



It should be noted that listeners/callers to Mayor on Air should still lodge their request/query by contacting Council. People can call 64 714 700, email wcc@westcoast.tas.gov.au, lodge a request from Council's website (www.westcoast.tas.gov.au) where's there a service request link on the homepage, or call into the Office in Queenstown.

This is the preferred method.

By only calling into Mayor on Air Council doesn't obtain contact details and therefore can't follow-up with updates or for more information.

Responses to Caller queries from Mayor on Air 27 September 2016

1. Where else have budget cuts been made or is the swimming pool the only cut made?

The reduction in pool budget was made in order to help Council balance the community's budget overall. Every area of the budget was amended this financial year to account for the drop in revenues / income for the community due to current economic conditions and population decline. In effect savings had to be found in all areas to keep delivering the same services to the community - to balance the budget. The area of pool operations was no exception. We encourage anyone interested in understanding more about the changes in pool operations to read the Question and Answer document on our website - <http://www.westcoast.tas.gov.au/pools>.

2. Is it possible to circulate the days through the weeks to keep the pools open (Zeehan 2 days, Rosebery 2 days, Queenstown 3 days)?

Due to operation costs associated with operating swimming pools this type of opening schedule would not fall within budget parameters (i.e. the water still needs to be treated and heated on the days not open). We encourage anyone interested in understanding more about the changes in pool operations to read the Question and Answer document on our website - <http://www.westcoast.tas.gov.au/pools>.

3. Can a letter be sent to all ratepayers asking if they are happy to keep contributing the \$88 a year to keep the pool open?

West Coast ratepayers support a whole range of operations undertaken by Council for the community (including in this instance the swimming pools). Council's key focus is to keep rate increases to a minimum in the current economic climate and to this end Council bought in a 0% rate rise for the 16-17 financial year. Whilst this won't be possible every year Council will continue its reform process to ensure that every last cent of ratepayer money is spent on priority items, projects, infrastructure upgrades, asset management etc. It is not practical nor possible in the current climate to reallocate funds to the pools from other critical service delivery obligations.

We encourage anyone interested in understanding more about the changes in pool operations to read the Question and Answer document on our website – <http://www.westcoast.tas.gov.au/pools>.



4. **Does the Council plan to repair the bridge on the EBR mountain bike track from Zeehan after the recent floods? Note: Little Henty Bridge totally gone. Leslie Creek Bridge eroded and extremely slippery**

These bridges are not included on the Council-owned bridge inspection list and are likely owned by another authority such as the Department of State Growth.

5. **Are pet owners of Strahan allowed to let their dog off their leads to run free ahead of owners on shoreline footpath as it happens a lot?**

Under the *Dog Control Act 2000* dog owners are required to have their dog on a leash, not exceeding two metres in length, when in a public place at all times. Authorised Council officers can issue an infringement notice to an owner if the dog is not under their effective control.

6. **Are dogs allowed to swim free not on lead in main street where boats moor? It's a problem Strahan has... also owners not picking up their dogs poop**

Dogs are not required to be on a lead when in the water however as soon as they return to shore they must be leashed and under the effective control of their owner.

People that are seen to not be picking up after their dogs will be issued with an infringement notice under the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

7. **With the impending closure of the ANZ bank in Zeehan, time is running out for the Museum in Zeehan to reclaim one of its Heritage Collection paintings. For many years the bank has been displaying a painting of Morrisons Huon Pine Sawmill that actually belongs to the Museum. The painting in question was on loan to the bank for the enjoyment of the community, but was never returned to the Heritage Collection. Will the Mayor act on the Museum's behalf and make sure this painting is returned to its place in the Heritage Collection - and not lost to the town when the ANZ clears out the bank building in Main Street?**

In his capacity as Director of the West Coast Heritage Centre the Mayor has held discussions with ANZ regarding this painting and it will be returned to the Museum prior to the bank closing.

8. **Any change that the WCC can encourage shop owners of Queenstown in the main street to freshen up shop fronts to show a little pride in the town**

Council will always encourage property owners – both businesses and residential – to maintain their properties to an acceptable standard. We believe businesses do have pride in their communities however we also understand that running a small business is difficult financially and funds may not always be available in a business budget for such works. We encourage all businesses to contact the West Coast Economic Development, Tourism and Events Coordinator Simon Lee (ph. 64 714 700, email ecodev@westcoast.tas.gov.au).

9. **Any chance of erecting a give way sign on Esplanade & Preston Street where new foot bridge is, there have near misses here?**

Council will add this to our Works & Operations program, with a traffic/signage assessment to be completed on the area prior to signage being installed.



- 10. Can something be done between Strahan Primary School & the Post Office for the overhanging trees that are dangerous and will fall on the road shortly, this is also occurring opposite fisherman's wharf - this will cause damage?**

Council has added this area for our arborist to inspect during their next visit.

- 11. Can something be done to the Old Central State School - it's a disgrace and the owners should be made to repair**

Unfortunately Council can only take action if a property is deemed unsafe and/or creating a hazard to the public. Council staff have been in contact with the property owner regarding this building where appropriate.

- 12. Does the WCC have any plans in Rosebery to have a second pedestrian crossing near the hospital for safety of pedestrians?**

Council is scheduled to create a Traffic Management Plan for the municipality, however this is still in the early stages and it is likely to be some time before any actions from the plan are implemented. This Plan will include matters such as pedestrian crossings for safe access to community services, disabled parking, timed parking zones etc.

When the development of this plan is commencing Council will liaise with stakeholders and the community in accordance with our Engagement Policy.

- 13. The tip road in Queenstown, what is the progress on the fixing the road?**

Council understands the community is wanting to see works on Lynchford Road – whilst on site works may not be occurring Council staff are working hard behind the scenes to develop a plan in partnership with other agencies of State Government – as the road is not owned by Council, despite it traditionally being maintained by Council.

- 14. When will the rest of the footpaths in Rosebery be completed especially near the hospital area - only half have been completed.**

Footpaths are selected for works in the annual Footpath Program based on an assessment criteria which considers safety, condition and usage. Council fully understands that many residents may be disappointed their street, or one they have concerns about, have not been included in this program.

\$500,000 has been allocated in the 2016-2017 budget for the Footpath Program with streets in Rosebery, Zeehan, Queenstown and Tullah to receive works. With a restricted budget, along with time and weather constraints, it is not possible to deliver upgrades to all footpaths across our large municipality in one financial year.

Council is developing an appropriate long-term strategy which will focus on best practice asset management, taking into consideration upgrade and replacement of footpaths and service levels. As this work has never been done before on the West Coast, Council will need further time to integrate asset management, budget and planning priorities for the future.

Feedback from callers:

- I congratulate the difficult decision the WCC have made on the pools - we are very lucky to have 3 pools, nobody else has these services = use them or lose them