Facilities Review and Councilor workshops, there has been a strong desire to retain six swimming pools in the Shire.
- This goal secures the future of the swimming pools and reflects the history, commitment, hard work and functioning of various community groups to advocate, plan and build our swimming pools over the last 60 years.

How much do the pools cost to run each year?

- The short answer is currently \$1.382 million per year, but that is not enough to meet the six-pool goal in the long term.
- The average net operating costs (after income is deducted) for the six pools is \$1.168 million per year.
- We currently also account for 'minor assets' that need renewing several times in a 60-year facility life to keep the pools operating (e.g. pumps, pool covers, equipment) which cost an average of \$233,000 per year - more detailed information by site is included in the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper.
- The current costs do not account for major facility renewals - more information is included in the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper.

How will Council pay for the pools moving forward?

- As a part of this discussion, we are looking at a funding model to keep our commitment to maintaining our six pools. This includes the consideration of applying for a Special Rates Variation - visit www.begavalleyshire.nsw.gov.au/srv for more information.
- At this stage of the project, we are seeking your views on the Discussion Paper. Council has not yet confirmed its commitment to lodging an SRV. If Council is going to proceed with an SRV they will need to decide by the 20 November 2023 meeting.



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Special Rate Variation (SRV)

HAVE YOUR SAY

To fund the six pool Swimming Pool strategy Bega Valley Shire Council is considering a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to provide long term security of swimming pool services to the Bega Valley community.

Goal Challenges

- Swimming Pools are multi-generational assets
- To meet the goal, additional funding is required above current levels
- Not possible through swimming pool income
- Grants would not secure sufficient regular funding to meet goal. Projects would depend on successful grant applications.

An SRV would allow Council to increase general income above the rate peg increase, which is annually determined by IRRT, and to raise the revenue from all rate payers to help keep our pools operating. This would ensure that the six pools meet all legislative and compliance requirements and are operating in modern standards. It also allows for fees to be kept at a level which is affordable to everyone.

Without this SRV Council will need to allocate more funding from the general fund budget which in turn reduces funding for other assets and services. Pool fees would also increase excessively which would potentially render pools inaccessible with attendance and income then decreasing. It would also mean that once a pool has reached its end of useful life the pool will close as the funding to renew and upgrade the facility would not be available.

What is a Special Rate Variation (SRV)?

A special rate variation allows councils to increase rates above the rate peg increase which is set by the Minister for Land Government. Local councils wanting to increase the minimum rate levels above the rate peg need to submit an application to IRRT (Independent Pricing and Regulation Tribunal) for review and assessment.

How much extra would the SRV need to raise per year?

- The combined cost for the future operations, maintenance and ongoing capital renewal / upgrade costs to meet the adopted six pool goal is \$1,028,053.
- This amount would equate to an 11% increase in the total income generated from general rates. It does not affect waste, water or sewerage rates.

What does that mean for me?

- The average increase on individual ratepayers would be \$2.82 per household per year. This is based on a land value of \$200,000 with the increase in general rates being \$146.82 per year. This calculation includes the rate peg amount as well as the above rate peg amount.
- Every property will be different as the calculation for rates depends on the valuation on the property. This is the unimproved capital value which you will find located on your rates notice.
- If the SRV is approved, it would come into effect on 1 July 2020.
- You can use our online rates calculator to assess the impact any SRV would have on your household. Visit www.begavalleyshire.nsw.gov.au/srvcalculator

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What we need to fund the six pool goal...



SRV by numbers

An SRV would allow Council to increase its general income above the rate peg. The percentage increase is applied to your general rate. Water, sewer and waste charges are not impacted.

Council is considering...

- A one off permanent increase to general rate income of \$2,028 million above the rate peg amount of 2.6%
- This covers all pools costs and renewals to modern day standards
- The average increase on individual ratepayers would be \$2.82 per household per year.

