

Community Yarn Notes – 17th October 2023

5:45PM Q&A Session begins.

Question (Mala): In response to the head over heart comment in Mayor's presentation – a lot of the people here who are passionate about saving the pool are quite pragmatic and a lot of those are homeowners, and rate payers, and we look at it from a position of intelligence. We're not silly, we do know that. What I would like to know is, the \$8M from the DEC, why can't we use that? Because it does not appear in any financial statement from Council. I'd like to know what happened to that.

Answer (General Manager): The DEC was sold for approximately \$8M, \$2.4M of this was put aside for diversion of Lloyd Rd, that left \$5.6M. \$3.03M was put towards the Tolosa Dam remediation project. That project is jointly undertaken with TasWater. That left approximately \$2.5M which remains with Council.

Q (name not stated): That hasn't answered the question – you said that \$2.5M remain, and we know that the funds from the DEC were allocated to community projects. We also know that there's funding from the financial assistance grants to Local Government and that Council received \$1.5M for roads and another \$1.2 for general usage. That was granted this year. Pool repairs adds up to under \$3M. I don't think that the people here accept that repair is not an option. I think it's wonderful that Lacus is here because we do know that you've jumped to the option of not repairing the pool however your own report states that the opinions, conclusions, and recommendations in this report are based on assumptions made by Lacus. On page 40 you've noted that whilst the investigation has attempted to identify and locate all risks and features as outlined in this report it should be noted that the review is limited and involved non-invasive visual inspection. This report is not intended to be used for the purposes of tendering, which you've already done, programming of works, refurbishment of works or demolition works – which you've started by draining the pool. *(Applause)*

A (Mayor): So I think your question was why can't the \$2.5M be used to repair the pool. As mentioned earlier, the estimate provided by the consultants are that the repairs would cost approximately \$5M for that option 3, which then provides the minimum ongoing cost per annum to the ratepayer. As I mentioned earlier, Council does not believe it is a responsible use of ratepayers' money to repair the pool. It would take 18-24 months, looking at 2 years to undertake the repairs required. And then within 5 years, could be earlier, but it would be a maximum of 5 years of life out of it, then we'd be back to this drawing board again having spent all of that ratepayers money just to end up back in exactly the same position. So Council does not consider it a responsible use of ratepayers' money for that particular outcome. Acknowledged that the community don't want to hear that, and people are upset about that and feel the pool needs to be and should be repaired, but simply, that's not a responsible use of ratepayers' money.

Q (Nicole): – You have said it would be a waste of our money. We have a piece of the puzzle missing here, which is the public consultation. You're saying, "we we we", you Councillors have decided. You are voted in by us, you should be asking us what we want. I want the pool repaired and I think to state it's a waste of money is an assumption; you haven't asked us. *(Applause)*

A (Mayor): Council is elected to make decisions on behalf of the community. We make decisions routinely on matters that affect the community without consultation, and particularly where there are matters of community safety. It would not be appropriate to consult on the decision to close the pool. That was a matter of public safety. Council wants to explore all options and will include significant community consultation.

You will have the opportunity to have your say on what you want to see in a replacement facility. The consultant will be looking at all options. You will be able to put your view forward through that particular process. The concern around draining the pool, we know that the pool shell is 60 years old, even if we were to repair the pool, we would not use a 60-year-old shell, it just would not be the wise thing to do. Happy to have the consultant talk more on this. *(Concerns raised from crowd through interjections around draining of the pool).*

Michael (consultant): Wanted to acknowledge that he was not representing Lacus, he is from Knowledge, who Lacus consulted to. Lacus are the pre-eminent experts in Australia on aquatic engineering. So, when they say it's not in good condition, and it's not safe and not repairable, we seriously listen. *(Inaudible follow up from speaker, crowd calling out about report, some asking the crowd to let him speak. Facilitator reminded crowd to listen to answers from speakers).*

When the Mayor tells you it's a matter of safety, she's actually correct *(speaker interrupted, asks crowd to let him finish)*. Some of the things we've found in the pool, there is an issue in particular that I found, that really concerned me. Under the grandstand where the pool equipment is, there is a switchboard as old as the pool, about 60 years old. There is leaking in the plant room, if the 17-year-old kid doing a summer job at the pool got killed, all of the Elected Members would be in the coroner's court. It is their risk. So, they've made a decision on really matter of fact information.

