



South Gippsland
Shire Council

FOSTER OUTDOOR POOL MASTER PLAN VOLUME TWO: RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION FINAL



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SPORT + LEISURE

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1. Introduction and Background

South Gippsland Shire Council are developing a Master Plan for the Foster Outdoor Pool to identify and articulate an achievable vision for the future of these facilities and to inform Council's future capital investment at the facility.

The Foster Outdoor Pool is located on Reserve Street, Foster and is part of a Crown Land parcel that also includes Foster Golf Course, cricket ground and tennis courts. Located in close proximity to the Foster Secondary College, the pool is open from mid-December to Labour Day each year. The facilities include:

- 25m pool with solar heating.
- Learners pool with gas heating.
- Change rooms.
- First aid room.
- Reception and Kiosk.

The Foster Outdoor Pool is currently managed and operated under contract by the YMCA with attendances over the past five years between 4,000 and 6,000 visits.

Council appointed Otium Planning Group Pty Ltd (OPG) in conjunction with Peddle Thorp Architects to work in partnership with the community and Council to develop the master plan.

1.1 Master Plan Project Documents

The Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan comprises two volumes of information. Volume One: The Master Plan includes:

- Section One: Introduction and Background
- Section Two: Summary of Project Key Findings
- Section Three: Future Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan
- Section Four: Implementation Plan
- Section Five: Benefits and Recommendations
- Appendices: Supporting Information.

The projects detailed background information is provided in Volume Two: Research and Consultation which includes:

- Section One: Introduction and Background
- Section Two: Foster Outdoor Pool Operational Review
- Section Three: Foster Outdoor Pool Survey
- Section Four: Key Stakeholder Consultations
- Section Five: Benchmarking with Selected Seasonal Outdoor Pools
- Appendices: Supporting Information.



1.2 Project Purpose

The project purpose is:

To develop a master plan and indicative cost that reflects the ongoing operation and future renewal of Foster Outdoor Swimming Pool.

1.3 Project Background

There are currently six public swimming pools within the municipality that are operated by Council. Five of the pools including Foster Outdoor Pool are seasonal outdoor pools with the remaining pool being the indoor leisure centre SG SPLASH.

Council has undertaken significant planning for the future provision of public pools within the municipality. The Strategic Direction for Aquatic Facilities in South Gippsland 2015 - 2020 was adopted in July 2016. This document recommended that “Council’s future capital investment in outdoor pools will be informed through the development of Master Plans (including Asset Management Plans) for each facility.”

The “*A Vision for Foster Swimming Pool 2014*” document was completed by the Foster Pool Committee, identifying the future direction they would like to see for the pool. There were concerns however that it primarily duplicated the infrastructure provided by Toora Outdoor Swimming Pool less than 15 kms away, and this was not considered viable given the small population of the area, resulting in Council not endorsing the vision.

1.4 Project Outputs

The Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan project includes the following:

- Details on the community vision / aspiration for the facility.
- Well researched and justified proposals for improvements to the site.
- Concept plans detailing the achievable development of the site.
- Details the estimated costs to upgrade any existing infrastructure and the construction of any proposed new assets.
- Identifies the programs and activities to be accommodated in the proposed improvements.
- Identify the likely benefits to the community for the improved facility in particular increased participation opportunities.

1.5 Project Methodology

The tasks completed by OPG for the *Development of the Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan* are listed in the following table.

Table 1: Project Methodology

Task	Details
Stage One: Background Research	
1. Project Inception Meeting and Site Visit	A Project Inception Meeting to meet with the Project Team, review the project methodology and collect all relevant reports and information was conducted. This included a site inspection of the Foster Outdoor Pool.
2. Review of Relevant Documents and Reports	To establish the context for the <i>Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan</i> , a high-level review of the key documents provided by South Gippsland Shire Council was undertaken to ensure that all opportunities, gaps and issues provided by these existing policies, plans and strategies were documented and analysed.
3. Operational Review	Operational information for Foster Outdoor Pool (where available) was reviewed and analysed to assist in determining usage and financial performance of the facility and to determine how the facility currently operates.



Task	Details
Stage Two: Community Consultation and Market Research	
4. Foster Outdoor Pool Survey	Residents, users, visitors and non-users were able to complete a survey (on-line using Survey Monkey and hard copy) in relation to the issues, current and future needs and opportunities to inform the development of the <i>Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan</i> .
5. Key Stakeholder Consultations	All identified key stakeholders for the development of the <i>Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan</i> were invited to participate in the project. Consultations were conducted with both internal and external stakeholders.
6. Youth Cafés	Two Youth Cafés were conducted to engage with young people, one at Foster Primary School and one at Foster Secondary College.
7. Benchmarking of Similar Pools and Facilities	Four outdoor seasonal pool facilities participated in a benchmarking survey on outdoor swimming pool facilities and operations.
8. Summary of Key Findings Report	Based on the findings from Stage One to Two OPG completed a summary of key findings, issues and opportunities report to inform and guide the development of the future facilities options and needs for Foster Outdoor Pool.
Stage Three: Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan Development	
9. Foster Outdoor Pool Options and Components	An analysis of the spacial capacity of the area, location and functionality of the facilities was completed and a priority list of future facility development options prepared. OPG in conjunction with project architects Peddle Thorp Architects (PTA), developed one concept <i>Draft Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan</i> . Utilising existing construction cost data, and an indicative concept cost plan was completed.
10. 10-year Facility Financial Model	A 10-year Facility Financial Model for the proposed Master Plan including a base case, conservative model and optimistic model was developed.
11. Draft Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan	The <i>Draft Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan</i> was completed which includes timelines, staged implementation program and potential funding sources for implementation, as well as programs and activities to be accommodated in the proposed facility improvements.
12. Presentation of Draft Report to Councillor Briefing	The <i>Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan</i> and the recommendations for future development directions was presented to a Council Briefing providing an opportunity to respond to any queries and seek feedback. Updated to include agreed changes.
13. Community Comment on Draft Master Plan - Public Exhibition	The <i>Draft Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan</i> was placed on Public Exhibition by South Gippsland Shire Council for community comment and feedback. Two <i>Drop in Events</i> in Foster to seek feedback from local residents and current users and non-users of the Foster Outdoor Pool was conducted by OPG. Proposed changes based on community comment and feedback was provided to OPG - agreed changes made to report.
14. Final Draft Master Plan	Based on a review of the community feedback the <i>Final Draft Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan</i> was finalised and presented to a Council Briefing.

1.6 Demographic Profile and Population Trends

The following sections of the report review the demographic profile of the Shire area based on information on Council's website with a specific focus on Foster and the South East Coastal District.

The population trends indicate that between 2011 and 2016 the population in South Gippsland Shire Council (SGSC) area increased from 27,512 to 28,936 people. This equates to an increase of 1,424 people. Between 2011 and 2016 the population of the South East Coastal District that includes Foster increased from 5,254 to 5,393 (Usual Resident Population). In 2016 the population of Foster was 1,164.

1.6.1 Age Group Population Trends

The age profile of South East Coastal District in 2016 (ABS) compared to South Gippsland Shire, Regional Victoria and 2011 Census is listed in the table below.



Table 2: Population Age Profile South East Coastal District

Five Year Age Groups	2016				2011				South East Coastal District Change 2011 to 2016
	South East Coastal District		South Gippsland Shire	Regional Victoria	South East Coastal District		South Gippsland Shire	Regional Victoria	
	Number	%	%	%	Number	%	%	%	
0 to 4	260	4.8	5.5	5.8	199	3.8	5.9	6.3	+61
5 to 9	253	4.7	6.2	6.3	268	5.1	6.2	6.2	-15
10 to 14	258	4.8	6.1	6.1	319	6.1	6.9	6.7	-62
15 to 19	250	4.7	5.6	6.1	303	5.8	6.1	6.8	-52
20 to 24	186	3.5	4.0	5.5	176	3.4	4.3	5.5	+9
25 to 29	194	3.6	4.2	5.4	188	3.6	4.4	5.2	+6
30 to 34	184	3.4	4.6	5.5	183	3.5	4.4	5.2	+1
35 to 39	224	4.2	4.6	5.4	253	4.8	5.7	6.1	-28
40 to 44	267	5.0	5.8	6.1	274	5.2	6.4	6.7	-7
45 to 49	331	6.2	6.6	6.6	367	7.0	6.9	7.0	-37
50 to 54	387	7.2	7.2	6.8	396	7.6	7.5	7.1	-9
55 to 59	449	8.4	7.8	7.1	406	7.7	7.5	6.9	+43
60 to 64	484	9.0	8.0	6.9	547	10.4	8.1	6.6	-63
65 to 69	548	10.2	8.2	6.6	451	8.6	6.3	5.2	+97
70 to 74	412	7.7	5.9	4.9	316	6.0	4.7	4.1	+96
75 to 79	279	5.2	4.0	3.6	237	4.5	3.4	3.2	+42
80 to 84	182	3.4	2.8	2.6	172	3.3	2.7	2.6	+10
85 and over	212	4.0	2.8	2.7	189	3.6	2.5	2.3	+23
Total population	5,369	100.0	100.0	100.0	5,253	100.0	100.0	100.0	+115

Source: Compiled and presented in profile.id@. <http://profile.id.com.au/south-gippsland> October 2017.

Analysis of the five-year age groups for the South East Coastal District in 2016 compared to South Gippsland Shire shows that there was a lower proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17 years) and a higher proportion of people in the older age groups (60+ years).

Overall, 17.5% of the population was aged between 0 and 17, and 39.1% were aged 60 years and over, compared with 21.4% and 31.7% respectively for South Gippsland Shire.

The major differences between the age structure of South East Coastal District and South Gippsland Shire were:

- A *larger* percentage of people aged 65 to 69 (10.2% compared to 8.2%).
- A *larger* percentage of people aged 70 to 74 (7.7% compared to 5.9%).
- A *smaller* percentage of people aged 5 to 9 (4.7% compared to 6.2%).
- A *smaller* percentage of people aged 10 to 14 (4.8% compared to 6.1%).

From 2011 to 2016, the South East Coastal District population increased by 116 people (2.2%). This represents an average annual population change of 0.44% per year over the period.

The largest changes in the age structure in the South East Coastal District between 2011 and 2016 were in the age groups:

- 65 to 69 years (+97 people).
- 70 to 84 years (+96 people).
- 60 to 64 years (-63 people).
- 10 to 14 years (-62 people).



The age groups with the largest percentage of residents in the South East Coastal District are 65 to 69 years (10.2%), 60 to 64 years (9.0%) and 55 to 59 years (8.4%). The age groups with the lowest number of residents are 30 to 34 years and 80 - 84 years (both 3.4%), 20 to 24 years (3.5%) and 25 to 29 years (3.6%).

An analysis of the age data when comparing between South East Coastal District and Regional Victoria shows that the South East Coastal District has a higher proportion of those aged 50 plus and a lower percentage under 40 years.

Analysis of the five-year age groups of South Gippsland Shire in 2016 compared to Regional Victoria shows that there was a similar proportion of people in the younger age groups (under 15) and a higher proportion of people in the older age groups (65+). Overall, 17.8% of the population was aged between 0 and 15, and 23.7% were aged 65 years and over, compared with 18.2% and 20.4% respectively for Regional Victoria.

The median age in South East Coastal District is 54 years, compared to South Gippsland Shire, 47 years, Regional Victoria 43 years and Victoria 37 years.

This is a significant age profile trend for South East Coastal District, as higher concentrations of older adults require core specialist aquatic requirements related to these age groups interests.

1.6.2 Gender Population Trends

The following table details the gender comparison statistics for South East Coastal District, South Gippsland Shire and Regional Victoria in 2016 compared to 2011.

Table 3: Gender Profile South East Coastal District

Category	2016				2011				South East Coastal District Change 2011 to 2016
	South East Coastal District		South Gippsland Shire	Regional Victoria	South East Coastal District		South Gippsland Shire	Regional Victoria	
	Number	%	%	%	Number	%	%	%	
Total population	5,390	100.0	100.0	100.0	5,254	100.0	100.0	100.0	+137
Males	2,659	49.3	49.0	49.1	2,602	49.5	49.3	49.1	+57
Females	2,736	50.7	51.0	50.9	2,651	50.5	50.7	50.9	+85

Source: Compiled and presented in profile.id@. <http://profile.id.com.au/south-gippsland> October 2017.

The results indicate that there are slightly more females than males within the South East Coastal District (50.7% compared to 49.3%) similar to both South Gippsland Shire (51.0% compared to 49.0%) and Regional Victoria (50.9% compared to 49.1%).

1.6.3 Country of Birth

The portion of the South East Coastal District and South Gippsland Shire population born overseas and the diversity in their country of origin can provide an indication of how diverse the population is within the community.

An analysis of the country of birth data for South East Coastal District and South Gippsland Shire areas shows that there is a similar percentage of the population born overseas. Of the residents of South East Coastal District that were born overseas the majority were born in the United Kingdom (255, 4.4%).

The table below provides a summary of the countries of birth of residents in South East Coastal District, South Gippsland Shire and Regional Victoria and if they are from English or non-English speaking countries.



Table 4: Most Common Countries of Birth South East Coastal District

Category	2016				2011				South East Coastal District Change 2011 to 2016
	South East Coastal District		South Gippsland Shire	Regional Victoria	South East Coastal District		South Gippsland Shire	Regional Victoria	
	Number	%	%	%	Number	%	%	%	
United Kingdom	255	4.8	4.4	3.2	267	5.1	4.7	3.5	-12
New Zealand	77	1.5	1.3	1.0	68	1.3	1.1	1.0	+9
Italy	53	1.0	0.7	0.5	24	0.5	1.1	0.6	+29
Total Born Overseas	559	10.6	10.9	11.0	622	11.8	11.2	10.6	-63
Non-English Speaking backgrounds	198	3.8	4.5	6.1	246	4.7	4.7	5.5	-49
Main English Speaking Countries	361	6.9	6.4	4.9	375	7.1	7.1	5.1	-14
Australia	4,253	80.6	80.0	80.7	4,362	82.9	84.3	84.3	-109
Not stated	463	8.8	9.0	8.3	275	5.2	4.5	5.0	+188
Total Population	5,276	100.0	100.0	100.0	5,260	100.0	100.0	100.0	-16

Source: Compiled and presented in profile.id@. <http://profile.id.com.au/south-gippsland> October 2017.

Analysis of the country of birth of the population in South East Coastal District compared to South Gippsland Shire shows that there was a similar proportion of people born overseas, and a similar proportion of people from a non-English speaking background.

Overall, 10.6% of the population was born overseas, and 3.8% were from a non-English speaking background, compared with 10.9% and 4.5% respectively for South Gippsland Shire. As such there were no major differences between South East Coastal District and South Gippsland Shire in 2016.

Between 2011 and 2016, the number of people born overseas in South East Coastal District decreased slightly from 622 (11.8%) to 559 (10.6%). There was also a decrease in the number of people from non-English speaking backgrounds with 246 (4.7%) in 2011 compared to 198 (3.8%) in 2016.

1.6.4 Languages Spoken at Home

The following table provides information on languages spoken at home - English versus Non-English.

Table 5: Languages Spoken at Home

Category	2016				2011				South East Coastal District Change 2011 to 2016
	South East Coastal District		South Gippsland Shire	Regional Victoria	South East Coastal District		South Gippsland Shire	Regional Victoria	
	Number	%	%	%	Number	%	%	%	
Speaks English only	4,830	90.3	88.9	86.6	4,875	92.7	92.9	90.5	-45
Non-English total	147	2.8	3.3	6.0	180	3.4	3.5	5.3	-33



Category	2016				2011				South East Coastal District Change 2011 to 2016
	South East Coastal District		South Gippsland Shire	Regional Victoria	South East Coastal District		South Gippsland Shire	Regional Victoria	
	Number	%	%	%	Number	%	%	%	
Not Stated	372	7.0	7.7	7.4	204	3.9	3.6	4.3	+167
Total population	5,349	100.0	100.0	100.0	5,261	100.0	100.0	100.0	+89

Source: Compiled and presented in profile.id@. <http://profile.id.com.au/south-gippsland> October 2017.

Analysis of the language spoken at home by the population of South East Coastal District in 2016 compared to South Gippsland Shire shows that there was a larger proportion of people who spoke English only, and a smaller proportion of those speaking a non-English language (either exclusively, or in addition to English).

Overall, 90.3% of the population spoke English only, and 2.8% spoke a non-English language, compared with 88.9% and 3.3% respectively for South Gippsland Shire. Regional Victoria had 86.6% speaking English only and 6.0% who spoke a Non-English language.

The dominant language spoken at home, other than English, in South East Coastal District was Italian, with 0.9% of the population, or 46 people speaking this language at home.

