**Dr Marisa Paterson MLA**

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBIDGEE

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**12 April 2023**

**Hot Springs and Themed Pools, some of the suggestions making a splash for the future of a Woden Valley Pool**

The Phillip swimming pool has made quite the splash with the local community strongly in-favour of keeping a pool in Woden, preferably indoor and with modern facilities.

From mid-January to early February Dr Marisa Paterson MLA undertook consultation with Murrumbidgee residents regarding the Phillip Pool, feedback which she intends to give to GEOCON as the new owners of the Phillip pool site.

“I had a great response and interaction with the survey from the community, people are really passionate about having a public pool in Woden. I want them to know that I have heard their voices loud and clear and will do everything I can to ensure that we have a public pool in Woden area for decades to come” says Dr Paterson.

Of 127 respondents, all expressed their love and fond memories of the pool. “Best memories of school holidays were spent in that kids pool” wrote Shannon. “I love the feeling of sitting outside on a summers day near a pool, under the trees with a cool breeze” writes Amy.

Survey results indicate that an overwhelming majority of Woden Valley residents and Phillip pool users would like to see the pool maintained as a 50m pool with a toddler’s pool, all open for public use. The respondents were nearly a dead heat on whether the pool should be indoor or outdoor. Ideas stretched beyond the just the pool’s maintenance however, with a range of ideas calling for improvements to the site’s amenities.

“Modern change rooms and showers” one respondent said. “A heated pool where those with injuries or arthritis etc can walk and regain mobility, strength and flexibility,” said another.

One pool user called for a complete overhaul of the site entirely, “Canberra would benefit from a large indoor, all year-round recessional aquatic centre with an emphasis on waterslides, wave pools, lagoon, pool cinema and bar, water play areas, spas and hot springs, and themed pools” they wrote.

Whilst waterslides and themed pools might not quite make it into the plans for Phillip pool, Dr Paterson is calling on GEOCON to work collaboratively with the community and ACT Government to ensure that Woden has a public pool that is open and accessible to the community.

With the ACT Planning System in the process of being reformed, Dr Paterson has taken the opportunity to voice her constituents concerns over the future of a key community facility.

Dr Paterson lodged a submission to the ACT Planning System Review and will continue to advocate to GEOCON to keep the pool maintained and open. In her submission to the review (which is located on her website), Dr Paterson advocated for the Phillip Pool to be retained as a community asset and highlighted some of the community’s concerns. At the stage of writing, GEOCON have not responded to the request for a meeting with Dr Paterson.