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## Governance and Administration Matters - 27 July 2021

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### ITEM 7.4 Fees and Charges 2021/2022

**AUTHOR** Community Services

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

On an annual basis, Council's proposed fees and charges structure is placed on public exhibition to give the community and stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback prior to formal adoption by Council. This year, some fees and charges for the Customer Experience and Recreation Unit were omitted from the Operational Plan for 2021/22 when it went on public Exhibition and there are also fees and charges relating to the Leisure and Aquatic Services Unit that require amendments. This purpose of this report is to outline the abovementioned fees and charges for Council and seeks approval to place them on public exhibition during August 2021.

#### **ISSUE**

Following Council's adoption of the Operational Plan and fees and charges for 2021/2022 financial year, it has been identified that some fees and charges relating to the services provided by the Customer Experience and Recreation Unit were omitted from the public exhibition period.

These fees are critical to the hire of Council's recreation and community facilities.

In addition to this, clarification is required on the definition of concession and student entry fees for the Leisure and Aquatic Centres, as well as a review of personal training fees and charges to ensure they provide value for money for the community and are in line with comparable services in the market.

Therefore, this report seeks to present the abovementioned fees and charges with the aim of placing them on public exhibition. Following the exhibition period required under the Local Government Act, a report will be presented to Council outlining and feedback received during the exhibition period and subsequently seeking formal adoption of the fees and charges.

#### **RECOMMENDATION** That -

1. Council endorse the public exhibition of the amended Fees and Charges.
2. The amended Fees and Charges be exhibited in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.
3. A further report be presented to Council following the public exhibition period.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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A. Omitted and Amended Fees and Charges

## **POLICY IMPACT**

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Council's adoption of the recommendations contained within this report will require amendment to the fees and charges that were adopted at the June 2021 Ordinary meeting.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are currently no fees and charges in place for the new synthetic fields that Council owns and operates. This report seeks to implement fees and charges that are specific to those venues.

There is currently confusion around the concession and student fees at Council's Leisure & Aquatic Centre. This report seeks to clarify that for the community so customers are aware of the fees and charges applicable to their personal circumstances.

The impact of personal training fees being reduced will mean that the service is far more accessible to the wider community.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

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The proposed schedule of fees and charges for the synthetic fields will provide clarity for the community as to what the cost of accessing the facilities is and will also define the difference between Jensen Park's fees and charges and those associated with Council's other synthetic fields.

The proposed changes to the Leisure & Aquatic Services fees and charges will provide clarity for the community in relation to 'student' and 'concession' fees and also aims to make personal training more accessible to all members of the community.

## DETAILED INFORMATION

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With the ever-increasing population and the growth in usage of Council's facilities across the Local Government Area, it is imperative that there are fees and charges that cater for the community and hirers. Following the redevelopment and renovation of Rudd Park with a synthetic field new fees are required to reflect an all-weather community facility. These fees differ from Jensen Park synthetic field due to greater community access as the facility is not enclosed.

With further developments such as a new synthetic field at Padstow Park, these new fees are essential. There are also some new fees associated with the management of cricket nets which will assist in Council's ongoing management and bookings of the highly utilised facilities.

In relation to the Leisure & Aquatic Services fees and charges, the clarification on the definition of 'concession' and 'student' prices is integral to avoiding confusion for the community as to what fees and charges are applicable based on an individual customer's circumstances. Currently there is confusion as to whether tertiary students sit under adult, concession or child pricing. There is also a lack of clarity around who is eligible for concession pricing.

The proposed definition for concession fees and charges is: *any member of the community who holds a valid Seniors, Veterans or Government issued health or pension card*. It is also proposed that any member of the community with a valid tertiary education card will be required to pay the 'child/student' entry prices and are not eligible for the 'concession' pricing.

In addition to that, the fees and charges that are currently in place for personal training services that Council offers at its Leisure and Aquatic Centres are not currently aligned with similar services in the market. This renders the service inaccessible for a large amount of the community due to affordability. The proposed fees and charges for this service are in line with similar services provided by competitors and are designed to be more affordable for the community of Canterbury Bankstown.