



Cessnock Swimming Pool Complex Consultation and Masterplan Report

August 2019



FACILITY
DESIGN GROUP
Architecture & Construction

xypher
sport + leisure
Analysis | Strategy | Facilitation

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	- 1 -
1.1. Project Overview	- 1 -
1.2. Purpose of this Report	- 1 -
1.3. Area Profile.....	- 2 -
1.4. Demographic Review	- 3 -
1.4.1. Central Cessnock Townships	- 3 -
1.5. Cessnock Pool Complex Overview.....	- 5 -
1.6. Current Operations	- 6 -
2. Project Consultation and Engagement Findings	- 7 -
2.1. Consultation and Engagement Overview	- 7 -
2.2. Community Survey	- 9 -
2.2.1. Respondent Profile.....	- 9 -
2.2.2. Current Pool Use	- 9 -
2.2.3. Facility and Service Improvements	- 11 -
2.3. Consultation Sessions.....	- 13 -
3. Summary of Initial Consultation	- 16 -
4. Masterplan Preparation	- 17 -
4.1. Preliminary Options	- 17 -
4.1.1. Preliminary Option Review.....	- 19 -
4.2. Draft Masterplan Option	- 20 -
Appendix 1 - Community Survey Questionnaire	- 1 -
Appendix 2 – Consultation Presentation	- 1 -

1. Introduction

Cessnock Swimming Pool is located at the corner of Wollombi and Allandale Roads, Cessnock. It was originally constructed in the 1930's and is now almost 90 years old. Cessnock City Council (CCC/Council) have commissioned numerous studies and investigations to establish a long term direction for the provision of aquatic facilities and services in the Local Government Area (LGA) and specifically in Cessnock.

At its ordinary meeting of March 7 2018, Council resolved to adopt the relocation of the Cessnock Pool to Turner Park as its long term strategic direction. As an interim measure, Council further resolved to upgrade the current facility for the short to medium term. Proposed works include upgrading the program pool, heating and built structures and installing a splash park. Funding was allocated in September 2018 to construct a splash park at the site.

1.1. Project Overview

Council have engaged Facility Design Group (FDG) and Xypher Sport and Leisure (Xypher) to undertake community engagement and preparation of a masterplan for the Cessnock Pool Complex to guide proposed 'interim' upgrade including project scope, design and cost. This is to include:

- A conceptual Masterplan for the site showing the layout of existing and proposed key features including the 50m pool, leisure pools, splash park, grandstand and amenities, pool plant room/s, club room, car parking, property boundaries and the entry building.
- A Community Engagement Plan is to be developed identifying methods of engagement throughout the project period.

Phase One

- Stakeholder workshops
- Community workshop
- Community and user group survey (by CCC)
- Meetings with on site with staff, Councilors and internal stakeholders

Phase Two

- Stakeholder sketch design review workshop
- Meetings with Project Control Group and key internal stakeholders

1.2. Purpose of this Report

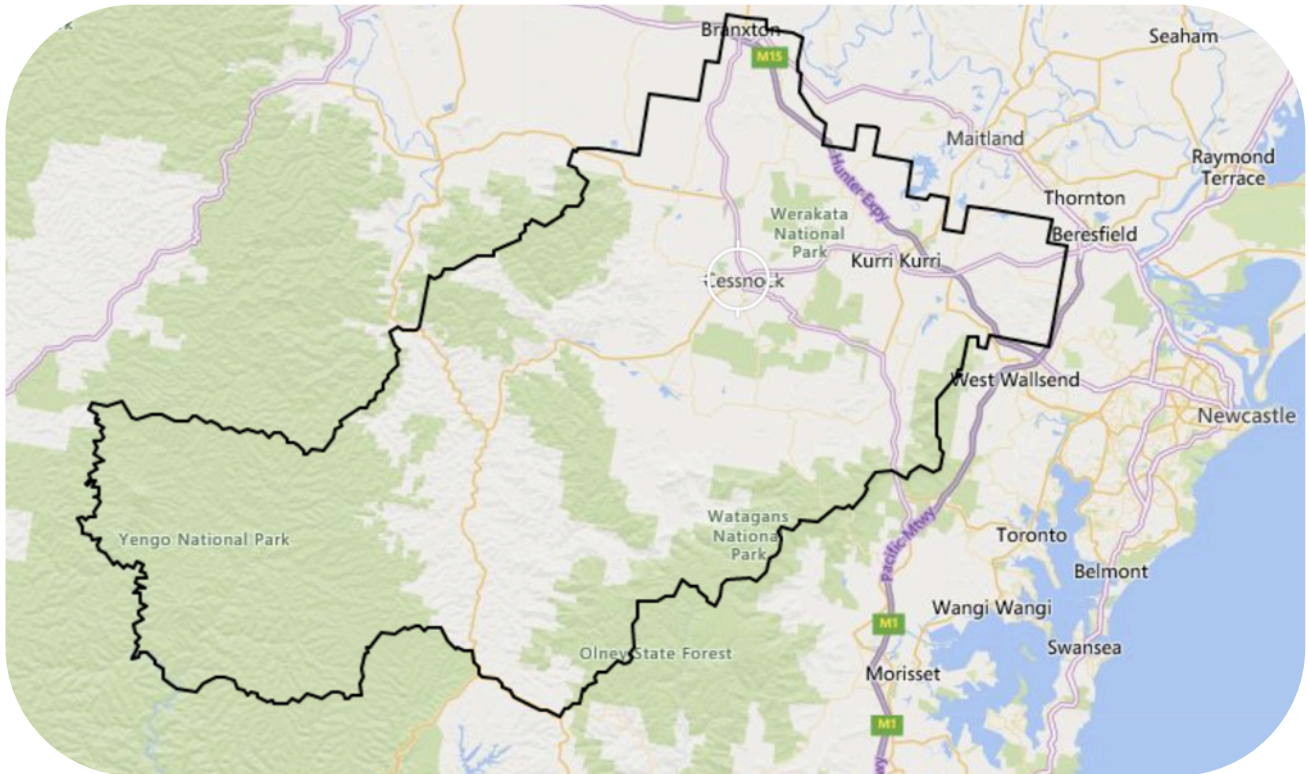
Xypher's specific role was to undertake stakeholder engagement with the Cessnock community to ascertain the needs and wants of the community to assist in the development of a viable masterplan for the Cessnock Pool. This report details the results of this engagement to inform the master planning process.

1.3. Area Profile

The project is focused on the township of Cessnock located in the Local Government Area (LGA) of Cessnock City Council. Cessnock is located in the Hunter Valley, about 120 kilometers north of Sydney and 40 kilometers west of Newcastle.

The Cessnock LGA is bounded by Maitland City in the north, the Cities of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie in the east, Wyong Shire and Gosford and Hawkesbury Cities in the south and the Singleton Council area in the west.

Figure 1- Location of Cessnock LGA



The LGA encompasses a total land area of 1,950 square kilometers, of which a large proportion is State Forest and National Park. Cessnock LGA has a long history of coal mining, manufacturing, construction, agriculture (e.g. grazing, poultry), viticulture and related tourism activities, all of which are still its primary employment sectors.

The Cessnock town centre is the administrative, retail and service centre for the LGA with Kurri Kurri town centre being an important secondary retail node and the industrial heart of the LGA. Local villages service the basic needs of more rural and outlying areas. The LGA is well serviced in terms of education and training, children, cultural and community, health, aged care, recreation and sports.

1.4. Demographic Review

The following demographic review has been developed using data and analysis from a *Cessnock Community Profile Report* created and downloaded in June 2019 from the *Cessnock profile.id website*. The official population of Cessnock City as of the 30th June 2018, was 59,101.

