

**Mayor and Councillors**  
COUNCIL

3 OCTOBER 2013

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

## **WAIKANAЕ POOL SEASON AND OPENING HOURS**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 This report seeks Council's approval for changes to the opening hours and length of the season at Waikanae Pool for the 2013-2014 season.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION**

- 2 This report proposes a change to the level of service at Waikanae Pool that differs to that described in the 2012 Long Term Plan. The proposal does not trigger the Council's Significance Policy.

### **BACKGROUND**

- 3 Waikanae Pool has historically been open for a 22 week season each year, from early November until late March or early April. Historically an average of 43,000 visits were made to the pool each season. However, the 2012-2013 year had an all time high of 48,000 visits. The pool was open from 17 November 2012 to 28 April 2013.
- 4 Although attendance varies according to the time of the season and the weather, the 2012-13 season equates to an average of 311 visits per day. In the last three to four weeks of the season attendance numbers decreased largely due to the change of weather and lower temperatures with an average of 196 people attending per day during March. This dropped further during April 2013 to 59 per day (including the first week of school holidays).
- 5 The opening hours of the facility were reviewed last year to be the same throughout the season with an opening of 6am – 8pm during the week (other than Swim Club nights which close at 6pm) and 8am – 8pm in the weekends and public holidays. The 8am weekend opening was reviewed part way during the season and a 6am opening was agreed by Council from late December through to February. This proved popular with the regular morning swimmers.
- 6 After 12 months of the Council operating the pools in-house and one season of operating Waikanae Pool, there is now more robust information to base recommendations on. Two options are presented for the Council to consider with regard to the Waikanae Pool.

## Option One

- 7 Under Option One it is proposed the season would be reduced from 22 weeks to 20 weeks. This will make the most efficient use of the facility by minimising operating costs at the end of the season during periods of low demand due to inclement weather and the evenings becoming darker earlier.
- 8 Under this proposal the pool would open from Saturday 2 November 2013 and close on Sunday 23 March 2014. The proposed opening date is similar to the years before 2012. In addition, the Ōtaki Pool will be closed for eight weeks for maintenance from 14 October and Waikanae Pool will offer an alternative for Ōtaki residents from early November.
- 9 After discussions with the Waikanae Swim Club, it is proposed that Monday and Thursday nights will remain as exclusive use for the club from 6:00pm – 8:00pm during their swim season (12 weeks). Thus, the pool will remain closed to the public from 6:00pm on these nights.
- 10 It is proposed the hours of operation are reflective of the time of year and the demand for an early morning opening time in the weekends, during the height of summer. The proposed opening hours are the same as the 2012-2013 season
- 11 Under option one, dates and hours would be as shown in the table following:

11.1 Table 1:

Dates	Opening hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saturday 2 November– Friday 15 December 2013</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.00am – 8.00pm weekdays (Monday and Thursday 6pm during Waikanae Swim Club season)</li> <li>• 8.00am – 8.00pm weekends</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saturday 16 December 2013 – Sunday 16 February 2014</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.00am – 8.00pm weekdays (Monday and Thursday 6pm during Waikanae Swim Club season)</li> <li>• 6.00am – 8.00pm weekends and public holidays</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 17 February – Sunday 23 March 2014</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.00am – 8.00pm weekdays (Monday and Thursday 6pm during Waikanae Swim Club season)</li> <li>• 8.00am – 8.00pm weekends and public holidays</li> </ul>

- 12 Option One is the recommended option. The overall season would be reduced from 22 weeks to 20 weeks. When compared with the 2012 - 2013 season this option includes an additional five weekends opening at 6am between December and February.

## Option Two

- 13 The change proposed in Option Two (compared with 2012/13) is limited to the extended opening hours at weekends and on public holidays, opening at 6am between mid-December and mid-February, as described in Option One above.
- 14 The 22 week season would run from 2 November 2013 to 6 April 2014. It would be a longer season than option one and therefore more expensive due to additional salaries for two weeks, plus the energy costs associated with being open in mid-autumn. (Note: in 2014 is Easter Sunday 20 April, school term 1 ends Thursday 17 April.)

## Financial Considerations

- 15 Net savings of approximately \$20,000 could be realised by shortening the season by two weeks.

## Legal Considerations

- 16 There are no legal considerations.

## Delegation

- 17 The Council has the authority to make this decision.

## Consultation

- 18 The options proposed in this report have not been formally submitted to the Waikanae Community Board but feedback has been sought informally from Board members and the ward councillor via email. Responses received at the time of writing (three) indicate a preference for the longer season of 22 weeks although the difficulties of working around changing dates of school holidays and Easter were acknowledged.
- 19 No specific consultation has been carried out with key users as the dates do not affect the Waikanae Swim Club's use of the pool. Prior to last season staff spoke directly to the Waikanae schools who hire the pool for swimming lessons and would be affected by any change in the length of the season. The schools would be offered arrangements for the current year to ensure the children continue to have the same level of access to the water as in previous years.

## Policy Implications

- 20 Subject to the Council's decision on this matter, there may be a change in the level of service for Waikanae Pool which would be reflected in future Asset Management Plans as well as Annual and Long Term Plans.

## Tāngata Whenua Considerations

- 21 There are no Tāngata Whenua Considerations.

## Publicity Considerations

- 22 Specific communications will be required to ensure the local community is aware of the dates and opening hours for the 2013-14 season. Communication will be predominantly via targeted promotions and local news media.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 23 That the Council approves an operating season of 20 weeks per year for Waikanae Swimming Pool and opening hours generally reflective of the time of year and demand for early mornings during the height of summer as shown in Table 1 of this report CS-13-1003.

**Report prepared by:**

**Approved for submission by:**

Alison Law  
Aquatic Facilities Manager

Tamsin Evans  
Group Manager Community Services