

Pools



Renew the Legacy: Investing in Regional Pools for Healthy, Connected Communities

The Murray River Group of Councils (MRGC) comprises six Council in northern Victoria. Collectively we manage 37 pools for our communities across 47,193 square kms (that's 21% of the State).

The 1956 Olympics legacy of swimming pools built across Australia left an indelible impression on our national identity. **Safe, accessible swimming pools are crucial to public health**, not just for recreational swimming, but also for essential life-saving skills such as swimming and water safety education. Access to well-maintained public pools is fundamental for water safety helping to prevent tragic accidents.

Swimming pools provide critical a social function in regional Australia offering a space for community to gather and connect. In our region, pools serve as a vital resource for social cohesion and physical activity, fundamental to community wellbeing.

Many of these "1956" outdoor concrete pools and their associated change rooms, pumps and pool decks are reaching the end of their effective lives and most require urgent investment. Local Government has for many years now wrestled with unaffordable running costs and ongoing maintenance.

Many regional and rural councils have multiple outdoor concrete seasonal pools servicing widely spread, relatively small populations. The importance of these to our communities means that closure is simply not an option for many.

It is estimated that \$8 billion will be required over the next decade to meet the infrastructure demands of public swimming pools across Australia.

MRGC calls on the Australian Government to:

- Establish a Regional Public Pool Renewal Fund, dedicated to regional and remote communities;
- Partner with local councils to replace and upgrade aging pool shells, filtration systems, and essential infrastructure;
- Ensure that public pools remain safe, inclusive and accessible hubs for health, safety, and social connection for the next 50 years.

Renewing Australia's public pools is not just a local need, it's a national responsibility.

Let's renew the legacy. Invest in our regional pools for the health and resilience of our communities.

Further Information: Geoff Turner, Executive Officer, p: 0419 030 314 e: gturner@mrhc.com.au



Mildura Rural City Council



SWAN HILL
Rural City Council



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council



LODDON
SHIRE



Campaspe
Shire Council



MOIRA
SHIRE



SWIMMING POOLS: Renew the Legacy,

- 37 Regional Council pools across 47,000 km²: our 1956 Olympic legacy underpins water safety, health and community connection.
- Many of our concrete outdoor pools are failing and their infrastructure needs renewal. For most, closure is not an option.
- We call for Federal leadership: **establish a Regional Public Pool Renewal Fund** and partner with us to renew the legacy.

For Further Information:

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