



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Sport and Recreation

In relation to: Swimming Australia Standards

Hearing: 18 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 32

Transcript provided: 25 November 2025

Answer Due: 3 December 2025

MR EMERSON: Thanks. Are any of our pools equipped to host major swim meets?

Mr Khan: When you say "major swim meets", Mr Emerson, do you mind just expanding on what you mean by that?

MR EMERSON: You know, national competitions that often will go to larger cities. You know, is this a consideration in terms of how the government approaches things like school upgrades—excuse me, pool upgrades and new pool facilities, and so on?

Mr Khan: Swimming Australia has a set of standards that it expects for the different types of pool meets that can occur—national standard, state standard, regional, zone. We could provide to you, on notice, against those standards the current facilities that we operate in the territory.

MR EMERSON: That will be great, you know, a breakdown of which facility is suitable for what. It would be really helpful.

Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Based on the Swimming Australia *Facility Guidelines* for 2024 and 2025 ([Attachments A and B](#)) no aquatic sites managed by the ACT Government meet the state or national levels of provision to host major events.

To meet the standards to support state swim meets there are several requirements including, but not limited to, ten dive platforms at each end of the pool, a 50 metre eight lane warm up pool, media rooms, two metre depth for length of pool, minimum spectator seating and other supporting areas for event marshals.

The Gungahlin Leisure Centre and Stromlo Leisure Centre pools meet the regional/district guidelines, providing a service to the community for large regional events.

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The other five pools (Lakeside Leisure Centre, Erindale Leisure Centre, Canberra Olympic Pool, Dickson and Manuka Pool) are at local or club level standard.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation

Signature:

By the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Ms Yvette Berry MLA

Date:

28/11/25

Swimming Australia - Facility Guidelines for levels of provision

State level		Regional / District level	Local / Club level
Pool tank Length and width	50 metres length with touch pads in place 25.4 metres wide	50 metres or 25 metres with touch pads in place 25 metres wide	50 metre or 25 metre 17.6 metres wide
Pool tank depth	2 metres for length of pool	Minimum 2.0 metres at one end graduating to 1.4 metres at other end	Minimum of 1.8 metres at one end graduating to 1.4 metres at other end.
Starting platforms	10 non-slip platforms fixed at each end of the pool tank	8 – 10 non-slip platforms at each end with deeper end fixed the shallower end removable.	4 – 8 removable non-slip platforms at deepest end for use in swim training only.
Bulkheads	Movable bulkhead that can be set to adjust pool length between long course and short course.	Movable bulkhead that can be set to adjust pool length between long course and short course.	Movable bulkhead that can be set to adjust pool length between long course and short course.
Walls	Must be right angles to the pool length and water surface extending to 300mm above the water line.	Must be right angles to the pool length and water surface extending to 300mm above the water line	Can be flush with water level and may have provision for temporary turning boards.
Lanes	Lane width of 2.5 metres	Lane width of 2.5 metres	Lane width minimum of 2 metres
Lane ropes	In colour codes and marking styles to meet World Aquatics standards	Colour change at 5 metres from end walls, reference points at 15 metres from end walls and reference point at centre of pool.	Colour change at 5 metres from end walls
Turn indicators	Backstroke flags at 1.8 metres above water line and 5 metres from end walls. Plugs for false start poles at 15 metres from end walls.	Backstroke flags at 1.8 metres above water line and 5 metres from end walls. Plugs for false start poles at 15 metres from end walls.	Backstroke flags above water line and 5 metres from end walls
Secondary pool	50 metre 8 lane pool for warm up and cool down. Min. 2m depth	25 metre 4-6 lane space for swimmer warm up and cool down	Not required
Concourses	7 metres at start end and turn end and 4 metres at sides	4 metres at start end, 3 metres at turn end and 3 metres at sides	3 metres at start end, 2 metres at turn end and 2 metres at sides
Timing system	Electronic recording and display board connected to control room	Connections for electronic recording to control room or pool side control area	Not required as manual systems used for timing.
PA system	For broadcast of results, presentations and public announcements	For broadcast of results and public announcements	For broadcast of public announcements.
Spectator seating	Minimum seating for 2,000	Minimum seating for 800	Seating for 150
Competition Control	Control room adjacent to finish wall of main pool tank	Control room or concourse space adjacent to finish wall of main pool tank.	Concourse space for set up of temporary control desk.
Marshalling	2 Marshalling rooms of 40 m2	Separate Room or concourse space of 60 m2	Concourse space of 25 m2
Clubrooms / Multi-use	Space of 100-150 metres for multi-use	Space of 100-150 metres squared for multi-use	Space of 80-100 metres squared for multi-use
Media room	Media Room adjacent to pool concourse	Not applicable	Not applicable
Lighting	Minimum 1,500 lux where broadcast is being conducted, preferably 2,000 lux	Minimum even spread 600 lux over pool surface and ends	Minimum 300 lux over pool surface
Drug testing room	Private toilet area with individual cubicles for two athletes to be tested and waiting area for minimum of 4 athletes awaiting testing.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Equipment store	Provision for storage of items including advertising devices, medal dais, movable timekeeper seating, back-up timing equipment, training equipment etc	Provision for storage of items including medal dais, movable timekeeper seating, back-up timing equipment, training equipment etc	Provision of storage for pool deck training equipment, removable start blocks etc.
Pace Time clocks	Provision of multiple pace time clocks, positioned to allow sight lines from all pool lanes.	Provision of pace time clocks at each end of the pool with sight lines to all pool lanes.	Pace clock at both ends or one end of pool to accommodate squad training activities.