(This is based on a land value of \$204,000 with the increase in general rates being \$146.82 per year)



If an SRV application is lodged, and is successful who pays what is not the same across all ratepayers. Council's general rates are calculated using two parts. The first, the base rate, is the same for all ratepayers, the second component is linked to the land valuation for the property. The amount Council applies for is indicated as a percentage rise in income generated property. To look at the impact of this and to calculate what your rates would look like if this SRV was applied visit our [Data Submission calculator](http://www.begavalleyshire.nsw.gov.au/srvcalculator). Please have your current yearly rate notice at hand to help you make this calculation. This will show what the impact would have been in this year and will provide an indication as to the amount of the increase for your property next year.

| Land Valuations | SRV 1 Year | | | 2019/20 | | | Increase \$ |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|
| | Base Rate | Advalem | Total | Base Rate | Advalem | Total | |
| Residential | | | | | | | |
| \$204,000.00 | \$141.00 | \$823.98 | \$1,464.98 | \$141.00 | \$833.97 | \$1,397.97 | \$146.82 |
| \$139,000.00 | \$141.00 | \$719.70 | \$1,280.70 | \$141.00 | \$640.13 | \$1,154.13 | \$126.57 |
| \$423,991.00 | \$141.00 | \$1,919.14 | \$2,480.14 | \$141.00 | \$1,728.91 | \$2,234.91 | \$245.85 |
| Business | | | | | | | |
| \$10,000.00 | \$141.00 | \$2,409.43 | \$2,409.43 | \$141.00 | \$2,242.87 | \$2,740.87 | \$382.88 |



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FAQs - Special Rate Variation (SRV)

What is a Special Rate Variation (SRV)?

- A Special Rate Variation allows a Council to increase the total amount of its general rates income above the rate peg, under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 (LGA95). Council rates increase (the rate peg) is annually determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).
- Councils need to apply for a Special Rate Variation in order to set the rates increase higher than the rate peg amount. SRVs typically raise revenue from all rate payers to deliver facilities or services to meet changing needs, requirements and increasing expectations.
- For more information visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/council.

Why is Council considering an SRV?

- As a community, we must decide on the most suitable and sustainable funding option for the future of our pools, particularly as the community and Councils have indicated a preference to continue to provide six pools and upgrading them to modern day standards as they fall due for renewal. Our major source of revenue is limited in growth because of rate pegging and pools are costly facilities to operate and renew.
- Due to the age, condition and forecast asset renewal for the pools, Council cannot afford to meet the goal of upgrading six pools to meet modern standards and expectations either in the immediate short term or over the longer term. Additionally, we can no longer afford to continue to fund the ongoing operating and maintenance cost of six pools which contribute significantly to Councils operating deficit.

What would this SRV be used for?

- Council is considering a Special Rate Variation to provide long term security of swimming pool services to the community. Funding obtained through the SRV would ensure that all six pools would receive the appropriate renewal and that the end of life of the asset to meet compliance, accessibility, operational and sustainability standards along with community expectations.

What does this mean that rates permanently increase?

- Special Rate Variations can be for one or several years and can be temporary or permanently retained in the rates base.
- Council's current intention is for this variation to be ongoing to meet the adopted goal of retaining six pools across the Shire, which means that once the 15% general rate increase is applied to create a new rates base, the rate base will be permanently increased. *General rates exclude water, sewer and waste charges.

Does this mean we will pay more for the same facilities?

- An important part of the goal adopted by Council is to have fit for purpose pools operating at modern standards.
- The purpose of the strategy is to meet the adopted goal with the most cost effective and appropriate use of resources, whilst keeping six pools open and operating.
- This is achieved by renewing facilities to a modern equivalent as the facilities fall due for renewal, while maintaining the existing facilities until then. Where facility improvements can be achieved within budget or through external funding opportunities and partnerships, this will be investigated at the time they arise.
- This needs to be balanced against getting full value out of the resources that are put into the existing assets before they are renewed. Facility renewals are scheduled based on a 60-year facility life. Some facilities are becoming due (Bega and Colargo), while others have some time to go before renewal (Sapphire Aquatic Centre and Candelo).