Between 2011 and 2016, the number of people who spoke a language other than English at home decreased by 33 or 18.3%, and the number of people who spoke English only decreased by 45 or 0.9%.

1.6.5 Residents Income Levels

The following table lists the personal weekly income levels in 2016 for South East Coastal District, South Gippsland Shire and Regional Victoria residents.

Table 6: Weekly Gross Income for Individual Residents

Category	2016				Regional Victoria
	South East Coastal District		South Gippsland Shire		
	Number	%	Number	%	
Negative Income/ Nil income	276	6.1	1,709	7.2	7.2
\$1-\$149	177	3.9	1,048	4.4	4.4
\$150-\$299	443	9.7	1,962	8.3	7.8
\$300-\$399	560	12.3	2,661	11.3	10.5
\$400-\$499	587	12.9	2,586	11.0	10.3
\$500-\$649	451	9.9	2,217	9.4	9.0
\$650-\$799	367	8.0	1,927	8.2	8.5
\$800-\$999	342	7.5	1,885	8.0	8.5
\$1,000-\$1249	313	6.9	1,733	7.3	7.8
\$1,250-\$1499	184	4.0	1,051	4.5	4.9
\$1,500-\$1749	106	2.3	793	3.4	3.8
\$1,750-\$1,999	84	1.8	512	2.2	2.4
\$2,000-\$2,999	84	1.8	598	2.5	2.9
\$3,000 or more	68	1.5	341	1.4	1.6
Not stated	516	11.3	2,565	10.9	10.4
Total persons aged 15+	4,565	100.0	23,588	100.0	100.0

Source: Compiled and presented in profile.id@. <http://profile.id.com.au/south-gippsland> October 2017.



Analysis of individual income levels in South East Coastal District in 2016 compared to South Gippsland Shire shows that there was a lower proportion of people earning a high income (those earning \$1,750 per week or more) and a higher proportion of low income people (those earning less than \$500 per week).

Overall, 5.2% of the population earned a high income, and 44.8% earned a low income, compared with 6.2% and 42.3% respectively for South Gippsland Shire.

The major differences between the South East Coastal District individual incomes and South Gippsland Shire's individual incomes were:

- A *larger* percentage of persons who earned \$400 - \$499 (12.9% compared to 11.0%).
- A *larger* percentage of persons who earned \$150 - \$299 (9.7% compared to 8.3%).
- A *smaller* percentage of persons with Negative Income / Nil Income (6.1% compared to 7.2%).
- A *smaller* percentage of persons who earned \$1,500 - \$1,7499 (2.3% compared to 3.4%).

1.6.6 Vehicle Ownership

The number of vehicles owned per household is listed in the following table.

Table 7: Household Vehicle Ownership

Category	2016				2011				South East Coastal District Change 2011 to 2016
	South East Coastal District		South Gippsland Shire	Regional Victoria	South East Coastal District		South Gippsland Shire	Regional Victoria	
	Number	%	%	%	Number	%	%	%	
No motor vehicles	111	4.6	3.5	5.1	86	3.7	3.8	6.4	+25
1 motor vehicle	764	31.6	29.4	31.1	787	34.0	31.2	33.0	-23
2 motor vehicles	844	35.0	35.1	34.9	810	34.9	37.9	36.1	+34
3 or more motor vehicles	491	20.3	22.2	19.2	486	21.0	21.7	18.4	+5
Not stated	203	8.4	9.6	9.6	148	6.4	5.5	6.1	+56
Total households	2,451	100.0	100.0	100.0	2,319	100.0	100.0	100.0	+96

Source: Compiled and presented in profile.id®. <http://profile.id.com.au/south-gippsland> October 2017.

Analysis of the car ownership of the households in South East Coastal District in 2016 compared to South Gippsland Shire shows that 86.9% of the households owned at least one car, while 4.6% did not, compared with 86.8% and 3.5% respectively in South Gippsland Shire.

Of those that owned at least one vehicle, there was a larger proportion who owned just one car; a similar proportion who owned two cars; and a smaller proportion who owned three cars or more.

Overall, 31.6% of the households owned one car; 35.0% owned two cars; and 20.3% owned three cars or more, compared with 29.4%; 35.1% and 22.2% respectively for South Gippsland Shire.

A review of the vehicle ownership indicates that the majority of residents of the South East Coastal District (86.9%) own one or more vehicles indicating most people have the ability to independently access sport and leisure activities and this is slightly higher than the average for South Gippsland Shire (86.7%) and Regional Victoria (85.2%).



1.6.7 SEIFA Index of Disadvantage

The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (SEIFA) is derived from attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and variables that reflect disadvantage rather than measure specific aspects of disadvantage (e.g. Indigenous and Separated/Divorced).¹

High scores on the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage occur when the area has few families of low income and few people with little training and in unskilled occupations. Low scores on the index occur when the area has many low income families and people with little training and in unskilled occupations. A higher score on the index means a lower level of disadvantage whilst a lower score on the index means a higher level of disadvantage.²

The table below provides the SEIFA Index of Disadvantage for South East Coastal District and South Gippsland Shire small areas including comparison to selected benchmark areas.

Table 8: SEIFA Index of Disadvantage South Gippsland Shire Small Areas and Selected Benchmarks

South Gippsland Small Areas and Benchmark Areas Ranked from least to greatest disadvantage	2016 SEIFA Index of Disadvantage
Rural West	1,052.9
Rural North East	1,031.0
Nyora - Poowong and District	1,018.4
Victoria	1,009.6
South West Coastal District	1,006.8
Australia	1,002.0
South Gippsland Shire	999.5
Mirboo North - Baromi	998.6
Baw Baw Shire	998
Leongatha	989.6
South East Coastal District	985.5
Bass Coast Shire	978
Wellington	974
Korumburra	951
Latrobe City	940

In comparison with neighbouring municipalities Latrobe City, Wellington Shire, Bass Coast Shire and Baw Baw Shire are considered more disadvantaged than South Gippsland Shire.

Except for Korumburra, the South East Coastal Region is more disadvantaged in comparison to all the other South Gippsland small areas and South Gippsland Shire overall.

1.6.8 Future Population Predictions

The South East Coastal District which includes Foster had an estimated population in 2017 of 5,353 with a predicted population in 2036 of 5,686, which is a change of 6.22%.

The table below provides an overview of the predicted South East Coastal District future area population trends between 2011 and 2036.

Table 9: South East Coastal District Future Population Trends 2011 to 2036

Area	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036
South East Coastal District	5,279	5,322	5,386	5,469	5,581	5,686
Time Frame	2011 to 2016	2016 to 2021	2021 to 2026	2026 to 2031	2031 to 2036	2011 to 2036
Change in Population Between Years	42	64	83	112	105	407

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA 2006) cat. No. 2033.0.55.001.

² Source: Compiled and presented in profile.id@. <http://profile.id.com.au/south-gippsland> October 2017.



Area	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036
Average Annual Percentage Change	0.16%	0.24%	0.31%	0.41%	0.37%	0.30%

A review of the data indicates that the population of the South East Coastal Region is expected to increase in total population between 2011 and 2036 from 5,279 to 5,686 people an increase of 407 people (7.16%).

1.6.9 Future Population Age Profiles

The table below provides an overview of the predicted South East Coastal District future area population age profiles between 2011 and 2036.

Table 10: South East Coastal District Future Population Age Profiles

Age Group	2011		2026		2036		Change 2011 to 2036
	No	%	No	%	No	%	
0-4	224	4.2	216	4.0	223	3.9	-1
5-9	249	4.7	268	4.9	276	4.9	+27
10-14	333	6.3	309	5.7	320	5.6	-13
15-19	307	5.8	239	4.4	246	4.3	-60
20-24	191	3.6	151	2.8	159	2.8	-32
25-29	187	3.6	171	3.1	173	3.0	-14
30-34	180	3.4	200	3.7	200	3.5	+20
35-39	247	4.7	242	4.4	251	4.4	+3
40-44	299	5.7	284	5.2	297	5.2	-1
45-49	360	6.8	311	5.7	328	5.8	-32
50-54	411	7.8	351	6.4	363	6.4	-48
55-59	432	8.2	404	7.4	408	7.2	-24
60-64	533	10.1	490	9.0	486	8.5	-47
65-69	438	8.3	525	9.6	519	9.1	+81
70-74	252	6.2	458	8.4	470	8.3	+145
75-79	235	4.4	407	7.4	409	7.2	+174
80-84	181	3.4	254	4.6	303	5.3	+122
85+	148	2.8	189	3.5	255	4.5	+107
Total	5,279	100.0	5,469	100.0	5,686	100.0	+406

Source: <http://forecast.id.com.au/south-gippsland/population-age-structure?WebID=160&reportFormat=Word>

In 2011, the dominant age structure for persons in South East Coastal District was ages 60 to 64, which accounted for 10.1% of the total persons.

The largest increase in persons between 2011 and 2026 is forecast to be in ages 75 to 79, which is expected to increase by 172 and account for 7.4% of the total persons.

The largest five-year age group in 2026 is 65 to 69 years, with a total of 525 persons.

1.6.10 Implications for Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan

In terms of the Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan the key implications of the population trends are:

- A high concentration of older adults requires core specialist aquatic facilities and services to meet the needs and interests of these residents and as such this is a significant age profile trend for the Master Plan development. This includes provision of inclusive and accessible facilities (eg disabled parking, ramp access to water spaces and into the facility, accessible change and amenities, etc).
- The younger age groups are key users of aquatic facilities and in the South East Coastal District the 0 to 14 years population is predicted to increase slightly between 2016 and 2036 (6%, 771 to 819). This population sector is seeking facilities for fun, play and social activity with friends and family (eg age suitable water play facilities).



1.7 Review of Relevant Research and Documents

To establish the context for the development of the Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan relevant documents, reports and policies have been reviewed. This is to ensure that all opportunities and any issues provided by South Gippsland Shire Council (SGSC) existing policies and documents and other identified research are understood.

The documents that have been reviewed include:

- South Gippsland Shire Council Plan 2017-2021.
- South Gippsland Shire Council Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017 - 2021.
- South Gippsland Shire Council Active Ageing Plan 2012 - 2016.
- South Gippsland Shire Council Strategic Direction for Aquatic Facilities in South Gippsland 2015 - 2020.
- A Vision for Foster Outdoor Pool 2014 (Foster Pool Committee).
- South Gippsland Shire Council Foster Community Infrastructure Plan 2016.
- Foster Community Plan (2011).
- South Gippsland Shire Council Adopted Annual Budget 2017/2018.
- South Gippsland Shire Council Asset Management Policy 2017.
- South Gippsland Shire Council Asset Management Strategy 2017.
- South Gippsland Shire Council Blueprint for Community Infrastructure 2014 - 2029.
- Life Saving Victoria Foster Outdoor Pool Safety Assessment 2015.

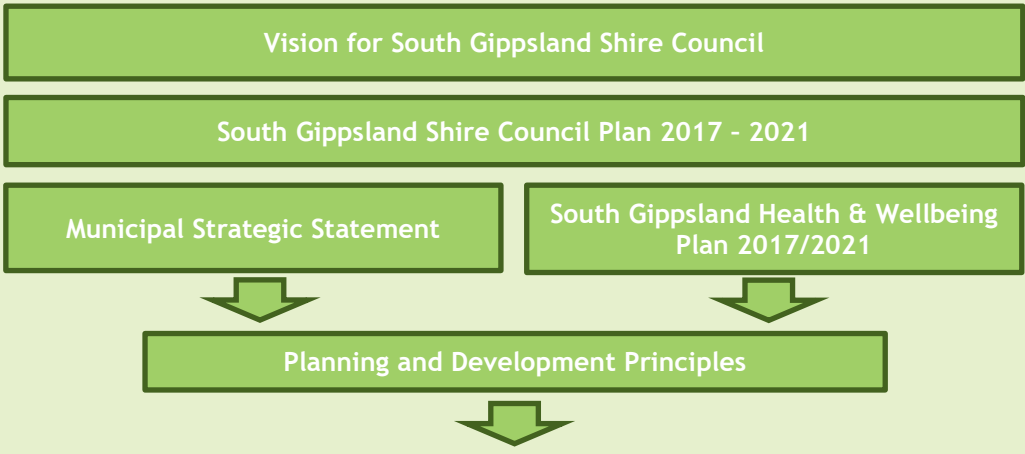
1.7.1 Strategic Document and Policy Review

Council has a number of service planning and strategic documents that are relevant to the planning and delivery of aquatic facilities, programs and services in South Gippsland Shire Council area. The Council Plan 2017 - 2021, the Municipal Strategic Statement (South Gippsland Planning Scheme) and the South Gippsland Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017 - 2021 articulate Council's vision and the overarching framework used to make key decisions and deliver service priorities.

Council works strategically at multiple levels and across different sectors, addressing 'big picture' policy issues, management planning and strategy development and community-level service issues.



The **policy** level concerns the overarching policy and executive level decision-making that informs development of the Council policies that drive service delivery - specifically, the policy work of Councillors and the executive staff who support them.



The **strategy** level (in a local government context) concerns the mid-level management planning, budgeting and strategy development that goes into ensuring service delivery occurs in line with agreed policy - such as the work done by planners, heads of local government departments and financial managers.



The **service delivery** level is on-the-ground community service delivery.



The table below provides a summary of the key points identified within the reviewed documents that will impact on the *Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan*.

Table 11: Summary of Reviewed Documents

Reviewed Document	Summary of Key Points
Council Plan 2017-2021 Our Vision <i>South Gippsland Shire will be a place where our quality of life and sense of community are balanced by sustainable and sensitive development, population and economic growth.</i>	<p>The Council Plan identifies four strategic objectives with Strategic Outcomes, providing the overarching direction for Council for the next four years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1 Strengthen Economic Growth & Prosperity - includes “The unique character of our smaller towns is recognised and supported.” With priority projects identified, advocated for and aligned to State and Federal Government policy objectives. Objective 2 Build Strong Partnerships, Strengthen Arts & Culture & Deliver Equitable Outcomes with communities involved in decision making and delivery of services and projects and supported by appropriate services. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A shared culture of working together with communities for the best outcomes. Sport and recreation facilities maintained and enhanced in partnership with communities. Investment in community facilities is consistent with the Blueprint for Social Community Infrastructure. Strategies to achieve Objective 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where appropriate, support community groups to achieve projects they have ownership of and want to progress. Renew and maintain aquatic facilities in accordance with the Asset Management Plan and the Aquatic Strategy. Objective 3 Improve South Gippsland’s Built Assets & Value Our Natural Environment with well maintained infrastructure and asset management practices that ensure sustainable and fit for purpose infrastructure. Objective 4 Enhance Organisational Development & Implement Governance Best Practice includes working with communities to deliver cost effective facilities and services.
South Gippsland Health & Wellbeing Plan 2017 - 2021	<p>Four priorities have been identified within the plan with strategies under each of the priorities providing a focus for local action and outcomes that describe the change as a result of implementing the strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Wellbeing - social connection (supporting residents to be active members of the community); mental wellbeing (build a healthy and resilient community that promotes emotional wellbeing); support access for all in community life (recognised as a community where people with a disability are included and participate in day to day activities). Lifestyle - active communities (promote physical activity for all residents and visitors in a diverse range of sports, recreation ...), healthy and accessible food (healthy food available in sports canteens and catered events), SunSmart (promote healthy UV exposure). Built and Natural Environment - built environment (safe and accessible infrastructure for sport, recreation ...; aquatic facilities that support water safety education, active recreation, passive recreation and social interaction).
Active Ageing Plan 2012-2016	<p>The plan demonstrates Council’s commitment to ensure that older residents participate in community life and are valued. Strategies of relevance include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social environment - A vibrant engaged community - To provide an inclusive community that encourages active participation for older adults within the wider community, recognising the diversity of our community. Built Environment - Appropriate infrastructure - To provide physical environments that support lifelong health and wellbeing and ageing in place with adoption of ‘Active by Design’ principles and increase activities for older adults at Council owned facilities.

