



INNER WEST COUNCIL

Engagement Outcomes Report: Public exhibition of proposed *Fees and Charges 2019/20* updates

Summary

The public exhibition of proposed amendments to Council's *Fees and Charges 2019/20* was held from 15 October to 11 November 2019 inclusive.

The exhibition included three sets of changed or new fees and charges:

- Hire fees for the new Marrickville Pavilion
- New pool lane hire fee at Aquatic Centres
- Indoor venues, rooms and community centres fees

The proposed fees were exhibited on Your Say Inner West where submissions were taken via an online feedback form.

Council received 83 submissions during the public exhibition period, which are summarised in the *Engagement outcomes* section of this report. Almost all submissions received (93%) related to the proposed lane hire fees at aquatic centres.

Of these, most submissions came from members of swim clubs who were unsupportive of the proposed fees. One submission was received on the proposed indoor venues, rooms and community centres fees. No submissions were received on the hire fees for the new Marrickville Pavilion.

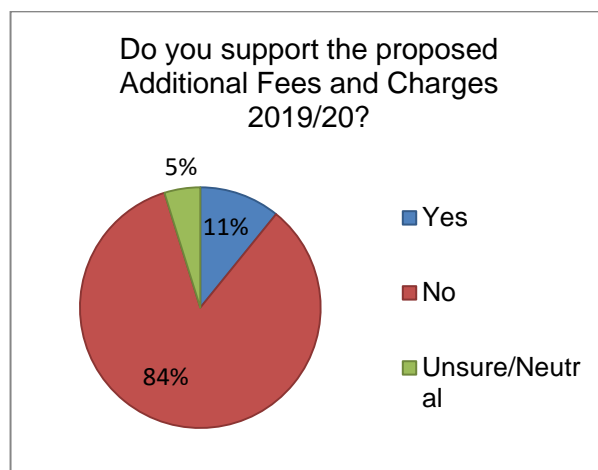
Engagement methods and promotion

The public exhibition was conducted on Your Say Inner West with the proposed amendments and a corresponding feedback form. It was promoted via Council's official channels, detailed below.

- Your Say Inner West homepage
- Your Say Inner West monthly newsletter
- "Council Column" on 5 November 2019 both Inner City Edition and Inner West edition of the Inner West Courier
- Direct notifications to key stakeholders (e.g. swim clubs)
- Inner West Council website – "What's new" section

Engagement outcomes

During the exhibition period the Additional Fees and Charges 2019/20 project page hosted on Your Say Inner West received 116 visits, and 83 submissions were received.



Key issues and themes from submissions are summarised in the following table, for each of the three proposed fee changes.

Submissions on new Aquatics lane hire fees and charges

Theme / Issue	Summary of comments raised in submissions
The rationale behind the new Aquatics lane hire fees and charges	<p>The comments received on this theme cited a number of reasons why the new lane hire fees and charges are not supported including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The increased council rates should have covered the maintenance costs of aquatics facilities as a community resource Additional costs to swimming club members who have paid the current pool entry fee, membership and Swimming NSW fees Also additional costs to the current squad fee for children participating in swimming performance squads Double charges as swimming club members and their families have already paid fees to enter the pools on Saturdays Small, community-operated clubs like Balmain Swim Club are run by volunteers. So it they do not incur significant additional costs to council's operating budget
Adverse impact on the community wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming pools are public facilities. Not in the community's best interest if low-income, large families and the elderly who pay pool entry fees are disadvantaged in terms of access to these facilities Such facilities should be available to social, physical and psychological health development of all local residents without extra costs and not for any exclusive group These fee changes are short-term focussed. They would discourage children joining local swimming clubs that promote sport amongst children growing up in urban areas like the Inner West Other cost saving measures should be considered as adjacent councils such as City of Sydney, Canada Bay and Bayside do not have lane hire fee policy for their swimming club members. The risks of losing local young swimming club members to those in neighbouring councils is high



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Submissions on indoor venues, rooms and community centres fees

Theme / Issue	Summary of comments raised in submissions
Impact on social activities in the community	In light of the lack of Council funding in 2019/20, free venues become critical to weekly social activities as members of local non-profit organisations such as local social clubs are seniors and from low-income background.

Submissions on hire fees for the new Marrickville Pavilion

No submissions were received about the hire fees for the new Marrickville Pavilion.