



# Recreation Facilities

*Of the average annual bill for each Christchurch ratepayer, which is around \$750, \$22.05 is currently spent on operating the City's recreation facilities.*

**Christchurch City Council owns six major** and four suburban community swimming pools and eight stadia and recreation centres. Two of the swimming pools — Jellie Park and Wharenui — are leased, while the rest are operated by the Council. QEII Park, Pioneer Stadium and the Sockburn Recreation Centre are operated by the Council, while the other stadia are leased to various sporting organisations. QEII Park is the largest of the City's recreation facilities and also the most expensive to maintain — accounting for around 63 per cent of the maintenance budget for all recreation facilities. All facilities earn some revenue, but all operate on a net loss and are therefore subsidised by ratepayer funds.

**In determining what standard** of recreation facilities Christchurch people wish to pay for, the following should be considered:—

## Swimming Pools

Excluding the swimming pools at QEII Park, a total of 650,700 visits were made to Christchurch's nine Council operated and leased swimming pools during the most recent financial year. After taking into account revenue earned through admission

charges, operating these pools incurred a net cost to the average individual ratepayer of \$6. Planned building work to maintain the same level of service at these swimming pools would increase this cost to around \$7 in each average rates bill, assuming roughly the same number of swimmers continue to use the pools.

## Service: Swimming pools

<b>Current Spend:</b>	<b>\$6</b>
<b>Premium:</b>	<b>\$7</b>
<b>Minimum acceptable:</b>	<b>\$7</b>

## Stadia

Aside from QEII Park, the net cost to the average ratepayer of the City Council's seven other stadia and recreation centres during the 1995/96 financial year was \$3.55. Assuming an equivalent use for the facilities in the future, planned building work to maintain the same level of service at these stadia would increase this cost to around \$4.10 in the average annual individual rates bill.

## Service: Stadia

<b>Current Spend:</b>	<b>\$3.55</b>
<b>Premium:</b>	<b>\$4.10</b>
<b>Minimum acceptable:</b>	<b>\$4.10</b>

## QEII Park

QEII Park is one of the larger assets of the Christchurch City Council. An average of 370,000 swimmers visit the pools and hydroslide each year, while the stadium is used for international athletics, major sporting events and outdoor concerts. The complex also includes a creche, squash courts, fitness centre and fun park. During the 1995/96 financial year the net cost to the average ratepayer of the QEII Park complex was \$12.90. To maintain QEII at a condition which would enable the same level of service in the future would increase this cost, on average, to \$16 every year — assuming the same level of use for the facility in the future.

## Service: QEII Park

<b>Current Spend:</b>	<b>\$12.90</b>
<b>Premium:</b>	<b>\$16</b>
<b>Minimum acceptable:</b>	<b>\$16</b>



## Summary

Operating Christchurch's recreation facilities currently costs the average ratepayer around **\$22.45** every year.

To undertake all the maintenance identified as necessary to continue the same level of service at these facilities will raise this amount to **\$27.10**.

To provide a service consistent with Council's *Minimum Acceptable Service Standard* would cost **\$27.10**

### Summary of the costs of Recreation Facilities

Lowest Possible...	\$22.45
Current...	\$22.45
Premium...	\$27.10
Minimum acceptable service...	\$27.10

## ***What do you think?***

If you wish to make a submission on the 1998 Annual Plan, these are some of the questions you might like to consider:

- Does the City currently have the right balance of recreation facilities?
- Are you prepared to pay higher rates to improve the service provided by the City's recreation facilities? If so, how should these be improved?
- Would you rather pay less in rates for a lower standard of service?

**Please fill in and return the submission form at the rear of this book to make your views known on the maintenance and development of the City's recreation facilities.**

**An estimated one in three Christchurch residents swim at the City Council's nine swimming pools each year. Two out of five exercise, compete or attend events at the City's seven sports facilities. These facilities all charge for their use, but running costs for each are also subsidised by ratepayers.**

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### **Contact**

If you would like further information on the service options and the cost implications facing Christchurch in relation to maintaining its recreation facilities, please contact

**Peter Walls** on

**371 1777.**