Reviewed Document	Summary of Key Points																														
Strategic Direction for Aquatic Facilities in South Gippsland 2015-2020	<p>Outlines the strategic direction for the provision of aquatic facilities in South Gippsland based on Council's Asset Management Principles. The strategy identifies a set of 14 principles to assist in guiding the provision of aquatic facilities in the Shire including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swimming pools are strongly valued by towns and their surrounding communities. 2. Water safety education, fun, physical activity, health improvement and social interaction are the primary benefits of providing aquatic facilities. 3. Council demonstrates its commitment to aquatic facilities through a substantial annual funding allocation and expects the community to support and maximise the use of these venues. 4. The cost of providing these facilities has and will continue to escalate with limited scope to increase entry fees without impacting on affordability. 5. Council will work in partnership with the local community to actively promote all pools in the Shire and develop a range of programs and activities that increase utilisation within the projected budget allocations. 7. Council will maintain its operational, maintenance and capital investment in all Council managed outdoor pools with a focus on renovation. 9. Council will consider supporting well developed proposals for capital extension/upgrade at the outdoor pools where community and/or external funding can provide a significant proportion (70%) of the total project cost. Council will assess the impact on ongoing operational expense that will need to be borne by Council when considering any such proposals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two level hierarchy of provision with Foster Outdoor Pool identified as a Local Service Facility which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides an outdoor seasonal facility servicing the local community and surrounding districts during the warmer months. - Provides for lap swimming, school carnivals, learn to swim and children's play. - Surrounds that provide a family friendly outdoor environment where community specific aquatic events are held. • Recommendations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1. That Council continue to support the provision of aquatic facilities in recognition of the significant health, education and social benefits they provide to residents and visitors to the municipality. - 7. Council will maintain its operational, maintenance and capital investment in all Council managed outdoor pools with a focus on renovation. 																														
Strategic Direction for Aquatic Facilities in South Gippsland 2015-2020 Appendix 1 Current Aquatic Facility Provision and Projected Costs	<p>Foster Outdoor Pool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-year attendance average 2010/11 to 2014/15 - 5,241 resulting in 20% trigger point 4,192. • Annual projected costs: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Income</th> <th>Net Operation Cost to Council</th> <th>Maintenance</th> <th>Total Cost to Council</th> <th>Attendance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>\$19,203</td> <td>\$74,299</td> <td>\$19,447</td> <td>\$93,746</td> <td>6,595</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>\$20,291</td> <td>\$77,271</td> <td>\$19,933</td> <td>\$97,204</td> <td>6,925</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>\$20,535</td> <td>\$78,062</td> <td>\$20,432</td> <td>\$98,494</td> <td>\$7,250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>\$20,780</td> <td>\$80,014</td> <td>\$20,943</td> <td>\$100,957</td> <td>7,591</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Works anticipated 2015/2020 - plant room refurbishment. • Condition Ratings ³ - Overall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main Pool - 2 (Good) Toilets - 3 (Fair) Learners Pool - 2 (Good) Pump House - 3 (Fair) Entrance Buildings / Kiosk - 2 (Good) • Building Asset Management Plan - condition intervention level for renewal consideration - Condition 4 (Poor). • Projected Financial Costs for next 15 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance Costs \$348,727 Operating Costs \$1,333,464 Capital \$190,126 Total = \$1,872,317. 	Year	Income	Net Operation Cost to Council	Maintenance	Total Cost to Council	Attendance	2015/16	\$19,203	\$74,299	\$19,447	\$93,746	6,595	2016/17	\$20,291	\$77,271	\$19,933	\$97,204	6,925	2017/18	\$20,535	\$78,062	\$20,432	\$98,494	\$7,250	2018/19	\$20,780	\$80,014	\$20,943	\$100,957	7,591
Year	Income	Net Operation Cost to Council	Maintenance	Total Cost to Council	Attendance																										
2015/16	\$19,203	\$74,299	\$19,447	\$93,746	6,595																										
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2018/19	\$20,780	\$80,014	\$20,943	\$100,957	7,591																										

³ Definitions for each condition rating category are provided on page 15 of the Appendix to the Strategy.

Reviewed Document	Summary of Key Points
A Vision for Foster Swimming Pool 2014	<p>In 2014 the Foster Pool Working Group identified key elements and a vision for the Foster pool including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management be handed over to the Foster Pool Association (FPA). • Establishment of a fundraising subcommittee to guide sourcing of additional funds and income. • Council to continue to subsidise the operations at an agreed amount. • Work towards efficiently upgrading the heating of the pool. • Heating and shading/wind protection are high priorities. • Extending the season and operating hours. <p>Pool Development included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heating options were explored with the conclusion for a solar system with heat pump back up (gas or electric). • Heating in conjunction with shading options with the potential that the two could be incorporated into the one stage with a combined structure (shading option with solar on roof). Costs would rest with the FPA and Council and ratepayers would not necessarily be “called upon to contribute”. • Shading - roof enclosing the pool either with open, permanent or removable sides. Two options were considered. • Aqua therapy pool on site of the current children’s pool. • New updated children’s pool. <p>The vision included potential program and user group and partnership development opportunities identifying schools, health programs, U3A and Foster Golf Club. Management model options were also considered.</p>
Foster Community Infrastructure Plan 2016	<p>Recommended community infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine the Vision for Foster Pool to develop a master plan for the site. • Continue to operate the pool in line with the recommendations of the Strategic Direction for Aquatic Facilities in South Gippsland 2015.
Life Saving Victoria Foster Outdoor Pool Safety Assessment 2015	<p>Areas identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting in toilets - increase to min level of 200 lux (was 110 lux). • Accessible changing facilities - no accessible changing area, toilets, showers or hand wash basin. • Main Pool steps at shallow end - only one set had a single hand rail; not appropriate distance from adjacent wall (50mm min recommended) • Ladder provision - no ladders at usual entry points at deep end of pool; only two step entries and no ladder entries; minimum four recommended in 25m pools. • Concourses - width compliant but not unobstructed or free of equipment (tables and chairs around pools). • Skimmer boxes (protrude slightly) and gutter provisions (showing signs of wear and tear). • Sun protection for pools intended for young swimmers to be over all pool spaces (partial cover of learner’s pool). • Learner’s pool - recommended handrail for all steps and contrasting rise and treads.

Other documents reviewed in the preparation of this report included:

- Foster Community Plan (2011).
- South Gippsland Shire Council Adopted Annual Budget 2017/2018.
- South Gippsland Shire Council Asset Management Policy 2017.
- South Gippsland Shire Council Asset Management Strategy 2017.
- South Gippsland Shire Council Blueprint for Community Infrastructure 2014 - 2029.



2. Foster Outdoor Pool Operational Review

This section of the report provides an overview of the Foster Outdoor Pool.

2.1 Foster Outdoor Pool Facilities

The Foster Outdoor Pool is located at Reserve Street, Foster and is part of a Crown Land parcel that includes Foster Golf Course, cricket ground and tennis courts. The pool was established over 30 years ago by the local community using volunteer labour and funds. The facilities provided on site at the pool are summarised in the table below.



Table 12: Foster Outdoor Pool Facilities

Facilities	Detail	
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main pool - 25m x 16m, 8 lane pool; depth 0.9m to 1.8m; solar and gas heating. Learners pool - 15m x 8m; depth 0.6m to 0.8m; gas heated with shade. Kiosk / reception / entry / office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid room. Change rooms - male and female. Storage. Plant room.
L: Main Pool R: Learners Pool		
Female Change Rooms		



Facilities	Detail	
Male Change Rooms		
L: Grass Hill		
Entry Buildings		
L: First Aid R: Old Toddler's Pool		



Facilities	Detail	
L: View of pools towards change rooms and mural		
L: Pools with shade R: Main pool steps with hand rail		
L: View from old toddler pool to main pool R: Storage		

The Foster Outdoor Pool is open from the third Saturday in December to Labour Day Monday in March. The operating hours for the Foster Outdoor Pool (FOP) are provided in Table 13 below.

Table 13: Foster Outdoor Pool Operating Hours

Days	Times
Weekdays	3.00pm - 7.00pm
Weekends and Public Holidays	12.00noon - 7.00pm
School Holidays	12.00noon - 7.00pm

The FOP operating hours are subject to a Hot and Cold Weather Policy as follows:

The Foster Outdoor Pool will be open if the forecast maximum temperature for Leongatha on the Bureau of Meteorology Website at 6.00pm on the day prior is 25 degrees or above.

The outdoor pool will remain open to the public until 8.30pm if the forecast maximum temperature for Leongatha on the Bureau of Meteorology Website at 6.00pm on the day prior is higher than 35 degrees.



On days when the Foster Outdoor Pool is not open due to weather, season pass holders are entitled to free access to South Gippsland SPLASH.

The Foster Outdoor Pool is closed on Christmas Day.

2.2 Foster Outdoor Pool Attendances

The total attendance data for 2010/11 to 2016/17 for Foster Pool Outdoor is summarised in the following figure.

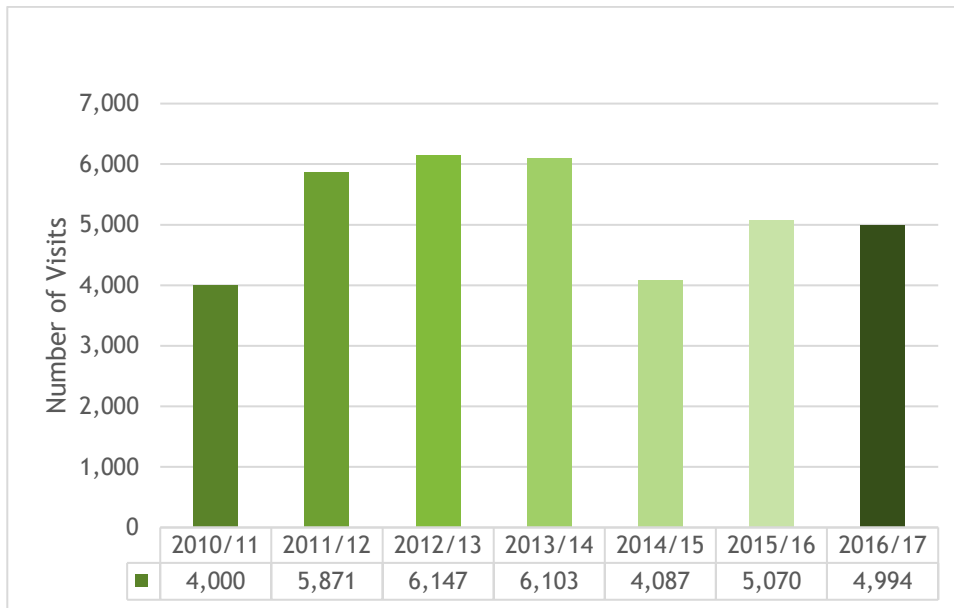


Figure 1: Foster Outdoor Pool Total Season Attendances 2010/11 to 2016/17

A review of the total attendance results for Foster Outdoor Pool indicates that:

- Attendances have fluctuated over the period, with a peak of 6,147 in 2012/13 and a low of 4,000 in 2010/11.
- The two lowest seasons attendances have been in 2010/11 (4,000) and 2014/15 (4,087).
- The average attendance for the seven (7) seasons is 5,182.
- Visitation in 2016/17 equates to 58 visits per day (86 days - not adjusted for days closed due to weather).

The figure on the following page provides the monthly attendances for the past three seasons at Foster Outdoor Pool.

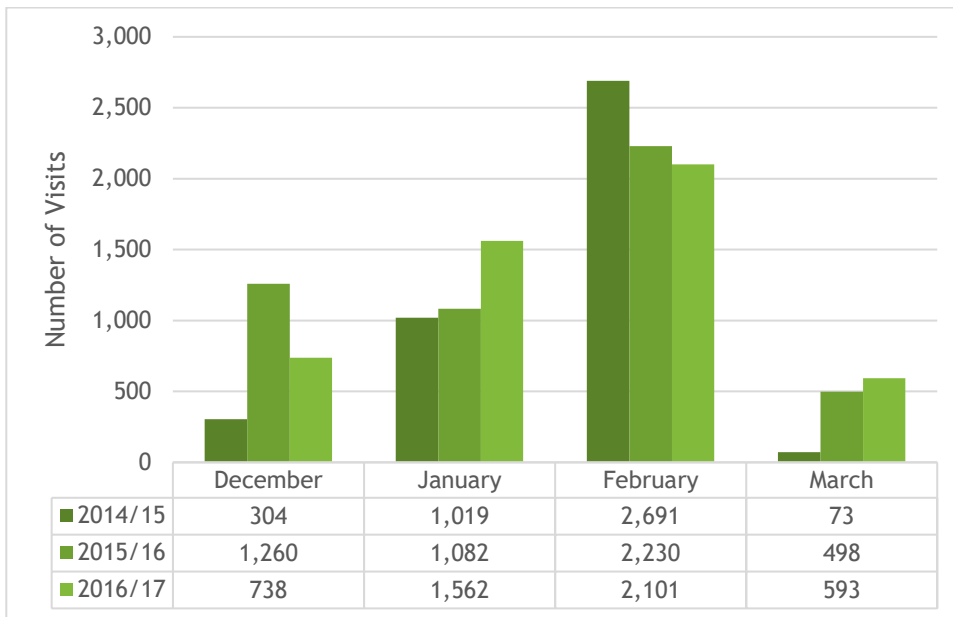


Figure 2: Foster Outdoor Pool Monthly Attendances 2014/15 to 2016/17

A review of the results for monthly attendances for Foster Outdoor Pool indicates that:

- The highest monthly attendances are generally in February potentially due to school usage and warm weather.
- The attendances for February 2014/15 was the highest recorded for the data period with 2,691 against the monthly average of 2,341. This was 66% of the seasons total attendances. The next highest recorded monthly attendances were in February 2015/16 with 2,230 being 44% of that seasons total attendances.
- Attendances decline in March where pools close prior to the end of the month. In March 2014/15 only 73 visits were recorded due to cold weather resulting in reduced number of operating days.
- In 2016/17 the season was extended to the next weekend (Sunday 19 March 2017) due to hot weather.

The attendances by category for 2016/17 are provided in the figure below.

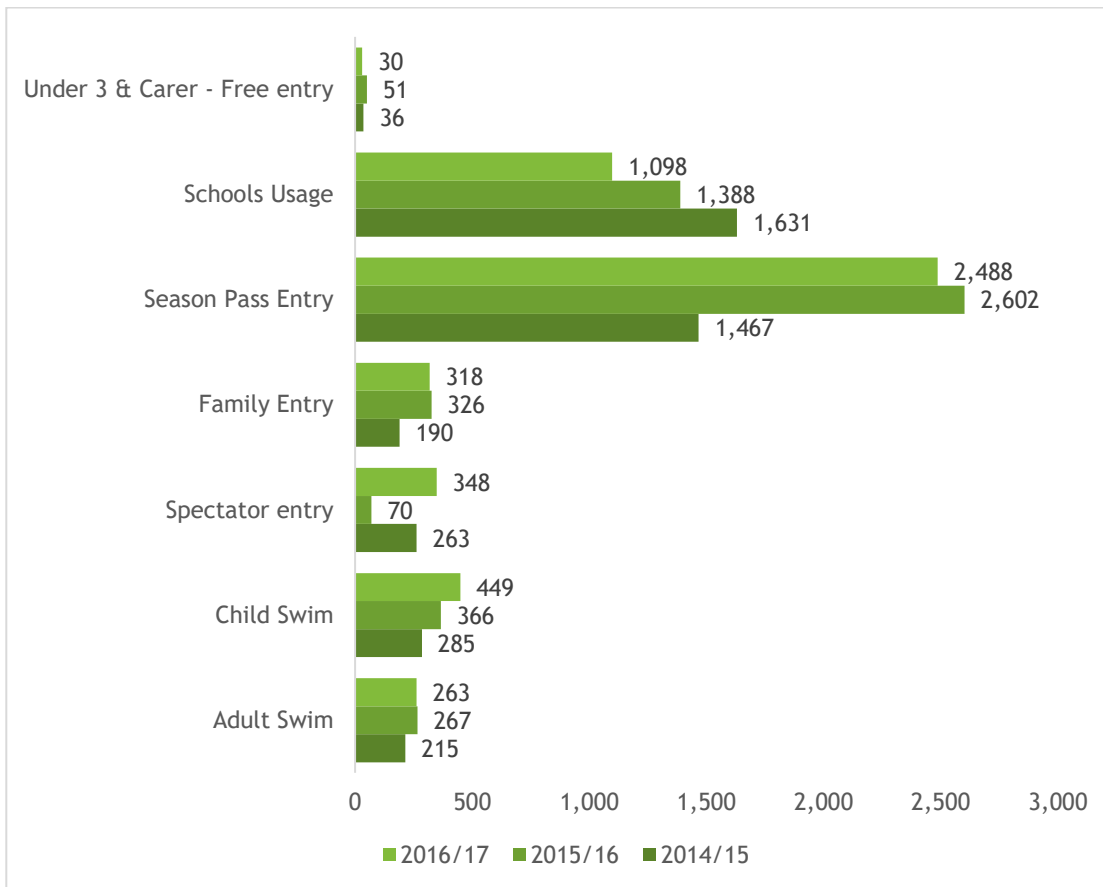


Figure 3: Foster Outdoor Pool - Attendances by Category 2014/15 to 2016/17

A review of the results for attendances by category for Foster Outdoor Pool indicates that:

- The highest attendances are season pass entry which peaked at 2,602 in 2015/16 being 51.3% of total attendances for that season.
- The next highest category was season pass entry in 2016/17 which accounted for almost half (49.8%) of attendances with 2,488.
- School usage in 2014/15 was the next highest with over one-third of that seasons attendances with 1,631 visits (39.9%).
- The season pass and family entry are not split between child and adults which impacts data analysis.

