

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
ALICE SPRINGS AQUATIC & LEISURE CENTRE COMMITTEE**  
ON 25 July 2018 at 1:00pm  
MEETING ROOM, ALICE SPRINGS AQUATIC & LEISURE CENTRE

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**1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:**

PRESENT:

Mayor Damien Ryan  
Councillor Jamie de Brenni  
Councillor Marli Banks (*Chairperson*)  
Councillor Jimmy Cocking

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Rex Mooney, Chief Executive Officer  
Scott Allen, Director Technical Services  
Biggi Gosling, Acting Director Corporate & Community Services  
Dinesh Pillay, Director Finance  
Simon Duke, Manager Alice Springs Aquatic & Leisure Centre  
Kiri Milne, Executive Assistant (*Minutes*)

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Jacinta Price

<b>13th Alice Springs Town Council ALICE SPRINGS AQUATIC &amp; LEISURE CENTRE COMMITTEE</b>	<i>Mar - 18</i>	<i>Jul - 18</i>
Mayor Damien Ryan	✓	✓
Councillor Marli Banks	✓	✓
Councillor Jamie de Brenni	✓	✓
Councillor Jimmy Cocking	X	✓
Councillor Jacinta Price	✓	X

The meeting opened at 1:04pm.

**2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:**

Nil.

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

RESOLVED:

That it be a recommendation to Council:

**That the minutes of the meeting held 28 March 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceeding of that meeting.**

Moved: Councillor Jamie de Brenni  
Seconded: Councillor Marli Banks

Passed unanimously by the committee.

### 3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

#### 3.1 Site overview - signage

Manager ASALC spoke to the placement of the Alice Springs Town Council signage and confirmed that it is displayed prominently at ASALC, with photos provided to the Committee in the meeting.

#### 3.2 Australian Aquatics Industry Overview

Mayor Damien Ryan queried the result of the kiosk price audit undertaken. Manager ASALC confirmed that the audit outcome demonstrated that the product pricing is comparable to market prices. Product pricing ranged between 60% and 200% profitability and indicated that the retail price of four items increased after the audit.

Manager ASALC further confirmed that school newsletters were utilised to advertise ASALC and to inform that school vouchers can also be used at ASALC. A poster was also provided to schools.

#### 3.3 ASALC Business & Marketing Plan

Manager ASALC elaborated on the Business and Marketing Plan, as well as on the changes and progress that was made so far this financial year.

Acting Director Corporate and Community Services announced that grant support to carry out a business plan for ASALC had been successfully awarded and that Verve Group were selected as the Consultancy to deliver the strategic review and business plan.

Manager ASALC noted that the process has begun and is liaising with Martin Pike of Verve Group on the plan. The next steps will include full engagement with consumers and user groups to provide guidance. The strategic review process is expected to be completed within 8-12 weeks, with the business plan to immediately follow.

Discussion ensued regarding the decision to appoint Verve Group for the business plan proposal. Manager ASALC further explained that Verve Group submitted the best price and had relevant experience.

The business plan will identify strengths and weaknesses, business models and recommendations regarding potential uses of the grounds.

#### 3.4 ASALC 2017/18 Financials to date

Director Finance elaborated on the monthly ASALC Financial Report and provided an overview of the budget, speaking to *Attachment A – A Budgeted Statement of Financial Performance As at June 30 2018*. Director Finance clarified that the figures are interim at this stage and are to be finalised by end October.

Director Finance further noted that compared to per 2017/18, ASALC showed an improvement of income. Employee costs were noted as the main expense.

Mayor Damien Ryan enquired to the employee costs budgeted for 2018 compared to the employee costs budgeted for 2019.

**ACTION:**

Director Finance to provide a cost comparison of the employee costs budgeted for 2018 and employee costs budgeted for 2019.

**3.5 ASALC Budget Proposal Considerations****3.5.1 Fees and charges**

Manager ASALC noted that the response from the public regarding the entry fee price increase has been positive and that the timing of the increase had been appropriate based on user group and consumer feedback.

**3.5.2 Centre improvements**

Manager ASALC elaborated on facility improvements undertaken in 2017/2018 and referred to report *ASALC 2017-18 Financial Year Summary Report*.

Mayor Damien Ryan enquired to the status of the ASALC solar array. Director Technical Services advised that the installation is complete, but with connection pending. Manager ASALC further explained that the solar array wasn't included in the *ASALC 2017-18 Financial Year Summary Report* as it was a project fully managed by Technical Services.

Manager ASALC further explained that regular meetings occur with user groups. Mayor Damien Ryan requested an invitation to the user group meetings be extended to elected members. Councillor Cocking then reiterated that if elected members were present at these meetings, it could result in items for discussion or recommendations to be able to be discussed in Council meetings quicker.