(Yelling and question from crowd including - why can't Council just get a new switchboard. Facilitator brought speakers back to questioners).

This wasn't a decision taken lightly. This wasn't the intended decision. We were asked to look at the pool from a completely objective position which we did. And some of the things we found were just quite alarming. We're not trying to make the community angry; we're not trying to upset the community. We're just trying to make sure that the people who are empowered to make the decision by the community have all the facts in front of them.

A (Director Infrastructure & Development): When Council set out to have the pool audit done our original plan was to do the condition assessment and then survey the community so we could start planning ahead for what we might start putting back on that site. We didn't get that far because the report was so damning, the condition it was in was not safe. So, the intention was to actually go to the community and start that consultation process so we could start applying for grants, but unfortunately, we didn't quite get that far. But we have recommenced that process we've got a consultants brief out now asking for proposals for aquatic pools, or other health or leisure activities that can be done on that site so we can actually get costings and designs and apply for a grant.

Q (name not stated): *(Questioner didn't complete question, wanted to hold microphone instead of staff holding for her as was procedure for yarn, said she felt intimidated. Facilitator advised we would come back to questioner once they were happy to follow meeting rules).*

Q (Rob): May I make a suggestion to Council, the Federal Government spent a lot of money on a referendum, why doesn't the Glenorchy Council ask us what we want? Spend some of our hard-earned bloody money on what we want. Have it in writing, then Council would have a mandate to work with and from. I think that's a pretty reasonable request from a ratepayer. *(Applause)*.

A (Mayor): Council is about to commence a process to ask the community what they want. That is part of the work that we are going to be undertaking through this process that we are embarking on. It is a significant part of that project. I know it is difficult to wait and be patient and that the news is raw, but the consultation will be a significant part of the project.

In terms of referendum and elector polls, there is under the Local Govt Act a provision for elector polls. They are extremely expensive, they are not compulsory and the decision is not binding on Council. Council would have to take the finding of an elector poll into consideration but would also be required to take into consideration other factors such as expert advice and the financial situation of Council. With all these things to be considered it could be a further waste of ratepayer money to undertake an elector poll.

Q (name not stated): *(Questioner wouldn't use microphone as requested and was asked to do so to ensure question was recorded for notes).*

Q (name not stated): I think my question is to the General Manager, are you the responsible health and safety person at Council? It almost appears like there was a sentinel event on the night that the pool closed. Nobody had a whiff that the pool was unsafe before that time, and then as soon as the pool closed it was dangerous to the public. As the responsible health and safety officer for Glenorchy City Council, are you prepared for a class action from ratepayers and also people that were employed at the pool last season and possibly seasons before if it's so bloody dangerous?

A (General Manager): I'd rather have a class action than be in the coroner's court. My primary responsibility as the person controlling the business and undertaking for Council under the work health and safety act is for the public safety and for the safety of employees and that's a duty that I take very seriously. *(Questioner calling out comments, facilitator reminded to listen to answers).*

A (Mayor): Can I just add what changed between last season and now and the time that Tony made that decision, is that Council received the condition assessment that it previously did not have. Tony made that decision based on information in front of him and that's all he can make decisions based on.

Q (name not stated): We've literally lost faith. If we pay for our own engineer as a public, can we under my insurances as a builder access the pool and find out own engineers report? To find out what is actually wrong. *(Inaudible comments from questioner as crowd applauds).*

We're talking about saving our shell, we can isolate that problem, close the pool for a certain amount of time. My mate will build us a switchboard and come and put it in place and we will have the power to our pumps to our pool. It will be safe. We need to know exactly what's wrong, that is not something that's unsafe and wrecks our shell. Emptying our pool wrecks our shell. *(Applause)*

A (Director Infrastructure & Development): There is probably nothing stopping another engineer giving a second opinion. We know that you can build a new switchboard and fix up some of the other items, but we are still left with a 60 year old pool shell.

(Questioner calling out more comments about aggregate in the pool shell).

Any public asset has a finite life. At some point you do have to renew it.

(Questioner calling out more comments about an 80-year-old pool).

At the end of the day if we are going to redevelop the pool, we need to cease the operation of the old one and put a new pool shell in.

(Questioner calling out that they don't have faith Council will put a pool back).

It's not just the pool shell, we are losing 35,000 litres of water a day.

(Crowd calling out questions about how it is leaking, where it is going).

