



AGENDA APPENDIX
Council Meeting
Wednesday 16 April 2014

AGENDA ITEM FOR SEPARATE DISTRIBUTION TO COUNCILLORS AND EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM DUE TO DOCUMENT SIZE.

THE ITEM IS ACCESSIBLE VIA THE COUNCIL WEBSITE OR BY CONTACTING COUNCIL ON 03 5662 9200.

E.2 DRAFT POOWONG AND TOORA SWIMMING POOL MASTER PLANS

Appendix 1 – Draft Poowong and Toora Swimming Pool Master Plans

South Gippsland Shire Council Pool Master Plans for Poowong and Toora

Draft Report – March 2014



South Gippsland
Shire Council

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SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has a significant portfolio of aquatic facilities with five outdoor pools and an indoor aquatic centre. The outdoor pools alone have cost Council more than \$3 million to maintain and operate for the eight years from 2005/06 to 2012/13.

Consultation found that both facilities are valued highly by their respective communities and have a broader catchment than the immediate towns they are located in. They both fulfil a broader role than just the provision of aquatics, with communities seeing these facilities as 'social hubs' during the pool season.

The ongoing operation of and future development of these pools fits in with a number of key Council priorities but Council's limited financial resources and strategic direction from the Aquatic Strategy means that grant funding will be required for any significant development at either pool and it will be important for the community, through the pool committees, to drive smaller projects such as bbq areas and shade sails.

The proposed development at the Toora Swimming Pool includes the installation of interactive children's water play into the existing toddler's pool, upgrade to amenities and the inclusion of a family/accessible change room and toilet, changes to the existing footpath to improve access to the pools and a permanent bbq and shade structure between the 25m and learners' pool. This development has an estimated capital cost of \$787,000, although Council has the ability to apply for Better Pools funding for this facility which would mean that if successful, dollar for dollar funding could be obtained.

The proposed development at the Poowong Swimming pool includes an upgrade to amenities and the inclusion of two family/accessible change rooms/toilets, changes to the entrance to the facility and the path between the kiosk and the pools to provide improved access, a permanent bbq under existing shade structure, permanent shade along the side of the 25m pool, additional green space to the north of the facility (subject to approval from the Poowong Recreation Reserve Committee), improved chemical delivery access and rectification of confined space issues so that both of these areas meet regulations and replacement of the existing scum gutter. This project has an estimated capital cost of \$772,000. Council could apply for funding through the State Government's 'Seasonal Pool Renewal Program', which would only result in \$200,000 of government funding, leaving a significant portion of this project cost to be funded locally.

SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

2.1 Local context

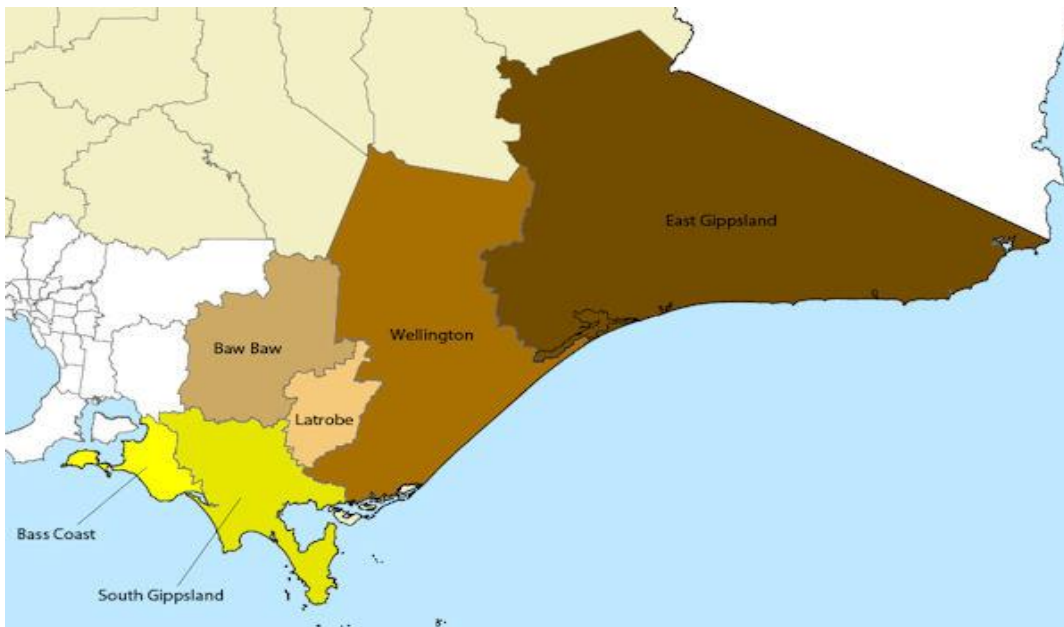
South Gippsland Shire is located in south-eastern Victoria, about 100 kilometres south-east of the Melbourne CBD and is bounded by Cardinia and Baw Baw Shires in the north, Latrobe City and Wellington Shire in the east, Bass Strait in the south, and Bass Coast Shire in the west.

South Gippsland is a rural, residential and holiday area. The Shire encompasses a total land area of about 3,300 square kilometres, including substantial coastal areas. The major towns are Leongatha, Korumburra, Mirboo North and Foster, with smaller townships at Dumbalk, Fish Creek, Loch, Meeniyan, Nyora, Poowong, Port Welshpool, Sandy Point, Tarwin Lower, Toora, Venus Bay and Welshpool, and many other small communities.

Much of the rural area is used for timber getting and agriculture, with dairy, beef and snow pea farming being the main agricultural pursuits. There is also some fishing and viticulture. Tourism is an important industry, especially in the coastal areas.

Major features of the Shire include Wilsons Promontory National Park, Cape Liptrap Coastal Park, various beaches, the Strzelecki Ranges, Coal Creek Community Park & Museum, The Great Southern Rail Trail, South Gippsland Tourist Railway, Grand Ridge Rail Trail, Nyora Raceway, Stony Creek Racecourse, Mirboo North Regional Park, Agnes Falls, Grand Ridge Brewery, GippsTAFE (Leongatha Campus) and several wineries.

Figure 1: South Gippsland shire location map



2.2 Project background

South Gippsland Shire Council operates one indoor aquatic centre in Leongatha and five outdoor pools located in Korumburra, Mirboo North, Toora, Poowong and Foster. There is also an indoor 15m pool at Korumburra that is managed by the Korumburra Swimming Club.

The Strategic Direction for Aquatic Facilities in South Gippsland (Aquatic Strategy) was adopted by Council in February 2012. Following a significant community consultation program the final document identified that the Council (subject to trigger points) will maintain its operational, maintenance and capital investment in all outdoor pools. To guide future investment in the outdoor pools master plans are to be developed for all outdoor pools.

In 2013 Council undertook Master Plans of the Mirboo North and Korumburra Swimming Pools. This report will address this requirement for the Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools, which will inform Council's future capital investment in these facilities and identify and articulate an achievable vision for the future of both of these facilities.

Council has made significant contributions to outdoor pools in the shire since 2005/06, spending more than \$3 million on the five outdoor pools alone (approximately \$1.6 million on operating costs and a further \$1.49 million on maintenance and capital improvements).

Forward maintenance planning for these the Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools indicate expected maintenance costs of \$335,200 between 2013/14 and 2017/18. A number of capital projects have also been identified at each of the facilities but specific costs have not yet been attributed to all of these.

2.3 Project methodology

The following tasks were undertaken in the preparation of this Master Plan report:

- Review of available planning and contextual information;
- Review of relevant local and regional demographic and participation data;
- Benchmarking of similar facilities;
- Analysis of existing operations and historical performance;
- Consultation with a broad range of community representatives, stakeholders and Council staff;
- Preparation of concept options and their estimated capital costs for the Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools;
- Review of likely funding models; and
- Preparation of a draft report for review.

SECTION 3: PROJECT CONTEXT

This section of the report provides an overview of the local policy context in relation to aquatics provision in the shire, along with an overview of aquatic facilities currently provided in South Gippsland shire and surrounding municipalities.

3.1 Local policy context

A number of local and municipal strategic plans, policies and support documents have been reviewed as part of this project, these include:-

- South Gippsland Shire Council Plan 2013-2017
- South Gippsland Shire Council Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
- South Gippsland Shire Council Active Ageing Plan 2012-2016
- Strategic direction for aquatic facilities in South Gippsland (2012)

The following provides a summary of these documents that may influence the future provision of quality and affordable aquatic facilities at Poowong and Toora Swimming Pools.

South Gippsland Shire Council Plan 2013-2017

The South Gippsland Shire Council Plan is an implementation tool used to transform *concepts, desired directions and aspirations adopted by Council into practical, measurable and actionable activities*. The plan sets out organisational goals, outcomes, strategies, actions, resource requirements and performance measures for a four-year period. It focuses on the strategic goals of providing: *a vibrant, engaged community; a sustainable environment; a strong local economy; appropriate infrastructure; and a leading organisation*.

Of relevance to this report are the objectives to:

- Engage and work collaboratively with the community and the particular strategy to *“minimise barriers and find ways to support volunteers, community groups and committees to provide services beyond those that Council, by itself, can provide”*
- Deliver affordable modern community services and facilities through an integrated approach to planning and infrastructure development. Strategies to achieve this objective include:
 - *“Developing an integrated approach for townships and villages, so that facilities are located in areas where they are most appropriate”*
 - *“planning for the service needs of the Shire’s changing demographic”*
 - *“encouragement of sustainable development that promotes health, wellbeing and unique character of the community”*.

Council is committed to community consultation and engagement. Of relevance to this report, key themes emerging from community consultation undertaken to develop Council strategies include:

- Better engagement and communication with the community, including *“being supportive of what the community needs”*

The plan includes discussion of the financial and non-financial resource requirements for the four years, including financial strategies developed by Council, financial challenges, rates and the need for longer term business focus and asset management. It discusses aligning infrastructure assets with service demands and that *“the desired service level to be provided in future years should determine what types of assets are required, where they should be located and what the associated lifecycle costs will be”*. The plan notes Council’s involvement in the MAV STEP Asset Management program, which aims to provide sustainable local government infrastructure.

