

Policy Name	Wadeye Swimming Pool Policy
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Policy Type:	Work Health & Safety
Policy Custodian:	Chief Operations Officer
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Purpose

The Wadeye Swimming Pool Policy (Policy) aims to ensure a safe, clean, and enjoyable environment for all individuals utilising the swimming pool facilities within the West Daly Regional Council (Council) premises. It seeks to establish clear guidelines, rules, and safety measures for guests, employees, and contractors of the Council. This policy aims to promote responsible behaviour, prevent accidents, and maintain a high standard of safety and cleanliness within the pool area by outlining specific rules regarding pool usage, conduct, hygiene, and emergency procedures. Additionally, these procedures seek to streamline operations, enforce compliance, and clarify roles and responsibilities related to pool management and maintenance.

Scope

The policy scope applies to all individuals accessing and utilising the swimming pool facilities, including guests, employees, and contractors affiliated with the Council. It encompasses the entire Wadeye pool area, surrounding zones, and associated amenities within the premises. This policy regulates conduct, safety measures, and operational guidelines for using and maintaining the swimming pool. It sets the boundaries for acceptable behaviour, hygiene standards, safety protocols, and emergency procedures within the designated pool area. Additionally, it aligns with local regulations and building codes relevant to pool operations within the Council facility.

Policy Statement

1. Policy Statement

1.1 The council fosters a safe and secure aquatic environment for our guests and staff. The Council creates policies based on vigilance, professionalism, and proactive safety measures. Council aims to provide all patrons with a welcoming and enjoyable experience while prioritising their safety. The Council's commitment is to maintain a secure and enjoyable aquatic environment while upholding the highest standards of safety, cleanliness, and guest satisfaction.

2. Pool Usage

2.1 The Wadeye swimming pool operates during specified hours and serves recreational purposes.

3. Child Supervision

- 3.1 Children under ten (10) years old must always be accompanied by a parent, a responsible adult aged sixteen (16) years old or above, or an instructor actively participating in a supervised activity. This rule applies to all spaces within the premises, not solely the pool.
- 3.2 The Council prioritises safeguarding all children's health, safety, and well-being. Therefore, the council carefully supervises all water-based activities and ensures no child is left unattended near water.
- 3.3 Children under five (5) years old will only be permitted entry with an appropriate parent or guardian prepared to swim. A parent/guardian prepared to swim must constantly supervise children under five (5) years old. Adequate supervision requires the parent/guardian to accompany the child in the water and remain within arm's reach of the child at all times. One parent/guardian must accompany and supervise children within arm's reach in the pool area, allowing a maximum of two children per adult into the premises.
- 3.4 Children six (6) to ten (10) years old will only be permitted entry with an appropriate parent/guardian. Adult supervision is mandatory for weak swimmers and children six (6) to ten (10) years old while in the aquatic area of the facility. Children six (6) to ten (10) must be accompanied into the pool and supervised by maintaining visual contact with the child at all times, with a maximum of 1 parent/guardian to 4 children.
- 3.5 Children aged eleven (11) fourteen (14) years old: maintain visual contact at all times by a parent, responsible adult aged sixteen (16) years old or above or a swim instructor.

4. Pool Condition and Rules Violation

- 4.1 The Council appoints a pool coordinator to supervise pool management. In this role, the pool coordinator is responsible for operating the pool facility in compliance with regulations, ensuring alignment with this policy, and adhering to safety guidelines set forth by the Royal Life Saving Society and the NT Public Health Guidelines for Aquatic Facilities.
- 4.2 Council's pool attendants can request individuals to vacate the premises if they fail to comply with this policy and any specific local pool regulations despite being granted access to the pool premises.
- 4.3 Climbing up or onto any fence or partition of the roof within the pool area is prohibited.
- 4.4 People wearing contact lenses should remove them before entering the pool.
- 4.5 Children not toilet trained should wear swim diapers to avoid pool contamination.
- 4.6 Under no circumstances should regular nappies be worn while swimming.
- 4.7 In the event of repeated violations of pool rules Council, lifeguards, pool coordinator, or other senior staff members retain the right to restrict entry temporarily.
- 4.8 Aggressive and threatening behaviour towards pool attendants, the pool coordinator, or any individual representing the Council in the pool premises may result in expulsion from the pool area and potentially lead to the pool closing.

5. Pool Safety and Oversight Measure

- 5.1 Security is paramount; therefore, the Wadey pool area is securely fenced and should be locked when the necessary number of qualified pool attendants is not present.

- 5.2 Vigilant lifeguards, the pool coordinator, or other senior Council staff members reserve the right to immediately close the pool if they identify any potential hazards to maintain public health and safety.
- 5.3 The council guarantees the presence of qualified pool attendants throughout the pool's operational hours. While council pool attendants diligently monitor the facility, parents or accompanying adults are primarily responsible for actively supervising their children, especially children younger than ten (10).
- 5.4 Prominently placed signs within the pool premises will display essential safety warnings, resuscitation techniques, and comprehensive pool rules for everyone's benefit.

