

Frequently Asked Questions

Management and Operation of Port Macquarie-Hastings Pools

At the 17 April 2019 meeting of Council it was resolved to award the management and operation of the Port Macquarie, Wauchope, Laurieton and Kendall pools to BlueFit Pty Ltd.

1. Why is the management of the Port Macquarie, Wauchope, Kendall and Laurieton pools moving to a different operator?

The current contract for the management of the four pools is due to expire on 30 June 2019. Council have undertaken a comprehensive tender process to seek an outcome that provided the best value to the community and that ensured the ongoing delivery of high quality aquatic services.

2. Will local community members still gain employment at the four pools?

Yes. There is a commitment from BlueFit to ensure that they are supporting local employment by retaining existing staff that work at our pools.

3. What are the benefits to the community under the new management arrangement?

Several important services and benefits will be achieved under the new management agreement including:

- Market-leading learn to swim programs for children of all abilities;
- Innovative program and events including special needs programs, open days and Seniors Week activities;
- Comprehensive minimum training requirements for staff to ensure the safe and successful delivery of aquatic services for a broad range of community members;
- Detailed workplace health and safety practices and environmental management initiatives.

Through the tender process Council has also considered options to extend the swimming season at Kendall, Laurieton and Wauchope pools. Under the current contract these pools open on the first day of September school holidays and operate until Easter Monday. From 2020 Council has determined that Kendall and Laurieton pools will remain open until 25 April and Wauchope Pool will remain open until 31 May.

4. When will the change in management take place?

The new contract will commence on 1st July 2019. The contract is for a period of 5 years with a 2 x 2 years' extension option.

5. The Learn to Swim pools at Port Macquarie and Wauchope are owned by Swimwell (the current operator), will the community have access to facilities like this under the new operator?

Yes, BlueFit have committed to retaining the existing Learn to Swim pools or constructing new Learn to Swim pools at these two facilities.

6. Who do I contact if I have further questions?

For more information on the aquatic facilities across the Port Macquarie-Hastings region please visit pmhc.nsw.gov.au/swimmingpools.

For further enquiries please contact Council on (02) 6581 8111 or council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au.