

8.3. MM03: Independent review of the North Sydney Olympic Pool redevelopment project

It is no secret that during the last term of Council, I (with Cr MaryAnn Beregi and former Cr Tony Carr) consistently opposed the design, scale and cost of the North Sydney Olympic Pool redevelopment and, particularly the significant \$30 million in borrowings for the \$63.9 million project.

This new Council has inherited the North Sydney Olympic Pool redevelopment project in a design, form, governance structure and financing model established and adopted by the former Council (2017-2021).

This new Council is legally bound under the building contract to deliver the project in this form, whether we like it or not. In my view, Council is also morally obliged to deliver the project to an exceptionally high standard of construction and as quickly as practicable to ensure that pool users have access once again.

The project is not meeting the projected timing and cost due to significant delays and variations under the building contract.

We need fresh eyes to assist Council to understand how we got here, where to go next and how to ensure that this Council and future councils can sustainably manage the financial burden of the project and deliver an exceptional experience for pool users.

I therefore recommend:

1.THAT Council urgently undertake an independent review of the Council's management of the North Sydney Olympic Pool redevelopment project.

2.THAT Council engage a suitably qualified independent person to undertake a thorough review of all aspects of the North Sydney Olympic Pool redevelopment project and prepare a report to Council.

**COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER
MAYOR**