

Good Morning, my name is Deborah Fisher and I would like to speak to my submission made regarding consent to demolish the Hamilton Municipal Pools. I expect that my submission has been read and that I do not need to repeat statements and information already included in my submission

I was born in Hamilton and have lived here for almost my entire life. Hamilton is my home and we are talking about the heritage I would like to pass on to the children I am raising here. I see so many reasons in a variety of submissions in favour of saving the Municipal pools that I can personally relate to, the heritage of the site and the site it sits in, the fact I prefer to swim in an outdoor pool, myself, my family and a variety schools and swim clubs have used the pools, Hamilton needs more pools and people need to exercise and cool off. I feel that the people and organisation that made those submissions do a far better job of arguing these cases than I could.

With the sudden switch to such high temperatures last weeks I heard much talk about backyard pools. It is hardly surprising that people consider breaking the law a viable option when you consider what is available. The river is not safe to swim in, the lake is not safe to swim in, the fountains at Founders Theater and in Garden Place that I used to use to cool off in summer as a child have long since gone, we have no splash zones but we do have two public swimming facilities for the entire city. Yes Council have agreements with some local pools to open over summer but I do not know how widely know this is in the community and they are not available during school terms as they are used by their owners. Hamilton has a desperate need for more public swimming facilities and repairing the Municipal pools would provide this much faster than a new facility. The cost of repairs are almost always less than that of replacement and in the case of the Municipal pools there is no suggestion there will be any replacement.

The fact that the Hamilton Municipal pools are the oldest inground pools in the country should be enough to protect and preserve this facility but it's not.

The fact that it is a category B heritage building set within a significant cluster of heritage sites should be enough to protect and preserve our heritage but it's not.

The fact that the community are begging to work with Council to fund and restore this historic site should be enough to protect and preserve the Muni Pools but it's not.

The fact that Hamilton has a population of 170,000 people and only two public swimming facilities should be enough to protect and preserve this facility but it's not.

Council can no longer be allowed to make financial savings through not providing and operating urgently needed infrastructure that is core local government business. All things considered the right thing to do by the citizens of Hamilton would be to deny consent to demolish the Hamilton Municipal Pool and require Council to work with the citizens of Hamilton to preserve and restore this much needed infrastructure and historical site.