



MEDIA RELEASE

BOURKE POOL RE-OPENING UNLIKELY THIS SEASON

Following discussions last week between staff from Bourke Shire Council and contractors, Councils Acting General Manager, Leonie Brown, today advised that it was now unlikely that the Bourke Olympic Pool would reopen for the 2020/2021 swimming season.

“Construction projects are a series of critical paths that require certain components to be undertaken and completed before the project can move to the next component. Unfortunately the pool project has experienced delays as the project proceeded and essentially, despite best efforts, these delays have now caught up with the project, such that it is unlikely the Pool will be available this season” the Acting General Manager said.

She continued, “It was expected that Contractors would have been out of the pool base by now, however that is not the case. With the current and expected heat, it makes working in the pool base unbearable and dangerous during the heat of the day. Whilst contractors will be commencing work at 4.00-4.30am, working days are restricted.”

Ms Brown said that coupled with the time to finalise other works in the critical path of the project, including the filling of the pool and the testing of all the related infrastructure, the likelihood of the pool being open for any part of the season now appears remote.

“In addition to the actual works on the pool, there is the issue of the surrounds of the pool, with a significant portion of the former grassed area requiring renewal as part of the construction process. This was expected, however given the time we are now looking at in terms of summer for the potential laying of grass, any laid grass will be under constant stress and requiring a significant amount of watering during a time when Council is promoting water restrictions.” Ms Brown added.

By announcing an unlikely reopening, Ms Brown said that the decision removes the pressures for a rushed completion of the job and allows Council to advise the Swimming Club and local schools of the unavailability of the pool for carnivals booked for early February. This also allows planning to proceed in respect of an alternative location for Australia Day celebrations; provide timely advice to those organising activities for youth during the school holidays; and also provide advice to other relevant agencies of the likely closure.

“This has not been an easy decision, however, given the circumstances, it’s an unfortunate reality. Council apologises for the inconvenience and understands the community will be disappointed by the delay,” Ms Brown advised.

Ms Brown advised that the Splash Pad at the Pool Facility will continue to be available, with details available on Council’s Facebook site.

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Further Information Contact: Acting General Manager, Leonie Brown on 68308000