

**ITEM-7 LMM 26/04/2022 - KEEP BERESFIELD POOL PUBLIC & LOW FEE**

**MOTION**

That City of Newcastle:

1. Recognises the unique, equitable and immensely important community service provided by Beresfield Pool to our western suburbs, particularly as local residents do not have the same ease of access to our free ocean pools;
2. Notes that in 2013, the Newcastle Independents Party tried to close and sell off Beresfield Pool and that when this was unable to be achieved due to significant community backlash, they attempted to reduce its opening hours and significantly increase entry fees;
3. Notes that Labor Councillors joined with the community to Save Beresfield Pool from closure in 2013, and have fought ever since to keep the entry fees at Beresfield Pool lower than any other swimming pool in the region, and maintain its opening hours for the community;
4. Notes that in the 2022/23 draft Budget, Beresfield Pool will join Mayfield and Wallsend Pools in receiving an updated Playground, as a part of our popular Playground Replacement Program;
5. Recommits to our longstanding commitment to the community to keep Beresfield Pool in public hands, and low fee, to ensure that families in our western suburbs have equitable access to a high-quality public pool.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2013, Newcastle Independent Councillors tried to close and sell off Beresfield Pool.

When this was unable to be achieved due to community backlash, they attempted to reduce its opening hours and significantly increase the fees for local users.

Beresfield Pool only remains a public facility because of community pressure, and the election of a Labor Mayor in 2014.

Labor Councillors joined with the community to save Beresfield Pool from closure in 2013 and have fought ever since to keep the entry fees at Beresfield Pool lower than any other swimming pool in the region, and to maintain its opening hours. The 2013 campaign included a rally of 700 residents and a “swim-in” protest against earlier closing times.

Newcastle Labor Councillors, with the support of Greens Councillors, continue to ensure that Beresfield Pool remains in public hands, and with the regions lowest entry fee of all public pools.