2.3 Foster Outdoor Pool Programs and Services

The programs and services provided at the Foster Outdoor Pool in 2016/17 were:

- Aquatics activities - early morning lap swimming (Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7.00am - 9.00am, except Public Holidays), aqua aerobics (Wednesdays 8.45am to 9.30am) and Free Water Play (10 dates from 1 February to 10 March 2017, from 9.30am to 11.00am).



- Scheduled Events:
 - Stroke and Stride Series (Event Number 4) on 12 February 2017, comprising a run and swim in three age groups, (Under 10 years, 10 - 17 years and Open).
 - Twilight Opening Party - 17 December 2016.
 - School's Out Pool Party - 20 December 2016.
 - Hawaiian Luau - 25 February 2017
 - Sunday Inflatable - 22 January and 19 February 2017.
- Schools - swim programs and school sports.

A review of the results indicates that:

- Overall based on the available data a range of aquatic programs are scheduled at the Foster Outdoor Pool with four community events, two aquatics programs (aqua aerobics and water play) and two Sunday inflatable sessions offered.
- Other additional community events that could be considered in future are dive in movies, Australia Day celebrations, family fun days, birthday parties, etc.
- A Learn to Swim program has not been operating at Foster Outdoor Pool - the program was cancelled in 2017 with insufficient enrolments.

2.4 Foster Outdoor Pool Financial Review

This section of the report reviews the financial data for the Foster Outdoor Pool from the reports provided by South Gippsland Shire Council.

2.4.1 Overall Financial Performance

A summary of the financial performance (excluding maintenance and capital improvements) for the Foster Outdoor Pool for the past three years is provided in Figure 4 below.

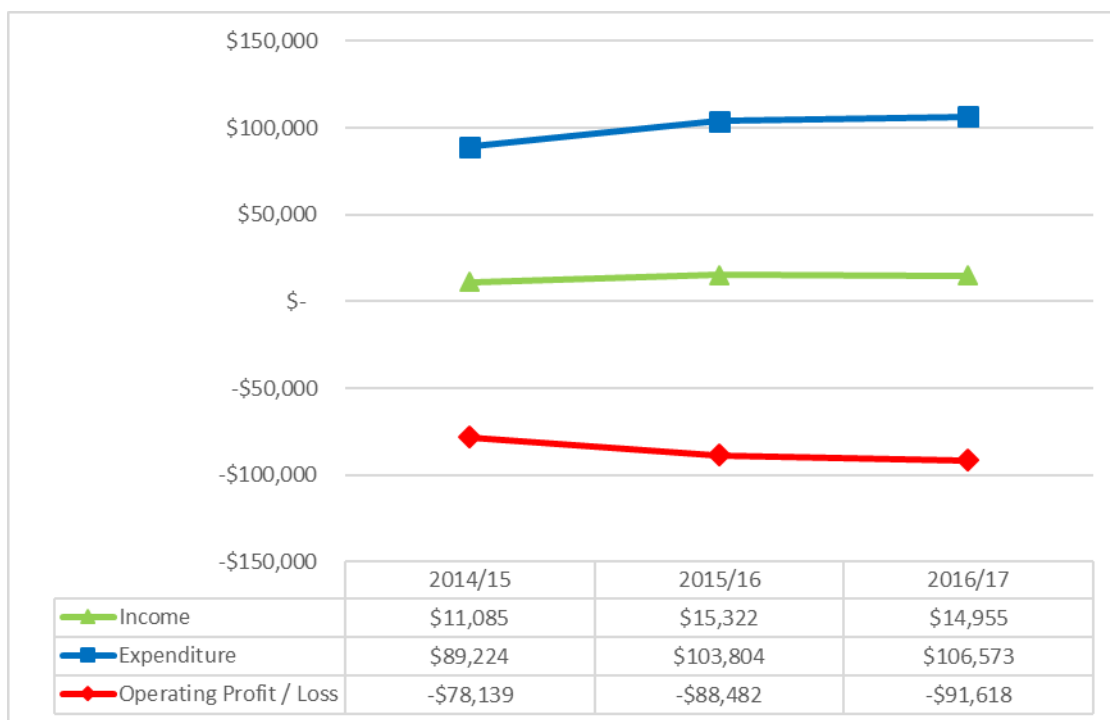


Figure 4: Foster Outdoor Pool Financial Performance 2014/15 to 2016/17

A review of the above results indicates that for the Foster Outdoor Pool:

- Income increased each from \$11,085 in 2014/15 to a high of \$15,322 in 2015/16 and then decreased in 2016/17 to \$14,955. Overall this is a 35% increase from 2014/15 to 2016/17.
- Expenditure increased each year from \$89,224 in 2014/15 to \$106,573 in 2016/17 (19% increase over three-year period).
- This resulted in an increase in the operating loss between 2014/15 and 2016/17 of 17% with a loss of \$78,139 in 2014/15 compared with a \$91,618 operating loss in 2016/17.
- The financial performance including maintenance and capital improvements for 2014/15 and 2016/17 are provided in the following table.

Table 14: Foster Outdoor Pool Financial Performance

Category	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Income	\$11,085	\$15,322	\$14,955
Maintenance & Capital Expenditure	\$20,140	\$50,054	\$53,052
YMCA FOP Operating Expenditure	\$89,224	\$103,804	\$106,573
Net Profit (Loss)	(\$98,279)	(\$138,536)	(\$144,670)
Income as a percentage of operating expenditure	12%	15%	14%

A review of the results indicates that:

- The loss has increased from \$98,279 in 2014/15 to \$144,670 in 2016/17 and increase of 47%, mainly due to the increases in maintenance and capital (163%) and operating expenditure (19%).
- The Foster Outdoor Pool income as a percentage of operating expenditure (YMCA) for each of the past three seasons has been constant with between 12% to 15%.



3. Foster Outdoor Pool Survey

This section summarises the key findings from the community survey for the Foster Outdoor Pool. A total of 117 surveys were completed with respondents providing information on:

- Respondent profile.
- Current use of swimming pools.
- Potential future use of swimming pools.

A copy of the written comments is provided in Appendix 2 Survey Additional Comments.

3.1 Respondent Profile

The following table summarises the respondents of the community survey.

Table 15: Foster Outdoor Pool Survey Respondent Profile

Category	Sub-Group	Number	% of Respondents
Gender	Female	81	76.4%
	Male	25	23.6%
Age Group	10 years and under	2	1.9%
	11 to 19 years	9	8.4%
	20 to 29 years	3	2.8%
	30 to 39 years	23	21.5%
	40 to 49 years	23	21.5%
	50 to 59 years	22	20.6%
	60 to 69 years	21	19.6%
	70 years plus	4	3.7%
Area / Locality	Areas within South Gippsland Shire		
	Buffalo	0	0.0%
	Fish Creek	12	11.3%
	Foster	50	47.2%
	Foster North	11	10.4%
	Meeniyan	2	1.9%
	Port Franklin	3	2.8%
	Sandy Point	5	4.7%
	Toora	7	6.6%
	Waratah Bay	1	0.9%
	Yanakie	4	3.8%
	Other areas in South Gippsland Shire	8	7.6%
	Areas outside South Gippsland Shire		
Other	3	2.8%	

A review of the survey respondent profile indicates that:

- Significantly more females (76.4%,81) responded to the survey than males (23.6%,25).
- The age groups that represented the largest proportion of respondents were 30 to 39 years and 40 to 49 years, both accounting for 21.5% (23 each) of the respondents, followed by 50 to 59 20.6% (22) and 60 to 69 with 19.6% (21).
- The predominant areas where respondents lived were Foster (47.2%, 50), Fish Creek (11.3%, 12), and Foster North (10.4%, 11).



3.2 Use of Foster Outdoor Pool

Of the 117 respondents, 70 people identified that they had visited the Foster Outdoor Pool in the previous summer pool season.

3.2.1 Visitation to the Centre

The length of time that respondents spent at the pool on an average visit is detailed below.

Table 16: Length of Usage of Foster Outdoor Pool

Length of Time	Number	% of Respondents
Less than 0.5 hours	1	1.4%
0.5 hours to 1 hour	18	25.7%
1 hour to 1.5 hours	21	30.0%
1.5 hours to 2 hours	18	25.7%
More than 2 hours	12	17.1%

Most respondents spent 1 to 1.5 hours (30.0%, 21) at the facility followed by 0.5 to 1 hour and 1.5 to 2 hours (both with 25.7%, 18).

3.2.2 Transport to the Foster Outdoor Pool

The table below summarises how respondents travelled to the pool and where they came from.

Table 17: Transport to the Foster Outdoor Pool

Category	Sub-Group	Number	% of Respondents
Location of Origin	Home	51	72.9%
	Work	10	14.3%
	School	6	8.6%
	Other	3	4.3%
Mode of Travel	Car (travel with others)	35	50.7%
	Car (travel on own)	19	27.5%
	Walk	9	13.0%
	Bike	2	2.9%
	Taxi	1	1.5%
	Other	3	4.4%

Most survey respondents indicated they travel to the pool from their home (72.9%, 51) or work (14.3%, 10).

The majority of respondents travelled by car either with others (50.7%, 35) or on their own (27.5%, 19). As such over three-quarters (78.2%, 54) of the respondents rely on car travel to access the pool.

3.2.3 Frequency of Visitation

The following summarises the frequency of use of the pool.

Table 18: Frequency of Visitation to Foster Outdoor Pool

Daily	4 to 6 times per week	2 to 3 times per week	Weekly	Once a fortnight	Once a month	Less than once a month	Once only	Other
1	3	21	14	12	6	4	5	4
1.4%	4.3%	30.0%	20.0%	17.1%	8.6%	5.7%	7.1%	5.7%

The results indicated that the majority of respondents visited the pool fairly regularly with almost three-quarters of respondents (72.9%, 51) visiting the pool at least once a fortnight. However, there were very few people who visited four (4) or more times a week (5.7%, 4).



3.2.4 Reasons for Choosing the Foster Outdoor Pool

Respondents provided a range of reasons why they chose to use the pool. The key reasons listed are provided in the following figure:

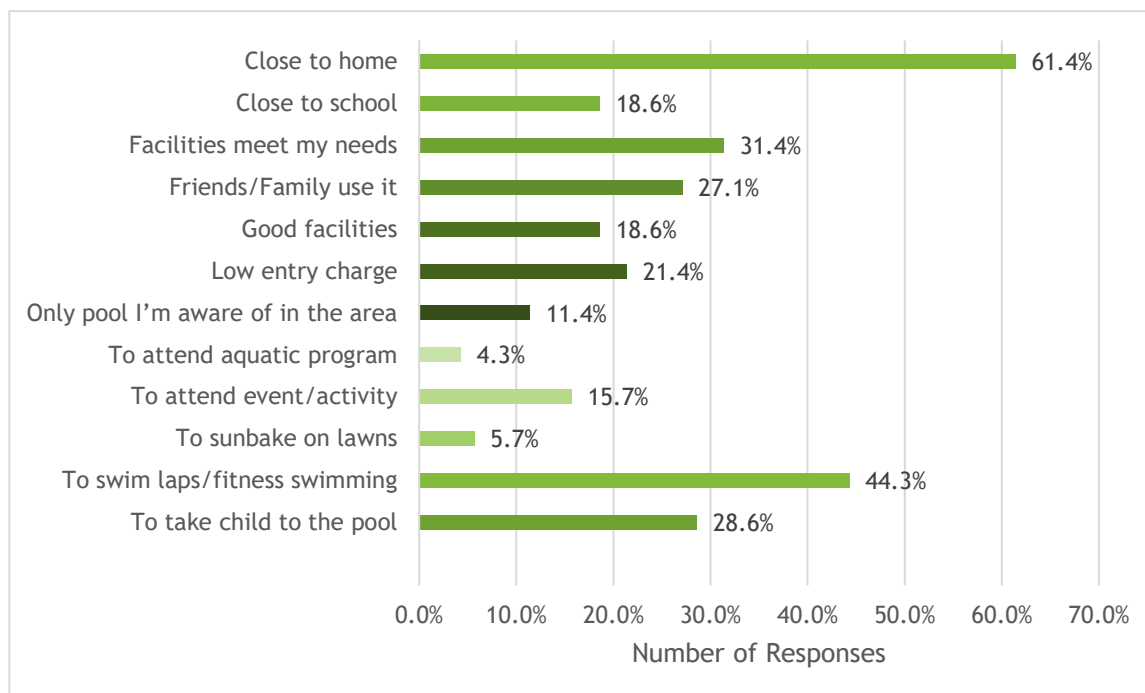


Figure 5: Reason for Choosing Foster Outdoor Pool

A review of the results indicates that:

- The main reason identified by respondents for choosing to use the pool was close to home with 61.4% (43).
- The next highest responses were to swim laps/fitness swimming (44.3%, 31) followed by facilities meet my needs (31.4%, 22).
- Over a quarter of respondents selected to take child to the pool (28.6%, 20) and friends/family use it (27.1%, 19).
- Respondents aged 30 to 39 and 40 to 49 years of age have chosen the Foster Outdoor Pool to take a child to the pool (35.3%, 6 and 50.0%, 8).
- Respondents aged 30 to 39 years were less likely to have chosen the pool to swim laps or swim for fitness (17.7%, 3).

3.2.5 Activities Undertaken at Facility

The main activities that were undertaken at the swimming pool are summarised in the following table.

Table 19: Activities Undertaken at Foster Outdoor Pool

Activities Undertaken	Number	% of Respondents
Cool down from hot weather	41	59.4%
Lap swimming/fitness swimming	35	50.7%
Go for fun	28	40.6%
Take child to pool	26	37.7%
Recreation swimming	22	31.9%
Meet with friends	19	27.5%
School group	17	24.6%
Community event/activity	16	23.2%



Activities Undertaken	Number	% of Respondents
Participate in aquatic program	8	11.6%
Take part in learn to swim class	6	8.7%

A review of the results indicates that:

- The main activity for more than half of the question respondents (59.4%, 41) was to cool down from hot weather and lap swimming / fitness swimming (50.7%, 35).
- The next highest responses were go for fun (40.6%, 28), take child to the pool (37.7%, 26) and recreation swimming (31.9%, 22).
- The main activity undertaken by respondents aged 30 to 39 (52.9%, 9) and the second most common activity undertaken by those aged 40 to 49 (56.3%, 9) was to take children to the pool.
- The most common activity for those aged 50 to 59 (68.8%, 11) was lap swimming.

3.2.6 Rating of Facilities and Services

Survey respondents were asked to rate the standard of the facilities and services at the Foster Outdoor Pool under a five-point rating system.

The results were:

- Excellent 14.3%
- Good 24.3% 38.6% (Combined excellent/good rating)
- Adequate 17.1%
- Needs some improvements 32.9%
- Needs a lot of improvements 11.4% 44.3% (Combined needs some/a lot of improvements rating)

The survey indicated that survey respondents were quite varied in how they rated the standard of the facilities and services at the pool.

Respondents in the age groups of under 19 (50.0%,4), 40 to 49 (25.0%,4), 50 to 59 (37.5%, 6), and 60 to 69 (50.0%, 4) were most likely to rate standard of the facilities and services at the Foster Outdoor Pool as requiring some improvement, while those aged 30 to 39 years were more likely to rate it as good (35.3%, 6). No respondents aged 30 to 39 years or 50 to 59 years rated it as excellent, while no respondents aged less than 19 years and 60 to 69 years rated it as needing a lot of improvements.

Respondents that rated the facilities and services as needing some or needing a lot of improvement were asked to identify which areas with results summarised in the following table.

Table 20: Areas Identified that Need Improvement at Foster Outdoor Pool

Areas Respondents Identified that Need Improvement	Number	% of Respondents
Age/condition of change rooms	24	77.4%
Water temperature	17	54.8%
Lack of shade	13	41.9%
Appearance of facility	11	35.5%
Lack of leisure water/water play	10	32.3%
Kiosk and food facilities	9	29.0%
No family/accessible change areas	8	25.8%
Entry area	5	16.1%
Disability access	4	12.9%
Car parking provision	3	9.7%
Outdoor grassed areas	2	6.5%
Other	7	22.6%



More than 3 out of 4 respondents who identified that the facility needed improvement stated that they were unhappy with the age and condition of the change rooms (77.4%). Water temperature and a lack of shade were also highly identified (54.8% and 41.9% respectively).