I don't use pools, why should my rates go up?

- Swimming pools are an important community resource, providing access to health, safety, recreational and social opportunities. Our pools are utilised by a broad sector of the community for swimming, education, leisure, playing, family activities, rehabilitation, fitness, or to simply relax.
- They are also utilised by school groups, surf clubs, sporting clubs and are an important foundation of learning to swim which is a life-long skill.

Could Council simply choose to increase rates without scrutiny?

- Each year, councils wishing to apply for a special variation apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in February.
- The applications are assessed against criteria listed in the Office of Local Government's Guidelines. These include understanding long term financial planning, ensuring community awareness of the need and extent of the proposed increase in rates, and consideration of the impact on ratepayers and the community's capacity and willingness to pay. In addition, councils must meet criteria related to productivity improvements.

What will happen to the pools if there is no Special Rate Variation?

- The pools will continue to operate as they are in the short term but with very little opportunity for upgrading or improvements into the future.
- We know pools are concrete environments and hard on infrastructure. Some are getting old and there is a high chance there will be a failure at some point. A recent example was at Benbulla with the chlorination system and currently works in Candelo to repair damaged sections of the pool. We know something will happen, we just do not know what or when. If this happens, it will trigger either a very high cost reactive repair to make good an old asset (which might fall again somewhere else) or a closure of the facility.
- A further review of the ability to continue to provide services and at which pools will need to be undertaken.

Why don't the users pay more?

- Raising the required funding through an increase in user fees would require substantial increases, rendering the pools largely inaccessible resulting in decreased use.
- As an important community resource for recreation, social safety, learning and health opportunities, we are committed to making access to swimming pools equitable and affordable for all the community.
- User fees currently account for 40% of the gross total cost of operating the pools and there is no contribution to funds for facility upgrades or renewals.

Are there alternatives to an SRV?

- In 2017 Council resolved that a six-pool aquatic strategy be developed so that the community can retain all six pools, that these pools are compliant and that they meet modern standards when due for renewal.
- Due to the age, condition and forecast asset renewal for the pools, Council cannot afford to meet the existing General Fund rate income, to meet the six-pool goal without reducing other services.
- Council could consider a 'remain as is' approach which would likely lead to major asset failure resulting in facility closures. Council could also consider consolidation of facilities (a reduction in the number of pools) which would contradict the adopted six-pool strategy.

How will I know the money raised through the SRV will be spent on pools and not something else?

- Through our statutory reporting - we are required to report on the swimming funds raised through a Special Rate Variation, and the projects/activities that have been funded through this revenue stream. This is reported through our Annual Report, published on November 30 of each year.

What options are available if I can't pay a rate increase?

- Council can help ratepayers with payment schedules that make paying their rates more manageable - you are encouraged to contact Council to discuss these options.

What else is Council doing to minimise the impact of the SRV on ratepayers?

- Council has spent a number of years reviewing the ways in which it can fund its asset management plans.
- Council is implementing a range of cost containment strategies and productivity improvement measures. These include organisation restructuring, adoption of a green energy plan, improvements in procurement and leveraging better buying power through participating in the Joint Canberra Region Organisation, ensuring processes in ICT and HR, addressing asset rationalisation, improving our waste programs by planning to deliver more waste for the same budget allocation, applying for funding to deliver improvement to assets meeting renewal or upgrading, diverting land and reducing the way services are delivered.

What happens if Council's SRV application is unsuccessful?

- If Council is unsuccessful in its SRV application through IPART it will reassess, at that point, the best path forward to meet the adopted goal or to amend the current application of its pools.

Does the community get a say on these plans?