The water is escaping the pool, it's 200mms below the water table so it's leaking into the water table or possibly into the creek.

(Inaudible further details).

We have water meter readings that were installed just before the 21-22 season and it was read the day after it was closed so we can verify that it is using that amount of water. The other issues we have got is the change facilities.*

Q (Natalie): You say it was unexpected that the pool needed to shut, and it suddenly had to close subject to the report. And yet in September 2022, 6 months before the consultant was hired and concluded the pool had to close, the GCC released a draft of their Strategic Asset Management Plan which states that Glenorchy Council intends to reduce the level of the service and educate customers to accept appropriate asset failures and to use services from existing infrastructure including aquatic centres which might exist in other areas. Had Council already decided before you even undertook the consultant's report that you would shut the pool?

A (Director Infrastructure & Development): The answer is no, because we anticipated we had probably 2-3 years life left in the pool before we did the audit, hence the reason we were going to start another consultation process but unfortunately the report came back with a bit more serious safety concerns so that's why it was shut abruptly.

Q (name not stated): For the last 12 years, the rates on my property has gone up considerably. Almost double in the time that TasWater separated from being billed in Council rates, we were told at the time that by adding the two together it would stay the same, that hasn't happened. They've both ended up about exactly the same. Over that period we have had substantial increases, and I know you said we're not to look back in the past, however, the pool clearly hasn't been maintained. 60 years didn't come on us overnight, it's been going on for that 60 years. Where's been the foresight, what's happened to all of this increased money? Why can other councils like Hobart City Council have a beautiful pool and we can't? I mean what are we getting? *(Crowd calling out)*

A (Mayor): In reference to the Hobart pool, they are also seeking funding for upgrades and redevelopment. It is an issue for pools across the state and the country that they are very expensive to run. We certainly have been investing in maintaining the pool over the last decade, or over the 60 years of the life that it's had. And that is why we've been able to get 60 years life out of what is typically a 40-year asset life. Through Council's maintenance we have been able to achieve that additional life. And as Emilio [Director of Infrastructure and Development] said, we expected, based on our superficial condition assessments that we'd have another couple of years which is why we had begun advocating over the last couple of years for Federal Government funding knowing that it's coming to the end of its life and that this point would come. We were quite clear in our advocacy to the Federal Government that unless funding was to be secured for redevelopment it was likely that the pool would have to close. We weren't successful in that submission for funding. In terms of rates, they are complex, Glenorchy rates have gone up and down over the last 20 years.

Some years back in the 90s there were 0% rate rises, so there were no rate rises. There were years where they've been low, through COVID we froze rates. And then we have had some more significant rate rises to cover the cost of delivering basic essential services – roads, footpaths, stormwater, and other recreational facilities. This is not a decision that Council wanted to make, I really want to stress that. I'm genuinely saying I want exactly what you want. Our fellow elected members, we want to see a pool in Glenorchy, this is not something we are enjoying doing. It is bloody hard, so I just wanted to put that out there as well.

Q (name not stated): So, you say you've put budget bids in but why haven't you put any grant applications in? There's a whole heap of funding that can be applied for.

A (Mayor): Federal grant applications typically require dollar for dollar funding. We haven't had \$15M sitting in the bank to match a Federal Government funding application bid and that's something that will continue to be an issue going forward. Where these significant assets tend to get funded is through election promises where they don't require matching funding. If you are not in a marginal seat, which we are not, have not been for some time, it is very difficult to get this significant amount of funding. And we are going to be up against it going forward, we've got to be realistic about that but we will try.

Q (name not stated): I have heard over and over again today "safety, safety, safety". What exactly, because looking at those reports, there are no major safety hazards in there, a structural engineer hasn't done an assessment on the grandstand yet, please explain where all these "safety, safety, safety" problems have occurred from.

A (General Manager): As PCBU I've got primary responsibility for work health and safety. The items in the condition assessment that were provided to me convinced me that it was a prudent thing to do to maintain the closure of the pool for the foreseeable future. The reasons are structural issues with the concrete grandstand, an urgent requirement for the electrical switchboard to be upgraded and replaced, major works required for the chemical dosing and filtration area, structural issues with the waterslide, trips, slips and fall hazards in the concourse, and a complete refurbishment of toilets and change room areas required to meet current child safety requirements, privacy, and accessibility standards. So that's the information that I've relied upon to make that decision.