3.2.7 Foster Outdoor Pool Non-Users

47 respondents to the survey had not used the Foster Outdoor Pool in the previous summer season. These respondents were asked to identify the reasons that they had not used the pool with the 10 most commonly identified reasons listed in the following table.

Table 21: Reason for Not Using Foster Outdoor Pool Last Season

Reasons for Not Using Foster Outdoor Pool Last Season	Number	% of Respondents
Pools are too cold/not warm enough	9	18.4%
Not open suitable hours	9	18.4%
Live too far away/too far to travel	5	10.2%
Facilities not suitable to my needs	4	8.2%
Lack of interest/no interest	4	8.2%
Nothing preventing use	4	8.2%
Use other pool	4	8.2%
Other commitments	3	6.1%
Do not know about the pool	2	4.1%
Lack of activities offered	2	4.1%

A review of the reasons indicates that the two highest, both with 18.4% (9) were pools are too cold / not warm enough and not open suitable hours.

3.2.8 Use of Other Swimming Pools

People who completed the survey were asked to identify any additional swimming pools they had used or visited in the last 12 months with results provided in the following table.

Table 22: Use of Other Swimming Pools

Swimming Pool	Number	% of Respondents
Toora Swimming Pool	62	54.4%
SG SPLASH Leongatha	50	43.9%
Korumburra Outdoor Pool	12	10.5%
Mirboo North Swimming Pool	12	10.5%
Poowong Outdoor Pool	4	3.5%
Korumburra Indoor Pool	3	2.6%
No other swimming pool	23	20.2%

The majority of survey respondents had made use of other swimming pools in the preceding 12 months with 79.8% having used another facility. There were two pools that attracted a significant number of respondents, Toora Swimming Pool (54.4%, 62) and SG SPLASH Leongatha (43.9%, 50). Twenty (20) additional pools were identified as having been visited by survey respondents which included a private pool in Fish Creek, Swim Like a Fish Aquatics (4).

3.3 Future Facility Use

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions regarding future use of the Foster Outdoor Pool with responses provided in the following sections.

3.3.1 Future Use of Foster Outdoor Pool

To assist with identifying the level of demand for future use of Foster Outdoor Pool, respondents were asked if they would like to make greater use in the future.

**Table 23: Future Use of the Foster Outdoor Pool**

Like to make greater use?	Total (111)	Male (25)	Female (81)	0-19 Years (11)	20-29 Years (3)	30-39 Years (23)	40-59 Years (45)	60+ Years (25)	Currently Use (70)	Don't Currently Use (47)
Yes	89.2%	88.0%	91.4%	90.9%	100%	87.0%	91.1%	92.0%	94.1%	81.4%
No	10.8%	12.0%	8.6%	9.1%	0%	13.0%	8.9%	8.0%	5.9%	18.6%

The results indicate that:

- Nearly 9 out of 10 people (89.2%) indicated that they would like to make greater use of the Foster Outdoor Pool in the future.
- Females are slightly more likely to want to increase their use of the pool in the future than males (91.4% compared to 88.0% respectively).
- Of the respondents that were aged 60 years and over, 92.0% would like to make greater use of the Foster Outdoor Pool compared to 87.0% of respondents aged 30 - 39 years.
- People who currently use the pool were much more likely to want to increase their use in the future than those who do not currently use the facility (94.1% compared to 81.4% respectively).

3.3.2 Importance of Re-developing / Upgrading Foster Outdoor Pool

Respondents were asked to identify how important it was for them that the facilities at the Foster Outdoor Pool were redeveloped or upgraded in the future with ratings provided in the following table.

Table 24: Importance of Upgrading Redeveloping the Foster Outdoor Pool

	Very Important	Important	Neither Important Nor Unimportant	Unimportant	Very Important
Total	68 61.3%	24 21.6%	12 10.8%	1 0.9%	6 5.4%
Want to make future use	67 67.7%	19 9.2%	9 9.1%	0 0.0%	4 4.0%
Don't want to make future use	1 8.3%	5 41.7%	3 25.0%	1 8.3%	2 16.7%

A review of the results indicates that:

- The majority of people identified that a redevelopment or upgrade was important with 82.9% of respondents selecting very important or important.
- Respondents who had identified that they would like to make greater use of the Foster Outdoor Pool were more likely to identify that it was important or very important to them that the pool was redeveloped and upgraded. While respondents who did not want to make greater use were significantly more likely to identify that it was unimportant to them that the pool be redeveloped.
- More than 3 out of 4 (76.9%) of respondents who wanted to make greater use of the pool felt it was important compared to 50.0% of people who didn't want to make greater use. Only 4.0% of respondents who wanted to make greater use felt it was unimportant to redevelop the pool, compared to 25.0% of people who didn't want to make greater use.

3.3.3 Facilities or Features that Would Encourage Greater Use

Respondents were asked to identify what facilities or features would encourage them to make use or make greater use of the Foster Outdoor Pool in the future. The most commonly identified areas are provided in the table below.



Table 25: Facilities or Features that Would Encourage Greater Use

Future Priority Feature	Total		Want to make greater use	
	Number	%	Number	%
Change room improvements	44	39.6%	42	42.4%
Updated modernised facilities	39	35.1%	37	37.4%
More shaded areas	33	29.7%	33	33.3%
Improved kiosk & social areas	32	28.8%	32	32.3%
Affordable/low cost to use	31	27.9%	30	30.3%
Warmer water	25	22.5%	25	25.3%
Leisure pool/water play	24	21.6%	24	24.2%
More activities and events	23	20.7%	23	23.3%
More learn to swim programs	21	18.9%	20	20.2%
Facility appearance	17	15.3%	17	17.2%
Facilities suitable for youth	17	15.3%	16	16.2%
Family/accessible change rooms	16	14.4%	16	16.2%
Longer opening hours	16	14.4%	16	16.2%
Disability access e.g. ramps	9	8.1%	9	9.1%
Secure bike storage facilities	8	7.2%	8	8.1%
Car parking improvements	6	5.4%	6	6.1%
Entry improvements	5	4.5%	5	5.1%
Nothing/would not use	4	3.6%	0	0.0%
Other	46	22.5%	23	23.2%

A review of the results indicates that:

- The most commonly identified facility or feature that would encourage greater use was improvements to the change rooms (39.6%, 44). This was the most commonly identified feature for respondents who wished to make greater use as well as the second most commonly identified feature for those that did not wish to make greater use.
- Other highly identified areas include updated modernised facilities (35.1%, 39), more shaded areas (29.7%, 33), improved kiosk and social areas (28.8%, 32) and affordable / low cost to use (27.9%, 31).
- The most commonly identified feature that would encourage increased future use for those aged 60 to 69 years was a facility that was affordable/low cost to use (38.1%, 8), while those aged 50 to 59 years were more interested in an improved kiosk and social areas that than the rest of the respondents (36.4%, 8).
- Respondents aged under 19 years were primarily interested in an increased amount of shade (54.6%, 6) compared to other respondents.
- A review of the 46 other responses identified the following trends:
 - Pools:
 - Water Temperature - heated (23).
 - Keep uncovered (2).
 - Cover (2).
 - Operating Hours & Season - more consistent / predictable (6); open more days (eg lower temperature) (6); longer season / open all season (3).
 - Programs - aqua aerobics (3); inflatable / more for kids (2); lap swimming - more early opening (2).

3.3.4 Future Frequency of Visitation

Survey respondents were asked how often they would use the facilities or program if they were provided at a re-developed pool in the future with results provided in the following table.

**Table 26: Future Frequency of Visitation to Foster Outdoor Pool**

Daily	A few times a week	Weekly	Once a fortnight	Once a month	Less than once a month	Once only	Never	Other
12	44	28	6	8	4	1	4	4
10.8%	39.6%	25.2%	5.4%	7.2%	3.6%	0.9%	3.6%	3.6%

Respondents predicted that they would make greater use of the pool if it was re-developed with 10.8% predicting they would use it daily compared to just 1.4% of survey respondents who currently use the facilities. More than three quarters of respondents (75.6%) predicted they would use it once per week or more (compared to just 55.7% of current users).

3.4 Additional Comments

A review of the additional comments provided by 52 of the survey respondents (listed in Appendix 2) indicates the following:

- Of the comments received, 22 of them were relating to the facilities at the Foster Outdoor Pool, specifically 14 relating to the temperature of the water in the pool being too cold.
- 14 of the comments related to the hours of operation of the pool, with a focus on increasing the length of the opening season (8), increasing the opening hours per day to include earlier opening times (6), and increased consistency with opening hours (5).
- There were a large number of comments (18) relating to the value the pool has to the local community.
- Management and staffing was commented on by five (5) survey respondents with three (3) comments of a positive nature and two (2) being negative towards the YMCA management.
- There were six (6) comments relating to costs associated with the pool including three (3) relating to the increased costs to schools if the pool were to close and travel to another pool was required.



4. Key Stakeholder Consultations

This section of the report summarises the information from the key stakeholder consultations for the *Foster Outdoor Pool Master Plan* project. The consultations discussed the project, current issues and potential future opportunities and directions for development of Foster Outdoor Pool. Information was sought regarding:

- The current situation - identification and discussion of strengths, issues and gaps in current Foster Outdoor Pool facilities, services and programs.
- Current and future need / demand for facilities, services and programs including improvements needed and ideas for the future and opportunities to capture.
- Resources and Partnerships - linkages and alignments to capture in the future, partnership opportunities including grant funding.

The consultations included in-person and telephone interviews, focus groups, cafés and meetings for the various key stakeholder and key informant consultation opportunities.

The consultations included two Youth Cafés as follows:

- Foster Primary School student leaders.
- Foster Secondary College student leaders.

Information collected during the key stakeholder and key informant consultations is summarised in the sections below.

4.1 Key Stakeholder Interview Feedback

Interviews were held with a range of key stakeholders regarding the facilities, programs and services at the Foster Outdoor Pool in terms of what is good / works well, current issues and gaps and future improvements and opportunities and any relevant policy / strategy directions.

The key stakeholders participating in the interviews are listed in the following table with details of representatives included in Appendix One.

Table 27: Key Stakeholder Organisations / Participants in Consultations

Category	Details
Foster Outdoor Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster Swimming Pool Association Inc. • YMCA Victoria
Health, Community Sector and Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster Community Association • U3A Prom Coast • Prom Coast Aged Care • South Gippsland Hospital Foster • Sport and Recreation Victoria
Education Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster Primary School • Foster Secondary College • Prom Coast Children's Centre
South Gippsland Shire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Officers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation - Building Maintenance - Community Strengthening - Engineering Projects - Sustainable Communities and Infrastructure

Responses from the key stakeholder consultations and interviews have been summarised under common themes in the following sections.



4.1.1 Foster Swimming Pool Association Inc.

1) Current Situation

• Strengths with the Current Foster Outdoor Pool Facilities, Programs and Services

Participants were asked to identify what currently works well, is good, that they like about the Foster Outdoor Pool facilities and services. Responses have been summarised as follows:

- Facilities:

- Proximity not always able to get to beach after school.
- Appealing setting with trees, grass and grassed bank (good for viewing pools).

- Services & Programs:

- Opportunity for people to come together locally and enjoy facilities.
- Do not need to travel, so great for children and families - social opportunity.
- Learn to swim - provides an opportunity to socialise for children whilst learning to swim through timetabled program; difficult to learn to swim at the beach; obtain skills learning at the pool.
- Swimming skills are also developed by casual participation / non-structured activity.
- Positive interaction and role models between life guards and teenagers.
- Age inclusiveness - people with babies up to 8-year olds; beach not ideal for toddlers.
- Lap swimming - early morning, mostly older adults; summer fitness activity.
- Asset for tourism.

• Issues and Gaps

Participants were asked to identify current issues and gaps in the Foster Outdoor Pool in terms of facilities and services. Responses have been summarised under common themes in the following table.

Table 28: Foster Swimming Pool Association Inc - Issues and Gaps

Facilities	Services & Programs
<p><i>Pools</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water depth profile - no longer able to dive. • Water temperature - not reliable; can be cold; schools unable to do programs in December as too cold. • Lack of accessibility - no ramp or rails for pools. • No toddler pool. 	<p><i>Operations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Season - shorter season than other local outdoor pools; season ticket not as good value; schools unable to do programs in December. • Operating hours - not always open (cold weather policy); do not want to be looking all the time to see if open or not.
<p><i>Amenities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change rooms - no disability / accessible or family change; floors- slippery. 	<p><i>Programs & Activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth - not allowed to do anything (eg no diving).
<p><i>Surrounds & Support Infrastructure</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility - lack of accessibility - no ramp to centre; no disabled car parking. • Pool concourse - slippery; uneven in places. • Seating - not enough and poorly designed / located; needs shade; state of seating - condition poor (dilapidated park benches). 	<p><i>Location</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to Toora Swimming Pool. • Proximity to beach provides popular swimming opportunity, especially for young people.

2) Future Needs and Opportunities

Forum participants were asked to identify future improvements and opportunities in the Foster Outdoor Pool in terms of facilities and services. Responses have been summarised under common themes in the following table.



Table 29: Foster Swimming Pool Association Inc - Future Needs & Opportunities

Facilities	Services & Programs
<p>Pools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility - need inclusive facility - pools. • Water temperature - need consistent temperature; solar panels. • Roof over pool as per Vision document - hybrid structure with sides that are retractable to allow air circulation on hot days. • Water play equipment - suitable for toddlers to teenagers; maybe where old toddlers pool. 	<p>Programs & Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing population - increasing number of aged care residents; if increase temperature the more active residents at Prom Coast Aged Care will access the pool and bring residents with mild disability / mobility by bus for water exercises (allied health/PAG). • Activate pools - promote exercise, SunSmart, programs (eg aerobics for older adults, young mums / pre-kindergarten, parents / carers); music (live bands and radio); training for groups such as CFA/Parks Victoria fitness training, surf life saving, pre-season and rehabilitation for football / netball.
<p>Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility - need inclusive facility - change rooms. • Change rooms - safe and “appealing”; suitable for families. 	<p>Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend season. • Operating hours - more consistent operating hours; improved system not only Facebook for notification; more hours.
<p>Surrounds & Support Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool concourse - need non-slip surface and levelled out. • New seating; with more shade; suitable for all ages and abilities; landscaping around pools to make more attractive setting. • Accessibility - able to be accessed by all; improvements to entry. • Utilise dead space beside change rooms. 	<p>Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiosk - better quality and café style with quality coffee; items for youth. • Marketing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To visitors and residents. - Signage - wayfaring so people know about pool; information sign in shopping area promoting when open / operating to visitors, etc.

4.1.2 YMCA Victoria

1) Current Situation

• Strengths with the Current Foster Outdoor Pool Facilities, Programs and Services

Participants were asked to identify what currently works well, is good, that they like about the Foster Outdoor Pool facilities and services. Responses have been summarised as follows:

- Facilities:

- Shade over half of the learner’s pool so not getting sun in hot weather and parents able to supervise children in shade.
- Design - layout for supervision as can see most of pools from any point; entrance set-up is good (can’t get in without paying); nice setting; pool depth good (except for V-shape).
- Water temperature - can pump between the two pools on really cold days to get and keep heat in main pool; warmer than some other Shire pools (Poowong and Mirboo North) - usually between 25° - 26° at lowest; new solar will impact on main pool and may reduce gas costs for Learners Pool (may reduce need to pump between pools).
- Benches are generally good.
- Change rooms - hot water in two showers in each.

- Services & Programs

- Community volunteers who assist in kiosk (eg school carnival days).

• Issues and Gaps

Participants were asked to identify current issues and gaps in the Foster Outdoor Pool in terms of facilities and services. Responses have been summarised under common themes in the following table.



Table 30: YMCA Victoria - Issues and Gaps

Facilities	Services and Programs
<p>Pools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar - need to change pipe work and new solar pump. Main pool V-shape and depth constantly changing. Bottom of pool slippery especially learners pool because painted. Accessibility - is poor. Plant - chemical shed not compliant; leaks and OH&S issues; chlorine storage - water can get in however all pumps are off the ground; multiple lift points to get chemicals into shed (place on retaining wall then go around and lift into shed); pump area is constrained; deliveries may be when Duty Manager on their own. 	<p>Programs & Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of no diving because of depth (V-shape) been major problem - no fun. Youth - loss of big green area for new shelter /solar. Inflatable that children could jump onto which loved however no longer available (only used in quieter times).
<p>Surrounds & Support Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benches - some are rotten and need replacing. Tea-tree has been an issue in past (limbs / trees falling down). Shade - amount available on hot days. BBQ - using portable when needed in old toddler's pool area. Drains and guttering around pool on golf course side are an issue - trip hazard at various points around pool. Kiosk / office area is tight. 	
<p>Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change rooms - both need upgrading; male still bank of showers; floors slippery; female change drain blocks up so unable to hose down. Accessibility - is poor; change areas not wheelchair friendly. 	