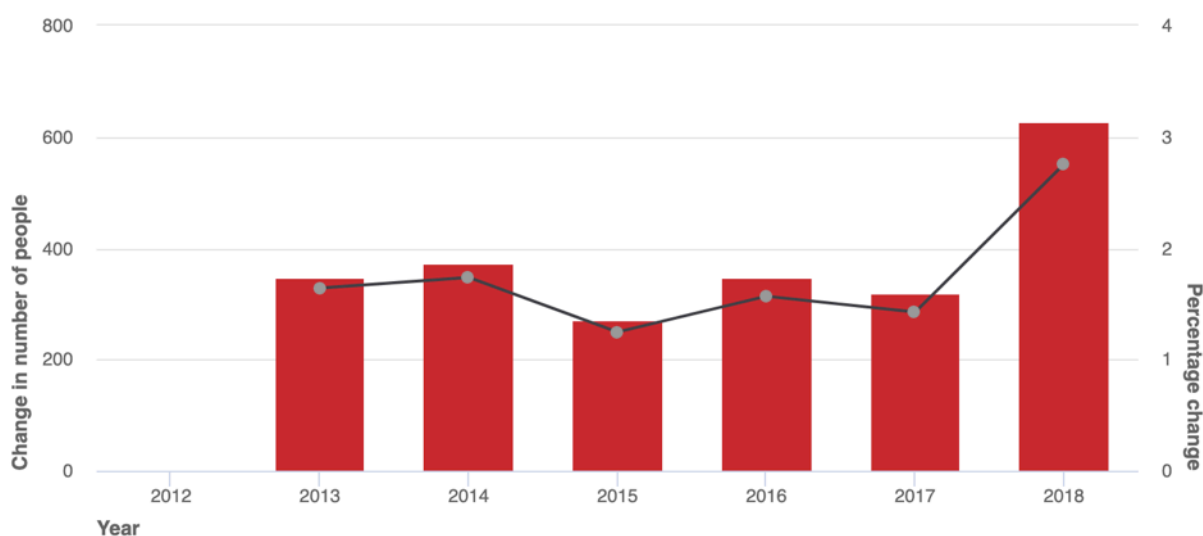
1.4.1. Central Cessnock Townships

As illustrated by the chart by the below, Central Cessnock experienced consistent growth of more than 300 people per year from 2013 to 2017, peaking at over 600 people in 2018.

Annual change in Estimated Resident Population (ERP)

Central Cessnock Townships

■ Change in number ● Percentage change



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0). Compiled and presented by .id the population experts

.id the population experts

The following figure provides an overview of Cessnock's demographic factors compared to the Cessnock LGA, regional NSW and NSW.

Central Cessnock Townships 2016

↔ No significant change since previous Census (less than +/-0.5%) ▲ Increased since previous Census
▼ Decreased since previous Census

<p>Median age</p> <p>37 ▼(-1)</p> <p>Cessnock City 38 ▲ Regional NSW 43 ▲ New South Wales 38 ↔</p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population</p> <p>8.3% ▲(3.6%)</p> <p>Cessnock City 7.2% ▲ Regional NSW 5.5% ▲ New South Wales 2.9% ↔</p>	<p>Couples with children</p> <p>25% ▼(-2.7%)</p> <p>Cessnock City 28% ▼ Regional NSW 25% ▼ New South Wales 32% ↔</p>
<p>Older couples without children</p> <p>10% ▲(1.2%)</p> <p>Cessnock City 10% ▲ Regional NSW 13% ▲ New South Wales 10% ▲</p>	<p>Lone person households</p> <p>26% ↔(0.1%)</p> <p>Cessnock City 23% ▲ Regional NSW 26% ↔ New South Wales 22% ▼</p>	<p>Medium and high density Housing</p> <p>14% ▲(1.4%)</p> <p>Cessnock City 10% ▲ Regional NSW 17% ▲ New South Wales 33% ▲</p>
<p>Median weekly household income</p> <p>\$1,044 ▲(\$92)</p> <p>Cessnock City \$1,176 ▲ Regional NSW \$1,166 ▲ New South Wales \$1,481 ▲</p>	<p>Median weekly mortgage repayment</p> <p>\$330</p> <p>Cessnock City \$353 ▲ Regional NSW \$366 ▲ New South Wales \$456 ▲</p>	<p>Median weekly rent</p> <p>\$281</p> <p>Cessnock City \$287 ▲ Regional NSW \$278 ▲ New South Wales \$384 ▲</p>
<p>Households renting</p> <p>32% ▲(3%)</p> <p>Cessnock City 27% ▲ Regional NSW 26% ▼ New South Wales 30% ▲</p>	<p>Households with a mortgage</p> <p>28% ▼(-2.2%)</p> <p>Cessnock City 33% ▼ Regional NSW 29% ▼ New South Wales 30% ▼</p>	<p>Overseas born</p> <p>6% ↔(0.2%)</p> <p>Cessnock City 6% ↔ Regional NSW 11% ↔ New South Wales 28% ▲</p>
<p>Language at home other than English</p> <p>2% ↔(0.2%)</p> <p>Cessnock City 2% ↔ Regional NSW 6% ▲ New South Wales 25% ▲</p>	<p>University attendance</p> <p>2% ↔(0.1%)</p> <p>Cessnock City 2% ↔ Regional NSW 3% ↔ New South Wales 5% ▲</p>	<p>University qualification</p> <p>6% ▲(1.8%)</p> <p>Cessnock City 7% ▲ Regional NSW 14% ▲ New South Wales 23% ▲</p>
<p>Trade qualification (certificate)</p> <p>26% ▲(1.4%)</p> <p>Cessnock City 27% ▲ Regional NSW 24% ▲ New South Wales 18% ↔</p>	<p>Unemployment rate</p> <p>9.8% ▲(3.6%)</p> <p>Cessnock City 8.7% ▲ Regional NSW 6.6% ▲ New South Wales 6.3% ↔</p>	<p>Participation rate (population in labour force)</p> <p>49% ▼(-3.7%)</p> <p>Cessnock City 54% ▼ Regional NSW 55% ▼ New South Wales 59% ▼</p>

1.5. Cessnock Pool Complex Overview

Cessnock Swimming Pool Complex is located at the corner of Wollombi and Allandale Roads, Cessnock. This pool is one of two outdoor pools in the LGA – the other being located at Branxton.

The site is centrally located, however, severely constrained in terms of expansion and car parking; bounded by major roads on two frontages and residential development on two frontages.

Figure 2 - Cessnock Swimming Pool Complex Site - Current Conditions



Existing facilities:

- 1930's outdoor 6 lane by 50 metre, floodlit pool (1.0 metre deep at one end and 2.1 metres at other end graduating to 3.3 metres approx. 5 metres from edge)
- Entry ramp
- Shade cover over shallow end, scum gutter, fully tiled (some visible cracks)
- Pool blankets used at beginning/end of season. Heated to between 26° - 27°
- Small covered toddler pool [0.9 metres average depth]
- Leisure pool with stair entry, water play features and soft fall (approx 16m x 6m). Small adjacent covered playground
- Grandstand with capacity to seat approximately 750
- Change rooms (including facilities for people with a disability)
- Minimal off street car parking (8 spaces + 2 x accessible parking spaces)
- Swim clubroom. Three swim clubs based at the pool
- Main entry building including supervisor's office, kiosk

1.6. Current Operations

The following provides an outline of current operational details for the Cessnock Pool.

Management

- Cessnock Pool is directly operated by Council with on-site staff responsible for lifeguarding, grounds maintenance, kiosk & plant operation.
- Bookings are managed by Aquatic Facilities Coordinator within the main Council building.
- Some programs (e.g. learn-to-swim) are conducted by swim clubs or private coach.

Season

- September to March each year.

Hours of Operation

- Monday - Friday 6.00am - 6.00pm.
- Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays 7.00am - 6.00pm.
- While the pool is closed to the public from 6.00pm (Mon-Fri) the pool is kept open for swim clubs to 8.30pm on Mondays and Fridays; and Masters Swimming train to 7.30pm on Wednesdays.

Visitation Trends

The total number of recorded attendances at Cessnock pool from 2016/17 and 2018/2019 was 42,102, 36,018 and 44,442 respectively. Aside from lap swimmers and recreational swimmers, a number of community based groups including swimming clubs, service providers and educational campuses use the outdoor pools as well. The average annual income for the pool is \$142,000 and the average annual net operational cost is \$372,000.

2. Project Consultation and Engagement Findings

This section outlines the consultation and engagement undertaken to guide the preparation of the masterplan.

Phase One

- Stakeholder workshops
- Community workshop
- Community and user group survey (by CCC)
- Meetings with on site with staff, Councilors and internal stakeholders

Phase Two

- Stakeholder sketch design review workshop
- Meetings with Project Control Group and key internal stakeholders

2.1. Consultation and Engagement Overview

The consultation process for the project included:

- Conducting key stakeholder meetings on 4 June 2019 including:
 - CCC staff
 - Swimming clubs
 - Other key user groups
 - General community meeting
- Online survey (made available on CCC website)
 - Conducted between 30 May and 16 June, 2019
- The masterplan is intended to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days to allow public comment and this is scheduled for September 2019.

