

5. CAPITAL PROVISION FOR SUN BED REPLACEMENTS

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Corporate Plan Output: Stadia Council Operated.	

The purpose of this report is to respond to a request by the Annual Plan Working Party that a report be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Committee on both the safety issues and the economic impact of sunbeds in Council-operated stadia.

The Annual Plan Working Party reduced the capital provision in the 2002/03 year for the replacement of sunbeds in Council-operated stadia, pending the clarification of these issues.

BACKGROUND

The following Council facilities currently operate sunbeds for use by customers.

QEII	4 sunbeds (leased)
Pioneer	2 sunbeds (owned)
Centennial	3 sunbeds (owned)
Sockburn Recreation Centre	5 sunbeds (owned)

These sunbeds operate at almost full capacity in September, October and November. August and December are about 60 % to 70% of this level with the remaining months at about 25% of capacity.

It is estimated about 80% of sunbed users use other facilities at the centres.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Each sunbed requires approximately \$500 for maintenance and \$500 for bulb replacements each year. The life expectancy of each bed is approximately 4 to 5 years and the capital costs vary from \$5,500 to \$8,000 depending on the type of bed.

The estimated (conservative) impact on each facility if sunbeds were not operated is set out below. This includes a replacement period of 4 years being used, in real terms it may be five years.

QEII	\$11,500 loss of revenue
Sockburn Recreation Centre	\$13,125 loss of revenue
Centennial	\$13,200 loss of revenue
Pioneer	\$14,000 loss of revenue
Total	\$51,825

SAFETY ISSUES

The Council's Health and Safety Team Leader, Donna Burt, comments:

"The evidence available shows that using a sunlamp or sunbed may increase the risk of skin cancer. However, if precautions are taken this risk can be reduced."

The following information is made available to customers at Council facilities:

- Information on facial tanner
- General Safety Precautions
- Recommended Exposure Times
- Ministry of Health Booklet
- Melanoma Information Sheet
- Personal Hygiene
- General Tanning Information for Solariums

The following recommendations were made by the Health and Safety Team Leader:

1. Ensure eye protection is made available.
2. Amend personal hygiene notice. Request customers to wipe down the bed before and after use.
3. Ensure that all of the above information is visible and readily available to customers.
4. Make copies of the Cancer Society booklet available.

All of these are normal practice or have been implemented at the above facilities and Donna Burt states:

“In my opinion the Leisure Unit has taken all steps possible to ensure the safety of clients using the sunbeds”

DISCUSSION

As can be seen from the comments above the sunbeds have a significant impact on the facilities' budgets and in operating the sunbeds all steps are taken to advise and protect customers from any harmful effects.

To continue to operate sunbeds in Council facilities provision needs to be made to replace them every four to five years.

The current situation is that in the Leisure Unit draft capital budget the Sockburn Park Recreation Centre has provision of \$5,500 in 2000/01 and \$5,500 in 2001/02 for the replacement of sunbeds. Under Leisure Centres in 2002/03 \$5,500, in 2003/04 \$6,000, and 2004/05 \$6,000. These later figures would still only allow for the replacement of one sunbed each year. Provision needs to be made for the replacement of three sunbeds each year from 2002/03 onwards.

It would make sense for all replacements to be under the one code which would only need to make provision for Sockburn up to and including 2001/02 financial year then the three facilities could be treated collectively from 2002/03 onwards with provision of \$20,500 (estimated replacement costs for three sunbeds).

- Recommendation:**
1. That provision of \$5,500 for Sockburn remain in the capital budget up to and including 2001/02.
 2. That from 2002/03 onwards all three facilities be included in the budget for sunbed replacements with provision of \$20,500 being made annually for the replacement of three sunbeds.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.