- A key component of any SRV process is understanding the potential impact on ratepayers and community's collective understanding of the proposal and what would be provided by the increased funds, and importantly the capacity and willingness of ratepayers to pay.
- A thorough community information and consultation program is being implemented that will include:
 - community information sessions;
 - the establishment of a dedicated webpage including a rates calculator;
 - an independent phone survey;
 - a formal public exhibition period of the modelling, when community feedback will be sought;
 - the distribution of information through Council's social media channels, the Council News publication and the local media;
 - a community survey; and
 - a final report to Council.

- At the conclusion of this, Council will decide, in November this year, whether to pursue the SRV through a formal application to IPART.

Who is IPART?

IPART is the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, a State Government Agency responsible for determining the maximum price increase for a number of utilities and services including local government rates. For more information on IPART visit www.ipart.nsw.gov.au (External link).

When does the special rate variation application need to be submitted by?

Each year, councils wishing to apply for a special variation apply to IPART in February. The applications are assessed against criteria listed in the Office of Local Government's Guidelines. These include understanding long term financial planning, ensuring community awareness of the need and extent of the proposed increase in rates, and consideration of the impact on ratepayers and the community's capacity and willingness to pay. In addition, councils must meet criteria related to productivity improvements.

HAVE YOUR SAY

on the future of our Swimming Pools

Take our Survey

Online at begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay

or complete the following pages and post back to:
Bega Valley Shire Council, PO Box 492, Bega 2550
or drop it in to your local library or the Council Office in Bega

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Take Our Survey

The Bega Valley Shire Council is conducting research in regard to the Swimming Pool Facilities in the region to inform the Swimming Pools Strategy.

This community survey is an essential part of the research and we would appreciate your time in completing the survey. You can fill this survey in and mail or drop off to the Council office or your local library. You can also complete it online begaalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay

Q1. Please Specify which age group you belong to:

- ☐ 10-24
☐ 25-34
☐ 35-44
☐ 45-54
☐ 55-64
☐ 65+

Q2. Do you have any children under the age of 18 living in your household?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q3. Which locality in the Bega Valley Shire do you reside?

- ☐ Bega
☐ Benbulla
☐ Benmajura
☐ Candelo
☐ Colargo
☐ Eden
☐ Merimbula
☐ Wyndham

Q4. Which of the following pools do you regularly use? Please select as many that apply:

- ☐ Bega
☐ Benbulla
☐ Candelo
☐ Colargo
☐ Eden
☐ Sapphire Aquatic Centre
☐ None of the above

Q5. Which of the following do you consider to be your 'local' pool? Please select one option only:

- ☐ Bega
☐ Benbulla
☐ Candelo
☐ Colargo
☐ Eden
☐ Sapphire Aquatic Centre
☐ Unsure

The Bega Valley Shire Council has resolved to develop a six-pool swimming pool strategy, with facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and operate at modern standards. The following questions are related to this goal and the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper, which is currently on exhibition.

Q10. Do you agree with the council's goal to keep six public pools within the Bega Valley Shire?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Q11. How important is it to you that our six public pool facilities meet modern standards and expectations?

- ☐ Extremely important
☐ Very important
☐ Moderately important
☐ Slightly important
☐ Not at all important

Q6. On average, how many times per month do you currently use public swimming pools? Please select one option:

- ☐ Less often than monthly
☐ 1-5
☐ 6-10
☐ 11-15
☐ 16-20
☐ 21+

Q7. And who uses the pools?

- ☐ Myself
☐ Partner
☐ Children
☐ Other

Q8. Why is your local pool important to you? Please select as many that apply:

- ☐ Sense of community
☐ For health & wellbeing
☐ For fitness related activities
☐ Sometimes used off in summer
☐ Social interaction
☐ Spending family time
☐ Water safety and education
☐ Enjoyment
☐ Other (please specify)

Q9. What do you mostly use public pools for? Please select as many that apply:

- ☐ Exercise / Classes
☐ Lap Swimming
☐ Learn to Swim
☐ Recreation / Relaxing
☐ Rehabilitation
☐ Swim Club / Squads
☐ Other (please specify)

Q12. If your local pool was upgraded to modern standards, how would it impact your visitation?

