

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Chief Minister

Commitment to open the Phillip Pool and the future of aquatic facilities in Woden

The Phillip Pool has not opened for the last two summer seasons. We are seeking a commitment from the Government to ensure the pool is ready to open as soon as the weather warms up.

For September to November, the Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting that most of Australia is at least twice as likely to experience unusually high maximum temperatures. Should this continue through the summer months, it is essential that the local community has access to its public pool to cool down and have fun. As you are aware, social and physical activity has preventative health benefits and is good for our physical and mental health.

Recreation facilities need to be convenient to access. The Woden Town Centre is the major social and economic hub in Canberra's south that is accessible by public transport from across the region, particularly from Canberra's south. Recreation facilities draw people to the centre, which generates activity that flows to local businesses including retail, cafes and restaurants. This adds to life in the streets, making the centre more attractive to the broader community.

The lease and both the current and draft Territory Plans require the pool to open. Would you please provide us with assurance about when the pool will open and that it will continue to operate with reasonable operating hours and admission charges.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you, and to invite you to our 4 October 2023 public meeting to discuss the future of aquatic facilities in the Woden Town Centre and their contribution to the social and economic development of our town centre for the growing community that is using this major hub.

Yours sincerely



Fiona Carrick
President
Woden Valley Community Council
6 September 2023

cc Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sports and Recreation