Q (name not stated): This new community consultation project/process, what does that look like? Will we be able to say bugger the slide, bugger the grandstand? Pretty safe to say none of us really are attached to that at all, is that going to be something that we get to put in that consultation process?

A (General Manager): The aim of this project that has been initiated, we are about to procure a consultant now, the intention of that is to look at the objectives for the site and look at selection criteria for what is a suitable project. And then we want to get ideas from the community about what can happen on that site, we know there will be lots of suggestions about the pool, but Council will have to make a major decision about the future of this site. So we need to make sure that we are looking at a range of options, and looking at concept designs and also looking at costing information and cost benefit analysis. We are open to hearing people's ideas, and we are going to build those into the analysis for the project.

Q (name not stated): Can you explain how Council only got \$8M for the sale of the DEC and associated land? That doesn't seem like good money management to me.

A (General Manager): Council received the DEC for free from the State Government originally and so the \$8M is a lot more than the nominal transfer that we got the DEC for in the first place. *(People calling out not value for money.)* I can assure you this was properly valued at the time.

Q (name not stated): *(Questioner who didn't want microphone calling out that she hasn't gotten to ask a question yet. Began walking up to speakers and asked to sit down. Facilitator asked questioner to sit down, and we would come back to her. Mayor reminded crowd that the purpose of using microphones is to correctly record questions to make sure we get it right).*

Q (Deanne): *(Grabbed microphone from staff member and walked to front of crowd).* I just want to come over here to this lovely lady because she might let me hold the microphone for her.

I just want to ask while Council is considering talking to the community on what we want, fill the pool back up, protect its integrity. You're destroying an asset. All pools actually lose money all throughout Australia, but they save lives, they are teaching kids to swim. This pool was donated land, it was dug by the diggers, it's a memorial. What right have we got as a Council say we're not going to have a pool. *(Facilitator asked questioner what their question was)*. Will you consider refilling the pool and perhaps giving it to a community organisation to run? Other communities run a pool; will you fill the pool while we can discuss this as a community? *(Some audience members walked out at this point, making it clear they weren't comfortable with behaviour of some in the audience)*.

A (Director Infrastructure & Development): Filling the pool also comes with a range of issues. Having the quality of water, the stock not looked after, not manned poses a safety risk. The water is stagnating, there is a lot of algae that will grow, and it grows quicker in the warmer weather. We'd have to fire up the equipment that's already basically condemned to actually circulate that water and try and filter it out. And the pool is leaking 35,000 litres a day, the pool shell in a pool redevelopment is not going to stay.

(Audience member calling out).

We'll be looking at redeveloping a long-term option with a new pool shell. Filling it up won't provide any additional life in that pool.

(Audience member calling out).

The consultants brief asks that the community is consulted, and the consultation is run as a community-centric proposal, so the ideas are drawn from the community of what you would like to see on that site. It's not coming from us, not coming from the consultant, they'd have to draw that out from the community and then develop concepts based on that.

(Audience calling out question, facilitator summarised question as how will the community have the opportunity to provide that consultation)

A (Director Infrastructure & Development): Council will hold organised engagement sessions – yarns, pop ups, sites where people will be invited, public exhibition etc. People will be asked to provide comment and ideas on that, so no it won't be just via a poll. *(Inaudible further questions from audience member)*.

Q (name not stated): *(Inaudible)* those mastic seals were in the Lacus report as needing to be in highly chlorinated water and you guys have emptied the pool and you didn't consult us about it. It's clear and it's written there in the Lacus report and its disgusting behaviour and really disrespectful behaviour to us the community who have come to you with our heart open to you asking you guys to help us. In that vein, I want to ask you as per her deputation at last Council meeting, Australian of the Year Shane Gould has offered to help us find a solution together.

I have asked Council to meet with us and work in a workshop kind of affair, respectfully and openly and go through the questions that Shane Gould has provided to us. And it's very useful, Shane won Australian of the Year in 1972 *(facilitator prompted what question audience member is asking)*. Respectfully, Shane Gould won Australian of the year in 1972 and you should be showing her respect as well as us, and you should be acknowledging that offer of free expert advice. Why has Council not acknowledged that offer?

A (Mayor): As I have communicated with you, I've offered to meet with you, I'm happy to meet with you and members of your group at any time.

(Questioner interjecting and calling out that Mayor not answering question).