3) Future Needs and Opportunities

Participants were asked to identify future improvements and opportunities for the Foster Outdoor Pool in terms of facilities and services. Responses have been summarised under common themes in the following table.

Table 31: YMCA Victoria - Future Needs and Opportunities

Facilities	
<p>Pools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility - hoist /lift would open up pools and other programs / usage. More solar panels and improvements to pipework. Water feature/s in learner's pool. Plant - need new larger compliant chemical shed; new concrete slab and extend all the way out; cover top; existing shed out to retaining wall at one-level so one big shed with access as is; carbon dioxide bottles - ideally make more secure; lift trolley may help with chemical lifting. 	<p>Surrounds & Support Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible site access and disability parking (dead corner near first aid). Shade - another shade sail on hill (as schools bring in marquees and at old toddler's pool; more shade needed in hot weather. Permanent BBQ area (free to use). Old toddlers pool area - options include permanent shade / shelter.



Facilities	
Amenities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change Rooms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accessible / family / group change room provision - options are adjacent to female change as this area is never used (requires digging into slope) and proximity to services; alternatively, the corner beside entrance / reception not really used. - Upgrade and address slip issues and amenity; shower cubicles in male change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concourse and drains - address level issues; also at entrance to First Aid Room (slight lip). • Replace drink fountain; improve aesthetics with landscaping improvements; could consolidate sheds next to kiosk / entrance (garden and secondary school sheds). • Youth - used area where new shade / solar structure going for basketball etc; limited other areas that can use; option to consider changing shape of new shelter so does not use this area.

4.1.3 Health and Community Sector

A series of forums / interviews were held with representatives from health and community sector organisations to identify the strengths, issues and future improvements and opportunities with responses summarised in the following sections.

1) Current Situation

- Strengths with the Current Foster Outdoor Pool Facilities, Programs and Services

Participants were asked to identify what currently works well, is good, that they like about the Foster Outdoor Pool facilities and services. Responses were as follows:

- Younger people go to the pools.
- Valuable and significant community asset - need to remain.

- Issues and Gaps

Participants were asked to identify current issues and gaps in the Foster Outdoor Pool in terms of facilities and services. Responses have been summarised under common themes in the following table.

Table 32: Health & Community Sector - Issues and Gaps

Facilities	Services and Programs
Location - not visible (off-main road/s).	Lack of awareness of how operated.
Water Temperature - need heating for older people; even solar not warm enough; people go to Toora for warmer water.	Marketing - is their promotion of the pools - do people know about it?
Limited number of current clients who would not need ramp to access pool.	Toora - warm water however issue in getting there from Foster because of distance and/or non-drivers.
	Do private home pools impact on attendances?
	Operating hours.
	Access - unable to transport clients (loss of Council bus in Foster).

2) Future Improvements / Opportunities for Facilities and Services

Forum participants were asked to identify future improvements and opportunities in the Foster Outdoor Pool in terms of facilities and services. Responses have been summarised under common themes in the following table.

Table 33: Future Improvement / Opportunities - Facilities and Services

Facilities	Services and Programs
Pools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ramp with two handrails so those with disability (walking and cognition) can access with wheelchairs (hoist not as good because one person at a time). - Hoist access. 	Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing - need to advertise; market to tourists as water in ocean quite cold; signage - use CFA electronic sign and also at Visitor Centre. • Food and beverage eg catering carts and coffee that encourage people to stay at the pools and / or come for events.



Facilities	Services and Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water temperature - need to increase if want older adults and aged care clients to be able to use / access; aged care - would they use if warmer water. Cover pool. Shade at shallow end of main pool for sun protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Gippsland Hospital, Foster - does not impact on service delivery; no opportunities / interest to use seasonal outdoor pool now or into the future. Prom Coast Aged Care - interested in using provided can access (refer accessibility); maybe group of between 4 to 6 clients; would require transport to use (bus). Operating hours - longer; open after 6pm.
<p><i>Surrounds & Support Infrastructure</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility to site itself. Weather protection / wind protection. Signage - wayfaring. 	<p><i>Programs & Activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aqua aerobics. Learn to swim - more frequently (eg weekly) may encourage children and parents to attend. Music events (eg bands); discos. Make a destination rather than just pools (eg music). More events so used as a location.

4.1.4 South Gippsland Shire Council Officers

A forum was held with key Council officers to identify the strengths, issues and future improvements and opportunities with responses summarised in the following sections.

1) Positive Feedback about Facilities and Services

Participants were asked to identify what currently works well, is good, that they like about the Foster Outdoor Pool facilities and services. Responses have been summarised as follows:

- Facilities:
 - Structurally sound and in good condition - holds water.
 - Plant room - have done some refurbishment works.
 - Proximity to Foster Secondary College so gets good school use (better than some other outdoor pools in Shire); walkable for students.
- Services & Programs:
 - Locals use because affordable.
 - Management- easy site to manage (compact; line of sight); good layout.
 - Inflatable at pool.
 - Foster Swimming Pool Association Inc - active committee.
 - Regular group of lap swimmers.

2) Issues and Gaps with Facilities and Services

Participants were asked to identify current issues and gaps in the Foster Outdoor Pool in terms of facilities and services. Responses have been summarised under common themes in the following table.

Table 34: Issues and Gaps - SGSC Council Officers

Facilities	Services and Programs
<p><i>Pools:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water temperature - too cold which limits usage. Depth profile of main pool V-shape with deepest point in middle. Plant area - no loading bay; multiple levels and areas / sheds; hypo shed and bunding needs renewing. Cracked tiles on pediment. 	<p><i>Programs & Activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teenagers go to beach rather than pool - more fun at the beach. Schools - very high proportion of the students bus to school which impacts after school usage. Older demographic (decreasing young population) so not the population that use outdoor pools. Need to consider needs of all users into the future.
<p><i>Amenities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility is poor - change rooms. Change rooms need renewal. 	
<p><i>Surrounds & Support Infrastructure</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility is poor - parking, site access. Grounds - mixture of grass and gravel. Uneven pool deck and drain subsided. 	



3) Future Improvements / Opportunities for Facilities and Services

Forum participants were asked to identify future improvements and opportunities at the Foster Outdoor Pool in terms of facilities and services. Responses for facilities needs and improvements have been summarised under common themes in the following table.

Table 35: Facilities Future Improvement / Opportunities - SGSC Council Officers

Facilities	
<p><i>Pools:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water temperature - solar panels being added by FSPA; option to use change rooms roof and / or golf club roof for additional solar panels in future. Accessibility - ideally ramps into pool or hoist / lift. Water play - old toddlers pool may be suitable site for water play; potential for basic toys but would need to be driven by community. Plant area - options for loading bay improvements; renewal of hypo shed and bunding; one large shed rather than multiple ones. Pool tile maintenance. Potentially consider depth profile issues and pool hobs if significant works required in future. Accessibility - ideally ramps into pool or hoist / lift. 	<p><i>Amenities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change room - upgrade / refurbishment and provision of group / accessible change; could use some of existing change areas potentially within existing building footprint. <p><i>Surrounds & Support Infrastructure</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pool concourse - replacement to level areas. Storage - removal of sheds and consolidate into one location; more needed. Gravel areas - replace or maintain. Amenity improvements - entry / reception and overall amenity; opportunity to improve in partnership with local community. Accessibility - disabled parking.

In regards to future needs and opportunities for services and programs:

- Work in partnership with local community to activate and improve for residents.
- Partnerships - potential with Foster Golf Club (discussed previously re using club house roof for extending water heating).

4.1.5 Education Providers

A series of interviews were held with representatives from education providers to identify usage, the strengths, issues and future improvements and opportunities with responses summarised in the following sections.

1) Current Situation

- Usage
 - Foster Secondary College (FSC) - term 1 for five week block every day (in reality 30 mins in pool) for Year 7 and 8; Year 9 and 10 in community program; school swimming carnival.
 - Foster Primary School (FPS):
 - Water Safety Programs for Grades 3 - 6 every February consisting of five groups over five days from 9.30am - 1.30pm.
 - School Swimming Carnival - usually on the Friday after the Water Safety Program for about 150 students and approximately 200 people in all attending the day.
 - Utilise own swim instructors for Water Safety Program and Foster Outdoor Pool lifeguards for both programs. Have plenty of parent helpers to assist children at both events.
 - Prom Coast Children's Centre: do not use pool and not part of program; issue with staffing ratios required; important facility for their families.
- Strengths with the Current Foster Outdoor Pool Facilities, Programs and Services
 - Proximity to schools; able to walk students to pool (in no time).
 - Staff are fabulous - good at managing students; well supervised.
 - Plenty of shade and able to fit marquees on sides for school sports.



- Surrounds are good - grass mowed.
- Facilities are enough for programs.
- Issues and gaps
 - Booking process:
 - Is rigid - need to formalise required dates and time because of pool staffing however timetable at school gets changed in first few weeks and need to make changes to times using the pool. Also issues with accessing / booking pool for programs (not available) - should be easy for schools to be able to access the pool.
 - Staff at pool are flexible so why can't booking system be easier.
 - Water temperature - pool is too cold and not covered which hinders programs in bad weather; moved Water Safety Program to February from December because water/weather too cold.
 - Foster Outdoor Pool does not offer water safety programs for school (co-ordination).
 - Change room floor is very slippery, facilities outdated.

2) Future Needs and Opportunities

- Facilities:
 - Refurbishment to look better may increase users; upgrade and refresh the toilets and change rooms.
 - Roof covering the large pool.
 - Pool heating.
 - Water play - a water play / spraying set up for the younger members of the community to keep children entertained.
- Services and Programs
 - More flexible booking system so that students are able to access the pool when school timetable changes; may result in additional one (1) - two (2) classes using; should be easy for schools to access and use pool for programs.
 - Definitely continue to utilise as much as can.
 - Foster Outdoor Pool to work closely with school to identify what we have to offer for the students and then both school and pool would benefit.

4.1.6 Sport and Recreation Victoria

The key findings from the interview with Sport and Recreation Victoria are:

- The Department encourages projects that:
 - Embrace Universal Design principles throughout the development and delivery of the project.
 - Encourage and support participation outcomes. In particular diversifying participation and encouraging participation of disadvantaged groups.
- It is important to integrate Universal Design early in the project as this is where application of the principles can have the greatest impact.
- The activation and programming of facilities and infrastructure should be a priority project outcome - innovative ideas such as working with State Sporting Associations and the Regional Sports Assembly to deliver traditional sport, social sport and other active recreation activities to pool utilising the green space could be considered.



- The sector broadly is looking to position sport to address social issues within communities. A justification for investing in seasonal outdoor pools may be providing a safe supervised swimming option and a hub for water safety in working to address and reduce community drownings in open and enclosed natural water ways.
- Council could consider a multi-year implementation strategy across all Council aquatic facilities bringing the Master Plans together thereby providing a strategic Council wide implementation of the Aquatic Facility Master Plans. The overall Implementation Plan could facilitate successive applications to the SRV Community Sports Infrastructure Fund Small Aquatic Projects category. Could focus on particular aspect eg solar heating at three seasonal pools at once.
- Examples of projects that may be funded in Small Aquatic Projects category include:
 - Improving amenities such as better change areas and shelter/shade.
 - Improving accessibility to aquatic spaces and change facilities.
 - Increasing the amount of leisure water and aquatic play features.
 - Development of outdoor water spaces.
 - Environmentally sustainable infrastructure initiatives.
 - Works to raise water temperatures.

4.2 Youth Cafés

Two youth cafés were conducted with one for student leaders from Foster Primary School and one for Foster Secondary College with key information provided in the following sections.

4.2.1 Best things about Foster Outdoor Pool

The best things about the Foster Outdoor Pool as identified at the Youth Cafés are summarised in the following table.

Table 36: Best Things about Foster Outdoor Pool

Best Things - What They Like About Foster Outdoor Pool	
<p><i>Pools:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different size pools / good for families (2). • Two pools (2). • Four places to get out of main pool. • Great to cool off; is cool / cold (2); refreshing to cool off - not heated (8); it is cold. • Solar heated / heated (4) / warm pools / nice temperature (2) and good for the environment. • Love how deep it is; nice and deep (4). • Floor doesn't cut your feet / smooth floor (2). • Warm / heated learners pool (5); shade over. • Clean water (2). • Good facilities. • An area for everyone to play. 	<p><i>Programs and Activities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of different things to do / pool activities (3). • Inflatable (6); love the commando (2). • You can do bombs. • Swimming lessons; you learn to swim / don't drown when learn to swim. • School swimming. • Lots of toys (2). • Basketball, volleyball. • Swim laps in peace. • Run (around golf course) and swim (in pool).
<p><i>Surrounds & Support Infrastructure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass - good sitting area (3); hill is better than concrete; lots of grass (4); nice sitting on hill. • Shade / shade sails (5); trees. • Space for sitting. • Picnic area. • Outdoors (2) and open. • It is big / large space (2) / open space (2). 	<p><i>Operations and Supervision:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendly / nice staff (9) - kids that we know from high school; give you free food. • Well supervised. • It is cheap / low prices (4); season tickets. • Good when open in summer. • Safe environment (2).



Best Things - What They Like About Foster Outdoor Pool

Location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is nearby to home (3). • Local pool / in Foster (6). • Close to town; easy to get too; close to school; can walk to it. 	Social / Community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our friends are usually there and everyone is friendly (2); knowing everyone. • Good for little kids and families. • Good hang out spot. • Relaxed atmosphere.
Amenities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change rooms - warm / hot showers (9); good (3). 	Facilities & Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great for all ages (2). • Great canteen (5). • Good wall art on change rooms.

4.2.2 Issues - what is wrong or missing at the Foster Outdoor Pool?

The key issues raised in the Youth Cafés are summarised in the following table.

Table 37 Youth Cafés - Key Issues - what is wrong or missing at Foster Outdoor Pool

Issues - What is Wrong / Missing at Foster Outdoor Pool

Pools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Temperature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Always cold / it's cold (3)/ sometimes cold (5); temperature. - Heating / not heated (2). • Rough edges on the side of the pool; floor not smooth (cut foot). • Water Play: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not enough equipment. - No dive board / diving (3). - No wave pool. • Pool Infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No undercover / shelter; not indoors. - No bars on edge like at Toora. - Slippery tiles; pool perimeter tiles. - Small (2). • No fish (2). 	Programs and Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough activities for entertainment; more fun things to do; no movies. • Inflatables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They barely put up the monster / commando - got rid of it (2); - More and more often (3). - Larger summer / tourist facilities ie inflatables. • Advertising - not enough / not good. • No fun tricks; not allowed to dive / do tricks (2).
Amenities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing rooms (7) - dark (3); slippery (2); toilets (3); drains; showers (3). • Some showers are cold. 	Facilities & Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canteen - no healthy options; expensive. • No sun safety awareness facilities (2). • Vandalism (2).
Surrounds & Support Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough places to sit (5), tables (3) and seats. • Not enough shade / shade sails (3). • Trees drop spikey things that hurt to sit on; prickles. • Grass makes feet muddy. • Concrete area. • Parking. 	Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never open; only opens at certain temperature (2). • Not open anytime of the year apart from summer / only open in summer (3); not open all year. • Very dirty / dirty (2). • Lifeguards are too strict. • Too many rules.

4.2.3 Future Improvements and Opportunities from Youth Cafés

The future improvements and opportunities (solutions to issues, making things better for Foster Outdoor Pool), as raised at the Youth Cafés are summarised in the following table.



