



Minister for Education
Minister for Industrial Relations and
Minister for Racing

18 JUN 2021

Councillor Rachel Chambers
Mayor
North Burnett Regional Council
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Dear Mayor *Councillor Rachel,*

Thank you for your letter dated 28 April 2021 in relation to the operational and financial concerns of council pools, and the North Burnett Water Safety and Swimming Program.

As the matters you raise in relation to the operational and financial concerns of council pools fall under the portfolio responsibilities of the Honourable Dr Steven Miles MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, my office has taken the liberty of forwarding your email to the Deputy Premier for his consideration.

As you may be aware, the Ministerial Water Safety Roundtable was convened in 2018 to ascertain evidence-based options for water safety programs, to increase the safety of students and to outline potential solutions to barriers for school involvement in water safety programs.

As a result of significant consultation with internal and external stakeholders, a range of programs, support and resources were initiated. This included the development of the Prep to Year 10 Water safety and swimming education program, which is available to all Queensland schools aligned to both the National Swimming and Water Safety Framework and the Australian Curriculum.

You may be interested to know that the Queensland Government increased annual Learn to Swim funding available to state primary schools to \$3.68 million from the beginning of the 2019–20 financial year. This increase in funding included a new annual \$150,000 Water Safety and Swimming Education grant available to state primary and special schools without a pool and with unique circumstances that present barriers to providing a water safety and swimming program.

In addition, an action statement, action plan and pledge of commitment to water safety were developed by the Queensland Government. Further information is available at www.education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/stages-of-schooling/water-safety-and-swimming.

If you would like any further information or assistance regarding water safety and swimming education, please contact Ms Stacie Hansel, Acting Assistant Director-General, State Schools – Performance, on (07) 3513 5803 or by email at stacie.hansel@qed.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

GRACE GRACE MP
Minister for Education
Minister for Industrial Relations and
Minister for Racing

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