

**BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT HEARING COMMISSIONER  
APPOINTED BY THE HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL**

**IN THE MATTER** of the Resource Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of an application to demolish the Hamilton Municipal Pools

**BETWEEN** **HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL**  
Applicant

**AND** **HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL**  
Consent authority

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE  
OF  
MARIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
ON BEHALF OF  
SINK OR SWIM**

**Dated 31 October 2019**

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**Sink or Swim**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

1. My full name is Debra White, Principal Marian Catholic School. This statement is supported by Nicole Higby and Maria Maarhuis, members of the Leadership Team, Marian Catholic School and leaders of Physical Education.
2. I am here today to provide expert evidence in support of the SOS submission against the proposal to demolish the Hamilton Municipal Pools. I am not a member of SOS.
3. Before the Municipal Pools closed in 2012 Marian Catholic School was a frequent user of these pools.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

4. I have read the Environment Court Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses, contained in the Environment Court's Practice Note 2014. I have complied with this practice note in preparing this statement of evidence. I confirm that the issues addressed in this brief of evidence are within my area of expertise, except where I state that I am relying on the evidence of another person.
5. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions expressed. I have specified where my opinion is based on limited or partial information and identified any assumptions, I have made in forming my opinions.

## **RATIONALE:**

6. Marian Catholic School recognises a growing need within our school community to provide quality water safety and swimming programmes and prioritises the importance of these for our students. We have a growing number of ethnicities within our school community, with many of our families originating from 'Land locked' countries who are particularly at risk due to their limited water safety knowledge around our New Zealand coastlines and waterways.
7. The Municipal Pools were chosen by our school for our swimming programmes because of its ideal location to our school, and the range of facilities the complex offered.
8. The Municipal Pools are within easy walking distance for all of our students - five year olds through to thirteen year olds. Being able to walk to the Municipal Pools for our water safety and swimming programme takes away the huge barrier of paying for costly bus transport.

9. Current costs:

Bus transport for 1 class (30 students) to Waterworld each day will cost \$120. In total for the week's 5-day programme it will cost each class \$600.

10. Facilities The Municipal Pools facility met the needs of all our learners, their teachers and parent supporters.

11. For our learners the complex offered three pool options which provided a range of depths and lengths to cater to all swimmers' ability and confidence levels.

12. The facilities provided tepid water which helped our less able swimmers feel more confident and comfortable in the water.

13. For our teachers the complex enabled non-swimming children to be contained within the tiered seating which assisted with the safe supervision of large numbers of children. The varying depths of the pools meant teachers could cater to diverse needs and better instruct groups from outside the pool.

14. For our parent supporters the facilities offered comfortable undercover tiered seating to support and encourage their children in swimming lessons, or at swimming sports events. The location of the Municipal Pools offered our parent spectators an easily accessible pool complex, and a range of convenient parking options.

15. For these reasons, the Municipal Pools should not be demolished, but refurbished and reopened. The consent application to demolish the Pools should be declined.

16. Our students need to be spending more quality learning time in the water. Due to the Municipal Pool's location and range of facilities, students could increase their time in the pool, developing vital water safety knowledge and swimming skills. This is something we can not afford to do with all of the extra costs involved at present.

## **CONCLUSION**

17. The consent application to demolish the Hamilton Municipal Pools should be declined.