

Oakleigh pool's fate to be known by May

MONASH JOURNAL

OAKLEIGH pool's future will be decided by next May.

Releasing a timeline for public consultation, Monash Council said last week it would use three different consultation methods: a public 'speak out', consulting targeted stakeholders, and written submissions.

The council next month will endorse options for the pool's future, and the options will be put on public display in February – despite earlier promises that the consultation process would begin last month.

Pool steering committee member Cr Stephen Dimopoulos said the 'speak out' would allow members of the public to approach staffed displays to give their views in an informal setting.

Cr Dimopoulos said targeted stakeholders would include Oakleigh Recreation Centre users, schools, Community Life Action Group and the Monash Ratepayers Association.

He said the consultation methods could still include a mail-out survey of residents.

The three options are expected to be a refurbishment of the current outdoor pool, a 'splash pad' aquatic park, or a hybrid of the two.

Community Life Action Group spokeswoman Julie Clearwater said the consultation seemed comprehensive, but she was concerned by the delays.

"The council seems to be trying to do the right thing, but it's very sad it's taking so long."

With the pool closed for this summer, Ms Clearwater said it may be shut for two summers while works on the pool site proceeded.

Monash Mayor Joy Banerji said the October date for consultation had been premature, given the work required to fully cost and develop options.

6 NOV 2006