To promote and facilitate the community engagement process, Council communicated with the community through several mediums including:

- Website
 - There were 276 page views from 105 unique browsers.
- Media Release
 - Issued 23 May 2019
- Facebook organic - there were 3 organic posts on the Cessnock City Council Facebook page.
 - 27 May 2019 (promoting meetings)
 - Reach – 4,399 (The number of people who saw the advert at least once)
 - Post reactions – 20 (The number of likes on the advert)
 - Post comments – 23
 - Post shares – 20
 - Post clicks – 275
 - 30 May 2019 (promoting survey)
 - Reach – 4,754 (The number of people who saw the advert at least once)
 - Post reactions – 27 (The number of likes on the advert)
 - Post comments – 34
 - Post shares – 21
 - Post clicks – 519
 - 3 June 2019 (promoting meetings)
 - Reach – 2,082 (The number of people who saw the advert at least once)

- Post reactions – 7 (The number of likes on the advert)
 - Post comments – 9
 - Post shares – 6
 - Post clicks – 80
- Newspaper
 - Advertised in the Cessnock Advertiser on 29 May
 - Advertised in the Greta Branxton News on 4 June

The approach taken to community engagement about the masterplan may be described as “mixed methods research”. In other words, a range of quantitative and qualitative methods have and will be used to engage the community. Together, the information collected using all methods presents a useful body of research to assist in determining the community’s attitudes to the provision of future aquatic facilities.

QUANTITATIVE	Numerical Measurable Representative of the community Less detail / explanation of views provided
	Community survey Your Say webpage Emails Formal hardcopy submissions and letters Hard copy feedback forms Council online enquiry form Consultation sessions
QUANTITATIVE	Subjective Open to interpretation Not representative of whole community More detail / explanation of views provided

2.2. Community Survey

This section provides an overview of results from the community survey. A total of 174 surveys were completed between 30 May and 16 June 2019. A copy of the survey is shown in Appendix 1.

2.2.1. Respondent Profile

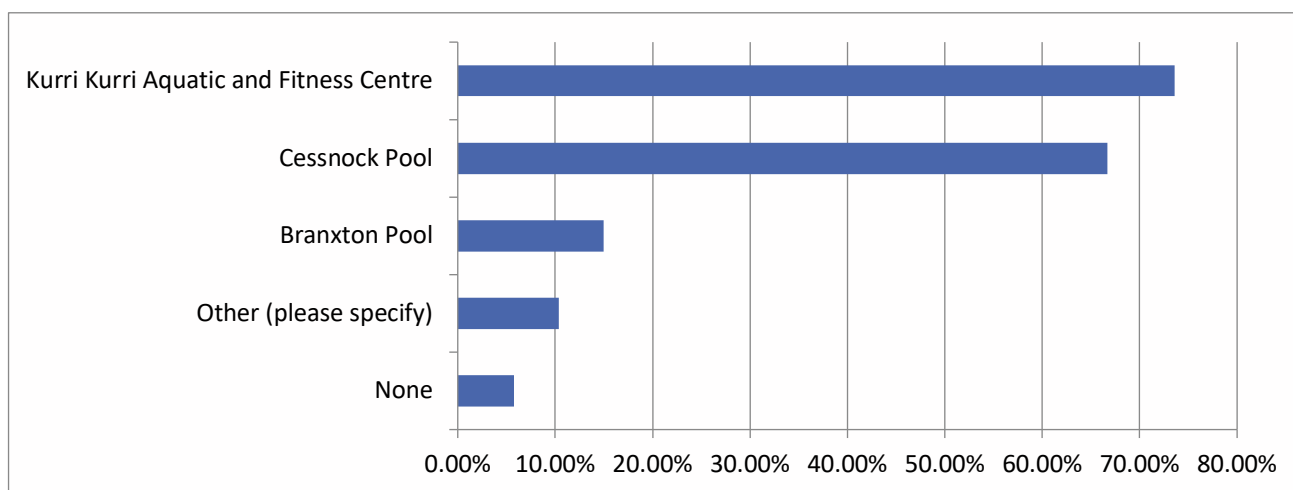
An overview of the respondent profile is shown below:

- 75% female, 25% male
- 55% aged between 30 and 49
- 97% respondents from within the LGA, 45% from Cessnock

2.2.2. Current Pool Use

The second section of the survey asked respondents about their current use of aquatic facilities. The figures below detail relevant responses.

Figure 3 - Pools Used in 12 Months (n=174)



This shows that 67% of respondents had used the Cessnock Pool in the previous 12 months. The Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre was the most used facility (74%).

Figure 4 - Pools Used Most Often (n=174)

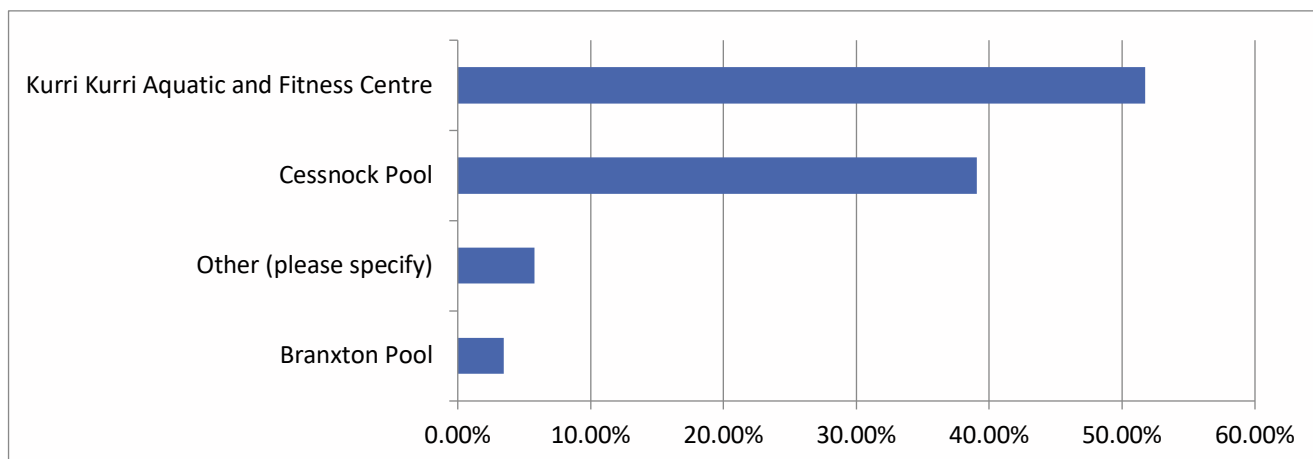
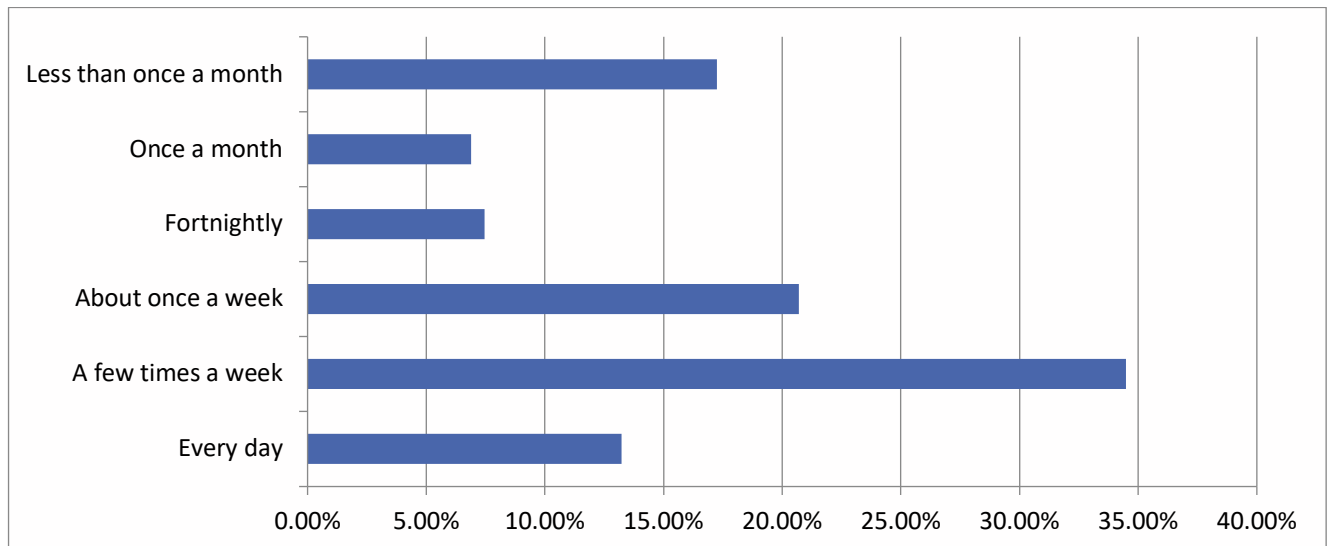
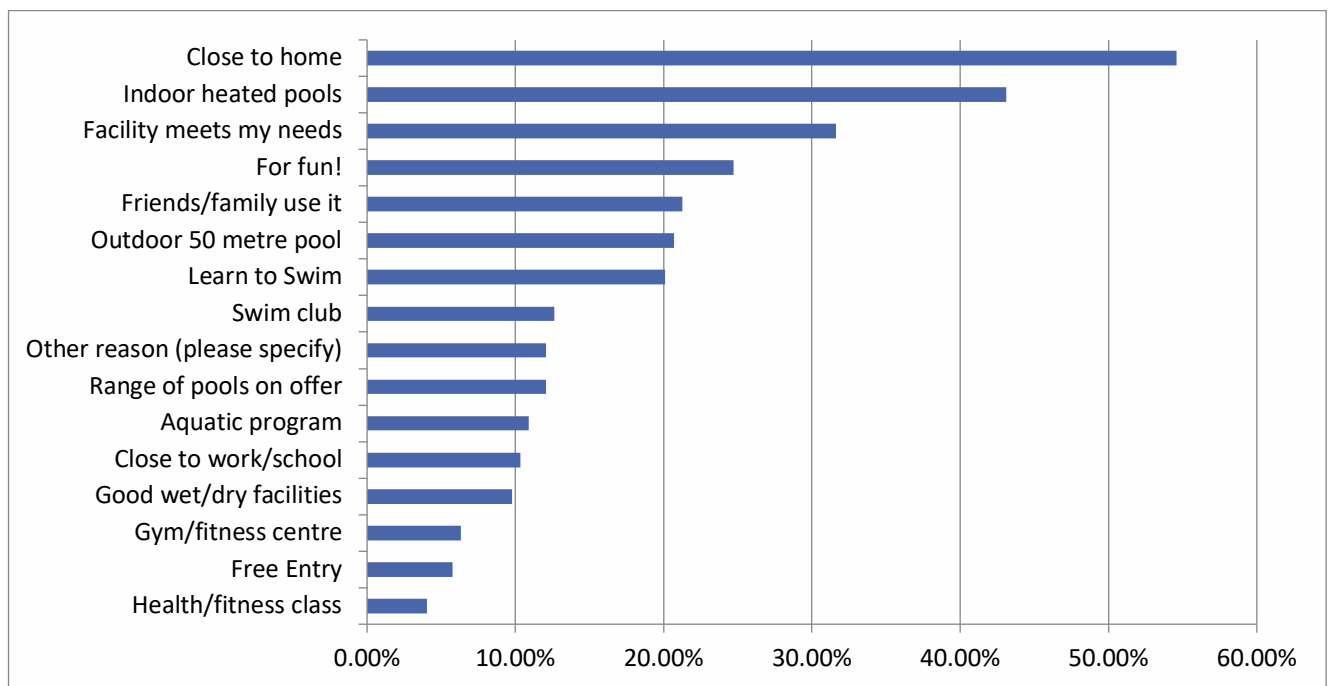


