

Cr takes swipe at pool group

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By **Cameron Lucadou-Wells**

WEEKS before Monash Council is due to decide the fate of the Oakleigh pool site, Cr Denise McGill has launched an attack on Community Life Action Group.

Cr McGill has accused CLAG of "manipulating" the public consultation process.

The group has called for the

public to vote for the refurbishment of all existing pools on the site.

Cr McGill said a public 'speak-out' stand at Oakleigh Festival last month was dominated by CLAG supporters who were directing people to put "the CLAG line" to consultants.

She had yet to read the consultant's report and submissions, but

hoped the council would not support CLAG's "regressive" plan.

Cr McGill, who has pushed strongly for a splash pad at the pool site, said ideas such as a raised pool-side spas, beached areas and swim-out shells would have long-lasting appeal for young people.

"I just can't believe the obsession with rectangular

boxes of water. [Industry advice] convinced me the worst thing to do is to replicate what is," she said.

CLAG spokeswoman Julie Clearwater said the group had been maligned as "ratbags and radicals".

"I know we're not, and I know a lot of people not directly involved in CLAG know that as well.

"It's a shame that people think they've now got to discredit CLAG.

"We've been careful to criticise the council itself, and not to direct personal attacks against individual councillors."

She denied CLAG had "hijacked" the speak-out tent at Oakleigh Festival, and said the turnout represented people's passion to retain the pool.