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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

19 March 2020

### **Recreation Centres and Swimming Pool Closures**

The health and safety of our community and staff is Huon Valley Council's number one priority and we are continuing to put measures in place to respond to the outbreak of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus).

While the risk of contracting the COVID-19 is currently very low in Tasmania, we want to do everything we can to act responsibly and help slow the spread. This will allow our local health services to keep up with demand and help protect those most at risk.

Council has enacted its Business Continuity Plan to ensure we maintain an appropriate level of service to the community. In the interest of public safety, we have made the decision to close all of the Council's Recreation Centres and Swimming Pools effective from close of business Friday 20 March 2020.

Following the closure of a number of other centres and pools in the south of the state, Council has reviewed its operations and after an assessment, has decided to close the centres.

"Our staff will continue to work on site undertaking some maintenance and program work during this period," said Huon Valley Council General Manager Emilio Reale.

"We understand the level of inconvenience these closures may create, however we are taking the threat of COVID-19 very seriously as we endeavor to do everything we possibly can to reduce the spread of the virus," said Huon Valley Council Mayor Bec Enders.

"We appreciate this is a difficult time but we genuinely have the best interests of our community, staff and volunteers, at the forefront of our minds in taking this action. All closures will be actively reviewed and advice monitored, with an update on reopening made available as soon as possible," said Cr Enders.

All pre-purchased entry passes will be frozen and extended for use on reopening.

New information is being released everyday by the Australian Government Department of Health at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au). Although many people are not comfortable with change, we all need to be prepared to respond promptly to the professional advice we are given about COVID-19.

**For more information: Mayor Bec Enders (03) 6264 0300**

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