

Have your say ON THE **NEW** **Aquatic AND Leisure Facility**

Information Booklet

It's time to upgrade our aquatic and leisure facilities to meet your needs now, and into the future.

Help us create an aquatic and leisure facility that promotes:

- Good health
- Active living
- A vibrant community



www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay

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REGIONAL COUNCIL
Tamworth



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Have your say ON THE **NEW**



Message from Tamworth Regional Council General Manager Paul Bennett


The need for a new facility that caters to aquatics, sports and leisure has been evident for quite some time. Our existing facilities have served us well over the past 50 years; however, it is time to look to the future and build an aquatic and leisure facility that meets the needs of our growing community.

Tamworth Regional Council runs six outdoor pools across the Region, which is a significant undertaking. We understand that pools are a vital part of our community, and we also know that the current facilities in Tamworth City are old and in need of improvement. Rather than update what we have, we are aiming big. We want to bring our community a venue that caters to lap swimmers, casual swimmers, families, fitness gurus, major sporting events, health services and more. The design needs to suit seniors, youth, families and people of all ages and ability – as you can imagine, this is quite a challenging task.




Modern aquatic and leisure facilities in Australia are more than just a pool. They are fast becoming a hub for activity, health and wellbeing. A place to meet and a place to move. A place to have fun, learn new skills and make memories.


Our goal is to have the project ready for Council to review a business case by December, 2018 – at which point we will be working with the Federal and State Government to secure funding for the project's construction.



This booklet will provide you with an overview of the evolution of sport and leisure in Australia and provide you with some background information as to how we have come to this point.



I urge you to have your say during the consultation period and tell us what you value most in a new facility. You can do so by completing the survey online (www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay) or by filling in a hard copy version of the survey and returning it to Council before the closing date.



Sincerely,
Paul Bennett


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Have your say ON THE **NEW**


How did we get here?




Tamworth's current pools (the South Tamworth and West War Memorial Swimming Pool [Scully] and the Tamworth Olympic Pool [City]) have been long serving hubs for recreation in Tamworth. Both facilities are more than 50 years of age and despite regular maintenance and costly upkeep, they have reached the end of their life and are financially unsustainable, each currently running at an annual loss of more than \$250,000.



Both of these facilities provide the community with an outdoor seasonal 50 metre, seven-lane pool as well as a range of other supporting infrastructure. They were built to serve our population more than 50 years ago and we have not increased the amount of public swimming water since this time despite our population increasing.



For more than two decades Tamworth Regional Council has considered options for the development of a modern aquatic facility. In 2017 Council committed \$250,000 to develop a complete Business Case (concept plans, costings, and funding strategy) to identify what a modern facility could look like. Now, more than ever there is a strong commitment from Council to progress a new regional aquatic facility that will serve the community for many years to come.



So now is the time to have your say and tell us what you think a new facility could look like.



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What are the success factors of modern leisure and aquatic facilities?

Research indicates that the following factors are pivotal in ensuring the long term sustainability for modern aquatic and leisure facilities:


- **Creating a one-stop shop.** Building a large range of activity areas at one site, to maximise use and help share costs.
- **Programmable spaces.** Pools and spaces dedicated to learn to swim activities, hydrotherapy, and individual/group fitness and leisure.
- **Catering for all ages and a range of interests.** Ensuring the centre offers facilities and services that meet current and changing needs for all community members.
- **Reducing operating losses.** Building efficiencies into the centre design and creating a mix of community and commercial activities at the one site, to ensure that the centre is financially sustainable.
- **Creating a community/social hub.** Offering quality food, beverage, social and recreational spaces to create a meeting place for the community.






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What might a new facility in Tamworth include?







Council is working to ensure that the community has access to modern facilities, activities and programs that make being active easy and enjoyable. These facilities need to suit the needs of our residents now and into the future, whilst also being able to attract major events to the City that provide economic benefit for our entire Region.



Council is keen to seek the community's input regarding what they would like in a new aquatic centre and as such will be undertaking a community consultation between December 2017 and late February 2018.



Some examples of recently-built aquatic and leisure centres are highlighted later in this booklet (pages 14 - 18) as case studies, however common features that you may wish consider in your feedback include:

