



Ordinary Meeting of Council

URGENT BUSINESS REPORT

**Wednesday 28 October 2020
4.00pm
Council Chambers
209 Comur Street, Yass**

PRAYER:

All Stand:

Mayor: *Let us be still and remember the presence of God. As we commence our meeting let us together pray for guidance and help.*

All say together:

Almighty God, we ask your blessing upon this Council.

Direct and prosper our deliberations to the true welfare of Australia and the people of Yass Valley Amen.

FUTURE MEETINGS

November 2020

Wednesday 25th

4.00pm

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Ordinary Meeting of Council

URGENT BUSINESS

Page No.

7. Director of Infrastructure & Assets Reports

7.6	Yass Swimming Club Carnival December 2020	4
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GENERAL MANAGER

7.6 YASS SWIMMING CLUB CARNIVAL DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY

In September 2020 the capacity of the Yass Swimming Pool was limited to 226 persons as a COVID-19 response. This limit did not address swimming carnivals. A request has been received from the Yass Swimming Club to hold a carnival on 6 December 2020 for 500 persons.

This limit has been reviewed in light of the club's submission and it is recommended that the number of persons be limited to 265 (swimmers, spectators and officials) for swimming carnivals at the Yass pool including the Yass Swimming Club carnival on 6 December 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. *Up to 500 participants within the Yass Swimming Pool complex is considered to be a high risk activity to the community due to COVID-19*
2. *The number of persons for all swimming carnivals at the Yass Swimming Pool complex be limited to 265 persons (including swimmers, spectators and officials)*
3. *For the swimming carnival on 6 December 2020 the 265 pool entrants be permitted including swimmers, one parent or guardian and 10 officials*
4. *To minimise social distancing risk that no canteen and BBQs are operated and participants are advised to bring their food and drinks into the pool complex*
5. *The Yass Swimming Pool complex be closed to other entrants for the full day on 6 December 2020 to allow the end of event cleaning of the facility by the Yass Swim Club*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Additional costs for staff to open the facility at 7.30am will be contained within the swimming pools' budget.

POLICY & LEGISLATION

Council resolution 23 September 2020

REPORT

1. Report

An application has been received from the Yass Swimming Club to undertake a carnival with a maximum amount of 500 Yass Pool entrants. The event is proposed to be undertaken on 6 December 2020.

Staff have undertaken consultation with Local Emergency Management Officers including, local NSW Health Services and the NSW Police.

The Yass Swimming Club is a member of the Southern Inlands Swimming Association (SISA) which consists of 33 towns comprising 40 swim clubs (refer [Attachment A](#)).

Staff have contacted six locations that were scheduled to conduct regional swimming carnivals before Christmas 2020 and at this stage only Wagga Wagga are proceeding with the proposed SISA carnival program. Wagga Wagga are allowing 300 people within the complex under COVID-19 restrictions. Wagga Wagga has devised a seating plan which allows prescriptive social distancing and limited seating use of spectator/grandstand seating. It should be noted that this pool is a specialised event 10 lane 50 metre Olympic pool.

Staff have contacted approximately 12 other aquatic centre locations within the region to determine if they were hosting carnivals (refer **Attachment B**). From the information obtained it seems that most locations are not considering carnivals until February 2021. Most of the facilities are limiting/capping events to less than 300. At this stage Goulburn Aquatic Centre are capping carnival attendance to 250, however may consider increasing this number to 300 in February 2021. Queanbeyan are capping their pool attendance to 230 persons.

It is acknowledged that Yass Swimming Pool has a large grassed area however parts of these areas do not have a line of sight view of the main 50 metre pool and there are areas of sloping ground that are not suitable spectator use.

Council also has an obligation to keep emergency evacuation points clear.

A diagram has been prepared for the use of the grounds within the complex to safely undertake an event with the prescriptive number of up to 255 seated people including swimmers (refer **Attachment C**). In addition 10 officials will be situated around the pool and are not included in the seated numbers.

Council can assist the Yass Swimming Club in marking up the pool complex in accordance with the plan.

The number toilets for 265 entrants are 4 female cubicles and 2 male cubicles plus a urinal. Foot traffic will likely be high to this area. The plan allows pool entrants to avoid traversing through other people, poolside through marshalling and swimming areas.

The Southern Inland Swimming Association have confirmed that there was 160 swimmers from 91 families in attendance at the carnival held at Yass Swimming Pool in November 2019 i.e.

SUMMARY Southern Inlands Swimming Carnival held November 2019 at Yass.

Club	Heats entries received for the meet	Individuals participating.	No of Families
Boorowa	42	8	3
Canberra ASC	29	7	5
Cootamundra S & LSC Inc	197	46	22
Ginninderra Sc	18	4	4
Goulburn ASC	29	6	5
Griffith	8	1	1
Harden Murrumburrah	8	3	2
Temora	19	5	4
Tumut	44	8	4
Wagga Wagga SC	70	13	8
West Wylong	16	3	2
Yass SC	151	33	19
Young SC	123	23	12
	754	160	91

In the draft COVID-19 Safety Plan submitted by the Yass Swimming Club they would encourage one parent to attend or drop off older children.

