

Outdoor Pool Opening Hours Policy

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Service Unit	Community Activation
Directorate:	Community Strengthening
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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the opening hours of Bacchus Marsh and Ballan Outdoor Pools.

The policy will provide clarity around roles and responsibilities in relation to setting, approving, and monitoring the Outdoor Pool operating hours.

2. Definitions

MSC	Moorabool Shire Council
BMOP	Bacchus Marsh Outdoor Pool
BOP	Ballan Outdoor Pool
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology

3. Scope

The policy will apply to BMOP and BOP throughout the outdoor pool season. Each season commences on the first Saturday in December and concludes on Sunday of the Labour Day weekend in March.

4. Policy

The policy outlines the Outdoor Pools operating hours, staff rostered hours and implementation of the hot roster based on the expected weather forecast listed on the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM).

The operating hours will be determined 48 hours in advance in accordance with Table 1.

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Table 1.

Month	Forecast below 23C	Forecasted 23C or over	Forecast 35C+
School Term (Early December, February & March)			
Monday to Friday	Closed	3.30pm – 7pm	3.30pm – 8pm
Weekends	Closed	11am – 7pm	11am – 8pm
School Holidays (Late December & January)			
Monday to Friday	Closed	11am – 7pm	11am – 8pm
Weekends	Closed	11am – 7pm	11am – 8pm

The Outdoor Pools may close at any time for safety reasons. This includes and is not limited to:

- Overcrowding; the facilities follow a ratio guideline of one Pool Lifeguard for every 90 patrons,
- Dangerous weather conditions such as local bushfires, storms including lightning and thunder. The closure of lightning and thunder will be based on a "flash to bang" ratio. If thunder is heard within 30 seconds of seeing a lightning strike, the pools will close for 30 minutes due to the proximity of lightning.

The decision to close either pool will be made by the Community Recreation and Leisure Team Leader in conjunction with the Pool Duty Supervisor on duty.

Outside of Council business hours, the decision to close can be made solely by the Pool Duty Supervisor on shift at the time.

The pools may not open if there is a declared Code Red Day.

4.1. Responsibilities

The Community Recreation and Leisure Team Leader and / or the Pool Duty Supervisor is responsible for implementing the operating hours and communicating the operating hours to staff and the public.

The Community Recreation and Leisure Team Leader or Pool Duty Supervisor on duty is responsible for confirming the operating hours in line with the policy.

4.1.1. Confirm Weather

By 10.30am on any given day the Community Recreation and Leisure Team Leader or Pool Duty Supervisor will review the forecast 48 hours in advance on the BOM website for the Bacchus Marsh region:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/places/vic/bacchus-marsh/forecast/>

The forecast will then set the operating hours for 48 hours (two days) in advance at BMOP and BOP.

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4.1.2. Set the Hours

Once staff have outlined the Outdoor Pool operating hours for the day, the hours will then be communicated to pool staff via Microsoft Teams and the community through the Moorabool Leisure Services Facebook Page.

Where possible, operating hours may be set up to 76 hours in advance, providing weather has a four-degree buffer to accommodate any changes in weather.

4.1.3. Extra hours & Staff

In the instance where the day is forecasted to be 30 degrees or higher, the Community Recreation and Leisure Team Leader, or Pool Duty Supervisor is required to confirm the staff member on the hot roster for 30 degrees plus at BMOP that they will be required to work. The hot roster outlines additional staff scheduled to work at BMOP when the temperature is forecast to be 30 degrees and above.

In the instance where the day is forecast to be 35 degrees or higher, the staff member is required to inform all staff members on the hot roster they will be required to work.

The staff member will also be required to inform the rostered afternoon Pool Lifeguard and Pool Duty Supervisor that the opening hours will be extended until 8pm due to the temperature exceeding 35 degrees and their shifts will conclude at 8.15pm.

The staff member is also required to update the Moorabool Leisure Services Facebook page informing the community that following day the swimming pools will extend their opening hours until 8pm.

5. Review

As a minimum, this policy will be reviewed every second year.