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## Water Safety

**Policy Number:** POL16/220 • **Adopted:** 27/01/2010 • **Effective:** 15/02/2010 • **Amended:** 23/11/2012, 13/06/2017 • **Minute Number:** MIN10.23, MIN12.1267, MIN17.498 • **File:** 4410E • **Produced By:** Finance Corporate & Community Services Group • **Review Date:** 1/12/2020

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Policy is to define Council's management of:

- Council's Shoalhaven Swim & Fitness Facilities
- Council's unsupervised Sea Pools:
  - Huskisson Sea Pool & Wading Pool
  - Ulladulla Sea Pool
- Council managed beach access ways, parks and foreshore reserves adjacent to beaches and waterways

### 2. STATEMENT

The Policy is guided by the Department of Local Government Practice Note 15 (July 2012) – Water Safety and relevant industry guidelines.

### 3. PROVISIONS

#### 3.1. Supervised Swim & Fitness facilities

The management of Council's Swim & Fitness Facilities will be guided by:

- Department of Local Government - Practice Note 15 (2012) – Water Safety
- Royal Life Saving Society of Australia (RLSSA) – Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation (GSPO)
- NSW Health Department – Public Health Regulation 2012 – Swimming Pools & Spa Pools (Public)
- Statewide Mutual – “Signage as Remote Supervision” - Best Practice Manual (2012)
- National Aquatic and Recreational Signage Style Manual

Council's supervised Swim & Fitness Facilities are at the following locations:

- Kangaroo Valley Village Pool
- Berry Village Pool
- Shoalhaven Heads Village Pool
- Greenwell Point Village Pool
- Milton Village Pool
- Bomaderry Aquatic Centre
- Nowra Aquatic Park
- Bay & Basin Leisure Centre
- Sussex Inlet Aquatic Centre
- Ulladulla Leisure Centre

### **3.2. Unsupervised Sea Pools**

Based on requests from the community for increased access to seasonal Sea Pool facilities, and funding constraints to provide a fully supervised service at these facilities, the following Sea Pools are managed on an unsupervised basis:

- Huskisson Sea Pool & Wading Pool
- Ulladulla Sea Pool

The management of Council's unsupervised Sea Pool facilities will be guided by:

- Statewide Mutual – *“Signage as Remote Supervision”* - Best Practice Manual (2012)
- National Aquatic and Recreational Signage Style Manual

Council reserves the right to provide supervision of Huskisson Sea Pool & Wading Pool and Ulladulla Sea Pool and, should services be provided on this basis, they will operate in accordance with provision of Clause 3.1 of this Policy.

### **3.3. Council managed beach access ways, parks and foreshore reserves adjacent to beaches and waterways**

Council managed beach access ways, parks and foreshore reserves adjacent to beaches and waterways are maintained for public use. Maintenance within the water for swimmer safety purposes is outside Council's management responsibility. The safety of the waterway will not be managed by Council.

Where these Council managed land areas provide access to beaches and waterways known to be used for swimming and there has been a demonstrated community need, and / or a risk assessment has shown that there is a need, signage may be placed on or adjacent to the Council managed beach access ways, park or foreshore reserve, using the Statewide Mutual *“Signage as Remote Supervision”* Best Practice Manual (2012) as a guide.

Professional seasonal Beach Patrol Services are provided at designated areas for the periods of time that Council specifies and for which funding availability permits - typically for the New South Wales School Summer Holiday period.

The management of these professional services during the hours of the Beach Patrol Service will be guided by the following:

- Provisions for staff qualification in accordance with Department of Local Government – Practice Note 15 – Water Safety (2012)
- Provisions for temporary beach signage in accordance with:
  - Standards Australia – Design & Application of Water Safety Signs – AS2416
  - Statewide Mutual – *“Signage as Remote Supervision”* – Best Practice Manual (2012)
  - National Aquatic and Recreational Signage Style Manual

#### **4. IMPLEMENTATION**

The Finance Corporate & Community Services Group will administer the Shoalhaven Swim & Fitness Facilities to which this Policy applies, beach patrol services and Council managed parks and foreshore reserves.

The Planning Environment & Development Services Group will administer the beach access ways adjacent to Council managed parks and foreshore reserves.

#### **5. REVIEW**

To be reviewed within one (1) year of the election of a new Council.

#### **6. APPLICATION OF ESD PRINCIPLES**

Not applicable.