



Kensington & Norwood Pool

Nomination for RISK



Image: c/o SA Government

The Kensington and Norwood Pool in Phillips Street, Kensington is currently the subject of a Swimming Centre Review conducted by the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters. In view of council amalgamations and the inclusion of the larger Payneham pool in the review, there is a danger of “rationalisation” and the loss of this attractive, much-loved and popular local facility. This is despite the increasing population and hence demand for such facilities.

Opened by Premier Sir Thomas Playford in 1957, it was the first public pool constructed after World War II and has been acknowledged as a construction heralding the modern era as the first chlorinated fresh water pool in the Adelaide metropolitan area.

In 1977 the former City of Kensington & Norwood gave approval for its demolition and the redevelopment of the site but the community rallied to save it and Premier Don Dunstan and Opposition Leader David Tonkin were involved in the campaign that led to its reopening.

In a park-like setting, this olympic-sized pool is surrounded by significant River Red Gums and is one of few outdoor pools in Australia that still has a diving board, a favourite of teenagers and younger children alike, but even that is under threat.

The pool lies within the Residential Historic (Conservation) Zone. It is listed as a Local Heritage Item and has previously been nominated for National Heritage Listing and recently for State Heritage listing.