- **Indoor and/or outdoor lap pools.** A mix of 25 metre or 50 metre pools that cater well to lap swimming, carnivals and major events.
 - **Warm water program pools.** As the name suggests, these pools can be used for aqua programs such as learn to swim, aerobics and water therapy. They are generally smaller, can be accessed using ramps, and are not suitable for lap swimming.
 - **Leisure play equipment.** This type of equipment includes items commonly known as 'splash pads' and features children's play equipment interspersed with water play.
 - **Food and beverage.** For the convenience of visitors and users of the centre, a café style kiosk is common.
 - **Major attraction leisure features.** These are features including slides and/or rides that are often single use, but attract visitors to the centre. They are popular in some venues, but can be expensive to operate.
 - **Health and wellbeing.** There is a growing demand for wellness activities including massage, dieticians, physiotherapy, osteopathy and life coaching in the sport and leisure industry. Additionally, the inclusion of fitness facilities such as gym equipment is also a popular trend.
 - **Retail outlets.** Outlets that offer relevant accessories (swimwear, towels, goggles etc.) make purchases convenient for users of the facilities.
 - **Technology.** A centre with technology allowing visitors to track their level of activity, similar to that of a Fitbit is now common.
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What we have determined




Location – The location of the proposed facility is within the Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence precinct in South Tamworth.

Upgrade of existing pools – It has been determined that the upgrade of existing pools is not viable should a new facility be built.




Sale of existing facilities – Should a new aquatic and leisure facility be built, Council has determined to sell the existing facilities, with funds being allocated to the new facility.




Timing – Council has invested \$250,000 toward developing a business case. This is scheduled to be completed by December 2018 and will outline detailed designs and costings. After this time, Council will work with State and Federal Government to secure funding to construct the facility. The timeframe for construction is not yet known.

Factors for consideration



Transport – consultation with local transport companies will be an important part of developing the business case, to ensure the facility is easily accessible for residents and visitors.



Cost – Council cannot determine the cost of entry prior to knowing what features and services the facility will have. The focus however, will be to ensure the facility is cost effective for residents and visitors.




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Have your say




It's important that you tell us what you'd like to see in a new facility, and provide us with an idea of what features are of value to you. The consultation period ends on 28 February, 2018.

There are a few ways you can give us your feedback:



Online – visit www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay to complete the online survey before 28 February 2018.



In-writing – You can collect a hard copy survey at any Council Office and return this to Council via post or drop it into any Council office.

Post

437 Peel Street
Tamworth NSW 2340

Phone

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Email

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Aquatic AND Leisure Facility



Have your say ON THE **NEW**

Case studies

BATHURST

Facilities and Services

- Outdoor 50m, eight-lane pool
- Indoor 25m, eight-lane pool
- Program pool
- Leisure pool (beach entry and walled area for toddlers)
- Spa, sauna and steam room
- Café
- Swim shop

Population:

42,389¹

Built:

2007

Cost to build:

\$12.5M (excluding existing outdoor pool)

Website: <http://www.bathurstaquatic.com.au/>

Fees and charges:

Visit http://www.bathurstaquatic.com.au/facilities/entry_and_memberships_prices



Image source: <https://www.ymcansw.org.au/centres/gungahlin-leisure-centre/>

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GUNGAHLIN

Facilities and Services

- Indoor 50m, eight-lane pool
- 25m program pool
- Indoor splash park
- Fitness and group fitness areas
- Café
- Crèche
- Swim shop

Population:

71,142²

Built:

2014

Cost to build:

\$28.7M



Website: <https://www.ymcansw.org.au/centres/gungahlin-leisure-centre/>

Fees and charges:

Visit <https://www.ymcansw.org.au/centres/gungahlin-leisure-centre/join-now/>

¹<http://profile.id.com.au/bathurst/population-estimate>

²http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/80104?opendocument



Image source: <https://www.ymcansw.org.au/centres/gungahlin-leisure-centre/>

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Case studies

GLEN EIRA (GESAC)

Facilities and Services

- Outdoor 50m, eight-lane pool
- Indoor 25m, 10 lane pool
- Program pool
- Learn to Swim pool
- Leisure pool with water play
- Spa and sauna
- Day spa (this is a new feature, not included in the original build cost)
- Child care
- Gym
- Café
- Swim shop

Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre (GESAC) also has an indoor sports stadium similar to the Tamworth Sports Dome.

Population:

149,012³

Built:

2012

Cost to build:

\$45.2M

Website: <http://www.gesac.com.au/Home>

Fees and charges:

Visit http://www.gesac.com.au/About_us/Casual_pricelist

³ <http://profile.id.com.au/glen-eira>



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Image source: http://www.gesac.com.au/About_us/History_of_GESAC

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Case studies

CESSNOCK – *(Still in planning phase)*

Facilities and Services

- Outdoor 51m eight-lane pool
- Outdoor water play
- Indoor 25m 10 lane pool
- Program pool
- Learn to Swim pool
- Leisure pool
- Spa and sauna
- Water slides
- Café
- Swim shop

Population:

56,762⁴

Built:

Still in planning phase

Cost to build:

Estimated \$39.9M

Website:

<http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/resources/file/OnExhibition/2016/Cessnock%20Aquatic%20Centre%20Exhibition%20Design%20Package.PDF>

⁴ <http://profile.id.com.au/cessnock>



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