Item 14.7

Notices of Motion

Pool Party

By Councillor Maxwell

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) City pools have a long history as places of LGBTIQA+ celebration: the City of Sydney Archives hold photographs of Mardi Gras Swimming Carnivals at Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool, including the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence blessing the carnival in 1995, and a Mardi Gras pool party at Victoria Park Pool in 1997

(ii) City pools remain important to Sydney's LGBTIQA+ communities, and Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool in particular has a devoted following in Sydney's gay community

(iii) the City is a long-standing supporter of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras festival, including through its sponsorship of the festival, and Mardi Gras Fair Day is held each year in the City's Victoria Park

(iv) the 2028 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras festival will mark 50 years since the first Mardi Gras in 1978

(v) other NSW councils host special occasion events at their public baths, including:

(a) Lismore, where the Tropical Fruits New Year's Day pool party at Lismore Memorial Baths, an alcohol-free event, draws up to 700 people and has become a highlight of the annual LGBTIQA+ festival

(b) Newcastle, where the City of Newcastle's New Annual festival presents SOAK, a free open-air music series at Newcastle Ocean Baths, with swimmers watching performances from the water

(vi) under the City of Sydney Leisure (Active Wellbeing) contract, the City works collaboratively with its aquatic operator to deliver programs that meet its community and social goals, including the Trans Joy Swim and Gym event and a Ukranian Women’s refugee swimming program

(vii) the 50th anniversary festival is an opportunity to bring Mardi Gras back to City pools, and to celebrate the pools' place in the history of Sydney's LGBTIQA+ communities

(viii) a trial event would let the City test whether special occasion pool parties work at City pools, before considering whether to offer them more widely

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate the logistics of a trial pool party at a City outdoor pool, such as Prince Alfred Park Pool or Victoria Park Pool, as part of the 2028 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras festival, subject to the interest of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

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