

Public Swimming and Public Spa Pools

Tamworth Regional Council has embarked on a program of inspecting public swimming and public spa pools in the Tamworth Regional Council area in accordance with the requirements of the *Public Health Act 2010* and *Public Health Regulation 2012* which regulates the public health risk associated with these facilities.

Public swimming pools and public spa pools can become contaminated with disease causing organisms, which may be introduced into the water from bathers (from their skin, saliva, urine, or faeces) or environmental conditions such as dust, bird droppings etc. These disease-causing organisms can be effectively killed off when appropriate disinfection measures of pool water are taking place.

If swimming pools and spa pools are not adequately disinfected and cleaned they can allow medical conditions to be transmitted, such as:

- bacteria associated with eye, ear and skin infections; carbuncles and wound infections
- fungi that lead to athlete's foot and tinea; urino-genital, skin and nail infections
- viruses which can cause gastroenteritis and pharyngo-conjunctival fever
- protozoa which cause Cryptosporidiosis and Giardiasis.

A public swimming pool means a swimming pool or spa pool to which the public is admitted, whether free of charge, on payment of a fee or otherwise, including those swimming pools and spa pools:

- to which the public is admitted as membership of a club
- provided at a workplace for the use of employees
- provided at a hotel, motel or guest house or at holiday units, or a similar facility, for the use of guests, and
- provided at a school or hospital

But pool does not include a pool situated on private residential premises.

Under the new Act and Regulation, an occupier of premises at which a public swimming pool and/or public spa pool is located is required to:

- notify Council of their existence
- ensure that the primary disinfectant is either chlorine or bromine
- ensure that the public pool is fitted with either an automated or a continuous metered disinfectant dosing system
- ensure that the public pool complies with the specified levels of bromine and chlorine, pH and alkalinity, and meets testing and record keeping requirements. These requirements are set out in detail in Schedule 1 of the Regulation
- ensure that all aspects of the Act and Regulation that relate to public swimming pools and spa pools are complied with.

The following public health legislation and resources have been prepared to assist public swimming and spa pool owners:

- Public Health Act 2010 - Extract
- Public Health Regulation 2012 - Extract
- Schedule 1 - Public Health Regulation 2012- Extract
- NSW Health: Healthy Swimming Pools factsheet
- NSW Health Public Swimming Pools and Spa Pools also provides a number of resources to further assist in understanding public swimming pool and spa pool issues.

Owners/Operators of public swimming pools or spa pools in the Tamworth Regional Council area are required to notify and be registered on our Public Swimming Pool and Spa Pool Register.