Figure 5 -Frequency of use for main pool (n=174)



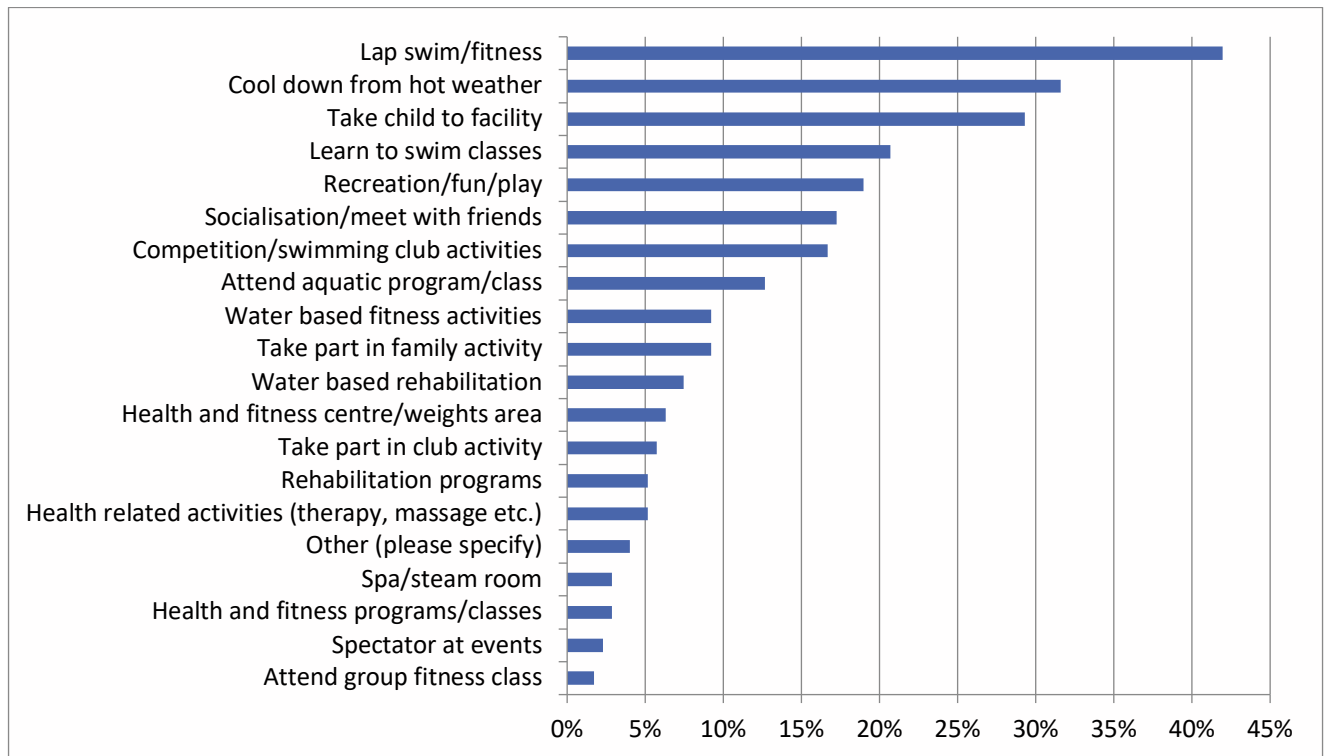
Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre was the most frequently used pool by 52% of all pool users, with the predominant use being a few times a week (34%) or weekly (21%).

Figure 6 - Main Reason for using Pool of Choice (n=174)



The main reason for choosing their particular pool of choice was ‘close to home’ (55%) with the other main reasons being ‘indoor heated pools’ (43%) and ‘facility meets my needs’ (32%).

Figure 7 - Main Activities Undertaken (n=174)



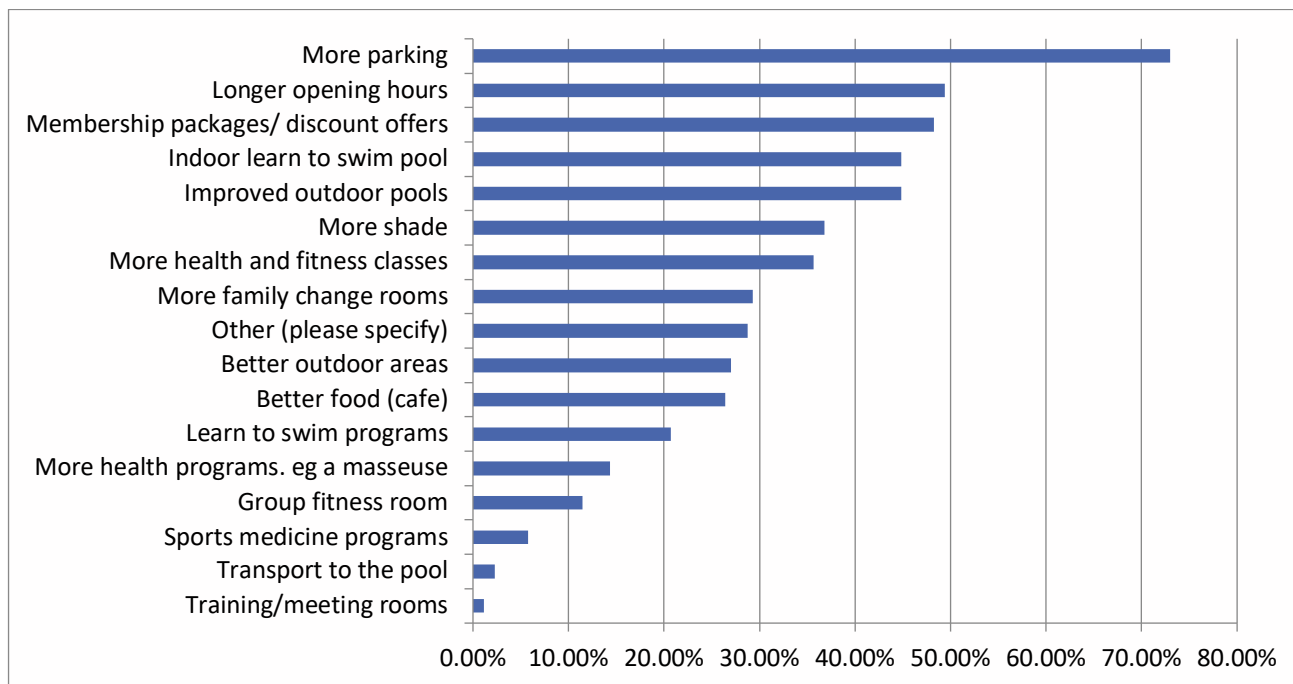
As shown above, the main activity undertaken at the pool was ‘lap swim/fitness (42%) to ‘cool down’ (32%) followed by ‘take child to facility’ (29%).

