



Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre Feasibility Study summary

Bass Coast currently has one indoor aquatic and leisure centre located in Wonthaggi, which was built in 1979. The Centre is now at capacity and no longer meets the needs of the community or current standards. The ageing facilities mean maintenance and running costs are increasing and in the long term, without major rehabilitation or redevelopment, the Centre would not be able to remain in operation.

The Feasibility Study sets out options for improving and redeveloping the Centre. The Study includes the results of consultation with users of the facility, residents, schools and local sporting clubs and groups which took place in August-September 2010. It looks at the use of the current centre, economic constraints, the potential for expanded and additional services and the impact of population growth. It also includes concept plans for a staged redevelopment of the Centre.

The community now has an opportunity to provide feedback on the Study. This feedback is vital to ensure that in the future the Centre provides the services our community requires and that users are able to access the services they need. As the only indoor aquatic facility in the region, improvements need to address the current and future needs of our community. Any redevelopment needs to provide suitable access and services for users from every area of Bass Coast. This brochure provides a summary of the contents of the Feasibility Study, covering the key points and issues. It also includes a form for providing feedback on the Feasibility Study. A full copy of the Study is available for viewing at Council's Customer Service Centres and on our website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au.

Consultation summary

Key issues of the current Centre:

- Learn to swim classes are at capacity
- The current pool is not accessible to all members of the community
- There is a need for warm water space for rehabilitation, toddler and older adult classes
- The change rooms do not cater for the needs of the users
- Crèche and occasional care facilities are in demand but not available
- Individuals and clubs using the Aquatic Centre require more lanes and water space

Usage

- Over 100,000 visitors in 2009/10. More than half used the aquatic facilities
- 10 Bass Coast schools currently use the centre
- 3 swim clubs use the pool, 5 nights and 2 mornings a week
- Learn to swim classes are at capacity running 6 days per week
- Aqua aerobics classes run 4 sessions per week
- The underwater hockey club use the whole pool 1 night per week

Clubs and users are growing in numbers and demanding more space and times. The Centre cannot accommodate this demand as lap lanes and water space must also remain open for casual users.

Proposed design

The concept plans for the Centre take into account community needs, users and the current condition of the Centre. Redevelopment of the Centre is broken into four stages.

Stage 1: Relocate the entry to the west of the building, install additional aquatic facilities and more parking. This will provide better access for the community. Features include:

- A warm water pool, that incorporates beach entry, water play and program space
- Café and reception area
- First aid room
- Crèche
- Accessible bathrooms
- Car parking

Stage 2: Construction of three group change rooms.

Stage 3: Replace the current 25m pool and include a beach entry and spectator seating.

Stage 4: Redevelop and reconfigure the gym facilities within the current building footprint. This includes:

- A larger gym
- Group fitness room
- Spin room
- Dedicated change rooms
- A larger meeting room

This stage will occur once other indoor stadiums are available that can accommodate current users.



Meeting current and future needs

The Study recommends a range of universal design features. For example:

- A warm water pool to benefit older adults, young children and people undertaking rehabilitation. It will also make more lap lanes available in the 25m pool
- Beach entry points to pool, which is beneficial to children and people with mobility problems
- Improved change facilities and bathrooms. The group change rooms will assist schools while accessible change rooms can assist a range of users such as people with a disability, families and older adults
- A crèche to make it easier for parents and carers to access the facilities

- A café to provide a social opportunity and meeting place.
- Dedicated fitness spaces to benefit individual users and clubs who undertake programs

Cost and funding

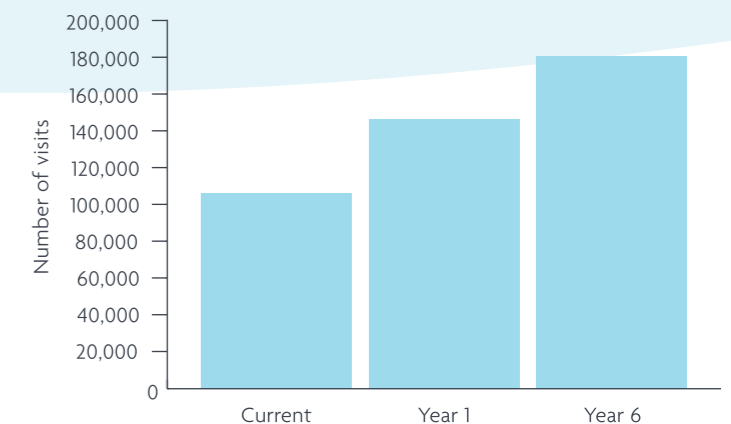
The estimated cost of redevelopment is approximately \$16 million. This would be staged over a 10 year timeframe.

The Study outlines possible funding options for the project. Council would need to make a significant contribution to the project. Grants and financial support from State and Federal Government will also be required. Private investment and community fundraising may also be options to assist with the project.

Economic considerations

Aquatic Centres are expensive to run and councils across the country subsidise visits to centres to varying degrees. Stand alone pool facilities generally require a higher subsidy than facilities that incorporate a range of programs and services. The income generated by these additional facilities help to offset the high costs of maintaining and operating swimming pools. The current subsidy level for this Centre is much higher than similar facilities in regional areas. In light of this, a café, crèche, spin and group fitness room have been incorporated in to the plans.

Annual attendance estimates



feedback form



The Feasibility Study identified six key issues listed below. Do you believe that these issues have been correctly identified?

Issue	Yes	No	Not sure
Individuals and clubs using the Aquatic Centre require more lanes and water space			
There is a need for warm water space for rehabilitation, toddler and older adult classes			
Current pool is not accessible to all members of the community			
The change rooms do not cater for the needs of the users			
Crèche and occasional care facilities are in demand but not available			
Learn to swim classes are at capacity			

The Feasibility Study makes a number of key recommendations. Can you please rate these by circling a number from 1 (not important) to 5 (essential).

More water space for warm water programs and lap swimming

(not important) 1 2 3 4 5 (essential)

Improve the change rooms and toilets

(not important) 1 2 3 4 5 (essential)

Addition of a crèche

(not important) 1 2 3 4 5 (essential)

Expand the health club (gym, group fitness areas, spin class space)

(not important) 1 2 3 4 5 (essential)

Addition of a café space

(not important) 1 2 3 4 5 (essential)

Improve car parking

(not important) 1 2 3 4 5 (essential)

Changes to entry to improve access to the Centre

(not important) 1 2 3 4 5 (essential)

Additional comments:

Name:

Postcode:

Feedback due 27 May 2011.

Visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au to access the full Feasibility Study or view a hard copy at Council Customer Service Centres and Bass Coast YMCA Leisure Centres.

Post your feedback form to: Mr Allan Bawden, Chief Executive Officer, Bass Coast Shire Council, PO Box 118, WONTHAGGI 3995.

Or complete the feedback form at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au

A summary of this feedback will be presented at the July Council meeting.

For further information, please contact: Ella Angarane, Recreation and Leisure Planner. Phone: 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or email: e.angarane@basscoast.vic.gov.au.

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