Swimming Australia – Facility Guidelines for international and national events (November 2024)

	International	National
Pool tank length and width	50 metres length with touch pads in place 25.4 metres wide	50 metres length with touch pads in place 25.4 metres wide
Pool tank depth	Min. 2.5 metres for length of pool, preferably 3 metres	Min. 2 metres for length of pool, preferably 3 metres
Starting platforms	10 non-slip platforms fixed at each end of the pool tank	10 non-slip platforms fixed at each end of the pool tank
Bulkheads	Movable bulkhead that can be set to adjust pool length between long course and short course.	Movable bulkhead that can be set to adjust pool length between long course and short course.
Walls	Must be right angles to the pool length and water surface extending to 300mm above the water line.	Must be right angles to the pool length and water surface extending to 300mm above the water line.
Lanes	Lane width of 2.5 metres	Lane width of 2.5 metres
Lane ropes	In colour codes and marking styles to meet World Aquatics standards	In colour codes and marking styles to meet World Aquatics standards
Turn indicators	Backstroke flags at 1.8 metres above water line and 5 metres from end walls. Plugs for false start poles at 15 metres from end walls.	Backstroke flags at 1.8 metres above water line and 5 metres from end walls. Plugs for false start poles at 15 metres from end walls.
Secondary pool	50 metre 10 lane pool for swimmer warm up and cool down. Minimum depth 2m.	50 metre 10 lane pool for swimmer warm up and cool down. Minimum depth 2m
Concourses	Comp Pool: 10 metres at start and turn end, 5 metres at sides Warm up pool: 7 metres at start end, 5 metres at turn end and 4 metres at sides	Comp Pool: 10 metres at start and turn end, 5 metres at sides Warm up pool: 7 metres at start end, 5 metres at turn end and 4 metres at sides
Timing system	Electronic recording and display board connected to control room	Electronic recording and display board connected to control room
PA system	Pool deck: Full range coverage of 92dBc Grandstand: Full range coverage of 98dBc If operator is in a control booth, adequate reference speakers will be needed. 16ch Digital Audio Console 2ch of Shure OR Sennheiser RF mics (Handheld) with adequate pool deck coverage & grandstands	Pool deck: Full range coverage of 92dBc Grandstand: Full range coverage of 98dBc If operator is in a control booth, adequate reference speakers will be needed. 16ch Digital Audio Console 2ch of Shure OR Sennheiser RF mics (Handheld) with adequate pool deck coverage & grandstands
Spectator seating	Minimum seating for 6,000. Ability to increase capacity preferred.	Minimum seating for 3,000. Ability to increase capacity preferred.
Competition Control	Control room adjacent to finish wall of main competition pool	Control room adjacent to finish wall of main competition pool
Marshalling	2 Marshalling rooms of 40 m2	2 Marshalling rooms of 40 m2
Multi use space	100-150 square metres for multi-use	100-150 square metres for multi-use space

Media facilities	Ability to facilitate up to 100 working media at a desk in a spot visible to all 10 lanes Space for a media mixed zone away from the competition pool, approx. 10m long and 4m wide	Ability to facilitate up to 30 working media at a desk in a spot visible to all 10 lanes Space for a media mixed zone away from the competition pool, approx. 10m long and 4m wide
Lighting	Minimum 2,000 lux even across venue (including grandstands). LED and DMX controllable house lighting is preferred	Minimum 1500 lux even across venue (including grandstands). Preferably 2000 lux LED and DMX controllable house lighting is preferred
Drug testing room	Private toilet area with individual cubicles for two athletes to be tested and waiting area for minimum of 4 athletes awaiting testing.	Private toilet area with individual cubicles for two athletes to be tested and waiting area for minimum of 4 athletes awaiting testing.
Equipment store	Provision for storage of items including advertising devices, medal dais, movable timekeeper seating, back-up timing equipment, training equipment etc	Provision for storage of items including advertising devices, medal dais, movable timekeeper seating, back-up timing equipment, training equipment etc
Pace Time clocks	Pace time clocks at either end of competition and warm up pools, visible from all lanes	Pace time clocks at either end of competition and warm up pools, visible from all lanes
Vision Screen	2x 16:9 Ratio LED Screens IMAG (Min size of 5.5x3m & Min Pixel pitch of 4mm) 1x 16:9 Ratio LED Screen for time system (Min size of 5.5x3m & Min Pixel pitch of 4mm) Brompton processing is preferred Video switching/routing capabilities (Min of 3 destinations & 6 inputs)	2x 16:9 Ratio LED Screens IMAG (Min size of 5.5x3m & Min Pixel pitch of 4mm) 1x 16:9 Ratio LED Screen for time system (Min size of 5.5x3m & Min Pixel pitch of 4mm) Brompton processing is preferred Video switching/routing capabilities (Min of 3 destinations & 6 inputs)
Hospitality	Provision of 2 spaces (1 on pool deck at 40msq and 1 other at 100msq). Must have PA capability in both spaces, and vision screen/TV capability on the larger space	Provision of 2 spaces (1 on pool deck at 40msq and 1 other at 100msq). Must have PA capability in both spaces, and vision screen/TV capability on the larger space
Catering facilities	Catering facilities for public satellite catering and corporate catering to service up to seating capacity	Catering facilities for public satellite catering and corporate catering to service up to seating capacity
Entry to venue	Separate entry for accreditation and spectators	Separate entry for accreditation and spectators
Video Officiating	3 x overhead cameras per end, 15m points, 4 x underwater at each end	3 x overhead cameras per end, 15m points, 4 x underwater at each end

- Further information on **World Aquatics Facilities Rules** available [here](#).
- **Swimming Australia Competition Regulations for the Conduct of Australian Swimming Events** available [here](#).