

RESPONSE TO CONSTITUENT

ASKED BY: Mr Roger Jaensch MP

ANSWERED BY: Minister for Education

QUESTION:

My question is from Braddon constituents in the Burnie area. What opportunities will be provided for public consultation on the establishment of a new public-access hydrotherapy pool as part of the Burnie North West Support School upgrade?

ANSWER:

Thank you for your question in Parliament on 10 September 2025 regarding whether there will opportunities for public consultation on the establishment of a new public-access hydrotherapy pool as part of the Burnie North West Support School upgrade.

Hydrotherapy pools are being delivered as part of the Government's \$62.5 million investment in the new North West Support School (NWSS) campus in Devonport and the upgrade proposed for the Burnie campus.

During the recent Tasmanian election, the Tasmanian Government announced access to the hydrotherapy pools will be available for members of the local community outside of school hours who require hydrotherapy as part of their health journey.

An agreement will be progressed between the Department of Health (DoH) and the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) to ensure the needs of NWSS are prioritised, with DoH proposed to manage referrals for patients needing access to the pool outside of school hours, in line with DECYP's *Community Use of Facilities* policy.

The redevelopment of North West Support School is being shaped by extensive school and community consultation. Considerable feedback has already been received through previous rounds of consultation, and this feedback is informing the development of the scope of works for the upgrade of the Burnie campus. The Project Working Group, which includes school, school association and DECYP representatives, is now working with the project architects on the site master plan for the Burnie campus, with a strong focus on a design that facilitates community access to the new hydrotherapy pool and minimises any operational impacts for the school.

Once developed, the concept plan for the works to the Burnie campus, including the hydrotherapy pool, will be shared with the school and broader community for feedback through a further round of consultation. This is expected to occur in Term 1 2026.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Palmer', written over the printed name.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Education

Date 24/9/25