South Gippsland Shire Council Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017

The Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan aims to achieve improved health and wellbeing for the Shire’s community. It outlines strategic directions about health and wellbeing within the governance of Council and provides a basis for an integrated approach to public health planning at a municipal level. This integrative and collaborative approach from Council, organisations, government and community aims to achieve the vision *“to provide safe, supportive environments for our communities to be the healthiest they can be and to flourish”*.

The plan has four priorities, each with identified strategies to focus action. The priorities and strategies relevant to this report are:

Community wellbeing, in particular:

- Social connection and the strategies to:
 - *“build the capacity of our community to participate in citizen engagement”*
 - *“support events that promote community participation / social inclusion”*
 - *“create settings and facilitate use of community infrastructure including digital infrastructure to provide opportunities for improved social connectedness”*
- Access and inclusion and the strategies to:
 - *“demonstrate leadership and improve the participation of people with disability in community life by supporting access and inclusion for all”*
 - *“advocate for improved access to healthcare services throughout the Shire”*.

Lifestyle, particularly active communities and the strategy to *“partner with external organisations to provide a range of sporting, recreational and leisure opportunities including alternative options”*

South Gippsland Shire Council Active Ageing Plan 2012 – 2016

The Active Ageing Strategy (AAS) has a focus on *“addressing issues older residents have said are important to them to participate in the community as they age”*. It *“demonstrates Council’s ongoing commitment to ensure that the older residents of the community participate in community life and are valued for their knowledge, wisdom and life experiences”*.

The plan is in response to the ageing population being experienced globally, to which, governments at a national, state and local level are responding with policy, initiatives and services. Amongst the areas listed as being of significance to maintaining health and wellbeing at a regional level are: *“improving major recreational infrastructure, particularly to cater for population growth and an ageing population”* and *“positive ageing by providing services and initiatives that support people as they age”*.

Council’s responsibilities to older residents are discussed in the plan, including providing leadership and infrastructure, advocating, provision of services, facilitating programs to support older people,

providing information about resources available and partnering with other service providers to ensure an integrated approach to planning and service provision.

Strategies and actions detailed in the plan are linked to four environmental dimensions – social, economic, natural and built environments - which are known to affect a person's health and wellbeing. Council has added in 'leadership' and being a leading organisation, for consistency with the Council Plan.

Of relevance to this report are the *social and built environments and leadership*.

Social environment and the strategy to *"promote the benefits of healthy lifestyle for maintaining independence"*

Older people said that having access to information about activities and services available in various formats was important to them, along with access to quality health care services and access to age and ability appropriate physical exercise.

Built environment, particularly *"providing physical environments that support lifelong health and wellbeing and ageing in place"* and the specific actions of *"increasing activities for older people conducted at Council owned facilities"*

Older people said having access to wide and even footpaths was important to them, along with access to a variety of transport options that are affordable.

Leadership - and Council's role to *"develop a coherent and integrated population planning approach"*.

Strategic direction for aquatic facilities in South Gippsland (February 2012)

Based on Council's asset management principles, the document outlines a strategic direction for the provision of aquatic facilities in South Gippsland.

The document lists 12 strategic principles to assist in guiding the provision of aquatic facilities, including:

1. *"swimming pools are strongly valued by towns and their surrounding communities"*
2. *"water safety education, fun, physical activity 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 the venues"*
4. *"the cost of providing the 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"*
6. *"Council will continue to plan for and investigate opportunities to extend and improve the services provided"*
7. *"Council will maintain its operational, maintenance and capital investment in all outdoor pools with a focus on renovation"*
8. Master plans (including assessment management plans) will inform future capital investment made by Council into outdoor pools.

9. Where community and/or external funding can be sourced for a significant proportion of the total project cost (70%), Council will consider supporting proposals to extend/upgrade outdoor pools. Ongoing operational expenses of the proposals will be factored in.
10. A Council report will be needed before external funding (relating to point 9) is sought.
11. Council will consider the future viability, including possible pool closure, in the event a trigger point, such as reduced use, major infrastructure or equipment failure or increased operational costs above long term projects, occurs.
12. *“There are no Council plans to construct new pools in other communities within the shire”.*

The key elements of the asset management process that ensures responsible management of Council’s asset portfolio include: levels of services; future demand; asset rationalisation; life-cycle management; financial summary; and monitoring.

The document discusses current aquatic facilities and services provided by Council, along with community service level expectations. The community would like to enhance facilities and services provided at local service facilities that cater for people within a local area, as opposed to municipal wide services. The document notes that *“by increasing the service levels at the aquatic facilities, future cost increases in operating the facilities must be fully defined and understood to ensure the ongoing financial implications are clearly understood”.*

Each aquatic facility in the Shire is given a rating for condition and renewal consideration. Of relevance, Poowong and Toora pools have both been given a condition 4 rating for renewal consideration. A condition 4 equates to a ‘poor’ rating and that there is *“evidence of significant failure/or deterioration in multiple locations. Components require major maintenance to prevent further deterioration and to return it to a very good condition”.* It should be noted that since this assessment was completed Council, significant works have been undertaken on pool plant at Toora.

The document details that renovations are planned for two local facilities in the next ten years, with data indicating the priorities being Mirboo North and Korumburra.

Recommendations made in the document are aligned with the 12 strategic principles outlined above, including Council continuing to support and budget for aquatic facilities, that master plans will be needed to inform future capital investment, trigger points will prompt review of continued operation of facilities and consideration will be given to external funding being sought to extend/upgrade outdoor pools. The document also recommends:

- aquatic facilities be recognised as *“one element of a range of community facilities and services [and that] future planning...needs to consider and prioritise “all services and facilities prior to the commitment of significant capital resources”*
- Council work with *“committees and communities to maximise attendance and use of the aquatic facilities through promotional initiatives and development of a range of programs and activities”.*

3.2 Regional facility provision

Existing aquatic facilities were reviewed across South Gippsland shire, as well as neighbouring municipalities. The table on the following page provides a summary of existing facilities by municipality.

Table 1: Existing local government provided aquatic and leisure centres

Facility Component	South Gippsland Shire	Bass Coast Shire	Wellington Shire	Baw Baw Shire	East Gippsland Shire	Latrobe City
Indoor 25m Pool	1	1	1	1	2	3
Indoor Pool (smaller than 25m)	1			1		
Outdoor 25m Pool	4	1	4	3		1
Outdoor 50m Pool	1		2	1	2	2
Learners Pool	3		4		2	
Toddlers Pool	5	1	4	5	2	4
Hydro/Warm Water Pool			1	1		

Note: The numbers in the table refer to the total number of identified facility components currently provided within each municipality that are open to the public.

The table on the following page provides an overall summary of aquatic facility provision against municipal population figures and land area. Facility to population and facility to land area ratios are used as a comparative guide only to ascertain an average level of provision across the region. They are not used as a performance benchmarks or goal that Council must work towards.

Table 2: Local government facility to population and land area provision ratios

LOCAL COUNCIL FACILITIES	Total 2012 Population	LGA Area (m2)	Population to Indoor Pools	Area (m2) to Leisure & Aquatic Centres	Population to Outdoor Pools	Area (m2) to Outdoor Pools
South Gippsland Shire	28,542	3,295	14,271	1,648	5,708	659
Bass Coast Shire Council	32,056	864	32,056	864	32,056	864
Wellington Shire Council	43,920	10,989	43,920	10,989	8,784	2,198
Baw Baw Shire Council	44,042	4,028	22,021	2,014	8,808	806
East Gippsland Shire Council	44,680	20,931	22,340	10,466	22,340	10,466
Latrobe City Council	76,640	1,426	25,547	475	25,547	475
Regional averages	40,223	6,373	24,314	4,135	16,256	2,468

Notes: Population figures have been taken from Victoria in Future 2012.

Table 2 shows that South Gippsland's existing provision of indoor pools per population is the highest of all municipalities benchmarked, with one indoor pool per 14,271 people, with indoor pools by area being third highest. These figures take into account the indoor pool in Korumburra which is operated independently of Council. This table also shows that South Gippsland shire has the highest provision of outdoor pools to population with the second highest provision by area.

3.3 South Gippsland facility provision

Council owns the following aquatic facilities:

- SG Splash
- Korumburra Outdoor Pool
- Mirboo North Outdoor Pool
- Toora Outdoor Pool
- Poowong Outdoor Pool
- Foster Outdoor Pool

The following table provides a summary of facility components for these facilities.

Table 3: Existing Council aquatic provision

Facility Component	SG Splash	Korumburra Outdoor Pool	Mirboo North Outdoor Pool	Toora Outdoor Pool	Poowong Outdoor Pool	Foster Outdoor Pool
Indoor 25m Pool						
Outdoor 25m Pool						
Outdoor 50m Pool						
Learners Pool						
Toddlers Pool						

SECTION 4: MARKET AND DEMAND ANALYSIS

This section of the report provides a summary of the key trends in local and regional demographic and population change, and in aquatics and leisure participation.

4.1 Population overview

4.1.1 Gippsland regional population

The population of the Gippsland region is projected to rise by 76,098 residents between 2011 and 2026, a growth of 28%, which is consistent with growth projections for Regional Victoria (29%) and Victoria (30%).

The growth in Gippsland is predicted to contribute 18% of Regional Victoria's growth and 4% of Victoria's total growth. **Table 4** provides a summary of Gippsland's residential growth between 2011 and 2031.

South Gippsland Shire is expected to contribute 5% of Gippsland's estimated population growth between 2011 and 2031, the least growth of all the Gippsland LGA's. By 2031, South Gippsland's population is expected to comprise 9.4% of Gippsland's total population, a decrease of 0.9% from 2011. Baw Baw (27%) and Bass Coast (24%) Shire's are predicted to contribute the largest proportion of Gippsland's population growth.