Table 38 Youth Cafés - Future Improvements and Opportunities - Making Things Better at Foster Outdoor Pool

Future Foster Outdoor Pool	
<p>Pools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Temperature - needs to be warmer (8) / heating (5); heating in winter; cool in summer; make the little pool a lot hotter. Water Play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water slide (7). Small water park. More / better equipment / toys (9). Wave pool (3). Pool Infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maybe a roof over the pool / main pool (2); indoors. Bring back the toddler's pool. Bigger pool. Spa (3). Diving boards (6); diving blocks. Deeper water (4); not v shape - flat. 	<p>Programs & Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inflatables: inflatable tyres; more / better inflatables (5); commando / inflatables more often (4). More activities (6); more community events (4); More pool entertainment; movie nights; sausage sizzles; family fun days; basketball / volleyball. Allowed to dive (2); Fundraisers (3); More - sun safety awareness (2); stuff out of pool; relaxing; fun things.
<p>Amenities / Change Rooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better / new change (8) including showers (all hot); More changing space; floors non-slip; better lighting; sound proofing; cleaner; drainage. 	<p>Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canteen / Kiosk - more food (2); better food; better / bigger canteen (3); healthy options. More / better advertising (3); update Facebook page more often. Free Wi-Fi. Make it free.
<p>Surrounds & Support Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More seating (12); relaxing sofa area; deck chairs (4); suitable for parents / children; for winter; more tables (2). Shade - more shade (5); to prevent sunburn; for the big pool. Entertainment area with a basketball court. New skate park below it to draw the public. BBQs. More parking. Sound proofing. Fish in pools (2). 	<p>Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open more (6); open all year; open at lower temperature. More lifeguards on duty. No lifeguards. Less rules Cleaner (2).

The participants at the Youth Cafés were able to vote for the top three improvements / opportunities with the results (in priority order) provided in the following table.

Table 39 Youth Cafés - Top Three Improvements / Opportunities

No	Improvements
1.	Better / new change rooms including showers (12).
2.	Water slide (8).
	Deck chairs (8).
3.	More pool entertainment (7).



5. Benchmarking with Selected Seasonal Outdoor Pools

This section of the report presents the results of the benchmarking of Foster Outdoor Pool with four other seasonal swimming pools to source information regarding:

- Key facility components.
- Facility Accessibility
- Operations Review.
- Facility attendances, usage and programs.
- Financial information 2016/2017.

The participating Local Government Areas (LGAs) and the relevant facility are provided in the following table.

Table 40: Benchmarking - Participating Outdoor Seasonal Pools

Local Government Area	Seasonal Outdoor Pool
Cardinia Shire Council	Garfield Swimming Pool
Corangamite Shire Council	Timboon Swimming Pool
Wellington Shire Council	Rosedale Swimming Pool
	Yarram Swimming Pool

The key findings from the benchmarking between Foster Outdoor Pool and the four participating seasonal outdoor swimming pools are summarised in the following sections.

5.1 Facility Overview

5.1.1 Key Facility Components

The facility components for each participating facility are provided in Appendix 3. A review of these components indicates that:

- Aquatics:
 - Of the participating centres, four of the five centres comprise of two pools:
 - A main pool between 18m and 33m in length with varying number of lanes.
 - Learners pool - Foster Outdoor Pool.
 - Toddlers Pool - Rosedale, Timboon and Yarram.
 - Garfield Swimming Pool is the only facility with three pools - a main pool (5 lanes, 33.75m), learners pool (10m X 10m) and wading pool.
 - Water features are provided in two of the toddler pools (Rosedale and Timboon). Two other pools have inflatables (Foster and Yarram).
 - Water Heating: solar heating is provided at all facilities except Rosedale Swimming Pool. Only the learners pool at Foster had gas heating.
- Other Facilities: a diverse range of other facilities and services were provided across the eight centres including:
 - Kiosk facilities combined with reception / entry are provided at all five facilities.
 - Shade sails are provided at all facilities with shade over all four toddler / wading pools (Garfield, Rosedale, Timboon and Yarram) and the learners pools at Foster and Garfield.
 - BBQs are provided at two (Garfield and Rosedale); basketball ring and play equipment is provided at Timboon.



5.1.2 Facility Accessibility

The following table summarises the accessibility features at each of the participating facility's.

Table 41: Facility Accessibility at Benchmarked Pools

Facility Accessibility	Foster	Garfield	Rosedale	Timboon	Yarram
Disabled parking provision	No	No	None designated	Yes	• Available in adjacent public carpark
Ramp access (if needed)	No	NA	NA	Yes, from reception to pools.	NA
Pool hoist	No	No	• Poolside hoist (sling style).	Yes	• Poolside hoist (sling style).
Ramp access to pool/s	No	No	• Beach entry to Play pool.	No	• Beach entry to Play pool.
Other accessibility / universal access provisions	No	Disabled change facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible facility entry design (no steps, stairs or ramps). • Accessible Change, toilet and shower facility. 	Family / accessible change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible facility entry design (no steps, stairs or ramps). • Accessible Change, toilet and shower facility. • Disabled persons change facility incorporates an electrically powered people lifter on a ceiling track.

A review of the results indicates that:

- Accessible / family change is provided at all pools except Foster Outdoor Pool.
- Pool Accessibility:
 - Rosedale, Timboon and Yarram provide pool hoist.
 - No ramp access is provided at any of the five facilities.
 - Two facilities provide beach entry to play pools (Rosedale and Yarram).
- Timboon has disabled car parking provision and at Yarram this is available in the adjacent public car park. None of the other facilities had designated disabled parking provision.

5.1.3 Facility Catchment Population

The participating LGAs provided estimated catchment populations for the pools with results provided in the following table.

Table 42: Facility Catchment Population

Facility	Estimated Centre Catchment Population
Foster Outdoor Pool	Town - 1,300 (est); South East Coastal District - 5,401
Garfield Swimming Pool	1,842 ⁴
Rosedale Swimming Pool	8,675 ⁶
Timboon Swimming Pool	2,553 ⁶
Yarram Swimming Pool	5,188 ⁶

A review of the results above indicates that the catchment populations vary significantly however this could be in part due to different catchment criteria, with most providing a town and district combined population.

⁴ Garfield total population; Timboon and surrounding district (2011); Rosedale and Yarram - district population (VIF 2015)



5.2 Operations Review

This section provides a review of the operations of the facilities including operating hours, season, attendances, usage and programs.

5.2.1 Operating Hours and Season

A summary of operating hours and seasons for the five facilities is provided in the following table.

Table 43: Operating Seasons and Hours

Facility	Operating Season	Operating Hours - Details
Foster Outdoor Pool	17 December 2016 to 13 March 2017	Monday - Friday School Term 3.00pm to 7.00pm; Saturday - Sunday 12.00noon to 7.00pm. School Holidays 12.00noon to 7.00pm. Operating hours are subject to Hot and Cold Weather Policy.
Garfield Swimming Pool	12 November 2016 to 19 March 2017	Weekdays 3pm - 7pm. Weekends 1pm - 7pm. Opens when temperature 26° or above.
Rosedale Swimming Pool	Off Peak: 26 Nov - 17 Dec 2016; 29 Jan - 13 Mar 2017	Guaranteed Hours (<26°) 4-6pm daily Weekdays (>26°) 4-7pm daily Weekends & Public Holidays (>26°) 11am - 6pm
	Peak: 18 Dec 2016 - 28 Jan 2017	Weekdays (>26°) 11am-7pm daily Weekends & Public Holidays (>26°) 11am - 6pm
Timboon Swimming Pool	26 November 2016 - 13 March 2017 (15 weeks)	Weekends, school holidays and public holidays 11.30am - 7.00pm School Term 3.00 - 7.00pm
	Lap swimming: Mon, Wed, Fri 28 Nov - 16 Dec and 2 Jan - 24 Feb	6.30am - 8.30am
Yarram Swimming Pool	Off Peak: 4 Nov -17 Dec 2016; 29 Jan - 13 March 2017	Guaranteed Hours (<26°) 6-8am weekdays; 4-6pm daily Weekdays (>26°) 6-8am weekdays; 4-7pm daily Weekends & Public Holidays (>26°) 11am - 6pm
	Peak: 18 Dec 2016 - 28 Jan 2017	Weekdays (>26°) 6-8am weekdays; 11am -7pm daily Weekends & Public Holidays (>26°) 11am - 6pm

A review of the results for operating seasons and hours indicates that:

- Operating season:
 - Four of the five facilities commenced operations in November 2016, varying between 4 and 26 November 2016.
 - Foster Outdoor Pool commenced operations on 17 December 2016.
 - All except two facilities (Foster and Garfield), closed on the Monday of the Labour Day Long Weekend.
 - Foster⁵ and Garfield closed on the 19 March 2017 which was the Sunday following the Long Weekend.
- Operating Hours:
 - Four of the five facilities have different operating hours depending on the time of year (Foster, Rosedale, Timboon and Yarram).
 - All pools operate under weather policies with two only opening if the temperature is above 26° (Foster and Garfield).
 - Extended hours for hot weather operate at four of the five pools (Foster, Rosedale, Timboon and Yarram).
 - Rosedale and Yarram have guaranteed hours at each pool (refer table above).

⁵ Season extended due to hot weather.



- Timboon Cold / Inclement Weather Policy - 18° and below may not open; temperature drops below this during operating hours and no patrons may close for day; hours at end of month may be re-allocated in following month.

5.2.2 Facility Attendances

The participating facilities provided information on total visitation for the past three seasons with results provided in the following figure.

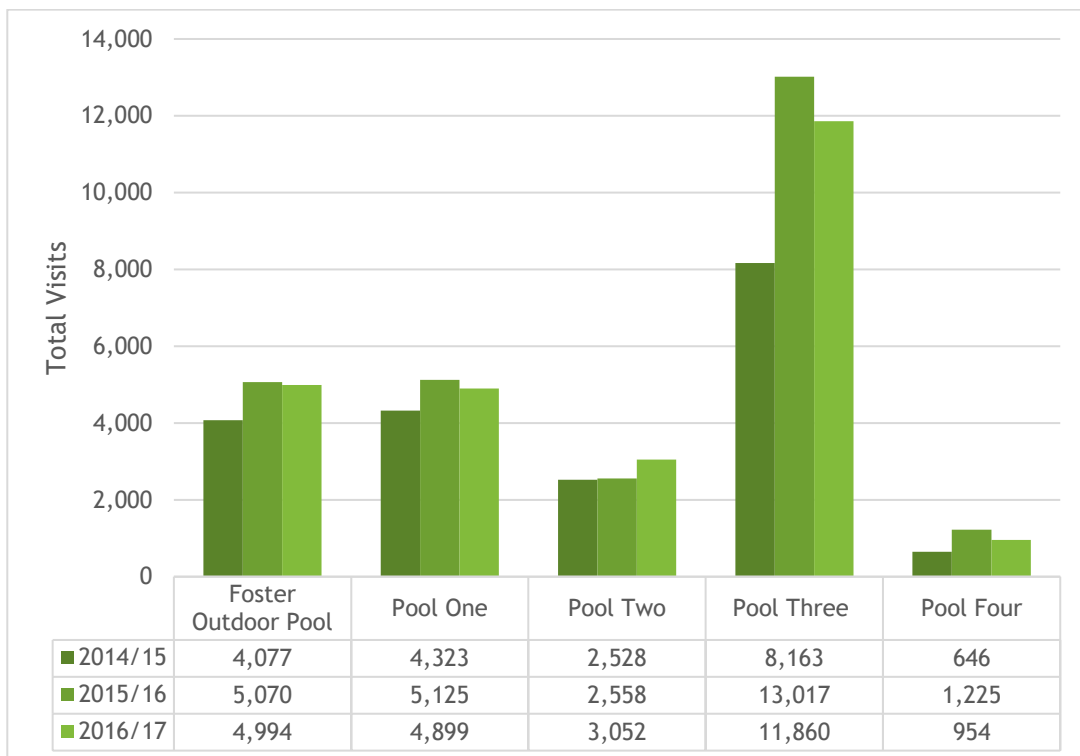


Figure 6: Facility Visitation for Benchmarked Seasonal Outdoor Pools - 2014/15 to 2016/17

A review of the results for visitation for the past three seasons indicates the following:

- Pool Three has the highest total visitation in all three years ranging from a low of 8,163 in 2014/15 to a high in 2015/16 of 13,017.
- Foster Outdoor Pool and Pool One have similar visitation with highs of 5,070 and 5,125 respectively.
- Pool Four has the lowest visitation of all benchmarked pools in each of the three seasons.



5.2.3 Usage and Programs

Information regarding each of the facility's usage and programs (where provided) is summarised in the following table.

Table 44: Usage and Programming for Benchmarked Facilities

Usage and Programs	Foster	Garfield	Rosedale	Timboon	Yarram
Learn to Swim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, however cancelled in 2016/17. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, for one - two weeks; 30 participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes - VicSwim in January.
Aquatic Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aqua Aerobics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very limited program for local primary school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water aerobics Water Polo Triathlon Lap swimming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local primary and secondary school swimming programs. VicSwim program.
Lap swimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes - Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7.00am to 9.00am. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing specific. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes - Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 28 Nov - 16 Dec and 2 Jan - 24 Feb; 6.30 - 8.30am. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday to Friday, 6.00am to 8.00am throughout the 18-week season.
Community Events / Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stroke & Stride (Run + swim). Free water play mornings - 10 dates in February & March. Themed Days in 2017: Twilight Opening Party, School's Out Pool Party and Hawaiian Luau. Sunday Inflatable - two dates in 2017. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 'Summer of Fun' calendar lists all themed days for the year.⁶ Themed days included a New Year's Eve Party, Superhero Day, Pirate Day, Hawaiian Day, and Australia Day. The calendar also provides discounted entry vouchers, food and merchandise vouchers, and discount entry to Cardinia Life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Season 'Launch'. Freebie Fridays. Australia Day BBQ. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BBQs. Fundraisers. Dive-in pool movie night. Inflatables. Australia Day celebration. Birthday parties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Season 'Launch'. Freebie Fridays. Australia Day BBQ. Inflatable Fun Days (every Saturday).

⁶ These were previously spread across the season, and this saw many days cancelled with bad weather. In the most recent season all event days were scheduled in January, increasing the likelihood of the pools being opened.

Usage and Programs	Foster	Garfield	Rosedale	Timboon	Yarram
Regular User Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local school swimming programs (secondary and primary schools). School carnivals (secondary and primary schools). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No swimming club is based at the facility. No schools attended. One local primary school exists and generally utilises the pool, however they amended their booking and chose to use the indoor pool at Pakenham (Cardinia Life). No specific regular users or programming (besides Summer of Fun calendar). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One school. One swimming club. One club carnival. Two swimming school carnivals. Lap swim challenge (43,790 laps completed by the community). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local secondary school, 3 x local primary schools. No swim club.

A review of the results indicates that:

- Three of the five facilities offer a summer learn to swim program for one to two weeks each season (Foster [cancelled in 2017], Timboon [20-30 enrolments] and Yarram).
- Regular morning lap swimming is provided at three pools (Foster, Timboon and Yarram).
- Schools are regular users for swimming programs and/or school carnivals at three pools (Foster [two schools], Timboon [one school] and Yarram [four schools]).
- Only Timboon Swimming Pool has a swimming club based at the facility.
- Aquatic programs (apart from learn to swim) are provided at two pools:
 - Aqua aerobics - Foster and Timboon
 - Water polo and triathlon at Timboon.
- Community Events and Activities:
 - All five pools provide some community events and activities, either one off or at varying dates throughout the season.
 - All pools except Foster have Australia Day events / celebrations.
 - Other events included:
 - Triathlon (Stroke & Stride at Foster; triathlon Timboon).
 - Themed events - School's Out, Superhero Day, Hawaiian Day, Pirate Day.
 - Birthday parties.
 - Dive-in Movie, BBQs, season launch / opening party, Freebie Fridays, fundraisers, inflatables, water play mornings.
- Four pools, Foster, Garfield, Timboon and Yarram offer a range of programs, events and activities.
- Garfield provides a Summer of Fun calendar which as well as events information also includes discounted entry vouchers, food and merchandise vouchers and discount entry to Cardinia Life.



5.3 Financial Information

This section of the report reviews the financial information for the five benchmarked seasonal swimming pools.

5.3.1 Operating Financial Review

The following figure provides a summary of the operating financial performance for each of the five participating pools.