2.2.3. Facility and Service Improvements

The third section of the survey asked respondents to outline improvements or additions they would like to see to the Cessnock Pool Complex.

The following figure shows facilities and services nominated by respondents that would encourage greater use of the Cessnock Pool Complex.

Figure 8 - Facilities that Would Encourage Use (n=174)



The three most nominated facility improvements that would encourage greater use were 'more parking' (73%), 'longer opening hours' (49%) and 'membership packages' (48%).

The figure on the presents service and facilities listed in order of importance by respondents.

Figure 9 - Facilities by Importance (n=174)

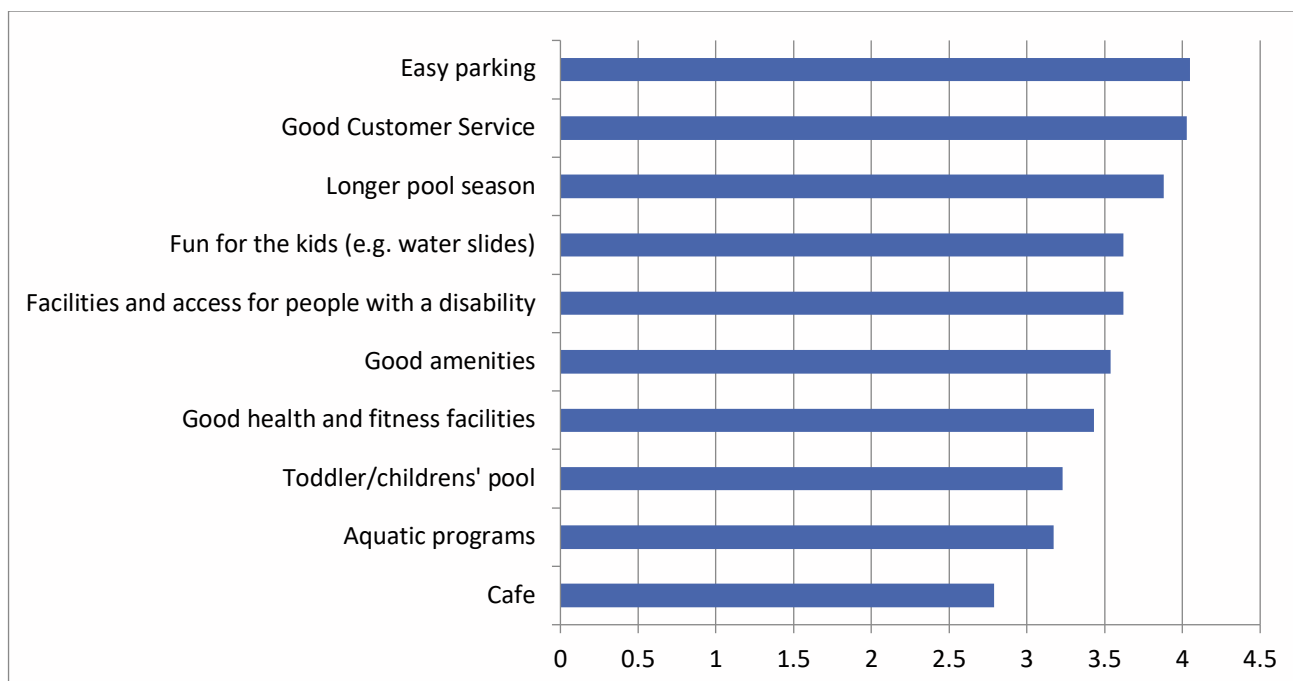
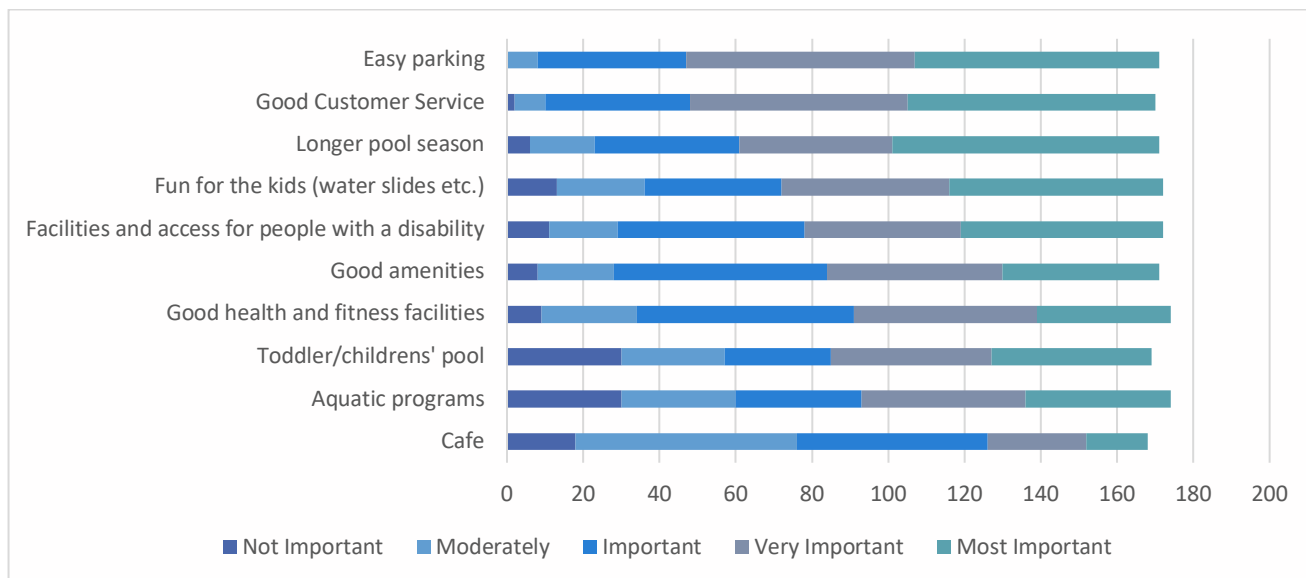


Figure 10 - Importance of Services and Facilities (n=174)



Based on a weighted average, the facilities and services rated as the most important were ‘easy parking’, ‘good customer services’, ‘facilities for people with a disability’ and ‘toddler/children’s pool’.

2.3. Consultation Sessions

This section summarises feedback received during meetings with internal stakeholders, user groups and community representatives. At each meeting a project background was provided by CCC staff and an overview of the consultation was outlined by the project team.

After each session CCC staff outlined the intended process for developing the masterplan and delivering the project. Including:

- FDG will prepare preliminary masterplan options by early June which will be reviewed with key stakeholders and Councillors
- A draft masterplan inclusive of an opinion of probable costs will then be developed and reported to Council to be placed on public exhibition
- Following the exhibition period, a report will be put to Council to report on feedback received and to adopt a final masterplan
- Funding will be sought to install the splash park

Six key stakeholder sessions were held on 4 June 2019 at the Cessnock Pool. These are listed below along with summary notes from each meeting.

The PowerPoint presentation which includes the agenda other information used for these sessions is shown in Appendix 2. As a way of facilitating discussion, two broad options were introduced to workshop attendees. The first (Option A) was the co-location of a proposed ‘program pool’ and ‘spalshpark’ at the southern end of the 50m pool and the second (Option B) was the location of these facilities at the Northern end of the facility (near the current ‘kids pool’). Variants to these options were whether these two facilities should effectively be one water body or two. These options are referred to on some of the notes below.