Table 4: Gippsland population projections 2011 to 2031

Local Government Area	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
South Gippsland (S)	28,452	29,116	30,187	31,351	32,509
Bass Coast (S)	32,056	35,763	40,037	45,190	49,946
East Gippsland (S)	44,680	47,581	51,149	54,958	58,808
Wellington (S)	43,920	44,742	46,013	47,475	49,276
Baw Baw (S)	44,042	49,174	54,439	59,578	64,608
Latrobe (C)	76,640	79,891	83,531	87,145	90,741
Gippsland Total	269,790	286,267	305,356	325,697	345,888
Regional Victoria	1,483,788	1,584,097	1,691,817	1,805,693	1,914,626
Victoria Total	5,621,210	6,067,702	6,500,653	6,924,141	7,326,564

* Gippsland total inclusive of the total of all LGA's

Source: Victoria in Futures (accessed 12.11.13)

4.2 South Gippsland Shire population projections

South Gippsland Shire's population is expected to grow by 25% between 2011 and 2031, an increase of just over 9,000 new residents. Over half of the growth (52%, 4,722) is expected in Leongatha (29%) and Korumburra (24%), two of the Shire's largest towns. The rural north east area, comprising Ranceby, Kardella, Kooraman, Dumbalk and Mirboo, is projected to have the least growth, a 5% increase or 129 new residents.

Nyora-Poowong and district is projected to increase by 1,565 new residents by 2031 with new developments in Nyora and Poowong, taking the area's proportion of the Shire's population to 11.6%, up from 9.7% in 2011. This growth is a 37% increase and accounts for 17% of the Shire's total population growth.

The Coastal district, taking in Toora, is projected to increase by 17% or 1,203 new residents by 2031. The growth will account for 13% of the Shire's total population increase.

Table 5: South Gippsland Shire population forecasts 2011 – 2031

South Gippsland Shire Council Population Areas	Population Projections					Change between 2011-2031	
	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Change	% Change
Coastal District	5,719	6,015	6,350	6,637	6,922	1,203	17%
Korumburra	4,174	4,724	5,271	5,798	6,300	2,126	34%
Leongatha	5,413	5,995	6,702	7,368	8,009	2,596	32%
Mirboo North – Baromi	2,253	2,346	2,517	2,657	2,796	543	19%
Nyora – Poowong and District *	2,678	2,806	3,305	3,778	4,243	1,565	37%
Rural North East	2,933	2,899	2,937	2,999	3,092	159	5%
Rural South	2,050	2,098	2,145	2,256	2,393	343	14%
Rural West	2,289	2,280	2,393	2,571	2,756	467	17%
South Gippsland Total	27,509	29,163	31,620	34,064	36,511	9,002	25%

Source: forecast id

* Nyora-Poowong and district includes the township of Loch, which is part of the Poowong Swimming Pool catchment area

4.3 Demographic overview

The following provides an overview and comparisons of key South Gippsland Shire, Toora and Poowong demographics. A profile of the Poowong Swimming Pool catchment, comprising Poowong, Loch and Nyora has also been included. The profiles will inform the Master Plan for both pools.

Data used to compile the demographic overview has been sourced from the *2011 ABS Census data*.

4.3.1 Age profile

In 2011 the median age of South Gippsland Shire residents was 44, which was comparable in Poowong (43) and lower than Toora, where the median age of residents was 52. The higher median age in Toora is attributable to 20% (177) of its population being aged 70 years and over in 2011. In South Gippsland this proportion was 13% (3,631). Toora also had less residents aged 9 years and under (76, 9%) when compared to the whole Shire (3,281, 12%). Poowong in contrast had 82 children living there in 2011, which was 14% of its population. Poowong had a particularly high proportion of 5-9 year olds compared with the Shire and Regional Victoria, 8.1% (49) compared with 6.2% (1,686) and 6.3% respectively.

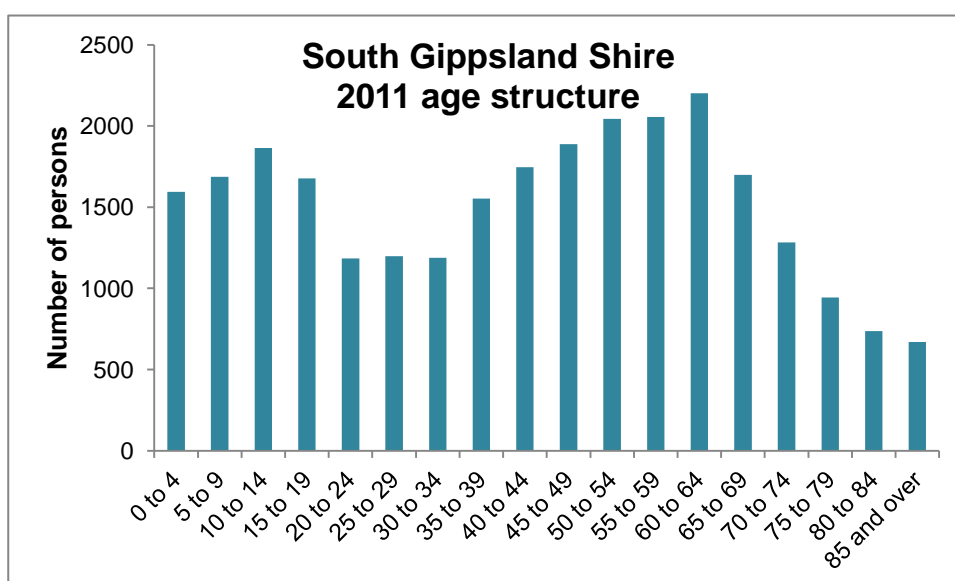
In 2011 13.1% (3,542) of South Gippsland Shire's population was aged 10-19 years, which was consistent with Regional Victoria (13.8%). Toora and Poowong had slightly less residents in this age category with 12% (101) and 11.7% (71) respectively.

South Gippsland Shire had a smaller proportion of its residents aged 20-34 years in 2011 than Regional Victoria, 13% (3,570) compared with 16%. Poowong's proportion of residents in this age category was more consistent with Regional Victoria; it had 17.2% (104) of its population aged 20-34 years. Toora in contrast had less 20-34 year olds, 12% (105).

Residents aged 35-49 years comprised 19% (5,189) of the Shire's population in 2011, consistent with Regional Victoria (20%). The proportion was lower in Poowong (17%, 103) and Toora (17%, 146). The largest variance came in the 35-39 year old age category, where Toora (4%, 35) and Poowong (4.3%, 26) both had a smaller proportion of residents than across the Shire (5.7%, 1,553).

The population of South Gippsland Shire was older than Regional Victoria in 2011, with the Shire having a larger percentage of residents aged 50 years and over, 42.8% (11,629) compared with 37%. Residents aged 50-69 years made up 29.4% (7,998) of the Shire's population, in Poowong this proportion was 32% (194) and in Toora it was also 32% (281). Poowong had a particularly high number of 55-64 year olds compared to the Shire (18.3% and 15.7% respectively) and Toora a large proportion of 60-64 year olds (10%, 89). As mentioned at the beginning of this section, Toora had a higher proportion of 70+ year olds than the Shire. 52 (8.6%) Poowong residents were aged 70 years and over.

Figure 2: Gippsland Shire Council 2011 population age structure



Poowong catchment

In 2011 12.2% (356) of the Poowong catchment population were children aged 0-9 years. Poowong (13.5%, 82) and Nyora (12.2%, 162) had a higher proportion of its residents in this age category than Loch (11.6%, 112). This difference was particularly noticeable in the 5-9 year old age category, with children this age accounting for 8.1% (49) of Poowong's population, compared with 5.5% (73) in Nyora and 5.3% (51) in Loch.

Young people aged 10-24 years comprised 17.6% (511) of the catchment's population. Nyora in particular had a high proportion of residents age 10-19 (15.9%, 212) compared with Poowong (11.7%, 71) and Loch (11%, 106). Loch (4.8%, 46) had significantly less young people aged 10-14 than the other two townships, 9% (120) in Nyora and 6.3% (38) in Poowong.

Residents aged 25-39 accounted for 16.1% (469) of the Poowong catchment population. Loch (8.2%, 80) had noticeably less residents aged 25-34 years than Poowong (12.9%, 78) and Nyora (11%, 145). Nyora in contrast had a significantly higher proportion of its residents aged 35-39 years, 7.5% (100) compared with 4.3% (26) in Poowong and 3.9% (38) in Loch.

There were 925 residents aged 40-59 living in the catchment in 2011, 31.8% of the population. Within this age category, Nyora had a higher proportion of residents aged 40-44 (8.2%, 110) than Loch (6.5%, 63) and Poowong (6.4%, 39). Loch on the other hand, had a larger proportion of 45-54 year olds than Nyora and Poowong, 21.5% (192), 15.8% (211) and 13.9% (84) respectively. The number of residents aged 50-54 accounted for 9% (262) of the total catchment's population, the largest of all the age categories.

Residents aged 60-79 accounted for 19.2% (557) of the catchment's population. A large proportion of the residents were aged 60-64 (234), which was particularly evident in Poowong, where 9.4% (57) of its population were in this age category. Fewer residents were in this age category in Nyora (6.8%, 91). Loch had the highest proportion of residents aged 70-79, (8.6%, 83) compared with Poowong (4.6%, 28) and Nyora (4.5%, 60).

The number of residents aged 80 years and over living in the catchment was 90, 3.1% of the total population. The largest proportion of these residents lived in Poowong (24, 4%) and Loch (38, 4%).

4.3.2 Household structure and income

In 2011 47.8% (3,583) of South Gippsland Shire households comprised couples without children, which was significantly more than Regional Victoria (27.8%) but comparable with Poowong (46.8%, 81). In Toora the proportion was higher, with 52% (133) of households comprising couples without children. Poowong (40.5%, 70) also had a higher proportion of couples with children compared with the Shire (38.6%, 2,891) and significantly more than Toora (30.5%, 78).