- ☐ I would increase my visits
☐ It would stay the same
☐ I would decrease my visits
☐ I do not use pools

As part of the goal of keeping six public pools within the Bega Valley Shire, Council requires additional funding. The council is considering a Special Rates Variation. The average increase on individual ratepayers would be \$2.02 per household per week. (This is based on a land value of \$204,000 with the increase in general rates being \$168.02 per year.)

Q13. How willing are you to pay more in rates to upgrade and keep six public pools open within the Bega Valley Shire into the future?

- ☐ Extremely willing
☐ Very willing
☐ Unsure
☐ Very unwilling
☐ Extremely unwilling

Q14. Why did you say this?

Q15. How likely would you be to support reducing the opening hours to better manage costs for operating the pools?

- ☐ Extremely likely
☐ Very likely
☐ Unsure
☐ Very unlikely
☐ Extremely unlikely

Q16. Why did you say this?

Q17. How likely would you be to support reducing the season length to better manage costs for operating the pools?

- ☐ Extremely likely
☐ Very likely
☐ Unsure
☐ Very unlikely
☐ Extremely unlikely

Q18. Why did you say this?

Q19. What would be the impact on you if your local pool was closed due to asset failure or lack of funding?

- ☐ Very Low: No big deal. I'd go to another pool or I'd do another activity.
☐ Low: I'd be disappointed, and I'd have to make some changes, but I'd work it out.
☐ Medium: I really enjoy the pool. I'd have to make major changes to keep swimming.
☐ High: I have no other options and the pool is really important to me. I'd have to stop swimming.

Q20. Thank you for completing the survey. Before you finish, do you have any final feedback or comments about the provision or management of aquatic facilities and services in the Bega Valley area?

Contact us

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e. town@begaalley.nsw.gov.au
z. Zipper House, PO Box 492
Bega NSW 2550

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Corflute Signs

The below corflute signs were installed at each of the six pools.



Frequently Asked Questions

The future of our Pools

Your questions answered



Background

Public swimming pools are highly valued by the community; however they are also high cost assets to operate and build.

Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC) has six public swimming pools that were built over the last 60 years.

With two facilities due for renewal in the next ten years, as well as managing smaller cost asset renewals across the remaining four sites, Council has significant decisions to make – including how to continue to fund our pools into the future.

Council is looking for feedback from the community to help with those decisions. We have made a start on a strategy by developing the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper.

What is the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper?

- It is our starting point to begin conversations on developing a strategy that will help to guide decisions on the provision, value, costs, opportunities, risks, management and future renewal of public swimming pool facilities in the Shire. The Discussion Paper provides information to generate discussion and gives an opportunity for feedback that will be used to develop the strategy.

Why do we need a Pools Strategy?

- Council and the community have significant decisions to make relating to the provision, use and funding of public swimming pools into the future.
- Two of the six facilities in our Shire (Bega and Cobargo) are due for renewal in the next ten years, and the others will require some investment in the short term.
- A collaborative and clear strategy will ensure Council can maximise opportunities for the community and visitors to enjoy facilities that are operating at modern standards.

1

The future of our Pools

More questions answered



How did we get to this point?

- In 2016, Council engaged Otium Planning Group to conduct a review of the public aquatic facilities within the Bega Valley Shire.
- This review provided comprehensive information and recommendations on the provision, value, costs, opportunities, risk management and the future renewal of our swimming pool facilities.
- The review was used in a series of workshops with Councillors to understand the history of and future considerations for our aquatic facilities; including how our community uses the pools, what factors affect use, what modern aquatic facilities look like and what the associated costs are. At the Council meeting on 22 November 2017, Council adopted the following goal: *"To have a fit for purpose six pool aquatic strategy that maximises opportunities for the community and visitors to participate and enjoy facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and have pools that are operating at modern standards."*
- An adopted BVSC Swimming Pools Strategy will provide direction on how the goal will be achieved.

