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Support ... Bianca and Jordan Blundell at the Mayfield pool yesterday. Picture: ROBERT MCKELL

Families join pool protest

By CLEMENTINE CUNEO

SPLASHING about in the Mayfield pool is how Jordan and Zane Blundell like to spend summer weekends.

But it could all be a distant memory if Newcastle City Council closes the pool as part of long-term plan.

For Jordan and Zane's parents, Mark and Bianca Blundell, the prospect of the pool's closure means a long hike to the beach if they want to splash about.

But more important, there will be no safe place to teach the boys to swim.

"We teach the kids to swim here. You can't do that at the beach," Mr Blundell said.

The family spend most summer weekends at the pool and say it would be a great loss to every family in the area if it were closed.

"The kids love coming here. It would be terrible to lose it," Mr Blundell said.

The Blundells were one of many families that took part in a community picnic at the pool yesterday to show their support for the much-loved facility.

Save Mayfield Pool campaign spokesman Brian Gaffney said the huge turnout was a reflection of how passionate people were about the pool.

"To lose it would be a

crime, and it would be gone forever. The council hasn't built a pool in 40 years," Mr Gaffney said.

The event gave people a last-minute opportunity to have their say on the pool's future before submissions close on Wednesday.

"We want to get a personalised message from as many people as we can," Mr Gaffney said.

Newcastle City Council drafted a pool delivery model to consider future options for pools throughout the city, after suggestions that pools were a huge drain on funds and attendance figures had dropped.