Council Planning Staff

Council planning staff provided the following input:

- Current facility features and issues

- Entry/Kiosk building has heritage significance with little or no external or internal changes permitted – heritage advisor would need to comment on sketch plan for specific advice
- Future facility needs and priorities
 - Staff require additional space for proposed learn to swim staff, first aid and meal room

Pool Management and Key Operational Staff

Council's pool management and operational staff provided the following input:

- Current facility features and issues
 - Water quality is considered as high
 - Three clubs per week operating on three separate days
 - Council 'free' Sunday promotion has had significant impact on use
 - Tiles in changerooms can be slip hazard
 - Dry playground is low use
 - Current 'baby' pool is low use
 - Non-compliance of 'kids' pool (Royal Lifesaving Society Report March 2019)
 - Some subsidence in main pool
 - Operational risk of current pools all on one filtration and treatment system
- Future facility needs and priorities
 - Staff require additional space for proposed learn to swim staff, first aid and meal room
 - Splash park
 - Should have a bucket
 - Slides should return to one location for supervision
 - Replace/upgrade heating system
 - Refurbish sand filter for main pool
 - Open to cartridge filters on new pools
 - Preferred 'Option B' due to
 - location of new pools to shallow end of main pool
 - better operational layout
 - maintain open space at Southern end

Council Executive

Representatives from Council Executive Leadership Team provided the following input:

- Current facility features and issues
 - Heritage issues with entry building – could the building be relocated (it was relocated to this site)
 - Impact of development on the slip lane (RMS)
- Future facility needs and priorities
 - Potential to consider purchase of nearby properties in the long term
 - Clarity on project budget
 - Support 'Option B' due to maintenance of open space

Councillors

Mayor Bob Pynsent, Cr Mark Lyons, Cr Di Fitzgibbon, Cr Darrin Gray, Cr Melanie Dagg, Cr Paul Dunn, Cr Anne Sander attending a councillor workshop, with the following points raised:

- Current facility features and issues
 - Impact of heritage value on site value
- Future facility needs and priorities
 - Is it possible to retain space for future 25m pool is needed?
 - Property acquisition needed in long term to facilitate parking?

- Need to retain open space/park quality

User Groups

Representatives from the Coalfields United, Cessnock Amateur and Cessnock Masters clubs attended the session, with the following points raised:

- Current facility features and issues
 - Landscape, trees, park atmosphere needs to be retained
 - Safety concern related to pedestrians and pool patrons due to traffic (need protection)
 - Existing 'kids' pool is too shallow for learn to swim programs
 - Existing dry playground could be removed (not used) if new facilities provided
- Future facility needs and priorities
 - Need to keep 'kids' water away from deep end of main pool
 - Separate filtration system suggested to help reduce service interruptions
 - Shade structure on southern concourse for time keepers/officials
 - Splash park
 - Beach entry into waterplay area
 - Must have buckets
 - Should have water slides
 - Supported 'Option B' due to better function/spatial/safety layout and away from vehicle risk
 - Need to minimise impact to neighbours
 - Could there be a solid structure over the proposed new pools?

Community Meeting

There was a total of 9 attendees at this meeting with the following points made:

- Current facility features and issues
 - Kids/program pool is too small and not suitable for programs
 - Existing dry playground could be removed (not used) if new facilities provided
 - Block/screen vision to traffic but balanced with aesthetics
 - Landscape, trees, park atmosphere needs to be retained
- Future facility needs and priorities
 - Alternative disabled access needed due to current distance issue
 - Additional seating on eastern side
 - Have splash park and program pool together
 - Include parent seating and sun and wind protection
 - Heated year round pool?
 - Shade structure on southern concourse for time keepers/officials
 - Splash park inclusions
 - Beach entry into waterplay area
 - Must have buckets
 - Should have water slides
 - Aimed at toddlers to 10 years
 - Consider sensory play (special needs)
 - Supported 'Option B' due to better function/spatial/safety layout
 - Could there be a solid structure over the proposed new pools?
 - Airconditioning in club room?

3. Summary of Initial Consultation

Through the community consultation process, a significant portion of the Cessnock Community have been engaged and been invited to express their view on the proposed masterplan for the Cessnock Pool.

This has included over 200 respondents/participants across surveys and consultation sessions. The consistent feedback received during the process can reliably inform the preparation of the masterplan options.

Key themes that have emerged from this consultation that will be used to inform the preparation of the masterplan include:

- Retention of the park like setting and landscaping
- Inclusion of a water play area and other facilities for children
 - Tipping buckets and water toys were key features
- Need for 'program pool' (to facilitate learn to swim)
- Increased shade areas over pools and other facilities
- Preference by most stakeholders for 'Option B' location of facilities
- Safe pedestrian access and risk of vehicle hazard caused by the intersection
- Priority of parking needs

These points along with operational reviews and industry standards/trends were utilised to prepare two masterplan options and then discussed with key stakeholders to select a preferred option (see Section 4 for details). The preferred option will then be reported to Council to consider placing it on public exhibition. Comments received during the exhibition period will be added to the consultation outcomes outlined in this report.

4. Masterplan Preparation

Following on from discussions at the stakeholder sessions and feedback received during the community survey, preliminary options were prepared by FDG and reviewed with key stakeholders prior to a draft masterplan being developed. This process is outlined in the following sub-sections.

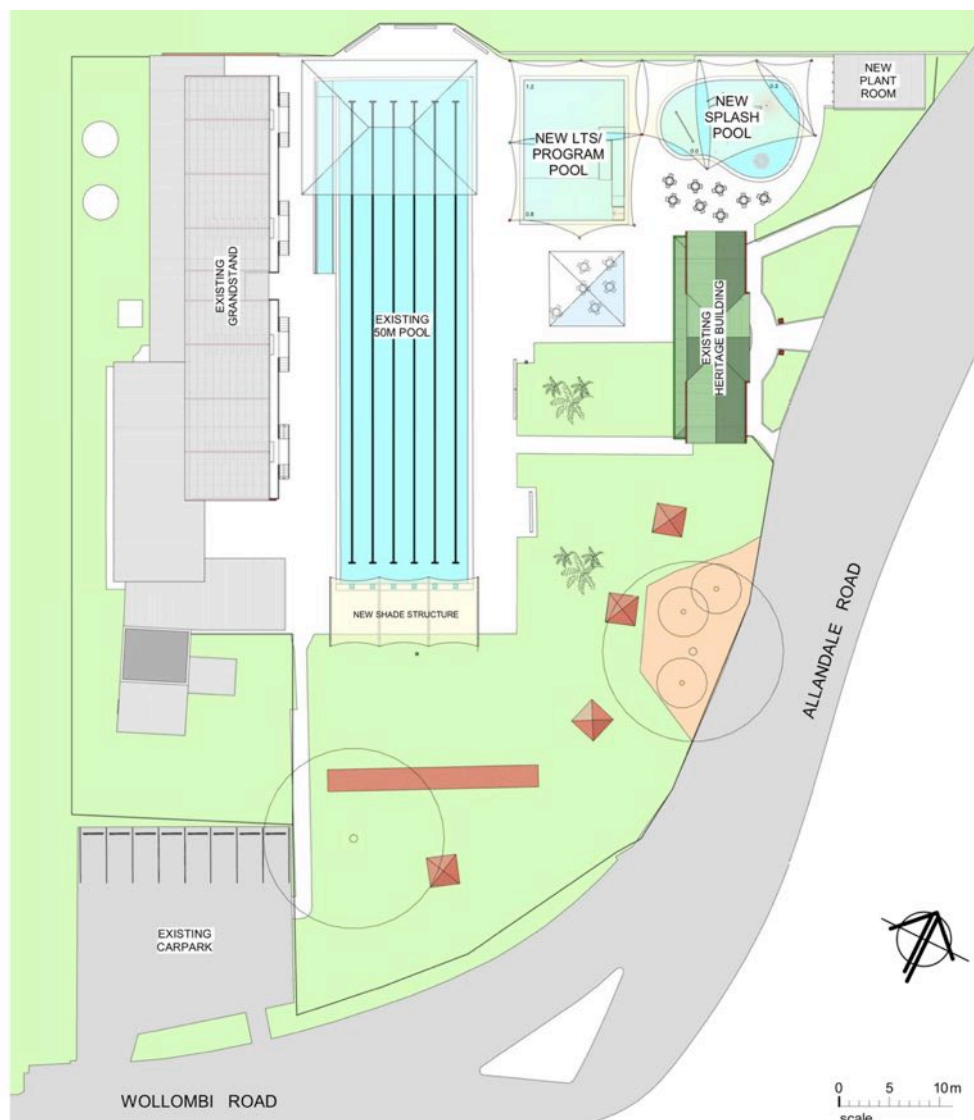
4.1. Preliminary Options

FDG prepared two preliminary layouts to assess spatial and other key planning issues. These were then reviewed with key stakeholders to identify issues, opportunities and constraints with each in order to identify a preferred option to be developed for the masterplan. Preliminary options are shown below with key issues arising from them noted. It should be noted that 'Option B' discussed in consultation was renamed 'Option 1' (as it was favoured at the time) and 'Option A' was renamed 'Option 2'.