Will the community get a say on the strategy?

- Yes, the Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper will be put on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.
- Community information sessions will also be held in each of the six towns with a pool and information will be available on Council's website.
- Council will also exhibit draft concept plans for a renewal of the Bega Pool, the first of the six pools due for renewal in 2023.
- You can view the Strategy Discussion Paper and provide feedback at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay

2

The future of our Pools

More questions answered



When will we get a new pool in my town?

- Pools are high cost and long-life assets to operate and build. The first step is to look to maximize value out of what we have. This reflects the significant resources and investment that has, and is, required to plan, build and operate these facilities.
- To do this we use a 60-year facility life expectancy to plan for renewals. Based on this, the scheduled renewal years are: Bega 2023, Cobargo 2029, Eden 2040, Bemboka 2041, Candelo 2056, and Sapphire Aquatic Centre 2070.

Why don't all the pools get the same treatments or funding?

- In order to provide six swimming pools and allocate resources effectively and efficiently, we need to consider how each facility is used and the community it services. This includes the size and type of facilities that are provided at each location, and it is important that the decisions we make reflect this to be cost effective and the best use of the available resources.

Do we really need six pools?

- Six swimming pools is a high provision per capita, however this also reflects the spread-out nature of our Shire and the distance between our communities.
- Throughout the 2016 Otium Planning Group's 'Aquatic Facilities Review' and Councillor workshops, there has been a strong desire to retain six swimming pools in the Shire.
- This goal secures the future of the swimming pools and reflects the history, commitment, hard work and fundraising of various community groups to advocate, plan and build our swimming pools over the last 60 years.

3

The future of our Pools

More questions answered



How much do the pools cost to run each year?

- The short answer is currently \$1.382 million per year, but that is not enough to meet the six-pool goal in the long term.
- The average net operating costs (after income is deducted) for the six pools is \$1.164 million per year.
- We currently also account for 'minor assets' that need renewing several times in a 60-year facility life to keep the pools operating (e.g. pumps, pool covers, equipment etc) which cost on average of \$218,000 per year - more detailed information by site is included in the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper.
- The current costs do not account for major facility renewals - more information is included in the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper.

How will Council pay for the pools moving forward?

- As a part of this discussion, we are looking at a funding model to keep our commitment to maintaining our six pools. This includes the consideration of applying for a Special Rates Variation – visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/srv for more information.
- At this stage of the project, we are seeking your views on the Discussion Paper. Council has not yet confirmed its commitment to lodging an SRV. If Council is going to proceed with an SRV they will need to decide by the 20 November 2019 meeting.

Where can I find out more about the strategy?

- There is a dedicated project page at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/poolsstrategy

4

Special Rate Variation

Your questions answered



What is a Special Rate Variation (SRV)?

- A Special Rate Variation allows a council to increase the total amount of its general rates income above the rate peg, under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*. Council rates increases (the rate peg) is annually determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).
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Why is Council considering an SRV?

- As a community, we must decide on the most suitable and sustainable funding option for the future of our pools, particularly as the community and Councillors have indicated a preference to continue to provide six pools and upgrading them to modern day standards as they fall due for renewal. Our major source of revenue is limited in growth because of rate pegging and pools are costly facilities to operate and renew.
- Due to the age, condition and forecast asset renewals for the pools, Council cannot afford to meet the goal of upgrading six pools to meet modern standards and expectations either in the immediate short term or over the longer term. Additionally, we can no longer afford to continue to fund the ongoing operating and maintenance cost of six pools which contribute significantly to Council's operating deficits.

1

Special Rate Variation

More questions answered



What would this SRV be used for?

