



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MANDATORY INSPECTION PROGRAM – SWIMMING POOLS

In 2012, a comprehensive review of the *NSW Swimming Pools Act 1992* was undertaken. This review identified a number of amendments designed to enhance the safety of children under the age of five years around private ('backyard') swimming pools in NSW. For further details on these amendments please refer to Bourke Shire Council website (www.bourke.nsw.gov.au).

As part of these amendments Councils are required to develop and implement a swimming pool barrier inspection program in consultation with their communities by 29 October 2013.

The following survey forms part of the required community consultation process to gauge where local community expectations lie with respect to swimming pool safety.

Council encourages all community residents within the Bourke Shire Local Government Area (LGA) to complete and return the attached survey before 19th September 2013.

Community participation is strongly recommended and encouraged as Council seeks to gain an accurate account of local residents' attitudes toward swimming pool safety within its LGA.

Please complete and return the following survey to Bourke Shire Council via;

Bourke Shire Council

PO Box 21

Bourke NSW 2840

Fax: 02 68723030

Email: bourkeshire@bourke.nsw.gov.au

Swimming Pools Inspection Program

Community Consultation and Survey

Survey Questions:

1. Do you reside in the Bourke Shire local government area?
 Yes No
2. Is there a backyard swimming pool or spa pool on the property where you live?
 Yes No
3. Do you have children less than five (5) years of age?
 Yes No
4. How do you rate the importance of backyard swimming pool safety?
 Extremely important Very important Moderately important Slightly important Not important at all
5. What factor/s do you consider the most important for swimming pool safety?
 Adult supervision Satisfactory pool fence Both adult supervision and satisfactory fencing
6. How often should Council conduct an inspection of each backyard swimming pool safety barrier?
 Never Annually Every 2 years Every 3 years
7. The Swimming Pools Act 1992 enables a council to charge a fee of up to \$150 for the initial scheduled inspection and up to \$100 for a required re-inspection. Do you think the inspection program should be fully funded by pool owners or should it be subsidised by Council's general income (e.g. Rates etc.).

Note: Any subsidy may reduce availability of funds to provide other services.

- Fully funded by the inspection fee Funded partly from inspection fee and partly from general income Fully funded from general income
8. In the event that the cost of the inspection program is not funded from Council's general income, what do you consider to be an appropriate fee?
 N/A \$0 - \$50 \$50 - \$100 \$100 - \$150
9. Do you feel that the recent changes to legislation and the implementation of a mandatory safety program will reduce the incidence of drowning's in backyard swimming pools?
 Yes No Not sure
10. Is there anything you would like to provide comment on in relation to swimming pool safety?
Additional comments are encouraged.

NOTE: The results of this Survey and any submissions lodged will be taken into consideration in developing Council's mandatory swimming pool inspection program which will need to be formally adopted by the elected Council.

Council wishes to thank you for your time in undertaking this survey and reminds you to ensure your completed survey is returned to Bourke Shire Council before 19 September 2013.