Please let me finish like we let you finish, I'm happy to meet with you at any time. And I'm happy to meet with Shane Gould at any time. Council hasn't been contacted by Shane Gould.

(Audience member calling out again).

We'll be happy to engage with Shane through the community consultation process like we will engage with any interested stakeholders through this project. It is important that there is equal opportunity through this particular project that we are undertaking.

Q (Mala): *(Inaudible)* I asked a question about the \$8M and my question was there's no proof of the \$8M having reached the GCC account. Where is that pooled and how are you drawing on it. So where is the actual \$8M, I've had a really good look.

A (Director Infrastructure & Development): Each year we do a property disposal report on funds that we gain from sales or transfers. In the August open Council meeting a full explanation of where that \$8M has gone is in that Council report.

(Audience member called out where was the money deposited? You could well say \$2.5M going there, \$2.5M going there....is my first language and I am a barrister so I know. I read the report and it does not feature there. I want to know when a property is sold \$8M gets transferred into that account. It's not there, we don't see it)

A (Director Infrastructure & Development): That money is in an investment account for the Council. *(Crowd calling out, inaudible)*. What's the difference with that portion of money, compared to the rest of Council's investment portfolio. We have investment portfolios that are detailed in the financial statements. It is transparent, totally transparent. When the auditors are finished with the books, you have a look and see if there's any issues with that.

Q (name not stated): Should Council fail to secure funding to refurbish the pool, how can you expect to fund what you plan to put there instead? *(Applause)*.

A (Mayor): At this point in time, we don't have the answer to that question. That is something we will be exploring. Council will explore not only all funding options, but all options for providing a pool and/or other recreation facility on that site. *(Audience member calling out)*. There could be a whole range of options to explore. Council could explore going into debt, we as a Council have very low debt and that is something we have prided ourselves on over time to try to keep rates as low as possible. We could explore looking at borrowings, and again that is something we'd consult community on. Is the community prepared to pay back a \$30-50M loan over the next 30 years, is that something the community is willing to do to be able to provide this asset. We may look for other options for running a pool, are there public/private partnerships that could occur? Is the State Government interested in running a pool? What other opportunities are there?

We are open-minded, and we have no answers at this point because we want the community to contribute to where we go into the future. We are genuine in this, we are not hiding anything from you, we want to bring you on the journey, and we want you to be part of this conversation and work with us. Together we can get the best outcome for the community, if we continue to be divided, we are going to struggle with our advocacy efforts so we really want to bring you on board with this.

Q (Greg): Emilio mentioned the fact that you're going to have to go through the grants process to raise money for whatever else is deemed to be on that site. Why can't we use the grant process to raise funds to fix the pool that's already there?

A (Mayor): If through this consultation process it comes out really strongly that the community wants to see the existing pool repaired then part of the work the consultant will do will be to get full detailed drawings and costings done for that particular option. Now we as a Council based on the information we have before us currently, don't see that as a wise or responsible use of ratepayer money which is why we've said we need to undertake this project to look at all the options. So all of your voices, all the contributions you're making here tonight will be an important part of that project to be undertaken. But we need to know the specifics of these costs going forward. As we've repeatedly said on the pool shell issue, even if we were to repair the pool it would not be a wise use of ratepayer money to use the existing, to repair the existing shell. It is likely you would need a new shell even if you were to repair it or you would get even less life out of the repaired pool. So we need more detail, and that's what this project is going to undertake. I know it's hard to be patient, I know everyone's frustrated and this is not the outcome you want and a lot of what we say isn't going to make you feel any better about it, it doesn't make us feel any better about it either if it's any consolation. It's not like this is something we're enjoying doing, so we want you to work with us. *(Audience member calling out to refill the pool now).*

Q (Angela): It's obvious the frustration here and a lot of this could have been thwarted by having an official public meeting and that hasn't come to be so it's hard for us to see that there's any genuine desire to consult. The other thing is regarding the repair of the pool, you've already written into the scope of the tender that it does not include repair. It's looking at redevelopment or other options. At the same time, this is why it's so difficult to join up the dots, you've also said if you happen to get a windfall of \$30M to build a new asset, you've already got \$1B of assets you're struggling to maintain. How do we have any faith that even if everybody here and the whole community wanted a new pool and that was put forward to the consultant, that you would end up seeing that as a fiscally responsible outcome and then brush that aside to put in netball courts on that site? Nothing adds up.