Toora had a higher percentage of one-parent families (17.6%, 45) than the Shire (12.9%) and Regional Victoria (10.5%). In Poowong there were 19 (11%) one parent families. Toora also had a higher percentage of people living alone, with 31.6% (118) of households being single-person, compared with 27% across the Shire and 26.8% in Regional Victoria. In Poowong 56 people lived alone, which was 24% of households.

Houses in South Gippsland Shire were more likely to be fully owned or being repaid through a mortgage than Regional Victoria, 77% compared with 69%. The proportion in Toora was similar to the Shire (78.5%), whereas the likelihood of a house being fully owned or mortgaged was higher

(83.8%) in Poowong. In 2011 there were less households renting than Regional Victoria (24.1%) in the Shire (18.5%), Toora (17.3%) and significantly less in Poowong (12.7%).

The median family income in South Gippsland Shire was \$1,148 in 2011. In Poowong it was slightly more, \$1,256 and in Toora significantly less (\$831). Poowong also had a higher median household income than across the Shire, \$959 compared to \$920. Toora's median household income was \$720 in 2011.

South Gippsland Shire (5%) had fewer households with rent repayments greater than 30% of household income than Victoria (9%). The proportion of households in the Shire who had mortgage repayments of 30% or more of the household income was consistent with Victoria (9.1% and 10.1% respectively). Poowong in contrast had a higher percentage of households paying 30% or more household income on a mortgage (11.5%).

Poowong catchment

In 2011 42.1% of households in the Poowong catchment were couples with children. In Nyora the proportion was higher (46.2%, 175) and in Loch, lower (37.8%, 109). Couples without children accounted for 46.5% (391) of catchment households. Loch had the highest proportion of households in this category (50.7%, 146) amongst the three towns in the catchment.

Households in the catchment were more likely to have a mortgage (46.5%) than be rented (39.4%) in 2011. This was likely attributable to Nyora having a higher proportion of households repaying a mortgage (55.1%), compared with 40.4% in Loch and 37.1% in Poowong. Poowong had the highest number of fully owned houses (46.7%), followed by Loch (43.2%) and Nyora (31.6%).

The median family weekly income was \$1,269 across the catchment. Nyora had a higher median, \$1,331. The median household weekly income was \$1,074 across the catchment. Poowong had a lower median, \$920.

Households in Loch (3.7%) were more likely to have rent repayments more than 30% of household income compared with Nyora (2.8%) and Poowong (2.3%). Nyora (14.1%) was more likely to have households with mortgage repayments of 30% or greater of household income than Poowong (11.5%) and Loch (10%).

4.3.3 Employment and individual income

South Gippsland Shire (3.7%, 474) experienced a lower unemployment rate than Regional Victoria (5.2%) in 2011. In Toora the rate was lower again, with 2.9% (14) of residents aged 15 years and over unemployed and looking for work. Poowong had an unemployment rate of 4.7% (18) in 2011. Of employed residents in the Shire, 7,156 (55.2%) worked full time, this percentage was consistent in Toora (51%, 208). In Poowong, the percentage was higher, 61.1% of employed residents worked full time.

The industry employing the largest proportion of residents in South Gippsland was farming, comprising dairy, cattle, sheep, and grain. 14.1% of employed residents reported farming as the industry they worked in, which was consistent in Toora (12.1%). Residents' working in farming in Poowong was significantly higher, 20.5%.

The next top industry of employment in the Shire was school education (4.5%), which was similar in Poowong (3.5%) and Toora (4.5%). Hospitals were also a popular industry of employment across the Shire (4.5%) and in Toora (4.5%), whereas Poowong residents' were more likely to work in the road freight transport industry (5.9%).

In 2011 22% of South Gippsland Shire residents reported their profession as 'Manager', in Poowong this was higher, 27.9%, and in Toora lower (18.4%). Other top occupations in the Shire were 'Technicians and Trade' workers (15.1%) and 'Professionals' (13.7%). Behind 'Managers', Toora residents were more likely to be 'Labourers' (19.4%).

Poowong catchment

In 2011 labour force participation in the Poowong catchment accounted for 62.6% (1,471) of residents aged 15 years and over. Of employed residents, 63.8% (900) worked full time. The catchment's unemployment rate was 4.3% (63), higher than across the Shire (3.7%). Of the three townships comprising the catchment, Poowong had the highest unemployment rate (4.7%, 18), followed by Loch (4.1%, 21). Nyora had the lowest unemployment rate of the three towns (3.6% 24). Of unemployed catchment residents looking for work, 58.7% (37) were seeking full time work. This proportion was higher in Poowong, where 66.7% (12) of its unemployed residents were looking for full time work.

The industries employing the largest proportion of residents in the catchment differed. In Poowong and Loch a larger number of employed residents worked in diary, cattle, sheep, beef and grain farming (19.7% (59) and 20.6% (102) respectively). The most common industry sector of employment in Nyora, in contrast, was in café's, restaurants and takeaway food services (4.4%, 28), supermarket/grocery store (4.2%, 27) and road freight transport (4.2%, 27).

In 2011 Poowong catchment residents reported their profession to be 'Manager' (12.6%, 297), 'Technician and trade worker' (10.3%, 242) and 'Labourers' (7.5%, 176). Nyora contrasted to Loch and Poowong, having a larger proportion of its residents reporting being a 'Technician and trade worker' (21.3% compared with 16% and 10.1%) and less being 'Managers' (10.7% compared with 30.5% and 27.9%). Loch residents were more likely to report their profession as 'Professional' than Nyora (9.8%) and Poowong (8.4%).

4.3.4 Education

In 2011 33.1% of South Gippsland Shire residents aged 15 years and over reported Year 12 or equivalent as their highest level of schooling completed, which was slightly less than Regional Victoria (36%). In Toora the percentage was, 27.2%, and in Poowong 27.6%. Residents of Toora (47.1%) and Poowong (43.3%) were more likely to have completed school to Year 10 or below than across the Shire (39.8%) and Regional Victoria (38.2%).

The most common qualification reported by South Gippsland Shire (43.9%) residents in 2011 was certificate level, which was consistent with Poowong (43.5%) and Toora residents (44.4%).

Poowong catchment

Consistent with the Shire, 31.3% of Poowong catchment residents aged 15 years and over reported Year 12 or equivalent as their highest level of school completed. Residents of Loch (32.9%) and Nyora (31.8%) were more likely to report this as their highest level of schooling completed than Poowong residents (27.6%).

Certificate level qualifications were the most common reported by residents across the catchment (61.4%), which was particularly evident in Nyora, with 57.9% of its residents aged 15 years and over with a qualification holding a certificate level qualification. 2% of Poowong catchment residents with qualifications reported having a postgraduate degree, 84.2% of which lived in Loch, equating to 3.9% of Loch residents reporting holding a qualification.

4.3.5 Cultural diversity

In 2011 88.3% of South Gippsland Shire's residents reported being born in Australia. This proportion was consistent in Poowong (86%) and Toora (86.5%). Of Shire residents born overseas, the most common countries of birth were England (4%), New Zealand (1.1%) and Italy (0.8%). In Poowong, the most common birth countries after Australia were England (4.3%), Netherlands (0.7%), China (0.5%) and India (0.5%). In Toora they were England (5.1%), Germany (1.1%) and Netherlands (0.8%).

Poowong catchment

A large proportion of Poowong catchment residents reported Australia as their country of birth in 2011 (84.1%). Of residents reporting a different country of birth, England was the most common (5.8%) across the catchment. Loch and Nyora had a proportion of their population from New Zealand (1.8%, 0.8%), Netherlands (1%, 1.1%) and Scotland (0.9%, 1.1%), whereas Poowong had residents born in China (0.5%) and India (0.5%).

4.3.6 Transport

Consistent with Regional Victoria (69.1%), South Gippsland Shire (70.8%), Poowong (71.2%) and Toora (72.1%) households most likely owned one or two motor vehicles in 2011. More Shire (22.5%), Poowong (24%) and Toora (20.1%) households reported owning 3 or more vehicles than Regional Victoria (18.4%).

Poowong catchment

In 2011, 40.2% (420) of Poowong catchment households reported owning two motor vehicles and 30.2% (315) reported owning three or more. Loch (32%, 117) and Nyora (31.6%, 142) households were more likely to own three or more vehicles than Poowong households (24%, 56).

Households with no motor vehicles accounted for 1.6% (17) of the catchments households. Loch households were the least likely to not own a motor vehicle, 1.1% (4) of its households, compared with 1.7% (4) in Poowong and 2% (9) in Nyora.

4.3.7 Volunteering

Residents of South Gippsland Shire were more likely to participate in voluntary work than in Victoria, 29.3% compared with 17.7%. In Poowong and Toora the percentages were higher again, 32.9% and 31.8% respectively.

Poowong catchment

In 2011 26.3% (617) of the Poowong catchment participated in voluntary work, either through a group or organisation. Poowong residents were most likely to volunteer (162, 32.9%), followed by Loch residents (236, 29.2%) and Nyora (219, 20.9%).

4.4 Leisure participation trends

The following information provides an overview of the leisure and recreation participation trends likely to influence the provision and use of aquatics facilities in South Gippsland.

4.4.1 Adult participation in recreation and leisure activities

Participation information sourced through the Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) defines participation as both organised and non-organised activities engaged by persons aged 15 years and over. In 2010, there were 3,648,000 adults in Victoria who participated in a sport or physical activity – an estimated participation rate of 83.4% of the adult population. This is an increase of 0.8% since 2009.

This comprised 1,833,700 males and 1,814,300 females with participation rates being slightly higher for males (85.1%) than females (81.7%). The Victorian rate of 83.4% was higher than the national average of 82.3% with the participation rate for adults declining with age. The national rate has decreased by 0.3% since 2009.

Victorian participation data showed that since 2001, overall participation has remained relatively stable. Victoria experienced a decrease across the population until 2003 only to increase and continue to maintain a healthy participation rate of low 80's, with the exception of 2007 where the rate was 79.7%, through to 2009.

