

Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Education
Deputy Leader in the Legislative Council

Level 1, 7 Franklin Wharf HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Phone: +61 3 6165 9420
Email: jo.palmer@dpac.tas.gov.au



5 September 2024

Ms Janie Finlay
Labor Member for Bass
Email c/o Clerk of the Assembly: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Finlay,

Thank you for your Constituent Question on Tuesday, 6 August 2024, asked as follows:

One of our constituents, Jeff, contacted me on Friday after finding out that you have decided to permanently close the Glen Dhu pool, noting that the Liberals have promised to reopen the Glen Dhu pool at the last two state elections - that is twice.

He wants to specifically know: When will you publicly release the engineering report you are relying on to justify your broken promises? When was the engineering report finalised? How much would it cost to reopen the pool again? How much was spent on the heating upgrades that you completed just this year? And, where on earth are the young people of the north going to learn to swim now?

I am pleased to provide the following response:

When will you publicly release the engineering report you are relying on to justify your broken promises? The report can be found on the Department for Education, Children and Young People webpage, under Infrastructure projects.

When was the engineering report finalised? December 2023.

How much would it cost to reopen the pool again? As stated in the media release issued on 2 August 2024, the engineering report found the pipework was badly corroded and at risk of failure, and that it was impossible to estimate the remaining lifecycle of the existing pipework. This meant that the planned upgrade was not feasible.

The engineer's report also confirmed that failure of the pipework would effectively require a new pool – which DECYP costed to replace in the tens of millions.

Further, due to the age of the pool, it is not compliant with current building standards and the National Building Code, and the existing change amenities are not compliant with contemporary safeguarding children requirements.

How much was spent on the heating upgrades that you completed just this year? \$535 000, noting that the pool's filtration system and thermal plant will be repurposed at other Department sites.

And, where on earth are the young people of the north going to learn to swim now?

All Government schools have access to the Swimming and Water Safety Program.

DECYP has agreements in place to run the Swimming and Water Safety Program for the Glen Dhu community at other nearby pools, including the Launceston Leisure and Aquatic Centre, as well as the Launceston Church Grammar School.

The program has been operating successfully at these other pools since the closure of the Glen Dhu pool in 2020.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Palmer', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Education