

Council denies pool heritage status

2007

MONASH JOURNAL 21 MAY

MONASH Council has refused to justify its lack of heritage protection for the Oakleigh pool to a Heritage Council inquiry.

The council voted last Tuesday not to make a submission to the Heritage Council, which is investigating the pool's heritage status.

The pool's future has been uncertain since it closed last year.

The council's pool steering committee is set to present a plan for the site at the next Monash Council meeting on June 6.

Heritage Victoria, in response to a community submission seeking to preserve the pool, last month recommended Monash Council list the pool on its local heritage register.

But HV found the site was not worthy of state heritage protection.

The Heritage Council is considering public submissions on the pool's heritage status, and is set to deliver a final verdict by June 20.

Monash Mayor Tom Morrissey said the council had considered the heritage significance of the site in 2000.

"Council determined that the architectural significance of the site was limited and consequently the pool was not included [on the local register]."

He said the council would not make a submission because it agreed with HV that the pool was unworthy of state heritage listing.

"I believe there is little value in revisiting the heritage issue and that we would be better served by focusing on the pool's future."

Oakleigh ward councillor and pool steering committee member Gerry Kottek said the site's heritage value would be retained in the immediate future. "I don't think anyone denies the heritage value."

He said the committee had decided upon its preferred option for the pool — this was in the process of being costed. He said the pool redevelopment would cost about \$6 million.

Community Life Action Group spokeswoman Julie Clearwater said the council was trying to ignore the HV recommendation.

"They've pretended there's nothing to defend."

Give us a pool 'and be done with it'

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Insanity Streak by Tony Lopes

I HAVE been watching the debate about the Oakleigh pool for some time and it's obvious to me, from the volume of mail to your paper, that the people of Oakleigh want a swimming pool and are not going to give up on it.

I am too old to swim, but my grandchildren are not and they need some place they can walk to after school.

It doesn't need to be a costly edifice, just a place big enough to give them a decent swim.

On their behalf, I ask the Monash Council: please give the people of Oakleigh their pool, and be done with it.

June Browne
South Oakleigh

her opposition to the Government's gaming policy had put her in an awkward position because some local MPs had seen her as excessively critical of the Government.

Cr Banerji should resign

Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Government Association, which are both engaged to represent the local council's administration, not the rate-payers, is a joke.

was quoted that it is to be the same in 2007-08. Nothing has been gained or will be gained to reduce pokies revenue in Monash unless we get truly independent, community-elected councillors.