The top ten physical activities in Victoria in 2010, with reference to the total participation rate, were walking – including bush walking (41.2%), aerobics/fitness (24.7%), swimming (13.5%), running and cycling (12.7% each), golf (7.3%), tennis (6.8%), AFL football (5.4%), basketball (4.8%) and yoga (4.3%). The increase in the popularity of yoga has seen netball reduced to number 11.

Swimming ranked as the third most popular physical activity in both Victoria and nationally, while aerobic and fitness activities (both ranking as the second most popular physical activity) rated slightly higher in Victoria with 24.7% than nationally (23.5%).

In 2010, the total participation in non-organised physical activity was higher than in organised physical activity with 70.8% and 40% respectively.

Other statistical influences of note include:

- Although 83.4% of adults in Victoria participated in sport or physical activity at least once, the weekly participation rates show a different trend
- Less than half of adults in Victoria (48.7%) participated in a sport or physical activity three or more times per week - the recommended amount to achieve health-enhancing benefits. This is slightly higher than nationally (47.7%)
- More females (53.5%) than males (46.5%) participated in a sport or physical activity three or more times per week
- 17.6% of people participated through a fitness, leisure or indoor sports centre (19% females and 16.1% males)
- People aged 55 to 64 years and 65+ had the highest rate of participation in a sport or physical activity participating five times a week or more, with 30.9% and 29.9% respectively
- National data showed that the median frequency of participation was 2.5 times per week with females participating more regularly than males (3.0 and 2.2 respectively), except for the 65+ age group where both males and females participated 2.2 times per week

4.4.2 Children's participation in recreation and leisure

In 2009, there were 1,717,800 children aged 5 to 14 years in Australia who participated in an organised sport or physical activity - a participation rate of 63.6% of the total population of children respectively.

This comprised 970,900 boys and 746,900 girls nationally - participation rates were higher for boys (70.1%) than girls (56.8%). The participation rate for boys increases with age while girl's participation increases until the age of 11 and then declines between 12 to 14 years.

Swimming rated one of the most popular organised leisure activity by children aged 5 to 14 years nationally, with a participation rate of 18.5% overall. Swimming was most popular amongst females with 19.8% compared to second most popular amongst males with 17.2% participation¹.

¹ ABS 2009

SECTION 5: CURRENT PROVISION – TOORA AND POOWONG SWIMMING POOLS

This section of the report provides an analysis of historical operational performance for the Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools.

5.1 Facility catchment

No specific postcode data was available to determine the facility catchment for the either pool, so this section relies on usage data provided by facility managers and community groups, and the town of residence indicated by survey respondents.

5.1.1 Toora Swimming Pool

Data indicated that the Toora Swimming Pool has quite a wide catchment with schools and community groups from Yarram, Alberton, Foster, Fish Creek, Welshpool, Devon, Won Wron and Meeniyan.

Survey results from the consultation process supported this broad catchment with less than 50% of survey respondents from Toora with other towns listed including Foster, Welshpool, Yarram, Fish Creek, Port Franklin and a range of other towns.

5.1.2 Poowong Swimming Pool

Survey results from the consultation process showed that Poowong, Nyora and Loch made up 80% of all survey responses. This data is supported by school usage with Nyora and Loch being the only schools to use this facility.

Anecdotal evidence collected during the consultation process indicated that this pool is also used by residents of Drouin and Warragul as they like the family atmosphere of the pool.

5.2 Facility attendance of Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools

This section of the report provides an overview of historical trends in visitation both pools.

Table 6: Attendances at Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools

Attendances	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Toora Swimming Pool	21,788	25,647	20,882	22,837	23,785
Poowong Swimming Pool	7,000	5,800	2,893	5,457	8,484

Table 6 gives an overview of attendance figures from 2008/09 to 2012/13 at Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools. Both pools recorded their lowest attendance figures for this five year period in 2010/11 which is consistent with weather trends as this year had the highest number of days under 23 and the least number of days over 30. The 2012/13 pool season produced the best weather conditions with significantly less days under 23 and more days over 30.

Attendances at Poowong align with weather conditions in all years, with the exception of 2008/09 where they experienced the highest number of days under 23 and the third lowest number of days over 30 but achieved the second highest attendances for the season.

While temperature appears to have some impact on the Toora Swimming Pool, this pool did not follow the trends to the same extent as Poowong and the number of days under 23 degrees does not appear to impact attendances as much as at Poowong. This is most likely due to the heated water.

5.3 Financial performance of Poowong and Toora Swimming Pools

This section of the report provides an overview of historical trends relating to the financial performance of both pools.

5.3.1 Income analysis

Table 7 below provides an overview of income achieved at each pool between 2008/09 and 2012/13.

Table 7: Income for Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools

Income	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Toora Swimming Pool	\$ 32,391	\$ 37,793	\$ 33,020	\$ 40,080	\$ 48,000
Poowong Swimming Pool	\$ 15,812	\$ 10,360	\$ 8,900	\$ 19,241	\$ 26,506

Income at both of the pools follows attendance trends but also increases each year due to an increase in fees and charges of approximately 5%, resulting in the highest income achieved in 2012/13 at both sites, even though Toora recorded the highest attendances in 2009/10.

5.3.2 Expenditure analysis

Table 8 below provides an overview of expenditure at each pool between 2008/09 to 2012/13.

Table 8: Expenses for Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools

Expenses	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Toora Swimming Pool	\$ 119,368	\$ 132,161	\$ 288,993	\$ 156,170	\$ 263,363
Poowong Swimming Pool	\$ 60,150	\$ 95,106	\$ 85,823	\$ 98,652	\$ 84,634

Expenditure figures include operational costs as well as maintenance and capital costs so the overall cost to Council each year does not necessarily reflect attendance trends. Toora had exceptionally high maintenance and capital costs in 2010/11 and 2012/13 (exceeded other years by more than \$100,000), while Poowong had higher levels of maintenance and capital in 2009/10 and 2011/12 which has impacted on the total expenditure.

The highest increase in operational costs at Toora was in 2011/12 where costs increased by 9% as a result of extending the pool season for two weeks. Poowong experienced increases in operational expenditure which do not line up with attendance trends for a number of years, with a 20% increase in 2009/10 despite a 20% reduction in attendances, a 12% increase in 2010/11 despite a 50% reduction in attendances, a 4% increase in 2011/12 despite an 87% increase in attendances and an

11% decrease in 2012/13 despite a 55% increase in attendances. The decrease in 2012/13 has been attributed to increased volunteer involvement from the pool committee which has helped to reduce staff and maintenance costs and generated more income, as well as Council taking over management of the facility.

5.3.3 Net cost to Council

Table 9 below provides an overview of the net cost to Council for each of the pools over this period of time.

Table 9: Net cost to Council of Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools

Net cost to Council	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Toora Swimming Pool	-\$ 86,977	-\$ 94,368	-\$ 255,973	-\$ 116,090	-\$ 215,363
Poowong Swimming Pool	-\$ 44,338	-\$ 84,746	-\$ 76,923	-\$ 79,411	-\$ 58,128

Council's overall subsidy for these two pools increased by 108% over the five year period. At an individual pool level, the net cost to Council at Toora increased by 148%, with the highest increases being in the years where Council spent significant maintenance and capital at the facility and Poowong experienced a 31% increase over the five year period.

Table 10 outlines the subsidy per visit for each pool over the five year period.

Table 10: Subsidy per visit at Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools

Subsidy per visit	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Toora Swimming Pool	-\$ 3.99	-\$ 3.68	-\$ 12.26	-\$ 5.08	-\$ 9.05
Poowong Swimming Pool	-\$ 6.33	-\$ 14.61	-\$ 26.59	-\$ 14.55	-\$ 6.85

The subsidy per visit at each pool aligns with the net cost to Council with key factors influencing this being income, operational expenses and maintenance and capital expenses. There is no direct correlation to weather trends and attendances due to the fluctuation in maintenance and capital costs for each facility.

5.4 Operating conditions at Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools

This section of the report provides an overview of operating conditions at each of the pools at the time of writing the report.

5.4.1 Opening hours

Table 11 outlines the operating hours at each pool for the 2013/14 pool season.

Table 11: Opening hours for Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools

Season length	Toora Swimming Pool	Poowong Swimming Pool
Monday to Friday	7am to 6pm	3pm to 6pm
Saturday	10am to 5pm	12pm to 6pm
Sunday	1pm to 5pm (earlier in hot weather)	12pm to 6pm
School holidays	As above	12pm to 6pm

It should be noted that the opening hours at Poowong are subject to a cold weather policy which is outlined in **Section 5.4.3** and that Council is reviewing the operating hours at Poowong as part of new contract arrangements being considered as outlined in **Section 5.4.5**.

5.4.2 Season length

The season length varies at each pool with Poowong opening from December 1st until March 12th and Toora opening at the beginning of October and closing in mid April.

It should be noted that Council is reviewing the season length at Poowong as part of the new contract arrangements being considered as outlined in **Section 5.4.5**.

5.4.3 Cold weather policy

Council has recently resolved to change the cold weather policy at all of their unheated outdoor pools from 23 degrees to 26 degrees. These changes come into effect for the 2014/15 pool season and while they are expected to have an impact on income at the Poowong Swimming Pool, they are expected to provide significant savings in staff costs.

Council's cold weather policy does not apply to the Toora Swimming Pool as this pool is heated.

5.4.4 Program mix

Table 12 below provides an overview of programs and events that are run at each of the pools. It should be noted that swim lessons at Poowong are limited to Vic Swim lessons during the school holidays while Toora offers ongoing weekly classes. In addition to school groups coming to utilise the pool in Poowong, the Active After School Program also uses the pool as a venue.