- Council is considering a Special Rate Variation to provide long term security of swimming pool services to the community. Funding obtained through the SRV would ensure that all six pools would receive the appropriate renewals when reaching the end of life of the asset to meet compliance, accessibility, operational and sustainability standards along with community expectations.

How much extra would the SRV need to raise per year?

- The combined cost for the future operations, maintenance and ongoing capital renewal / upgrade costs to meet the adopted six pool goal is \$2,028,451.
- This amount would equate to an 11% increase in the total income generated from general rates. It does not affect waste, water or sewerage rates.

Would this mean that rates permanently increase?

- Special Rate Variations can be for one or several years and can be temporary or permanently retained in the rates base.
- Council's current intention is for this variation to be ongoing to meet the adopted goal of retaining six pools across the Shire, which means that once the 11% general rate* increase is applied to create a new rates base, the rate base will be permanently increased.

*(General rates exclude water, sewer and waste charges)

2

Special Rate Variation

More questions answered



What does that mean for me?

- The average increase on individual ratepayers would be \$2.82 per household per week. This is based on a land value of \$204,000 with the increase in general rates being \$146.82 per year. This calculation includes the rate peg amount as well as the above rate peg amount.
- Every property will be different as the calculation for rates depends on the valuation on the property. This is the unimproved capital value which you will find located on your rates notice.
- If the SRV is approved, it would come into effect on 1 July 2020.
- You can use our online rates calculator to assess the impact any SRV would have on your household – visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/ratecalculator

| Land Valuations | SRV 1 Year | | | 2019/20 | | | Increase \$ |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Base Rate | Advalorem | Total | Base Rate | Advalorem Total | | |
| Residential | | | | | | | |
| \$ 204,000.00 | \$ 561.00 | \$ 923.39 | \$ 1,484.39 | \$ 506.00 | \$ 831.57 | \$ 1,337.57 | \$ 146.82 |
| \$ 159,000.00 | \$ 561.00 | \$ 719.70 | \$ 1,280.70 | \$ 506.00 | \$ 648.13 | \$ 1,154.13 | \$ 126.57 |
| \$ 423,991.00 | \$ 561.00 | \$ 1,919.16 | \$ 2,480.16 | \$ 506.00 | \$ 1,728.31 | \$ 2,234.31 | \$ 245.85 |
| Business | | | | | | | |
| \$ 310,838.00 | \$ 561.00 | \$ 2,489.45 | \$ 3,050.45 | \$ 506.00 | \$ 2,242.07 | \$ 2,748.07 | \$ 302.38 |

3

Special Rate Variation

More questions answered



Does this mean we will pay more for the same facilities?

- An important part of the goal adopted by Council is to have fit for purpose pools operating at modern standards. The purpose of the strategy is to meet the adopted goal with the most cost effective and appropriate use of resources, whilst keeping six pools open and operating.
- This is achieved by renewing facilities to a modern equivalent as the facilities fall due for renewal, while maintaining the existing facilities until then. Where facility improvements can be achieved within budget or through external funding opportunities and partnerships, this will be investigated at the time they arise.
- This needs to be balanced against getting full value out of the resources that are put into the existing assets before they are renewed. Facility renewals are scheduled based on a 60-year facility life. Some facilities are becoming due (Bega and Cobargo), while others have some time to go before renewal (Sapphire Aquatic Centre and Candelo).

I don't use pools. Why should my rates go up?

- Swimming pools are an important community resource, providing access to health, safety, recreational and social opportunities. Our pools are utilised by a broad sector of the community for swimming education, lessons, training, family activities, rehabilitation, fitness, or to simply relax.
- They are also utilised by school groups, surf clubs, sporting clubs and are an important foundation of learning to swim which is a life-long skill.

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Special Rate Variation

More questions answered



Could Council simply choose to increase rates without scrutiny?

