

19. FEES FOR COUNCIL OPERATED STADIA AND POOLS

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Corporate Plan Output: Council Operated Stadia and Pools - Fees	

The purpose of this report is to seek permission from the Council to increase some charges for stadia and pools, and also to outline the rationalisation process being undertaken within all Council operated facilities. The impact of the new QEII leisure facility (April 2002) also falls within the 2001/2002 Annual Plan and will result in a change in the charging at QEII to bring it into line with both the Centennial Leisure Centre and the Pioneer Leisure Centre.

RATIONALISATION OF EXISTING CHARGES

As can be seen from the current list of charges, we have services being offered at different Council operated facilities for a different price, and with the inclusion of the new leisure centres at Pioneer and Centennial the provision of services at all facilities is now similar and therefore all charges should be brought into line to reflect this.

This has meant that the proposed charges will vary slightly from last year to bring them all in line so that our customers will be paying the same fee for the same service across all Council operated facilities.

In addition to this the membership that are offered, either combined or individual for three, six and twelve months, are now able to be used across all Council operated facilities. This means that if customers buy a three-month membership at QEII Park they are able to use that membership at both Centennial, Pioneer, and the outdoor pools while that membership is valid.

The ability to use memberships across all facilities not only provides an excellent marketing opportunity but also allows our customers and the residents of the city to maximise all facilities that the Council operates.

PROPOSED INCREASES IN CHARGES

Outdoor Pools, and QEII until April 2002 - Increase in Parent/Caregiver and Preschooler Charge.

It is proposed to increase the admission charge for a parent/caregiver and preschooler at the outdoor pools and QEII (until April 2002) from \$1.00 to \$1.50, to bring this charge in line with the child entry fee and also with the principle that this fee should be equivalent to the child's entry fee. This will mean that the preschooler or child pays \$1.50 and the parent/caregiver gets in free as long as they supervise the child in the water.

Increase in the child, and child and parent/preschooler in the indoor pools (ie Centennial, Pioneer and QEII from April 2002) from \$1.50 to \$2.00.

While it is accepted that \$1.50 is a reasonable charge for a child to utilise the outdoor pools, the range of additional services and facilities available at the indoor pools make the current \$1.50 charge very cheap. Included in these additional services and facilities is the ability for the children to utilise not only the leisure pool but also spas, saunas, steamrooms, and also the fact that is available all year round.

The impact of the increase in 1 and 2 above, based on the last financial year's budgets (1999/00), would show an increase in revenue of \$56,000 at Pioneer, \$9,000 at the outdoor pools, \$34,000 at Centennial, and \$43,000 at QEII, giving a total in excess of \$140,000 that would impact on the bottom line of the operation of these facilities.

A PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE METHOD OF CHARGING FOR QEII.

It is proposed that the charging for QEII pools and water space should be based on a set fee per hour per lane for commercial and events and a 50% discount of this fee for schools, sports, and squads. The proposed charges are:

\$25.00 / hour / lane plus admission for the 50 metre pool.

\$75.00 / hour plus admission for the dive well.

\$60.00 / hour plus admission for the training pool.

\$50.00 / hour plus admission for the learners pool

\$75.00 / hour for the stadium plus admission plus other services and facilities by negotiation.

Current charges are based on a per session charge ie. \$300 for dive pool or main pool and the stadium.

The proposed method of charging better reflects the current operational requirements at QEII and is not going to have a major impact on the use of the facilities for the stadium, although it will require a considerable change in thinking in respect of the use of the dive pool, 50 metre pool, and learners' pool by school sports, squads, etc where they will now be charged on an hourly rate plus admissions, as opposed to past practices of a charge per session.

It is anticipated that these proposed changes to the charging regime for QEII would take effect in the next financial year.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the charge for parent/caregiver and a preschooler at the outdoors pools and QEII until April 2002 be increased from \$1.00 to \$1.50.
 2. That the charge at the indoor pools ie Pioneer and Centennial Leisure Centres, and QEII after April 2002 for a child and a parent/caregiver and a preschooler be increased from \$1.50 to \$2.00.
 3. That the means of charging for stadium and pool space at QEII be changed to fall into line with the principle of a charge per lane or per space, per hour, plus admission.
 4. That the basis for charging for the pools and stadium at QEII be as set out in 3 above.
 5. That Council approve the changes to rationalise the charges for all Council operated facilities.

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