

Media Release - Cardinia Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc.

Subject – Pakenham Outdoor Pool reopening – lack of Council progress on this project.

At a CRRA meeting in Pakenham on 28th September, CRRA President Gloria O'Connor

advised members that she believed Council officers have dragged their feet on the issue of the Pakenham outdoor pool to the extent the pool may not be reopened for this summer. ‘They are still waiting on tenders to come in and will look at it again in late November before deciding on whether to spend the money or not’ she told members.

She contrasted the amount of \$428,133 that has been spent to date on legal costs, consultants and panel costs in Council’s push for sale of the community owned golf-course land. ‘Further consultants fees could bring it in excess of \$450,00 by the time they have rounded up more information required by the Minister’s office. Yet here they are haggling over whether they can afford to refurbish the outdoor pool.

‘‘We can only conclude there has been a deliberate go slow on this issue which was of major importance to the community at the Council election last year. This current situation is totally unacceptable. Questions are being asked and we want some answers.

‘‘ Following the recent opening of the new aquatic centre adjacent to Lakeside, indications are that it will not be able to service the needs of the increasing number of Pakenham residents, especially those who prefer outdoor recreational and distance swimming.

‘‘Council have let the community down very badly over this issue. They are now funding a feasibility study regarding a pool for Emerald, which is great. But they have not yet even begun the work for the promised restoration of the Pakenham pool.

‘‘We need some explanation as to why this is taking so long. If there had been a will to do it, and with all the community support available, it could have been accomplished in time for this summer.’’

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