



# Inverell Shire Council

## Development Services Bulletin

February 2019

### SHIPPING CONTAINERS WITHIN URBAN AND RURAL RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Shipping containers can be a great form of secure, weather-proof storage for households. However, a common misconception is that it is not necessary to obtain approval to install a shipping container. This is incorrect. Whilst there are a number of exemptions from approval in relation to small garden sheds and carports, these exemptions do not extend to a shipping container.

To install a shipping container in an urban or rural residential area, it is necessary to obtain development consent from Council. The factors that Council will consider when assessing a shipping container proposal, include but are not limited to:

- Location and setbacks of the shipping container in relation to neighbouring properties;
- The visual appearance (colours, state of repair, etc.) of the shipping container when viewed (if visible) from the road and adjoining properties; and
- Whether stormwater (roof and surface) is disposed without causing a nuisance to adjoining properties.



For more information or assistance with the rules on shipping containers, please contact Council's Development Services on 67288200.

### SHIPPING CONTAINER SWIMMING POOLS—WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

Above ground pools made from a shipping container, are becoming increasingly popular and as a result, Council has received a number of enquiries in relation to the applicable rules and regulations.

The most common question is:

**Does a shipping container pool require a barrier such as a fence or can I use the container walls as the barrier?**

In New South Wales, the *Swimming Pools Regulation 2018* and the *Building Code of Australia* stipulates that for an above ground pool, such as a shipping container pool, the pool wall cannot be used as an effective child-resistant barrier. Pool safety is an important matter and Inverell Shire Council adopts this position.

All above ground pools, including shipping containers, require an effective child-resistant barrier, e.g. fencing.

In addition to a barrier, a number of other development and safety standards apply to a pool e.g. setbacks, filters, lighting and resuscitation charts.

If you are considering the installation of a swimming pool; whether in-ground, above ground, or a shipping container pool, please contact Council's Building Surveyors or come in to the Council Administration Building where a copy of the Australian Standard for pool barriers can be viewed.