NEW SOUTH WALES STATE GOVERNMENT SWIMMING POOL REGISTER

As you may be aware from local media coverage, The NSW State Government has created a state-wide register for private swimming pools and spas. The register is now online and pursuant to the Swimming Pools Amendment Act 2012 all property owners who have private swimming pools and/or spas on their properties have until 29th October 2013 to register their properties. Failure to register a property with a pool and/or spa onsite before 29th October 2013 can potentially lead to the issue of a $220 penalty.

Council is undertaking a community awareness campaign to alert the residents of Wollondilly Shire of the need to register their properties before 29th October 2013. If you own a property within Wollondilly Shire, and that property has a swimming pool and/or spa onsite than you have the option to:

- Register your property via the NSW State Government’s website at www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au, registration will require you to ‘self assess’ the pool barrier and confirm with the register that it is compliant. Checklists are available from Council’s Office and via the State Government pool register Website, or

- Provide Council with the necessary information to enable registration of your property. The information required is at www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au or you can obtain a checklist from Council’s Office. The fee for this service is $10.00.

If you do not wish to ‘self certify’, you can apply to Council for a Swimming Pool Compliance Certificate wherein Wollondilly Shire Council will inspect the barrier and certify its compliance. The application fee for this Certificate is currently $119.00.

Backyard swimming pools and/or spas pose a significant risk to safety, particularly for children under the age of 5 years. Especially concerning is the large number of existing pools and spas with non-compliant pool barriers or pools that do not have any barrier. In NSW, all swimming pools and spas with a capacity greater than 2000 litres (2 cubic metres) require approval, and if they can be filled with water to 300mm or more they must have an isolation barrier separating the pool from any residential buildings or public places.

As a point of reference a circular pool with a diameter of 3m and depth of 0.75m has a potential volume of 5300 litres and therefore would require approval and an isolation barrier. There are many online tools for calculating the volume of a swimming pool, a web search for ‘pool volume calculator’ may be of help if you are unsure of the volume of your swimming pool.

Yours faithfully,

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