Table 12: Program mix at Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools

Program	Toora Swimming Pool	Poowong Swimming Pool
Aqua aerobics		
Swim lessons		
Swim squad		
School groups		
Rehabilitation classes		
Disability groups		
Pool inflatable		
Movie nights		
Community events		

5.4.5 Management

At the time of writing Council was in the process of reviewing the contract management arrangements for all of their pools, with the exception of Toora.

The Toora Swimming Pool is managed under contract by private operators. These operators have been managing this facility since 1999. These operators are highly valued by the community and provide an extremely high level of service provision to the community for the cost to Council. A S86 committee is in place for this pool and the committee works closely with both the current operators and Council.

Management of the Poowong Swimming Pool was transferred from a S86 committee to Council management using YMCA contracted staff in 2012/13. Future management of this pool will be determined by the outcome of Council's tendering process. This pool has a very active Community Volunteer Group who works closely with both Council and facility staff to reduce operational costs and increase attendances at the pool.

SECTION 6: BENCHMARKING

This section of the report provides an overview of benchmarking results obtained as part of this project. All other municipalities in Gippsland were included in the benchmarking, as were several municipalities in regional Victoria.

Benchmarking results do not relate to the Toora Swimming Pool as no comparable pools were found.

6.1 Operating hours

There was a significant variance in the range of operating hours, but all pools opened for at least two hours in the afternoon on weekdays (after school) with longer hours on weekends and school holidays (ranging from three hours per day to eight hours per day). The majority of Council's had different opening hours at different pools with reduced hours at pools in their smaller towns.

There were six pools with a similar population base to the Poowong catchment².

Poowong, Heyfield, Rosedale and Yallourn North all have a peak (school holiday period) and off peak season with reduced hours out of peak season. The peak season hours were 12pm to 6pm at Poowong, 11am to 7pm at Heyfield and Rosedale and 12pm to 7pm at Yallourn North, with non peak hours of 3pm to 6pm on weekdays and 12pm to 6pm on weekends at Poowong, 3pm to 7pm on weekdays and 12pm to 7pm at Yallourn North and 11am to 7pm on weekends at Heyfield and Rosedale.

Foster, Donald and Charlton had consistent hours throughout the season, with Foster opening from 11am to 6pm seven days a week and Donald and Charlton opening from 3pm to 7pm on weekdays and 2pm to 7pm on weekends and school holidays.

6.2 Season length

Outdoor pools in South Gippsland and East Gippsland open at the beginning of December and close anywhere between mid March and mid April, pools in Loddon open between mid November and early December and close on the 11th March, and pools in Southern Grampians open on the first week in December and close on the 11th March.

The season length is similar in Latrobe, Wellington, Buloke, Swan Hill and Gannawarra, with pools opening between the first and last week in November and closing between the 11th March and the 31st March.

Looking at the six pools with a similar population to the Poowong catchment, all pools close within the same week in March with Heyfield and Rosedale having a very similar overall season length to Donald and Charlton opening on the 16th November and Yallourn North opening on the 9th November.

² The Poowong catchment has been defined as the entire population of Poowong with 50% of the population of Nyora and Loch

6.3 Cold weather policy

All Council's benchmarked have a cold weather policy in place which restricts the operating hours or closes the pool on cooler days, based on the weather forecast the previous evening. These temperatures range from 23 to 28 between different Council's. Loddon Shire is trialling a new system this where the hours that the pool is not open due to cooler weather are banked up to be used on hot days. Latrobe is the only Council that has guaranteed opening hours regardless of the temperature, these hours are 3pm to 5pm each day.

6.4 Program mix

A range of different programs were conducted at the pools that were benchmarked with the majority of them offering school swimming, swim lessons (quite often Vic Swim), pool inflatable's and various events held during the pool season. Several of the pools also offered early morning swimming and aqua aerobics (this was more popular at pools with solar heating).

Buloke shire has pool hire agreement process in place where the local community can access the pool out of opening hours as long as they have a qualified staff member on site and meet the terms of the hire agreement. This system is widely used, particularly in Donald and Birchip where they organise early morning swimming, swim squad and school swimming. Donald has a voluntary lifeguard system in place where the pool committee and swim club have organised several people to be lifeguard qualified and these people are called on for early morning swimming sessions to keep the cost of entry down for participants.

It should be noted that Buloke shire does not charge any fees for use of their pools, either during our out of pool opening hours.

SECTION 7: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

This section of the report provides an overall summary of consultation tasks undertaken throughout the project consultation phase that was delivered in December 2013 and January 2014. It provides a summary of overall feedback about Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools.

7.1 Consultation overview

Table 13 provides an overview of consultation methods, key stakeholder groups and number of responses for each group.

Table 13: Summary of project consultation undertaken

Stakeholder	Consultation method	Number of responses
Current users - Toora Swimming Pool	Surveys, street stalls	119
Non users – Toora Swimming Pool	Surveys, street stalls	39
Current users – Poowong Swimming Pool	Surveys, street stalls	78
Non users – Poowong Swimming Pool	Surveys, street stalls	79
Schools	Phone calls	9
Community groups	Meetings	19
Pool staff	Meetings	5
Council staff	Meetings	4
Government departments	Meetings	2

7.2 Community survey findings

7.2.1 Survey responses for pool users - Toora Swimming Pool

119 survey responses from pool users of the Toora Swimming Pool were received and analysed during the project consultation process. The following figures and tables provide an overview of key findings related to these surveys.

Figure 2: Gender breakdown of pool users – Toora Swimming Pool

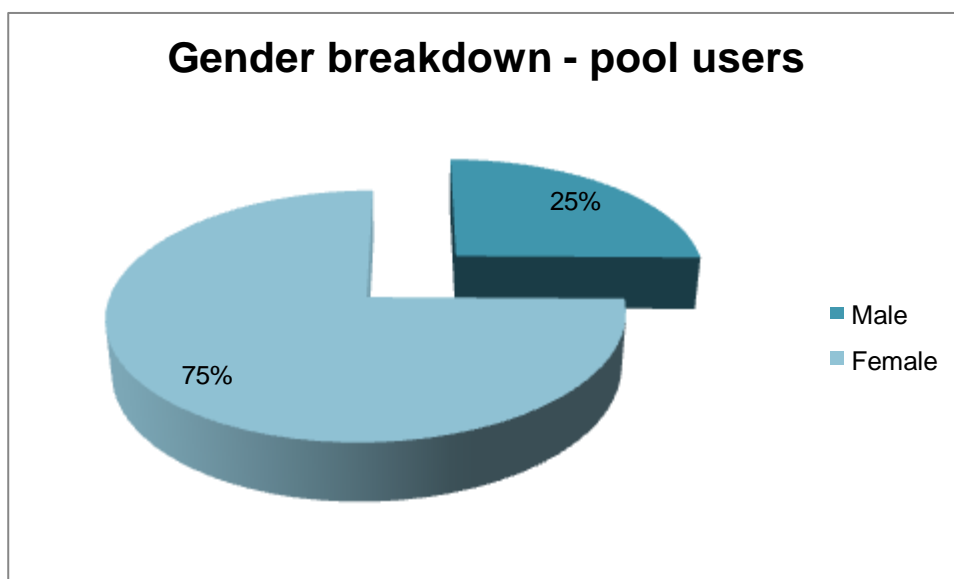


Figure 2 shows that three quarters of pool users that completed the surveys were female.

Figure 3: Age breakdown of pool users – Toora Swimming Pool

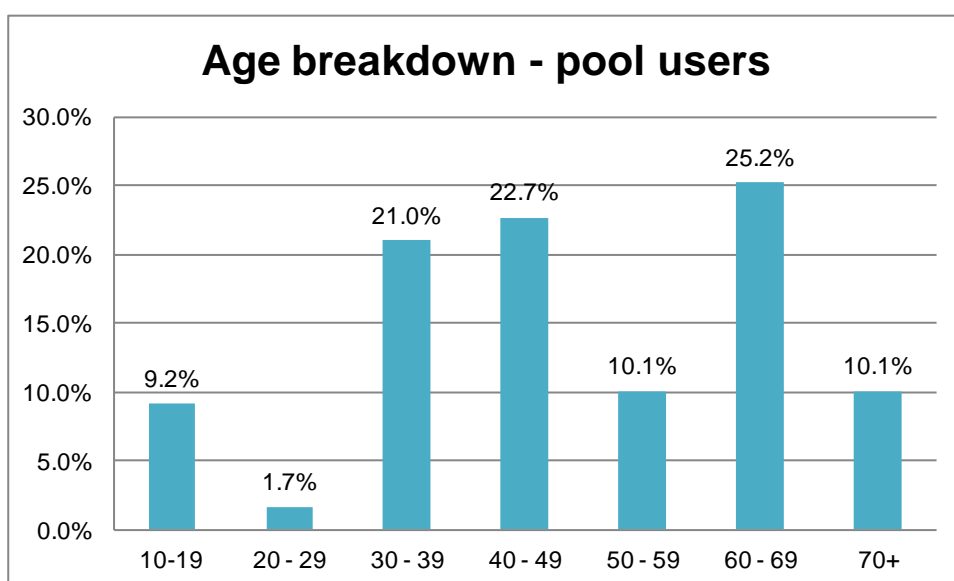


Figure 3 shows that a diverse cross section of age groups was achieved through the survey process with the least represented age groups being 20 to 29 and 10 to 19, and the highest representation being in the 60 to 69, 40 to 49 and 30 to 39 year old age groups. The high number of respondents in the 60 to 69 and 70+ year old age groups is unusual for an outdoor pool and is likely to be due to the heated water and strong aqua aerobics program that runs at the pool.

Table 14: Town of residence for pool users – Toora Swimming Pool

Town	TOTAL	%
Toora	39	33%
Foster	17	14%
Welshpool (including Port Welshpool)	9	8%
Yarram	8	7%
Fish Creek	4	3%
Port Franklin	3	3%
Leongatha	3	3%
Devon North	2	2%
Meenyan	2	2%
Hedley	2	2%
Agnes	2	2%
Other	16	13%
No answer	12	10%
TOTAL	119	100%

Table 14 shows that only 33% of pool users that responded to the survey lived in Toora with a significant 14% living in Foster. Of the respondents from Foster, the majority of these people stating that they used the Toora Swimming Pool more than 15 times the previous season. 10% of respondents did not answer this question and 13% came from a variety of other towns, four of which were visitors to the area.