On the assumption that the same numbers of participants register in 2020 and one parent/guardian attends then the number of 265 pool entrants would allow the carnival to proceed.

2. Risks of allowing 500 people to enter the Pool.

- Bringing people from a wide geographic area from 40 plus swim clubs
- Without a line of sight to the pool this is highly likely to cause lack of social distancing
- If social distancing is not maintained individuals may receive fines. In addition to individual fines Council as asset owner are also liable for fines

- We need to keep the Yass region safe. What would a potential outbreak of COVID-19 do in terms of effect on a small rural community's function and services in the run up to Christmas and on tourists visiting Yass Valley?
- Is this a good decision for the Yass valley community? Does this represent a good decision when the risks of COVID-19 are known globally and have decimated economies and cost lives?
- Reputational risk if any fines are issued or the event closed due to lack of social distancing. Likely to be extensively covered in media (including social media). The Batemans Bay cluster affected local business and tourism in the region significantly. Media coverage lasted several weeks
- Staff will be working at the site during the event. If Council are deemed to have not mitigated risk and created an unsafe workplace for staff and leisure participants this has the potential to breach Work, Health & Safety legislation

3. Pinch Points and other issues to be managed by the Yass Swimming Club COVID-19 Safety Plan

- Social distancing to gain entry to the Yass Swimming Pool. There may be a long queue at the start. How will this be managed?
- All pool entrants must enter and exit by the front gate for contact tracing and counting in and out of approved numbers. No other gates can be to be opened
- COVID-19 App to include declarations of entrants are not unwell or have not been to a hot spot
- Consider temperature testing on entry and contact tracing registrations
- To further reduce risk of crowding pool entrants be advised to bring their own food and drinks. Staff will need to check bags and coolers for alcohol, glass or other hazardous items
- Crowding at information on notice board for heats/lanes/times
- There is a representative cricket match on a Victoria Park on the same day. The oval and change room/toilets will not be readily available
- Line of sight of the pool may be blocked by shade structure that are traditionally brought in by parents. Will need to manage this issue to prevent crowding to watch swimming races
- COVID-19 Marshalls required including front entry, COVID-19 App checks, and bags checks, toilets and change room limits.
- Plan for amenities cleaning every 1½ - 2 hours. Yass Swimming Club team to deep clean all facilities after the event.

4. Conclusion

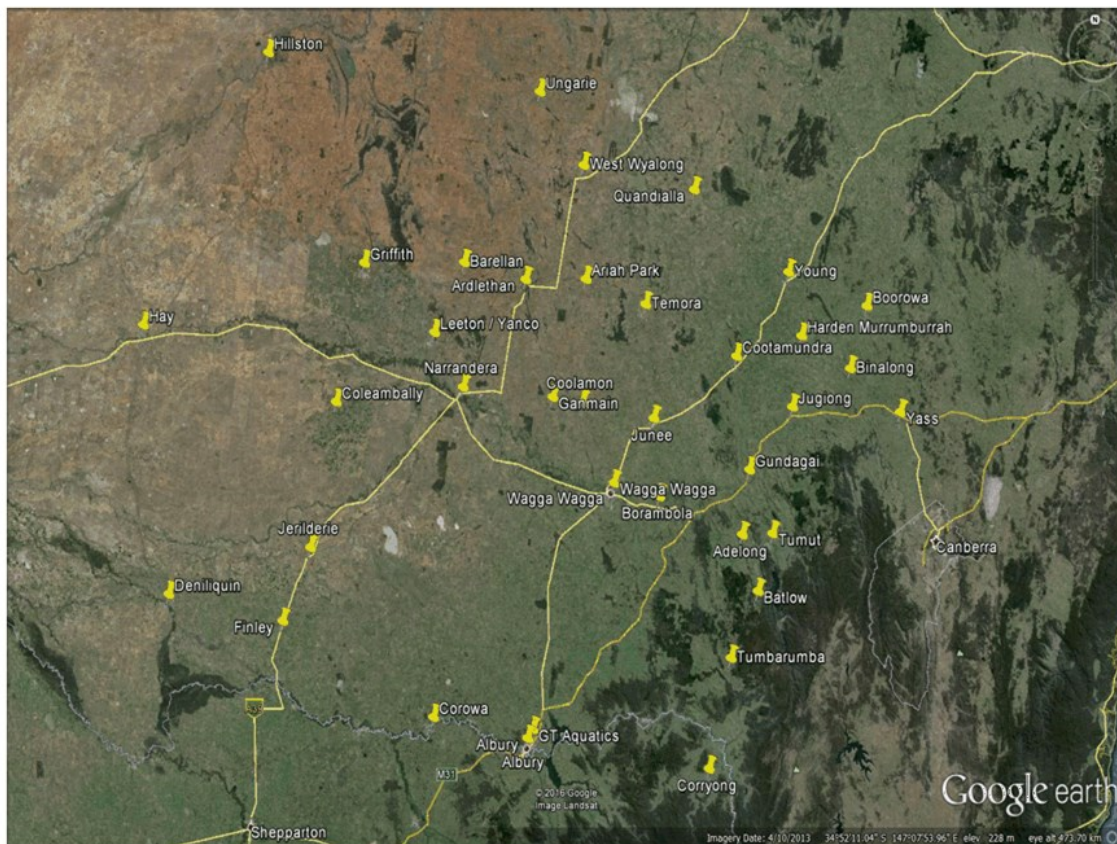
While it is understandable that 2020 has been a challenging period for this and other events to take place some additional restrictions as previously listed need to be in place to reduce exposure to the wider community of the Yass Valley region. Therefore it is recommended the number of people within the complex be capping at 265 will allow the event to with similar participation rates as previous years.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Key Pillar	3. Our Community
CSP Strategy	CO1 - Facilitate and encourage equitable access to community infrastructure and services, such as health care, education and transport
Delivery Program Action	CO1.3 - Ensure plans are in place for accessible community facilities and services in consultation with the Access Committee
Operational Plan Activity	CO1.3.1 - Ensure infrastructure and service improvement programs are in place to provide the appropriate accessible community facilities and services

