

# Pool bill could be \$7m

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THE Oakleigh pool project could be bigger, or at least more expensive, than Monash Council has been expecting.

Last week, Oakleigh pool steering committee chairman Stephen Dimopoulos hinted the project could cost up to \$7 million.

The council is awaiting a consultant's report on public feedback on four proposals for the pool site, which are costed between \$4.1 million and \$5.6 million, excluding GST.

The council is due to decide on the fate of the pool site next month, weeks ahead of the June announcement of its 2007-08 budget.

Cr Dimopoulos said the project's budget allocation could be decided, even if a decision on the pool had not been made.

"[But] we should know if it's \$6 million or \$7 million by May."

He hoped the council would make significant spending commitments for the pool in the next two budgets.

"We need to start spending money in the first two budgets to show we're doing something."

He expected most of the spending in 2008-09.

Cr Dimopoulos said the pool site, closed last June, would be shut for two further summers, which would mean an opening date late in 2009.