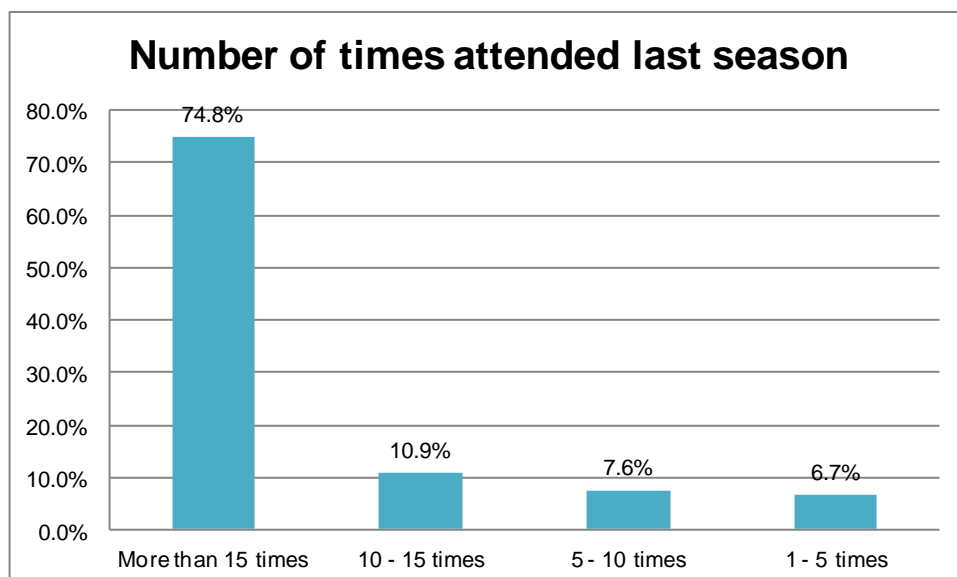
Figure 4: Number of times attended last season – Toora Swimming Pool

Figure 4 shows that a significant 74.8% of respondents used the pool more than 15 times last season with a further 18.5% using the pool between five and 15 times.

Table 15: Main activity undertaken by users – Toora Swimming Pool

What do you do there?	TOTAL	%
Use the pool for recreation/fun	65	37%
Lap swim	62	35%
Swim lessons	48	27%
Aqua aerobics	42	24%
Use the toddler's pool	18	10%
Take part in a club activity	6	3%
Other	2	1%
TOTAL	178	100%

Table 15 shows that 'using the pool for recreation and fun' and 'lap swimming' were the two most common things that survey respondents did at the centre (72% of all respondents). It also shows that the pool has a strong focus on programming with 51% of respondents participating in 'swim lessons' and 'aqua aerobics' which is likely to be a result of the warm water. Only 10% of respondents indicated that they use the toddler's pool.

It should be noted that multiple responses were received for this question.

Table 16: What would encourage users to attend more – Toora Swimming Pool

What would encourage you to attend more?	TOTAL	%
More time	13	9%
Updated facilities	12	9%
Longer season	12	9%
More shade	11	8%
Hydrotherapy pool	9	7%
BBQ area with picnic tables	6	4%
Nothing	6	4%
Cheaper costs	5	4%
Warmer weather	5	4%
Gym	5	4%
Longer opening hours	4	3%
Spa	4	3%
If I lived closer	4	3%
More events	3	2%
Public transport	2	1%
Sauna	2	1%
Community bus	1	1%
No answer	33	24%
TOTAL	137	100%

Table 16 outlines the range of things that would encourage people to use the pool more with the most three most popular things being 'more time', 'updated facilities' and 'longer season'. 24% of respondents chose not to answer this question.

It should be noted that multiple responses were received for this question.

7.2.2 Survey responses for pool non users - Toora Swimming Pool

This section provides specific feedback received from the 39 respondents that did not use the Toora Swimming Pool. It should be noted that the majority of these respondents were accessed by holding a street stall in the main street.

Figure 5: Gender breakdown of non users – Toora Swimming Pool

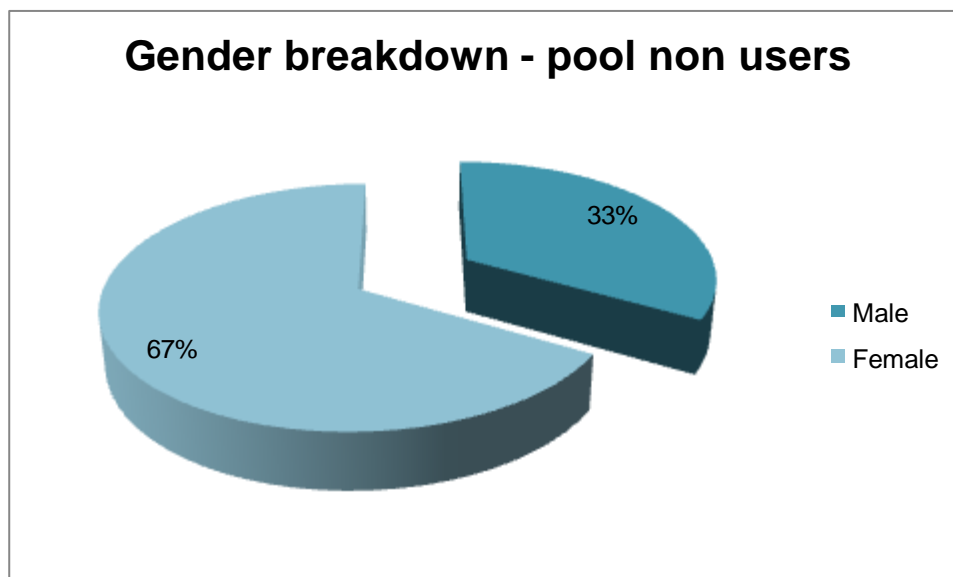


Figure 5 shows that significantly more females than males that completed the non user surveys but a higher number of males filled out the non user survey than the user survey.

Figure 6: Age breakdown of non users – Toora Swimming Pool

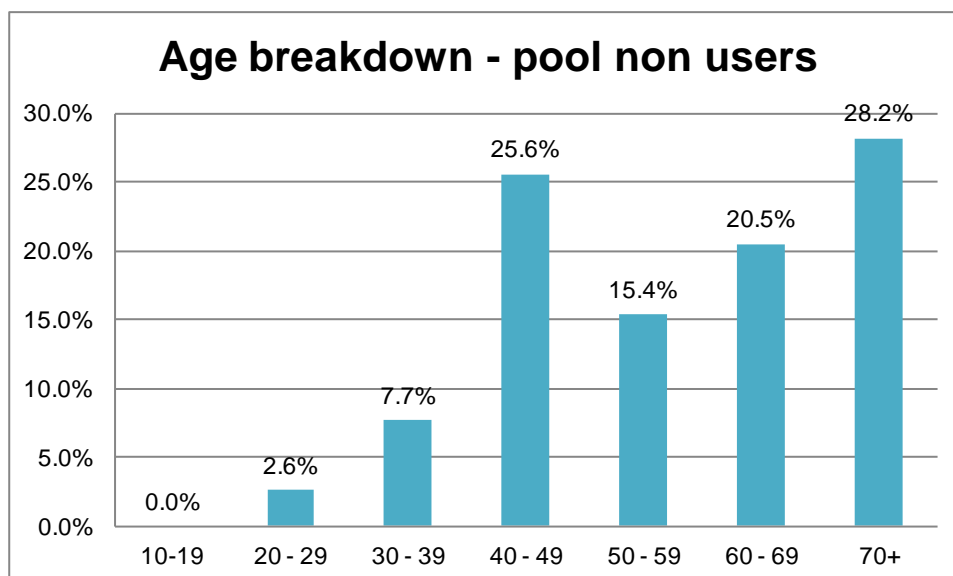


Figure 6 shows that only 10.3% of non user respondents were under the age of 39 with the highest representation being from the 70+ and 40 to 49 year old age groups. The majority of these responses were obtained during a stall in the main street and these results are indicative of the people that were surveyed on this day.

Table 17: Town of residence for non users – Toora Swimming Pool

Town	TOTAL	%
Toora	28	72%
Agnes	3	8%
Fish Creek	2	5%
Foster	1	3%
Port Franklin	1	3%
Welshpool	1	3%
Leongatha	1	3%
Woorarra	1	3%
No answer	1	3%
TOTAL	39	100%

Table 17 shows that a significant 72% of all non user surveys were completed by residents of Toora, followed by Agnes and Fish Creek.

Table 18: Why non users do not attend the Toora Swimming Pool

Why don't you use the Toora Swimming Pool	TOTAL	%
I have no interest	14	31%
Not enough time, too busy	14	31%
Health reasons	4	9%
Not a swimmer	4	9%
I would prefer to swim at the beach	2	4%
Cost	2	4%
I have trouble getting there	1	2%
Don't like chlorine	1	2%
Pool is too busy	1	2%
Hate being cold after leaving the pool	1	2%
Self image	1	2%
TOTAL	45	100%

Table 18 shows that the main reason non users did not use the Toora Swimming Pool is that they have no interest or not enough time (62%).

It should be noted that multiple responses were received for this question.

Table 19: What would encourage non users to use the Toora Swimming Pool?

Is there anything that would anything encourage you to use the Toora Swimming Pool?	TOTAL	%
No	22	55%
More time	3	8%
Children visiting	2	5%
Cheaper cost	2	5%
Support	2	5%
More programs	2	5%
Learning to swim	2	5%
Longer opening hours	1	3%
Better facilities	1	3%
Water splash area	1	3%
More events	1	3%
No answer	1	3%
TOTAL	40	100%

Table 19 explores what would encourage people to attend the Toora Swimming Pool with 55% of respondents saying that there was not anything that would encourage them to go to the pool.