A (Mayor): How you can be assured we will respond to that – if that is overwhelmingly what the community tells us they want, we will also have alongside that to present to the community what that's going to cost over the life of the asset. That's what we don't have at the moment. If we present [hypothetically] that it's going to cost this much and so there's going to be a \$500 pool levy on the rates notice every year, for every individual ratepayer, is the community happy with that outcome? Because that realistically might be what it comes down to, we cannot send the Council broke to provide this and at the moment we don't have that information before us to make that decision. That's why the community consultation is really important, not just on what people want to see but what they're prepared to pay and that will be all part of this project.

Q (Sally): First of all, want to say I live in Lindisfarne, so not a ratepayer but my son was a lifeguard at the pool. It was flat out at the pool, often I'd drop him off from training at the beach and there would be a line of people waiting.

It was flat out busy, but the thing is we'd often visit and then we'd come and go shopping in Glenorchy. If the pool's not there, our family of 5, we're not coming over here to spend money in this municipality. Clarence is close but it's indoors, Hobart's is indoor, you're missing the point, this is an attraction that's a regional facility for the whole of Hobart, it's outdoor. I was up at Devonport on the weekend and went to Splash, they were filling the outdoor pool, the indoor pool was open. Someone asked when the pool will be ready, they said 1st of November, they're going to have their indoor closed for renovations. There is demand for outdoor pools. *(Facilitator prompted questioner to get to question).* My question is, you said that this project will be completed at the end of March but in the tender briefing it talks about 33 weeks and it needs to be completed in 33 weeks from the date of the contract.

So if this is still out for another couple of weeks, then you have to go through and choose to get someone, that's going to be another timeframe...*(Facilitator prompted questioner to get to question)* and then that would be a lot longer than the project date of March.

A (Director Infrastructure & Development): You're correct, the timeline is an estimate, and we'd have to get a consultant and engage them and ask them for their project plan. We'll want to see how they'd plan out the community engagement sessions, report back to Council, report back to Council. Bring together the different stakeholder groups, bring back to Council. So, it is dependent on how that consultant will operate it. Council is trying to get it completed by March, so we've stipulated that in our documents. It may not quite be March depending on the project plan we get back. *(Inaudible further question from questioner)*. We would certainly draw a line to make sure it's close, but we'd have to be reasonable to make sure we capture all the feedback and the engagement. We don't want to just rush it through and not listen.

Q (name not stated): Has the Council actually asked other areas who have pools whether they can cope with extra people coming from Glenorchy to their pools? And how are you going to ensure young families whose parents probably can't drive and older people with mobility issues to get to another pool. How are you going to help those people access such a huge recreational activity? *(Applause)*.

A (General Manager): The reality is that if someone has mobility problems, they will need to use a vehicle to get to other facilities. *(Crowd members calling out that Council is not living in the real world)*. The reality is that this pool is going to be closed for a couple of years whatever happens. There are alternative pool facilities available, they may not be as convenient as this particular site but that's just the reality.

A (Director Infrastructure & Development): If I could just clarify on part of question have we talked to other pool providers. The answer is yes we have, we actually checked with Hobart, they recently ran a project of collecting postcodes to see how many...we were informed there were about 69,000 Glenorchy residents that attended the Hobart pool. They had over 560,000 visits last financial year, and they said they did have the capacity to take extra patrons from the Glenorchy area.

Q (name not stated): Why wasn't the proper maintaining of the pool happening years prior to this? Why weren't rates being used wisely? Why are we being told that rates are going to rise now, like a scare tactic to scare people off. We're not worried about the money, we're more worried about why the money wasn't being spent before now. *(Crowd calling out about maintenance money)*.

A (Director Infrastructure & Development): The pool wasn't cash-backed as far as depreciation. Some assets you can put money away to build up a sinking fund to replace it. It is high-cost, high-value asset, it is a legitimate strategy is to run it to the end of the life and then try and get it funded through Federal or State Government. The pool has been maintained. *(Crowd members calling out)*.

The pool has been run for, the pool has actually lasted 10-20 years longer than its anticipated life cycle. But at some point, the pool, like all public infrastructure will come to the end of its life. You can't keep running things forever, you have to actually replace them at some point. *(Questioner calling out that this doesn't answer the question)*. You asked why haven't we maintained the pool. We have maintained the pool. *(Crowd calling out)*.

