

Swimming Pool and Spa Safety Barriers

PURPOSE

- To minimise the risk of drowning or near drowning of young children in swimming pools or spas that do not comply with Part 7, Division 1 of the Building Regulations 2006.
- To outline the approach Council and the Municipal Building Surveyor will take to achieve compliance of all swimming pools and spas within the municipality with safety barrier requirements.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all existing domestic swimming pools and spas within the municipality of Moira Shire Council as described in Part 7, Division 1 of the Building Regulations 2006.

POLICY

Council will take the following three-pronged approach:

1. Education

Council will make available to the community sufficient information for persons to understand the legal requirements, owners' responsibilities and reasons for those requirements through the following:

- 1.1 Distribution of information brochures through Council's service centre and agencies.
- 1.2 This policy will be posted on Council's website.
- 1.3 At least one article on pool safety will be prepared for media release each year.
- 1.4 Enforcement action will be publicised to create greater public awareness of the consequences for non-compliance.

2. Proactive

To increase compliance of all swimming pools and spas with Part 7 Division 1 of the Building Regulations 2006 Council will:

- 2.1 Maintain a database identifying where existing swimming pools and spas are located within the municipality.
- 2.2 Maintain a program to inspect at least two swimming pools/spas every month.
- 2.3 Publicise, at least annually, that Council is undertaking an inspection program.

3. Reactive

In accordance with legislative requirements, the Municipal Building Surveyor, upon becoming aware of any domestic swimming pool or spa within the municipality that does not have the required barriers, will take action to bring about compliance.

Warning: Do not print and **store** a hard copy of this policy. Intranet or Policy Register version should always be used to ensure policy is the latest version.

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RELATED POLICIES

Council Policy Protocol

RELATED LEGISLATION

Building Act 1993

Building Regulations 2006

REFERENCES

- *Building Code of Australia*, Australian Building Codes Board
- *Municipal Pool & Spa Safety Plan Guideline, for Council's Administration and Enforcement of Building Regulations*, Victorian Municipal Building Surveyors Group and Hoey's Lawyers.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed two years from the date of adoption, with operational amendments as required in accordance with Council's approval.

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