- Each year, councils wishing to apply for a special variation apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in February.
- The applications are assessed against criteria listed in the Office of Local Government's Guidelines. These include undertaking long term financial planning, ensuring community awareness of the need and extent of the proposed increase in rates, and consideration of the impact on ratepayers and the community's capacity and willingness to pay. In addition, councils must meet criteria related to productivity improvements.

What will happen to the pools if there is no Special Rate Variation?

- The pools will continue to operate as they are in the short term but with very little opportunity for upgrading or improvements into the future.
- We know pools are corrosive environments and hard on infrastructure. Some are getting old and there is a high chance there will be a failure at some point. A recent example was at Bomboka with the chlorination system and currently works in Candelo to repair damaged sections of the pool. We know something will happen, we just do not know what or when. If this happens, it will trigger either a very high cost reactive repair to make good an old asset (which might fail again somewhere else) or a closure of the facility.
- A further review of the ability to continue to provide services and at which pools will need to be undertaken.

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Special Rate Variation

More questions answered



Why don't the users pay more?

- Raising the required funding through an increase in user fees would require substantial increases, rendering the pools largely inaccessible resulting in decreased use.
- As an important community resource for recreation, social safety, learning and health opportunities, we are committed to making access to swimming pools equitable and affordable for all the community.
- User fees currently account for 40% of the gross total cost of operating the pools and there is no contribution to funds for facility upgrades or renewals.

Are there alternatives to an SRV?

- In 2017 Council resolved that a six-pool aquatic strategy be developed so that the community can retain all six pools, that those pools are compliant and that they meet modern standards when due for renewal.
- Due to the age, condition and forecast asset renewals for the pools, Council cannot afford, from the existing General Fund rate income, to meet the six-pool goal without reducing other services.
- Council could consider a 'remain as is' approach which would likely lead to major asset failure resulting in facility closures. Council could also consider consolidation of facilities (a reduction in the number of pools) which would contradict the adopted six-pool strategy.

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Special Rate Variation

More questions answered



How will I know the money raised through the SRV will be spent on pools and not something else?

- Through our statutory reporting - we are required to report on the incoming funds raised through a Special Rates Variation, and the projects/activities that have been funded through this revenue stream. This is reported through our Annual Report, published on November 30 of each year.

What options are available if I can't pay a rate increase?

- Council can help ratepayers with payment schedules that make paying their rates more manageable - you are encouraged to contact Council to discuss these options.

What else is Council doing to minimise the impact of the SRV on ratepayers?

- Council has spent a number of years reviewing the ways in which it can fund its asset management plans.
- Council is implementing a range of cost containment strategies and productivity improvement measures. These include organisation restructures, adoption of a green energy plan, improvements in procurement and leveraging better buying power through participating in the Joint Canberra Region Organisation, streamlining processes in ICT and WHS, addressing asset rationalisation, improving our works programs by identifying to deliver more works for the same budget allocation, applying for funding to deliver improvement to assets needing renewal or upgrading, divesting land and reviewing the way services are delivered.

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Special Rate Variation

More questions answered



What happens if Council's SRV application is unsuccessful?

- If Council is unsuccessful in its SRV application through IPART it will reassess, at that point, the best path forward to meet the adopted goal or to amend the current aspiration of six pools.

Does the community get a say on these plans?

- A key component of any SRV process is understanding the potential impact on ratepayers and community's collective understanding of the proposal and what would be provided by the increased funds, and importantly the capacity and willingness of ratepayers to pay.
- A thorough community information and consultation program is being implemented that will include:
 - community information sessions;
 - the establishment of a dedicated webpage including a rates calculator;
 - an independent phone survey;
 - a formal public exhibition period of the modelling, when community feedback will be sought;
 - the distribution of information through Council's social media channels, the Council News publication and the local media;
 - a community survey; and
 - a final report to Council.
- At the conclusion of this, Councillors will decide, in November this year, whether to pursue the SRV through a formal application to IPART.

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Internal staff email