Option 1

'Option 1' was the favoured site notionally nominated by attendees at the workshop sessions due the location of facilities near the shallow end of the 50m pool and maintenance of the open space at the Southern end of the site. Option 1 shown in the figure below.

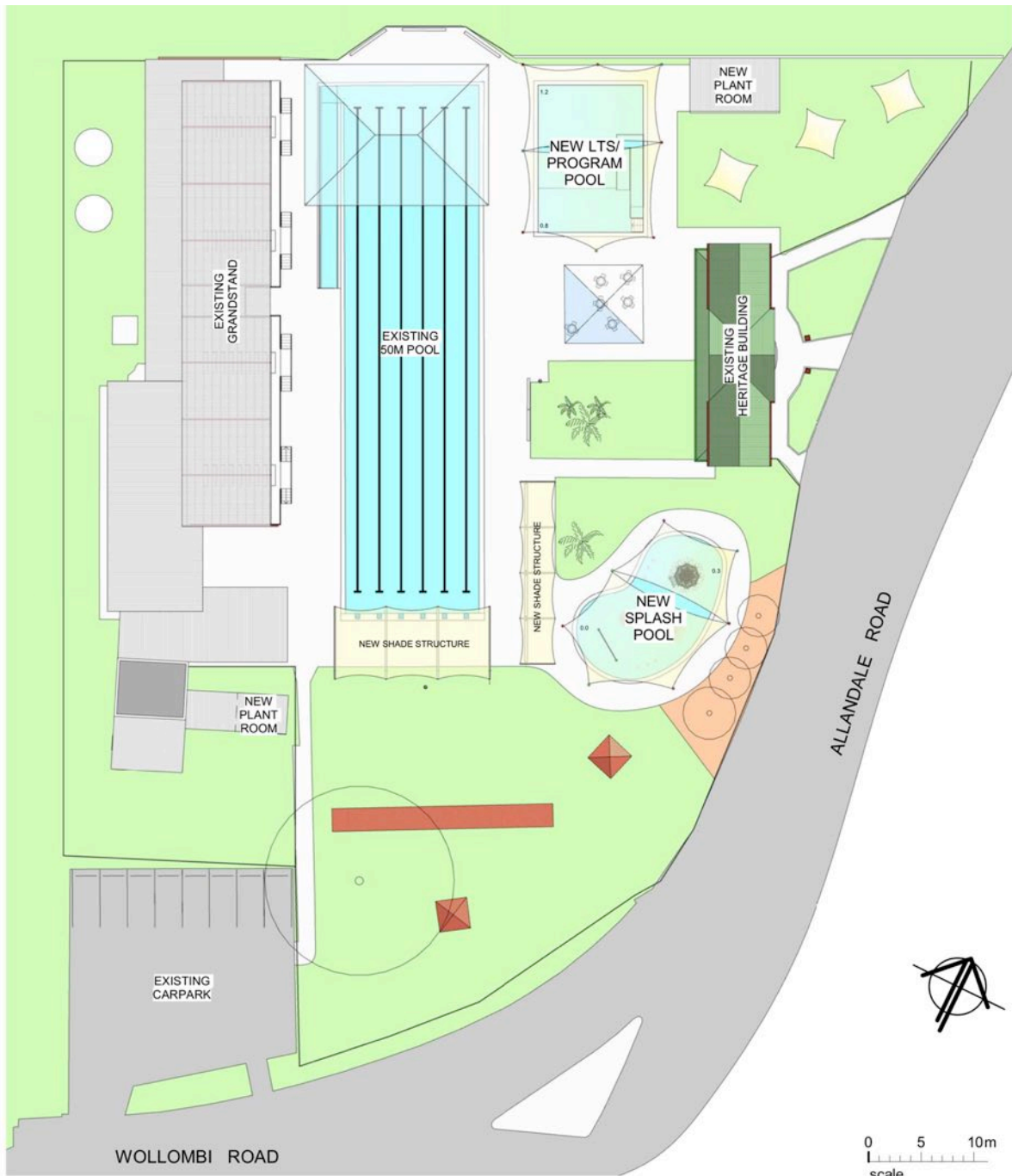
Figure 11 – Preliminary Option 1



Option 2

During the consultation sessions, it was intended that 'Option 2' would involve the location of both the 'program pool' and 'splashpark' near the south-east corner of the 50m pool. However, when this was drawn, there was not enough space to fit both elements without further impacting on the available openspace to the south. Therefore, this option had to be modified to show only the 'splashpark' in this location and the 'program pool' at the northern end. Option 2 is shown in the figure below.

Figure 12 – Preliminary Option 2



4.1.1. Preliminary Option Review

Follow up consultation sessions were held with Council staff, Councillors and key stakeholders on 30 July 2019, to review the preliminary options. As part of these discussions, the project team reinforced that a key parameter for the masterplan is that it must efficiently and effectively facilitate the splash park as a Stage 1 development. This part of the project is the only element that has confirmed funding (and further targeted funding).

From the sessions, the following points were noted for each of the preliminary options:

- Option 1
 - Advantages
 - Location of all child focused facilities in one area (splash park, program pool [learn to swim] and the shallow end of the 50m pool)
 - Maintains open space area at the Southern end of the site
 - Preferred lifeguard option for supervision
 - Functional relationship with proposed social area and entry
 - Disadvantages
 - Potential noise impacts on neighbours which could be mitigated by an acoustic wall, but this would add cost to the splash park project
 - Space is limited and may reduce scope of the splash park
 - Planning requirements may prohibit the location of the plant room close to the Eastern boundary (road frontage)
 - Staging cost may be prohibitive and/or limit the budget for the splash park
- Option 2
 - Advantages
 - More space available for the splash park
 - Staging option 2 is more viable and will enable better value for the splash park
 - Simpler planning pathway
 - Less neighbourhood impact
 - Disadvantages
 - Splash park located near the deep end of the 50m pool
 - Concerns about vehicle entry (traffic accident)
 - Reduction in open space area

A comparison of the preliminary options based on key criteria is shown in the table below.

Table 1 - Preliminary Option Comparison

Criterion	Option 1	Option 2	Comment
Spatial	-	✓	Option 2 provides a larger area for the splash park and will not encroach on the current or proposed program pool
Neighbour impact	-	✓	Option 2 locates the noise from the splash park away from neighbours
Planning	-	✓	Option 2 is likely to provide an easier planning pathway with reduced impact on neighbours and larger set back of the plant room

Criterion	Option 1	Option 2	Comment
Functional/operational	✓	-	Option 1 concentrates child facilities in one area and provides a better connection to social zones
Supervision	✓	-	Option 1 is preferred for lifeguard supervision
Heritage Impact	-	-	Both options have relatively the same heritage impact
Staging	-	✓	Option 2 is a superior stage 1 option due to its independence from the existing and proposed program pool and plant and its better apparent value for money

4.2. Draft Masterplan Option

Based on the preliminary option review and discussion with Council officers, Option 2 was identified as the preferred option for the masterplan and design project. This is based on its advantages over Option 1, identified above, along with the fact that it is believed the following design considerations could be incorporated to mitigate disadvantages:

- Vehicle entry concerns (traffic accident)
 - Incorporate vehicle barrier/bollards to ensure safety of patrons
- Supervision
 - Design as zero depth splash park to reduce supervision requirements
 - Create buffer between the splash park and deep end of the 50m pool
- Operation/functional
 - Locate social area closer to proposed splash park
 - Maintain the toddlers pool for shallow water experience
 - Splash park is unlikely to be in operation during carnival events

Both preliminary options included shallow water to create a splash pool. This was considered based on the longer term view that the removal of the current toddlers pool and reconfiguration of the program pool would eliminate shallow water onsite. However, given that option 2 is the recommended direction, both of the existing pools (i.e. shallow water) can be retained. Therefore, to gain maximum value for the splash park, it is recommended to install a zero depth facility. This will enable a larger area and/or more water toys to be installed for Council's budget.

The draft facility masterplan is shown below. FDG also provided a 3D movie to illustrate perspectives and spatial relationships. The draft masterplan will be reported to Council to be placed on public exhibition for comment. The results of the public exhibition period and any suggested changes to the draft masterplan will be reported to Council prior to adoption.

Figure 13 - Draft Masterplan



Appendix 1 - Community Survey Questionnaire



LET'S POOL OUR IDEAS ON CESSNOCK POOL.



**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.
TAKE OUR QUICK SURVEY.**

Let's pool our ideas!

We're asking you to share your ideas about improvements to the existing Cessnock Pool. These ideas will be incorporated into a masterplan for the pool and plans for a splash pad. Works to the current pool may also include upgrading the leisure pool, heating or other amenities enjoyed by pool users. Take this short survey and share your ideas. Survey closes on Sunday 16 June.

