

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

TARA AQUATIC FACILITY

8 December, 2021



What was Council's decision on 8 December, 2021?

Council has endorsed Taylor Builders to complete the pool design and construct the brand-new aquatic facility for Tara and surrounding community. This decision has been made following the completion of a tender submission process in October and November 2021.

What is the total project cost?

Council recognises the importance of this facility to the community and has approved a revised budget cost of \$7.9 million including design costs.

The tender evaluation panel found the submissions received were indicative of current market pricing.

What does the new pool precinct include?

The new precinct will deliver a modern and vibrant facility that will meet the current and future needs of the community for the next 50 years or more. The precinct will suit a range of needs within the community including Learn 2 Swim, squad swimming, representative meets, recreational swimming and broader community get togethers.

Some of the features include:

- New premier short course pool with eight lanes with a disability access ramp, heating (to extend the swimming season), pool blankets and state of the art filtration systems
- A new entry and landscaped areas, kiosk, amenities, community activation space, open communal spaces and BBQ area and relocatable tiered seating.

Why is the Tara Pool being completely replaced and not repaired?

The pool and concourse were over 60 years old, at the end of their life and no longer safe for use. Due to the extent of the structural deterioration, it was not possible to repair the pool.

Why couldn't the pool be relined?

There was significant movement of the pool structure behind the liner, so re-lining the pool was not possible.

Why isn't the pool being replaced like for like?

Council considered many options before making its final decision on this major project. Council is responsible for making sound long-term financial decisions for the whole of the region. This project will see a significant capital cost of \$7.9M but also ongoing yearly operational costs. The final decision took into consideration the whole of life financial costs and importantly, whole of community benefits for all facility users now and in the future.

How did Council obtain the costings?

Initial cost indications were obtained from pool specialists based on high level assumptions. As the design progressed and engineering requirements were further understood, the plans were costed by a Quantity Surveyor to provide further indicative cost estimates. The final cost has been determined through a tender process.

What is the next milestone for this project?

Construction is expected to commence in early 2022. Council will continue to keep the community informed as the project progresses.

What are the benefits of a multi-purpose pool?

The pool is being designed as a multi-purpose, short course pool that will suit a range of swimming needs from Learn 2 Swim right through to recreational swimming and squad swimming. Council consulted with swimming experts and coaches who all determined that a 25-metre pool works well for coaching – particularly junior development including Learn 2 Swim and school swimming.

Does Council have any support measures in place for the Tara community while the pool is closed for redevelopment?

Yes. Council currently has community support measures in place for the Tara and District community during the 2021/22 swimming season for leisure swimmers, Tara & District Amateur Swim Club, Learn 2 Swim and squad members. The Tara and District community can contact Council on 1300 268 624 or attend one of Council's Customer Service Centres if they wish to utilise the support options Council are offering during the pool closure period.

What else is happening in Tara?

This comes off the back of several projects recently delivered in the Tara community such as a \$4.8 million upgrade of the Tara Lagoon Parklands, \$270,000 of significant upgrades to the Tara Showgrounds, and the delivery of the Sunset Way initiative to drive economic growth in the area.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Tara Aquatic Facility major project and other major projects in the region visit [wdrc.info/major-projects](https://www.wdrc.info/major-projects)

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