- ATTACHMENTS:**
- A. Southern Inland Swimming Area [↓](#)
 - B. Councils Consulted [↓](#)
 - C. Proposed Layout for Swimming Carnivals [↓](#)

Southern Inland Swimming Area cover the areas Highlighted in the map below:



Swim Clubs from locations within the zone can register participants from their respective clubs.

- 33 Towns consisting of 40 Swim Clubs.

Proposed Carnivals 1 November - 30 December 2020

Location	Date	Comments
Albury	Sun 1 Nov	Cancelled Albury not running carnivals
Albury North Lavington	Sun 15 Nov	Cancelled Albury not running carnivals
Wagga Wagga	Sat 21 Nov	Going ahead- Capped at 300 including officials
Coleambally	Sat 28 Nov	25m pool unable to confirm if going ahead at this stage
Arian Park	Sat 12 Dec	At this stage pool is not opening Carnival not going ahead.
Harden Boorowa(2021)	Sun 20 Dec	Hilltops Council Confirmed that they were unaware of any Carnivals at this stage. Would Limit numbers to 220 entry and approval would need to be given by Emergency committee for signoff. Would need to consider safety of community

Other Councils Contacted and admittance numbers to facility.

Council /Facility	Comment
Goulburn	No carnivals before February 2021 Schools only bring competitors – non swimming students stay at school. Option for School events run over 2 sessions. Carnival numbers will not be over 250 participants/spectators may increase to 300 in February 2021 depending on NSW Health approval.
Forbes	Not allowing regional carnivals – discussions on school carnival limiting numbers (Feb 2021). Cap at 200 in outdoor pool facility (limit of 75 in 50 pool at one time)
Tumut	No return call
Cowra	No carnivals allowed – up to 150 in pool area
Crookwell (Upper Lachlan)	Crookwell pool not opening (upgrade) - 17m pool at Gunning operating at this stage – non swimming.
Junee Aquatic Centre	50m Pool Swim Club Considering events not confirm, but would consider reduced numbers. Would have issues with entry/exit through front of building major consideration to numbers.
Bathurst	No Carnivals – may consider on NSW Health approval and sign off on event. No school groups using the pool
Dubbo Aquatic Centre	Carnival scheduled for 25 October 20. Have ample ground space but limiting numbers to 500 in whole grounds. Have large number of entries and may not be able to admit spectators. Looking at options to admit on first com first in basis. Alternatively only have competitors and no spectators which causes a problem of supervision. Not sure what they will do yet as the event may be cancelled to wet weather.
Wellington Aquatic Leisure Centre	Unavailable for carnivals
Temora	Ariah Park Pool possibly not opening prior to Christmas Temora pool no know carnivals or School usage at this stage. Limit to numbers but not decided at this stage
Hilltops Council	Young Harden Jugiong Boorowa Waiting on advice from COVID EM Committee and will set admission numbers, awaiting advice on whether carnivals at Harden and Boorowa will go ahead and the numbers allowed.
Wagga Oasis Centre	10 lane - 50 metre pool complex. Limit of 300 for carnivals including officials. Normal entry 200 in facility.
Queanbeyan	No Carnivals prior to 2021 – re-evaluate in January 2021 with Crisis Management Team. Limit outdoor numbers to 230.

