



CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

October 3, 2023

Media Release

Changes to town swimming pool operations

At the September monthly Council meeting it was resolved to endorse operational changes to the Shire public swimming pools.

These changes will see the implementation of Unsupervised Swimming Pool Operations at all pools from 10am to 7.30pm.

As part of the changes there will be periods when the pools will be open under supervision. During these supervised openings Council will engage Cultural Solutions to provide lifeguards.

- Council will engage lifeguards to supervise patrons at Wilcannia and Menindee Swimming Pools from 3:30pm to 6:30pm weekdays and from 3:00pm to 7:00pm weekends and Public Holidays.
- Council will engage lifeguards to supervise patrons at Ivanhoe and White Cliffs Swimming Pools from 3.00pm to 7.00pm for Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Public Holidays.

In recent weeks Council advertised for lifeguards at White Cliffs and Menindee but there was very not enough interest to meet requirements.

The operational change for public pools comes after Council implemented unsupervised swimming pool operations at Ivanhoe and White Cliffs during the 2022-23 season. Menindee and Wilcannia remained on lifeguard supervised operations during limited hours only.

Council staff received both positive and negative feedback from the trialled operations last summer, the main points being:

- Unsupervised - Parents raised concerns about safety of patrons and would prefer lifeguards be on duty to supervise.
- Unsupervised – Patrons would like access to the swimming pools early morning, 5:30am to 7:30am to swim laps and/or walk for hydro exercise.
- Supervised – Patrons would like longer opening hours, especially on weekends and public holidays.
- Supervised – Those people who misbehave or abuse lifeguards should be banned from the swimming pools.
- Supervised - Patrons would like access to the swimming pools early morning, 5:30am to 7:30am to swim laps and/or walk for hydro exercise.

Ends.

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