Q (Ailsa): With all due respect, counting the number of people from Glenorchy postcodes going to the aquatic centre only counts for the people who go there, it doesn't count people who don't go there because they can't get there but they can get to the pool in Glenorchy. That's my first point. This is National Seniors Week, this is National Carers Week. We live in a country with an aging population.

Tasmania has an older population, it has a sicker population. And we are getting older and sicker. People have to care for those sick people. I recognise that in the Glenorchy Gazette, the piece about the new skatepark, and the mountain bike park, it talks about the benefits of health activities, recreational activities as promoting health. It does not promote everybody's. I can't get on a mountain bike at my age, and I'm certainly not getting on skatepark at my age. *(Facilitator asked questioner to get to question)*. My question is. Let's talk about the future. We're getting older and sicker. Who is going to care for people getting older and sicker? Who are going to get older and sicker faster because we don't have facilities like a pool. *(Applause)*.

A (Mayor): We will do everything we can to replace this pool. I maintain that, we want what you want.

A (Consultant): I've listened to a lot of things, and a lot of people are making great points. I'm not arguing with that, it's really good about the aging population, the concept of being able to challenge bureaucracy is fantastic. I think it's a great way to be. But can someone answer me in this group, how a person who is a quadriplegic is going to get into the pool at Glenorchy. *(Crowd member called out "it's called hydrotherapy, they have hydrotherapy. They've got the NDIS guy")*. I understand that, we have a hoist**, we can hoist them in, but there's no ramp, so for the older people *(crowd member called out "you're trying to throw an obstacle in front, this is ridiculous." Inaudible)*. I'm not battling you *(crowd interjecting, inaudible comments. One crowd member with microphone comments "I'm not trying to be awful but that's quite ignorant". Applause. This is followed by yelling from the crowd about picking on a woman who has a son is disabled, insults about being disgusting)*.

Q (name not stated): *(Asked consultant to sit down so they could talk to them. Crowd members yelling and leaving the yarn)*. I don't personally have any disability, I'm very lucky to be quite healthy, but I work with a bunch of children who struggle to use *(inaudible as crowd members calling out)* I think it is so ignorant, as someone who's not got a disability to talk about them as if you know why they're going through. You said, "how are they meant to do it", well that's a question that the Council should be asking. *(Inaudible comments from crowd, questioner replied to let her talk)*. If you ask that question, it needs to come from a place of support, that came from 'what are you doing, blah, blah, blah'. It's not the case ok. It came out very wrong mate. *(Inaudible yelling from crowd)*.

A (Mayor): We are about to wrap things up because it is 6.40pm so we have gone a little bit over time. I'm sorry if anyone was offended by those comments, I genuinely believe that was not the intention. Ald Dunsby has been saying to me as well that one of the things that concerns us is that the current pool facility is not accessible for everyone. That's not to say people with mobility issues can't get into the pool, it is not accessible for everyone and in a new facility we would 100% want it to be accessible for everyone. In a modern facility we would want it to meet modern day accessibility standards, and that is what we would be striving for. And I'm very sure that's what the community will tell us they want through this consultation process. *(Crowd calling out)*.

We are going to wrap it up because it is 6.40pm, if you have not had your question answered we are more than happy to hear from you. I am happy to personally meet with you individually, that offer is on the table and I'm sure many of our elected members are happy to meet with you individually to have two-way conversation about this. The opportunities for engagement in this project will be quite significant and there'll be a range of different opportunities for people to have their say and so we welcome your engagement and participation through the consultation process. *(Crowd calling out about being rude.)*.

Facilitator: We are actually going to wrap things up, just a reminder as well there is a board if you would like to write more questions. We have the QR code, and all the questions and answers from tonight have been recorded and will be shared on the Let's Talk site.

Mayor: I apologise if I offended you, that was not my intention. I apologise if I've offended anyone, I am genuinely doing my bloody best here in the interests of the community, nothing I say is going to convince some of you of that. This is not an easy job for any of us, this is not something we want to be doing. I really ask you to put yourself in our shoes for a moment and try and understand we are genuinely acting in the best interests of the community and want the same outcome as you from this. We need to work together on this, thank you for coming and have a good night. (*Crowd chanting 'save our pool.'*)

5:43PM Q&A Session ends.

*This is one of many issues.

**There is no hoist facility at the Glenorchy Pool.