1. Are you?

- Female
- Male
- Other

2. How old are you?

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 10 and under (parent/guardian to assist) | <input type="radio"/> 40-49 |
| <input type="radio"/> 11-19 | <input type="radio"/> 50-59 |
| <input type="radio"/> 20-29 | <input type="radio"/> 60-69 |
| <input type="radio"/> 30-39 | <input type="radio"/> 70 + |

3. Where do you live? Please provide the suburb name and postcode.

//

4. Which pools have you used in the last 12 months? You can select more than 1.

- Branxton Pool
- Cessnock Pool
- Kurri Kurri Aquatic and Fitness Centre
- None
- Other (please specify)

5. Which pool do you visit the most? Please only select 1 option.

- Branxton Pool
- Cessnock Pool
- Kurri Kurri Aquatic and Fitness Centre
- Other (please specify)

6. How often would you or a member of your household visit the pool you use most often?

- Every day
- A few times a week
- About once a week
- Fortnightly
- Once a month
- Less than once a month

7. During an average visit to this facility, what are the main activities you participate in? (Please select up to 3 responses only)

- Attend group fitness class
- Attend aquatic program/class
- Competition/swimming club activities
- Cool down from hot weather
- Health and fitness centre/weights area
- Health and fitness programs/classes
- Health related activities (therapy, massage etc.)
- Socialisation/meet with friends
- Lap swim/fitness
- Learn to swim classes
- Other (please specify)
- Rehabilitation programs
- Recreation/fun/play
- Spectator at events
- Spa/steam room
- Take child to facility
- Take part in club activity
- Take part in family activity
- Water based fitness activities
- Water based rehabilitation

8. Why do you choose to use this facility? Pick your top 3 reasons in the list below.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close to home | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor heated pools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close to work/school | <input type="checkbox"/> Swim club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends/family use it | <input type="checkbox"/> Learn to Swim |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facility meets my needs | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good wet/dry facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Gym/fitness centre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free Entry | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/fitness class |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Range of pools on offer | <input type="checkbox"/> For fun! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor 50 metre pool | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other reason (please specify) | |

9. What additional facilities or features would encourage you to visit the Cessnock Pool more? Of the options listed below you must pick 5.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> More family change rooms | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership packages/ discount offers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More health and fitness classes | <input type="checkbox"/> More parking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improved outdoor pools | <input type="checkbox"/> Transport to the pool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More health programs. eg a masseuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Training/meeting rooms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group fitness room | <input type="checkbox"/> Better outdoor areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor learn to swim pool | <input type="checkbox"/> More shade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learn to swim programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports medicine programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Longer opening hours | <input type="checkbox"/> Better food (cafe) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

10. How important are the items listed below when you visit a local pool?

	Not Important	Moderately	Important	Very Important	Most Important
Aquatic programs (learn to swim/ aqua aerobics)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Toddler/childrens' pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cafe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Good Customer Service - supervision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilities and access for people with a disability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Good health and fitness facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Easy parking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Good amenities (shad, BBQ area, outdoor area and seating)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fun for the kids (water slides, splash park or leisure water)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Longer pool season. Eg open earlier than October and close later than March	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. If you have any additional comments regarding the splash pad or the Masterplan for Cessnock Pool please leave them below.

//

Appendix 2 – Consultation Presentation

CESSNOCK POOL MASTERPLAN AND FACILITY UPGRADE

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

JUNE 4 2019





AGENDA

- Welcome and introduction
- Project background and scope
- Planning and consultation process
- Discuss use of the current facility
- Future facilities
- Summary and close

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

- Background
 - Previous investigations
 - Council resolutions
 - Current project funding
- Scope of work
 - Prepare a Masterplan for the site inclusive of opinion of probable costs for the key elements
 - Upgrading the program pool, heating and built structures and installing a Splashpad
 - Develop working drawings for the installation of a splash pad and associated plant and equipment.

PROJECT AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

- Background review
- Consultation – round 1
 - Cessnock City Council
 - Key stakeholder meeting
 - Community meeting (groups and individuals)
 - Community survey
- Preliminary masterplan
- Consultation - round 2
- Draft masterplan
- Report to Council for exhibition
- Exhibition period
- Report to Council for adoption

CURRENT FACILITY FEATURES



- Current usage patterns
- Current issues
 - things that need to change where possible
- Positive features
 - things that should be retained where possible
- Site limitations and opportunities





FUTURE FACILITIES

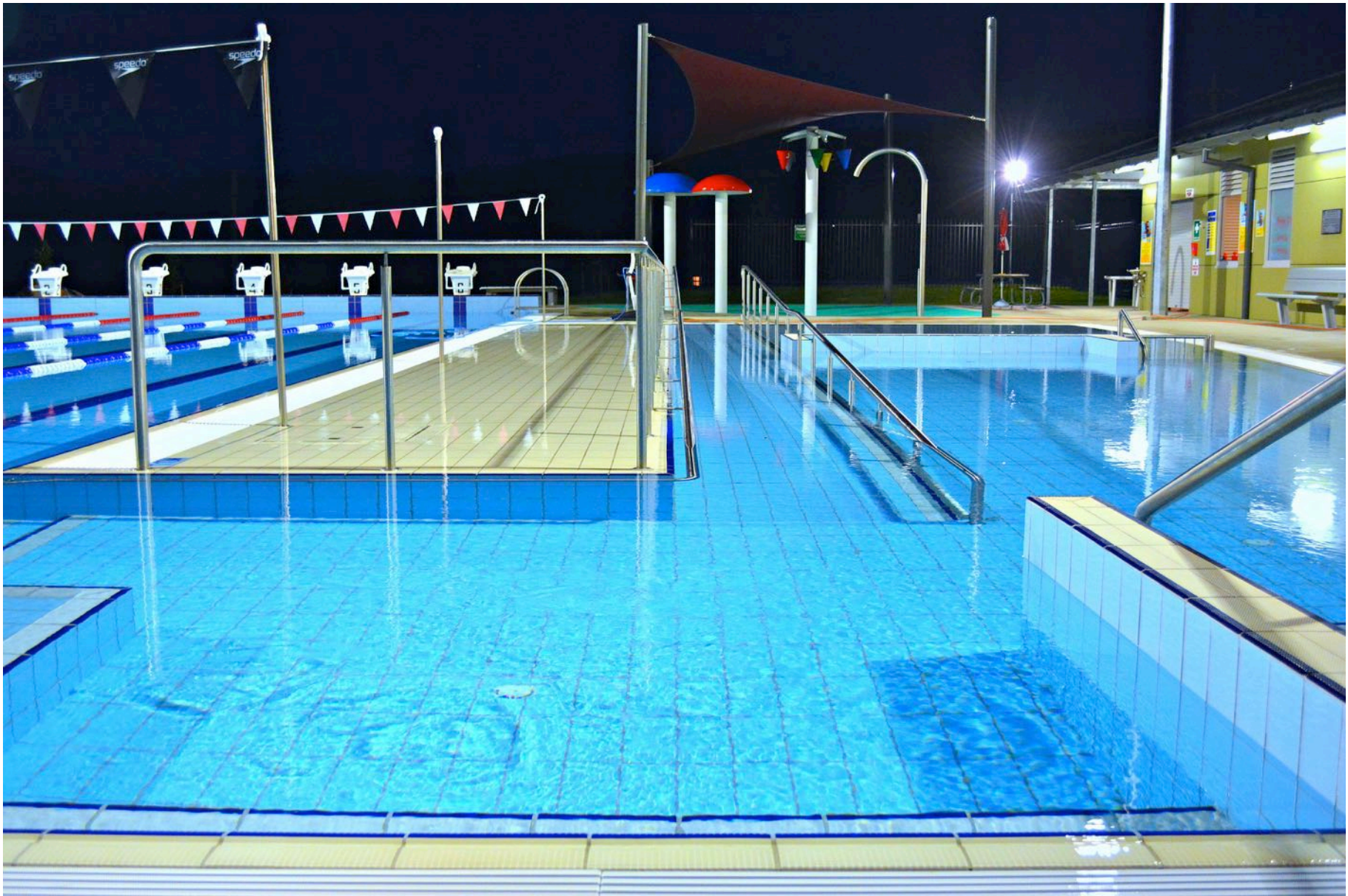
- Core needs/priorities/features
- Desirable facilities/features
- Specific splashpad design input













SUMMARY AND CLOSE

- Opportunities for further input
- Next steps for the project
 - Preliminary sketch design and review
 - Draft masterplan
 - Public Exhibition
 - Report to Council for adoption