

Pool plan decision delayed

Jon Andrews

OAKLEIGH
MONASH
LEADER

MONASH Council has delayed making a decision about the future of Oakleigh Pool for another seven months - until May next year.

And Mayor Joy Banerji has admitted the council was "premature" in originally stating October would be the start of community consultation whether to close the old pool and replace it with a splash pad or revamp the antiquated facility.

Community Life Action Group spokeswoman Julie Clearwater said the waiting was "very, very unfortunate".

"I was quite upset when I found out about this delay," Ms Clearwater said.

"The council is just covering themselves - we want a decision quicker than this.

"But we just have to go with the flow - we'll definitely keep the ball rolling until May about this issue."

Cr Banerji said any decision to close or revamp the pool had to be delayed to give the steering committee time to consider a range of options that would have "long-term appeal and viability".

She said "the comprehensive consultation process" would take place next February, with a final report being handed down in May.

"Due to the complexity of the development work that is being done and the impending Christmas holiday break, it has been decided to commence the broader public consultation in February 2007," Cr Banerji said.

"The earlier nominated time of October for full consultation to commence has proven to be premature in light of the work involved in fully developing and costing the options.

"While this delay may be disappointing for those people who wanted to see a more immediate start, the scope of the project demands that we get this process right and that means having fully developed options available and conducting consultation during a period when everyone is available."

Cr Banerji said an independent consultant would be employed, with public displays, information sessions and workshops held to help people "feel comfortable" in making submissions about the pool's future.

7 NOVEMBER 2006
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Plea to keep pool

OAKLEIGH MONASH LEADER

7 NOV 2006



Letter of the Week

This week's winner receives an environmentally-friendly shopping bag.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper or its staff.

I AM a Year 12 student of Sacred Heart Girls College in Oakleigh and I have been surprised by the Monash Council's lack of communication with the youth about their decision to close the Oakleigh Pool.

There have been letters to newspapers, attendance of public meetings, petitions, pamphlets, radio debates and visual support from residents displaying blue items on their properties. The support for the retainment of the Oakleigh Pool is passionate – so why is the council still in favour of closing the pool?

Sacred Heart Girls College and many other schools enjoy using the Oakleigh Pool for their Swimming Carnivals.

The pool is conveniently located and is prepared for the heat of all-day carnivals with its huge trees.

Perhaps if the pool is properly repaired and heated then the schools' swim teams would be able to train there.

The girls of Sacred Heart College have tried to express their desire to keep the pool open with a petition with more than 500 signatures. This is the opinion of the youth, don't drown out our voices, and don't sink our pool.

**Emily Maguire,
South Oakleigh.**

Island opposition 1

Have your say

Readers can write, fax or email to the Leader letters page.

■ **Write:** 1 Chapel St, Blackburn, 3130

■ **Fax:** 9875 8344

■ **email:** monash

@leadernewspapers.com.au

Preference is given to short, typed letters. We reserve the right to edit letters. Letters must carry full name, address and phone number.

The road is not wide enough to support larger vehicles – main breadwinner of the household is a builder and the islands make it difficult for the one-tonne truck.

Secondly, the introduction of the traffic islands was not co-ordinated with community consultation. Rather we noticed when markings on the road were put in. This is very poor.

Let us put a stop to this.

**Natalie Rob,
Mulgrave.**

Island opposition 2

ALTHOUGH I do not live on Haverbrack Drive I have regularly used this thoroughfare the more than 20 years I have resided in this area and do not consider it necessary for council to build traffic islands.

the islands will hazards not less. R a much better form

Council should c on Jacksons Rd – entering Gladeswo ing money on the c in Haverbrack Dri

Traffic lights or l assist traffic dep Gladeswood Drive peak hours.

We do not wa Haverbrack Drive.

Island oppo

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Buses have great these islands. The thus penalising us

And motorists w more often.

There will be m as these curbs h smaller. Some par already started to stop this waste workers' energy fo