

**1. FUNDRAISING: PETITION ON RETENTION OF ‘CENTENNIAL POOL’
NAME FOR NEW CITY CENTRE AQUA LEISURE COMPLEX RR 8358**

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The purpose of this report is to report on the petition to retain the name ‘Centennial Pool’ for the city centre aqua-leisure complex as requested at the July meeting of the Property and Projects Committee meeting. The petition had been tabled at the 24 June 1998 Council meeting by Councillors Denis O’Rourke and Anna Crighton, where the matter was referred to the Projects and Property Committee.

1. THE PETITION

A petition, organised by Councillors O’Rourke and Crighton stated: “We, the undersigned, support the retention of the name Centennial Pool (without commercial reference) for the pool complex to be built on the original Centennial Pool site in Oxford Terrace.”

The petition resulted in 394 signatures and two letters of support from neighbourhood groups. A notice in the Christchurch Mail resulted in 20 returned slips and 43 signatures from the 124,000 copies that were distributed throughout Canterbury on 16 April.

The petition omitted to mention the potential cost of \$450,000 to the ratepayer if the naming rights were not sold.

2. OPTIONS

If naming rights are not sold on the complex, two ways of recouping the \$450,000 shortfall are:

- (a) Cut back on construction.
Remove features in the pools complex that cost \$450,000.
- (b) Increase operating revenue.
e.g. increase ticket prices.

Neither of these options is recommended. The tender for the construction of the pool building has already been let and construction is well underway. Since the majority of the cost of the building is in the structure (pool tanks, floor, walls and roof) and services (pool water services and heating, and ventilating), it would be very difficult to remove \$450,000 without seriously compromising the quality of the building and/or its environment. There may also be potential claims from the main contractor and subcontractor for deleting or changing items which have already been ordered.

An increase in admission fees would undermine the policy of making the venue accessible and affordable to the wider community. It would

result in operational rather than capital revenue and could in fact reduce the number of admissions substantially.

Therefore, either the naming rights are sold, or the net cost of the project is increased by \$450,000.

Recommendation: That the Council note the concerns of the petitioners, and in pursuing naming rights for the new city centre aqua-leisure complex, endeavour to retain the name “Centennial Pool” in some form.