6. Hygiene and Safety

- 6.1 Council pool water quality is regularly monitored and maintained according to industry guidelines to ensure optimal standards. The pool will be closed if the water quality falls below acceptable safety levels.
- 6.2 Smoking within the pool premises is prohibited for the comfort and well-being of all Council staff and visitors.
- 6.3 Maintaining cleanliness is a collective responsibility, and all patrons are expected to contribute to preserving a clean and hygienic environment within the pool area.
- 6.4 Food, drink, or glass containers are strictly prohibited in the pool area for safety and cleanliness. Additionally, consuming food or drinks in the swimming pool is not permitted.
- 6.5 If lifeguards, pool attendants, or senior Council staff deem the changing facilities or toilets unhygienic, the pool will be closed temporarily until the hygiene concerns are effectively addressed.
- 6.6 To prevent the spread of disease, the pool area is restricted to individuals without contagious illnesses or open wounds. Similarly, anyone experiencing diarrhoea, vomiting, or infectious illness should not use the pool.
- 6.7 People with communicable/infectious diseases, including gastrointestinal illnesses such as cryptosporidiosis and skin infections, shall not use the swimming pool.
- 6.8 In case of faecal, blood, vomit, or other body fluid contamination in the pool or on decking and equipment, all pool users in the area should be asked to exit the pool.

7. Prohibited Activities

- 7.1 Running, diving, engaging in rough play, or disruptive behaviour are strictly prohibited to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment.
- 7.2 To uphold safety and sobriety, consumption of alcohol or the use of any substances within the pool area is strictly prohibited.
- 7.3 For safety considerations, the use of inflatable toys, balls, or similar items may be limited at the discretion of the lifeguards or responsible authorities.
- 7.4 Large objects may obscure the vision of the pool. Please remove them when not in use.
- 7.5 No diving, bombing backflips, running, or rough play in or around the pool.

7.6 Adherence to safety measures and life-saving equipment is mandatory to maintain the safety and security of all pool visitors.

8. Operational Framework

- 8.1 The pool coordinator oversees the implementation and enforcement of this Policy.
- 8.2 Council pool coordinator and pool attendants vigilantly monitor pool activity, ensure compliance with safety protocols, and extend necessary assistance as and when required.
- 8.3 All individuals utilising the pool facilities are equally accountable for complying with this policy's established rules and guidelines.
- 8.4 Only service dogs trained to assist individuals are permitted in the pool area. All other animals are strictly prohibited.

9. Protocols and Guidelines for Facilities

- 9.1 Children under ten (10) years old entering changing rooms must be accompanied by a parent or a responsible adult aged sixteen (16) or over.
- 9.2 Only designated Council staff/contractors or responsible adults involved in emergencies or maintenance are allowed access to changing rooms or toilets designated for the opposite gender.
- 9.3 Children's nappies should be changed in changing rooms, not at the poolside. The child should be thoroughly washed, and the changer should wash their hands immediately afterward.

10. Pool Care and Maintenance

- 10.1 Wading pools should be kept empty when not in use to minimise the risk to children and to prevent the water from becoming a source for mosquito breeding.
- 10.2 The recommended chemicals for water quality maintenance are dangerous, and they should be kept in lockable storage and always used according to the instructions on the labels.
- 10.3 Hoses that fill the pool should be stored empty in a shaded area to prevent an excessive build-up of micro-organisms.
- 10.4 The chlorine levels should be checked before use. When chlorine levels are low, additional chemicals should be diluted, added, and thoroughly mixed in the water before people enter the pool. If the wading pool water appears dirty at any time, the pool should be emptied, the water replaced, and the pool re-chlorinated.
- 10.5 All parts of an aquatic facility, including sanitary and ablutionary facilities, shall be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition, free of litter and vermin, to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases.
- 10.6 All parts of an aquatic facility must be maintained in good repair, in sound working condition, and in compliance with these guidelines' structural requirements.

11. Pool closing

11.1 All pool visitors must ensure they take all their belongings with them when leaving. The council and pool management are not responsible for missing belongings.

11.2 Before the facility closes, a meticulous check of all areas should be conducted to ensure no children or adults are present, guaranteeing the safety and well-being of all individuals.

12. Work Health & Safety

12.1 Council staff and contractors must prioritise and maintain a safe work environment for themselves, their employees, and others affected by their activities.

12.2 All visitors are required to conduct themselves safely, ensuring their safety and the safety of others within the premises.

13 References

Royal Life Saving.

Northern Territory Government Public health guidelines for aquatic facilities.

Royal Life Saving Supervision of children at public pools

“HR26 Work Health & Safety Policy WDRC”

Work Safe NT.


<https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/>

14 Definitions

NT Northern Territory

WDRC West Daly Regional Council

15 Related Documents

Signature of Endorsement:	
Position:	Chief Executive Officer
Date:	22.11.23