Councillor Jimmy Cocking discussed the issue of shower taps being left on, resulting in waste of water. Councillor Cocking then asked if there are opportunities to recycle water on-site, or implement water saving processes. Director Technical Services recommended that the Committee explore push-timed taps as a possible solution.

Discussion ensued in regards to the process of how maintenance works are performed on Council assets and completed by external bodies and user groups as Manager ASALC explained that recent works were completed on the swim tower through a grant that Alice Springs Swimming Club had received.

Director Technical Services confirmed that there are some grey areas that exist regarding who is responsible for maintenance to the swim tower and club sheds on the ASALC site.

**ACTION:**

Manager ASALC to provide notice to elected Council members about upcoming user group meetings.

**3.5.3 Winter Operating hours**

The Manager ASALC relayed to the Committee that the change the winter opening hours will be implemented from May 2019.

Manager ASALC reiterated that regular facility user groups will not be affected by the timing changes and that lifeguards and customer service staff will be stationed during these times.

#### **4. OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Indoor facility ventilation**

Councillor Marli Banks enquired to the ventilation at the indoor facility as the air seems chlorinated; can the ventilation be improved?

Manager ASALC advised the Committee that outside temperature dictates when the doors are opened at the indoor facility, which in turn affects ventilation. Manager ASALC noted that the indoor centre is heated to be at optimum temperature for swimmers rather than spectators.

Manager ASALC also confirmed that regular scheduled maintenance on the ventilation system does take place.

##### **4.2 Water slides**

Manager ASALC advised that regular water slide opening times are in place, with signage added to the kiosk area.

##### **4.3 Outdoor pool heating**

Manager ASALC advised that this was reviewed as part of the report prepared for Council regarding winter operating hours. Manager ASALC confirmed that the outdoor pool will still be heated next winter.

Mayor Damien Ryan queried the status of the outdoor pool works and maintenance. Manager ASALC confirmed that all works to the outdoor pool were completed on time and to budget. All coping tiles have been renewed; all pool depth signage updated, new grates and stainless steel strips applied to all control joints.

Mayor Damien Ryan further queried when the grassed area will be open to public again and what space the area will take up. Director Technical Services noted that only the solar area will be fenced off, with the remaining green space open to the patrons.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **5.1 2017-18 Financial Year Overview – Attachment A.**

Discussed as part of *3.4 ASALC 2018/19 Financials to date.*

##### **5.2 Update on Strategic Review and Business Planning**

Discussed as part of *3.3 ASALC Business and Marketing Plan.*

##### **5.3 Update on Scheduled Maintenance to 50m and 25m pool**

Scheduled maintenance works to the 50m pool were completed in July with the pool scheduled to be reopened on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Manager ASALC advised scheduled maintenance work for the 25m pool will take place over December – January School Holidays. This is the least disruptive period for works to take place.

#### 5.4 Updated Hours for winter 2019

Discussed as part of 3.5.3 *Winter Operating Hours*.

### 6. OTHER BUSINESS:

#### 6.1 **Removal of Merchant Surcharge**

Director of Finance noted that the removal of the eftpos merchant surcharge has been welcomed by the public.

#### 6.2 **Removal of salt bushes**

Councillor Cocking queried whether the area occupied by salt bush growth can be cleared for other uses. Director Technical Services advised that conditions relating to the building of the indoor centre required ASTC to plant and maintain 100 salt bush plants in the area they are currently located.

#### 6.3 **ASALC Nutrition Assessment Report**

Mayor Ryan requested an update on the report and whether recommendations have been implemented. Manager ASALC confirmed that 25 red items have been removed and 6 green items added. ASALC have been aggressively implementing recommendations from the NT Government nutritionist to ensure alignment with the 'Healthy Choices' policy.

#### 6.4 **Strategic Plan – Swimming Capabilities for Children**

Councillor Cocking asked the Committee how progress against the key indicator in Council's Strategic Plan related to increasing swimming capabilities for local children could be monitored.

Manager ASALC and the Programs Coordinator ASALC can provide this data. Mayor Damien Ryan requested that the regular updates are given through Monthly Directorate update reports.

#### **ACTION:**

Manager ASALC to ensure relevant data is included in monthly directorate reports.

#### 6.5 **Upcoming Events**

Director Technical Services enquired about the upcoming events at ASALC. Manager ASALC confirmed that representatives from the Masters Games have attended the site a couple of times in preparation for the Masters Games in October. Mayor Damien Ryan further added that there are over 50 entrants so far, noting that 39% of the competitors had not previously participated.

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Manager ASALC also advised that following a meeting with the CEO of NT Swimming, that it is likely ASALC will host the Territory short course championships every second year. CEO of NT Swimming congratulated ASTC on the condition and quality of ASALC facility.

**5. NEXT MEETING**

Meeting to be held every 3 months, with the next meeting proposed for end October 2018.

*This is subject to change when Committee members change at the end of August.*

**6. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 1:58pm