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## Water dark and murky in championship pool: swimmers

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WORLD championship swimmers competing in the Rod Laver Arena pool have complained of water quality and visibility, claiming the pool's water was dark and cloudy.

"It's pretty dark out there and the water is pretty murky, so it kind of surprised me a bit when I dived in," Australian breaststroker Brenton Rickard said yesterday morning.

Rising sprint swim star Eamon Sullivan said he found the pool's water quality "a bit cloudy".

Swimmer Michael Klim added: "My goggles were murky too. I don't know if it was the pool or the goggles."

The complaints prompted championship organisers to call on the pool's makers, AstralPool, to investigate water quality.

"We have listened to what the feedback has been from a couple of the athletes, and we have asked AstralPool to look at it," Melbourne 2007 spokesman Damien Glass said.

The pool, which is cleaned nightly in a process called vacuuming, was scheduled for a cleaning yesterday afternoon.

Also yesterday, the pool's heating pump, which is attached to the pool but outside the venue, sprang a leak.

Mr Glass said the damage to the pump was minor and AstralPool staff were able to fix it in less than 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, organisers are still confident they will eclipse the sales of previous titles held in Barcelona, despite needing to sell more than 60,000 tickets this week.

So far, organisers have sold 142,000 tickets to the championships. Since the event started, 30,000 tickets have been purchased.

More than 18,000 tickets have to be sold in the next week to beat Montreal's ticket sales.

At least 63,000 sales are needed to beat the State Government's target of surpassing the championships' highest attendance record of 205,000, set at the 10th world championships in Barcelona in 2003.

In Melbourne, across the last week of swimming there is an average of 2500 tickets still available per session.

There are still seats available for every swimming session, including heats and finals. Only the finals session of diving has sold out.

<http://www.melbourne2007.com.au>

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