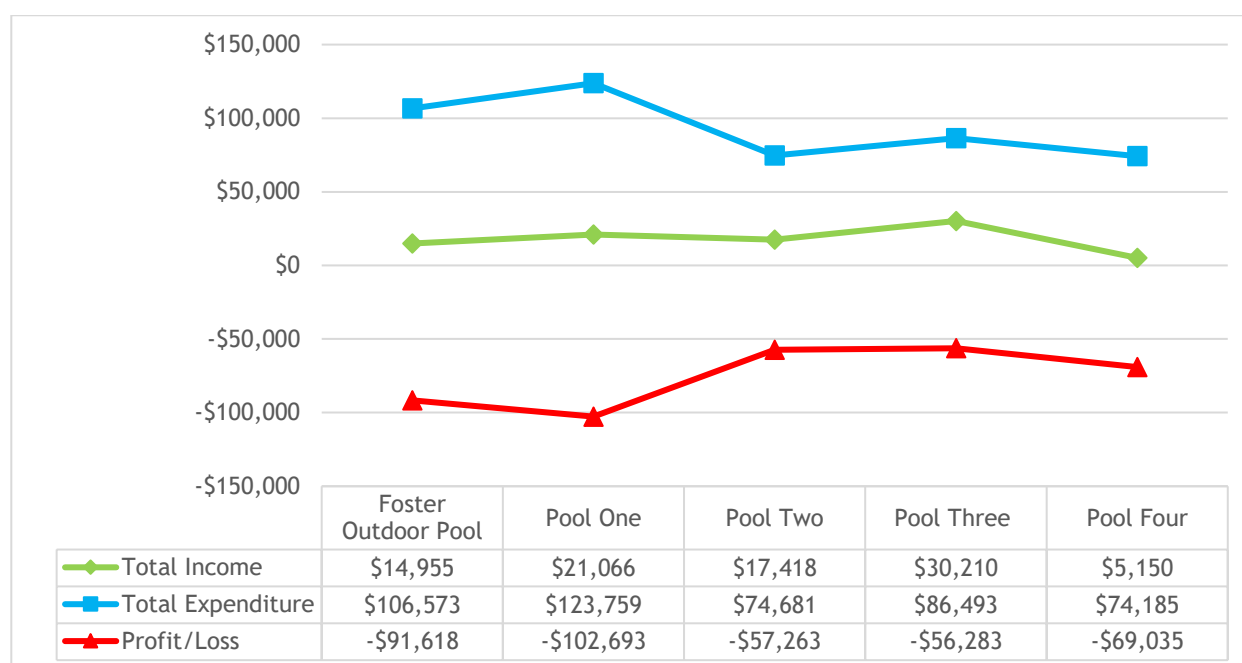


Figure 7: Operating Financial Performance Information Benchmarked Facilities

A review of the results in the above figure indicates that:

- Foster Outdoor Pool has the second lowest income and the second highest expenditure resulting in the second highest loss of the benchmarked facilities.
- Income ranged from a low of \$5,150 for Pool Four (646 visits) to a high of \$30,210 for Pool Three (8,166 visits).
- The highest operating expenditure was Pool One at \$123,759 whilst the lowest were Pools Two (\$74,681) and Three (\$74,185).
- In terms of the loss incurred Pool Three was the lowest with \$56,283 (highest income) whilst then highest was Pool One with a loss of \$102,693 (highest expenditure).
- The following table provides the expense recovery (income as a percentage of expenditure) for each of the five seasonal pools in 2016/17.

Table 45: Benchmark Facilities - Expense Recovery 2016/17

	Foster Outdoor Pool	Pool One	Pool Two	Pool Three	Pool Four
Income as a percentage of expenditure	14%	17%	23%	35%	7%

The expense recovery ranged between 7% (Pool Four) to 35% (Pool Three). Operating expense recovery for Foster Outdoor Pool was the second lowest with 14%.



6. Warranties and Disclaimers

The information contained in this report is provided in good faith. While Otium Planning Group has applied their own experience to the task, they have relied upon information supplied to them by other persons and organisations.

We have not conducted an audit of the information provided by others but have accepted it in good faith. Some of the information may have been provided 'commercial in confidence' and as such these venues or sources of information are not specifically identified. Readers should be aware that the preparation of this report may have necessitated projections of the future that are inherently uncertain and that our opinion is based on the underlying representations, assumptions and projections detailed in this report.

There will be differences between projected and actual results, because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected and those differences may be material. We do not express an opinion as to whether actual results will approximate projected results, nor can we confirm, underwrite or guarantee the achievability of the projections as it is not possible to substantiate assumptions which are based on future events.

Accordingly, neither Otium Planning Group, nor any member or employee of Otium Planning Group, undertakes responsibility arising in any way whatsoever to any persons other than client in respect of this report, for any errors or omissions herein, arising through negligence or otherwise however caused.



Appendix 1 - List of Representatives at Consultations

Organisation	Representative	Position
Foster Community Association	Tom Holman	
	Jose Goossens	
	Andy Mitchell	
	Dianne Frey	
	Jill Plowright	
	Robert Brown	
Foster Primary School	Kylie Mitchell	Principal's Assistant
Foster Secondary College	Callum Sherriff	Sport Co-ordinator, Physical Education Teacher
Foster Swimming Pool Association Inc	Ian Lyon	President
	Keith Armstrong	
	Paul Saulwick	
	Marion Paulet	
	Greg Cox	
	Annie House	
Prom Coast Aged Care	Vanessa Facey	
	Carina Ross	Acting CEO
	Pauline DeGroot	Activity / Life Style Co-ordinator
Prom Coast Children's Centre	Wilhemina Pruy	
South Gippsland Hospital Foster	Chris Trotman	Chief Executive Officer
South Gippsland Shire Council	Anthony Seabrook	Director Sustainable Communities & Infrastructure
	Ned Dennis	Manager Community Strengthening
	Ian Murphy	Recreation Co-ordinator
	Alister Fixter	Co-ordinator Buildings
	Tony Peterson	Engineering Projects
Sport and Recreation Victoria	Dan Poynton	Regional Co-ordinator
U3A - Prom Coast	Dave Berry	President
YMCA Victoria	Sarah Hadjialexiou	SG SPLASH Centre Manager
	Harley Morris	Duty Manager



Appendix 2 - Survey Additional Comments

No	Responses
1	The Council appears unwilling to invest in the Foster Pool. Clearly it needs heating and a water slide, more shade and a better kiosk. You need to bite the bullet and look at what Toora pool provides.
2	Foster swimming pool would be a great asset especially during the summer season if more activities were organised for the visitors/families in the area.
3	Complete upgrade: new sauna/change rooms Spa Should be rebuilt and totally enclosed for year round use! New cafe/kiosk and gymnasium for membership (cost effective).
4	I love coming every year. I wish it was open for longer times of the year- further into autumn, commencing further into spring. as well as summer
5	The pool is important infrastructure for a broad range of ages in the community particularly for children to learn to swim and through regular summer usage consolidate and improve their water skills. Aquatic activities have become increasingly popular for older people for fitness and remedial therapeutic use. Upgrading the pool's facilities particularly in relation to water temperature and change room facilities will encourage greater use by older people. An aqua therapy pool could be a consideration for use by residents of the age care facility in Foster or remedial therapy for those recovering from injuries.
6	KEEP THE POOL! Thanks
7	Undercover would suit me plus well heated pool
8	A necessary asset for the area
9	Moving to Foster. My children do swimming lessons and I need this to continue after the move
10	An under cover pool with heating, would be an advantage. Expand the pool and facilities, at the same rate the Foster community is expanding.
11	Foster's pool is a great asset to the community, but it needs improved facilities and consistent opening hours to make it attractive to more people.
12	As I live in Foster the change rooms kiosk etc don't matter to me but the warmth of the water does. I like to swim 1 km once a week but med warmer water and more consistently warm water so it is open at more times
13	it needs to have a higher profile more interaction with all age groups and have with social activities e.g live music Foster has a high retired population and the pool need to be heated for activities for that group
14	The outdoor space and uncovered pool is the charm of the Foster pool. I lived in Sydney for 25 years before returning home and in Sydney they had redeveloped or in my opinion destroyed most of the outdoor pools with loans and turn them into hot humid chlorine smelling covered pools
15	Harley and his team are amazing staff! They are always open on time, always professional yet friendly and happy. They always ensure the safety of the patrons and make sure each visit is enjoyable. Please recognise that the facility's appearance is only one aspect of the pools success, look after your amazing staff! It would be great if the pool was open for lap swimming every morning not just 3 days.
16	It is the main amenity in the area and a year round heated pool would partly justify the exorbitant rates we pay (\$4500) for which we receive just one annual road grading but nothing else
17	pendewcerfif vn
18	good thanks, yourself? xoxo
19	nah






No	Responses
20	The management is the real problem with the Foster pool. The Toora pool has been so successful in the past based on management alone. The YMCA is killing the pool.
21	more community events and movie nights, better drainage in the girls change rooms
22	I would use Foster pool more if it were open more hours over the day as well as over the season. There have been many times I would have gone to the pool at least a month either side of the pool season, but it wasn't open. This also applies during the day when the pool will be open, but isn't or has already shut.
23	It's not so much for me but it is vital for others. All people should swim and be proficient; very young to very old. As with other community facilities, it is a unifying and positive facility. In this case it also contributes to the health and physical and mental wellbeing of the Foster Community. The fact that I personally have not used it does not mean I do not value it and see how others value it. It should probably be better promoted and use encouraged.
24	I believe the Foster pool is a great asset to our community. I stopped using the pool a couple of years ago when I had a child who wasn't yet school age and the pool wasn't open until after school hours. I found this really frustrating as I then had to drive to Toora, rather than walk to my local pool, just so that my youngest child could enjoy a swim, without all the school children there. I also work at the high school and know what a great resource the pool is for our students swimming lessons. It would have a huge impact on our school if this facility was taken away as we would then have to bus our students up to Toora. I would be happy to return back to Foster if it meant that the pool was open every day, regardless of the weather and the season was longer.
25	The Corner Inlet Dolphins Swimming Club is operates from October to March each year and can only do so at the Toora Swimming Pool with guaranteed opening hours after school so that we can schedule our training regardless of weather. The club would be see increased growth and membership from our current numbers of 40 if we were able to operate weekly from the Foster pool. We ran some summer training sessions at the pool last season whl had worked well, however the Toora swimming pool does not charge us for lane hire, and the YMCA does. The travel to Toora does put off some members, so using the Foster pool would be beneficial if facilities were more reliable.
26	It's important to maintain facilities in country towns to encourage families, businesses, and health of the town. Too many facilities have been lost over the years. It's not good enough to say we should centralise facilities, the result only weakening reasons why people want to live in small towns. Government policies are citycentric especially towards remote regional areas. The removal of another facility from Foster will add to list that have been lost.
27	While I use the pool infrequently, and would do so much more often if water heated, I value the facility as a place of younger people to be active and socialise.
28	My children will be, in the next couple of years attending the primary school in Foster and we look forward to utilising the facility over the summer months.
29	It's a great place to take my family during Summer. It supports local employment opportunities in our town. It's a great place for the Foster Secondary College Swimming Carnival. It provides a valuable service in exchange for my rates contribution. I would consider it a poor decision by Council to close it & vote against the members who made this decision.
30	Having grown up in Foster I loved the convenience of the local pool, and would like to re-establish my frequent use of it. I have heard that the water temperature is not as warm as I would like, so I will probably swim in a warmer pool.
31	Foster Pool is a great asset to the town as we have the local secondary college and the largest feeder primary school located in town. The cost of bussing our students to another pool (even Toora) would put our swimming program in jeopardy as the cost to the schools would prohibit participation in a swim program which the government are now making a requirement in schools.
32	I love this pool. I would love for it to stay as is. Opening times need to be more reliable and for people with unavoidable commitments, I would love for the pool to be open earlier for lap swimming in the mornings and not close until midday. If you wish for people to attend the pool more regularly, you really need to open more so we can all create a routine around the opening hours. If it is unreliable, no-one will come. They will use surrounding pools that already have reliable opening and closing times. Please open the pool for the mornings....this is the only chance I have on my own to get fit and enjoy my favourite sport.
33	Although we are near the beach not everyone can get there (pensioners, young children.) The people who currently staff the pool are friendly and sometimes keep it open when the weather is very hot, which is great for the community. When we do have long stretches of hot weather it is an invaluable resource. The local schools use it for their Physical Education programs and it would be a great shame if they had to travel to Toora, not to mention a waste of time and money.
34	I believe the Pool should be heated like the Toora pool so that it can be used more by older people to keep active exercise in water is very beneficial to the ageing community



No	Responses
35	I can't emphasise how important swimming pools are for communities. When I was young, our local pool kept me off the streets and was beneficial not only to my physical but mental wellbeing. Pools provide a positive community and we should never, ever consider abandoning them. Rather, we should try to be creative in the way we attract more people to using them - but they need to BE OPEN - and reliably so, for goodness sake.
36	I think the cost is a bit high right now. The pool could also do with some gym facilities.
37	It is a very valuable community asset and low cost activity.
38	We are very fortunate to have a pool and should be doing everything we can to keep and maintain it for the community.
39	I believe a local pool is an important community asset that benefits all age groups.
40	I really do think that given the obesity and other health issues that are prevalent in our community, and the lack of activities for young people, other than team sports, it is vital that we keep our swimming pools open and attractive to young people and their families. And also for older people, who need warm water aqua therapy.
41	great for Foster community....did live in Foster and my kids learnt to swim there
42	Foster pool is often cold and with Toora pool that is adequately heated and covered from natures elements why would anyone bother to use the Foster Pool?
43	Foster Pool needs to be developed to make the facility more user friendly, it is a great space however the pool is cold, it does not have a long opening season and there are not enough hot showers!!!! I would personally love to see Foster pool, fully enclosed, heated and run all year round. The skill level of the swimmers in the local area is quite poor on average and I would love to see it improve with increasing opportunities for children and families in the Foster region.
44	The only reason i have not used the pool as much is that i am never sure when it is open. When i have gone there the rubbish lane ropes and set up are not conducive to getting in doing our laps and off to work.
45	I would really like to use the Foster pool more (for one thing it is closer to where I live) but I find that my kids prefer Toora as they seem to be organised with the inflatable, bouncy castle, free BBQs. Most of my kids friends end up going to Toora so we join in with that social group there.
46	The recent managers of the pool are fantastic. They really make you feel welcome and we live to hang out there
47	A long term strategy to improve the facilities would be Beneficial for the greater community and an investment in the future wellbeing of all. Do the hard work now as it will cost less in the future.
48	Needs to be landscaped, beautified. Water v cold compared to Toora. A coffee machine.
49	I would like to see speakers around the facility for music or radio. Tea and coffee facilities for parents. BBQ facilities for warm nights and weekends. More use of the inflatable. Could the golf club do pool lunches? Chips, burgers etc.
50	It needs to be open more then it is. My kids always want to use the pool and sometimes they can't due to not being hot enough. when I was a kid use to be open early as 11am each day was never based on temperature for the day
51	I'm concerned that increasing the hours of operation aren't included in the survey responses as it is one of the largest contributing factors to people by-passing Foster for the Toora pool. Also, the first question is misleading as is refers to organised activities only.
52	It's very important that the pool stays open and is available to all locals in a modern, friendly environment



Appendix 3 - Facility Components at Benchmarked Pools

Facility	Key facility components/elements.	Facility Photo
<p>Foster Outdoor Pool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main pool - 25m x 16m, 8 lane pool; depth 0.9m to 1.8m; solar heating. • Learners pool - 15m x 8m; depth 0.6m to 0.8m; gas heated with shade. • Kiosk / reception / entry / office. • First aid room. • Male and Female Change rooms. • Storage. • Plant room. 	
<p>Garfield Swimming Pool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main pool - 33.75m x 11.25m; 5 lane; Depth 1-2.4m. • Learners Pool 10m x 10m; Depth 0.7m. • Wading Pool 4.5m x 3m. Depth 0.48m. • The pool is heated using solar, two pool covers are used for the main pool. • Four (4) shade sails are located around the facility. • Amenity building consisting of entry, kiosk and office, male and female change rooms, disabled and family change room, first aid room, multi-purpose room. • BBQ. 	
<p>Rosedale Swimming Pool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main pool (18m x 9m). • Toddler pool with shade and water feature (approx. 6m x 9m). • No pool covers, no heating on any pools. • Seating on paved areas. • Male and Female change rooms. • Accessible / family change rooms. • Reception / kiosk. • First aid room. • Electric BBQ with shade. • Poolside disabled person's (sling style) hoist. 	



Facility	Key facility components/elements.	Facility Photo
<p>Timboon Swimming Pool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main pool - 33m x 11m; depth 1.0m to 3.05m; solar heated. • Toddlers pool with water features - 12.0m x 6.0m; depth 0m to 0.5m; solar heated with shade. • Pool hoist. • Club room. • Kiosk / reception / entry / office. • Change rooms. • Disabled / family change room. • First aid room. • Storage. • Play equipment. • Basketball ring. 	
<p>Yarram Swimming Pool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main pool (33m x 15m). • Toddler pool with shade (Semi circle Approx 14m diameter). • No pool covers. • Solar heating to both pools. • Seating on paved and lawn areas. • Male and Female change rooms. • Accessible / family change. • Reception / kiosk. • First aid room. • Shade over lawn area. • Poolside disabled person's (sling style) hoist. 	