It should be noted that multiple responses were received for this question.

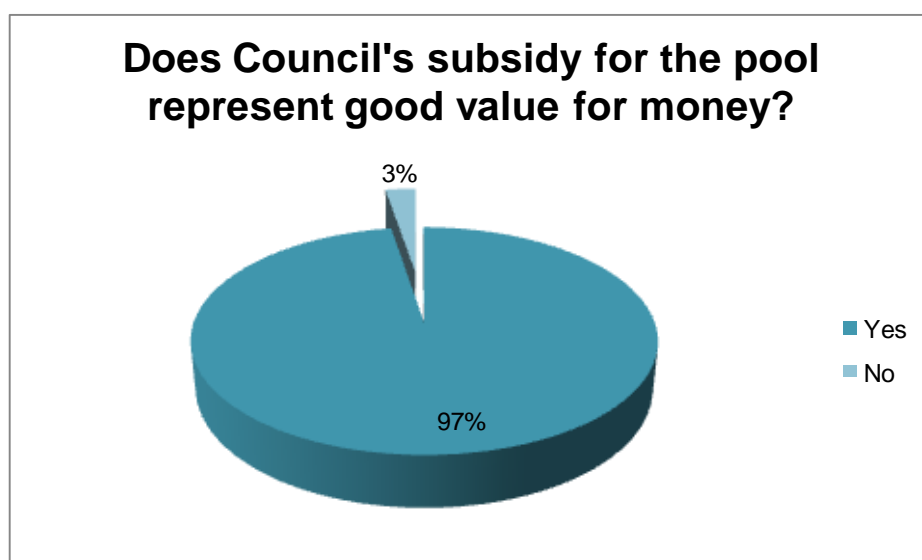
Figure 7: Does Council's subsidy for the 2012/13 season for Toora Swimming Pool represent good value for money?

Figure 7 shows that an overwhelming 97% of non user respondents felt that the amount of money that Council subsidised the pool in the 2012/13 season did represent value for money. The main comments that were made along with answering this question is *'even though I don't use the pool it is an important community asset'*.

7.2.3 Survey responses for pool users – Poowong Swimming Pool

78 survey responses from pool users of the Poowong Swimming Pool were received and analysed during the project consultation process. The following figures and tables provide an overview of key findings related to these surveys.

Figure 8: Gender breakdown of pool users – Poowong Swimming Pool

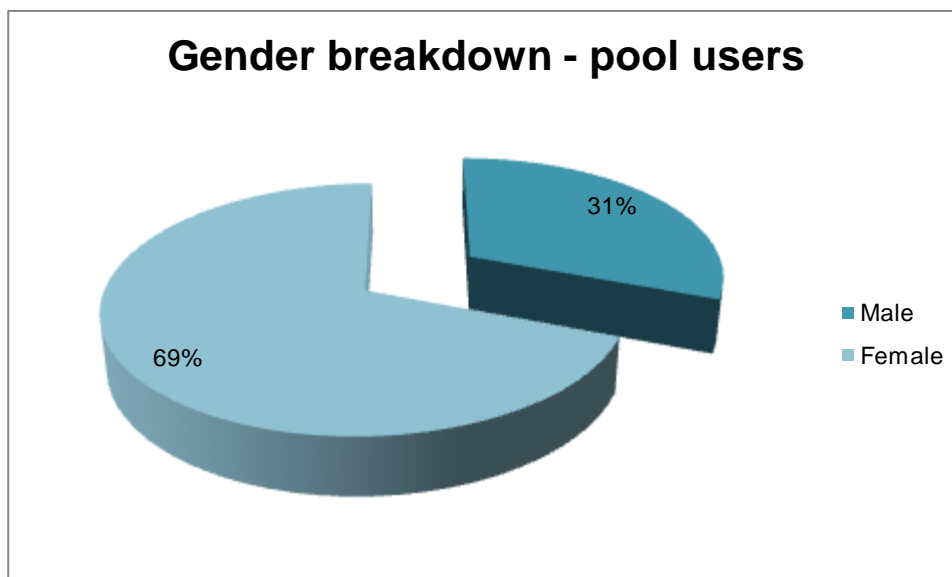


Figure 8 shows that more than two thirds of pools users that completed the surveys were female.

Figure 9: Age breakdown of pool users – Poowong Swimming Pool

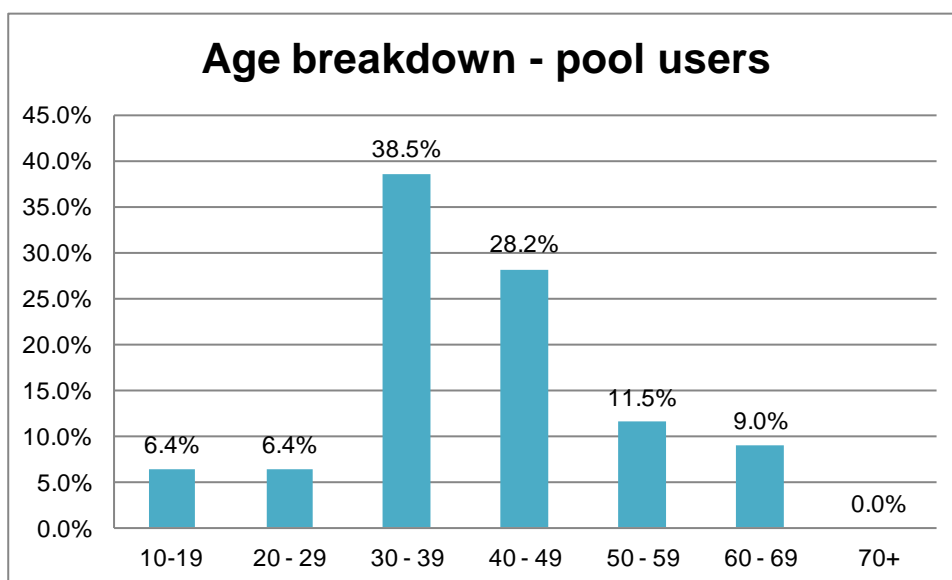


Figure 9 shows that 66.7% of pool users that filled in surveys were aged between 30 and 49 years with a further 20.5% being aged between 50 and 69 years old. Only 13.8% of respondents were under the age of 29 and no responses were received from people over the age of 70.

Table 20: Town of residence for pool users – Poowong Swimming Pool

Town	TOTAL	%
Poowong	35	45%
Nyora	12	15%
Loch	9	12%
Lang Lang	3	4%
Korumburra	2	3%
Woodleigh	2	3%
Krowera	2	3%
Warragul	2	3%
Drouin South	2	3%
Leongatha	2	3%
Other	4	5%
No answer	3	4%
TOTAL	78	100%

Table 20 shows that 72% of pool users that responded to the survey lived Poowong, Nyora and Loch.

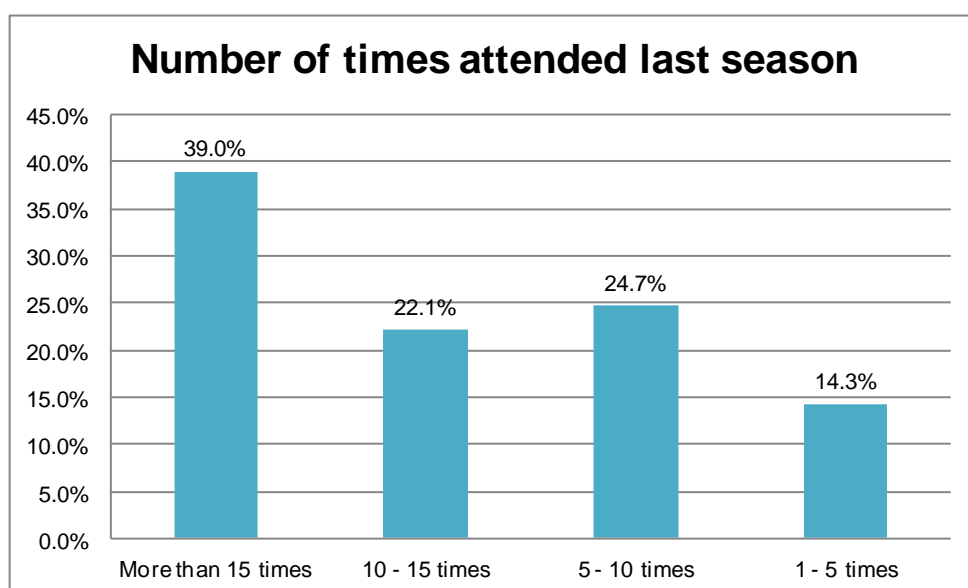
Figure 10: Number of times attended last season – Poowong Swimming Pool

Figure 10 shows that only 39% of respondents used the pool more than 15 times last season with 14.3% using it less than five times. The lower usage per person than Toora is likely to be related to the shorter season length, cooler water and cold weather policy in place.

Table 21: Main activity undertaken by users – Poowong Swimming Pool

What do you do there?	TOTAL	%
Use the pool for recreation/fun	73	54%
Use the toddler's pool	25	19%
Swim lessons	15	11%
Lap swim	11	8%
Take part in a club activity	5	4%
Birthday party	3	2%
Aqua aerobics	1	1%
Cooling off	1	1%
TOTAL	134	100%

Table 21 shows that '*using the pool for recreation and fun*' and '*using the toddler's pool*' were the two most common things that survey respondents did at the centre (73% of all respondents). Lap swimming was not nearly as popular with the survey respondents at Poowong compared to Toora but more Poowong respondents used the toddler's pool than in Toora.

It should be noted that multiple responses were received for this question.

Table 22: What would encourage users to attend more – Poowong Swimming Pool

What would encourage you to attend more?	TOTAL	%
Nothing	15	15%
Longer opening hours	14	14%
Warmer weather	11	11%
Shade over pool	9	9%
More events	8	8%
Lap lanes	6	6%
Longer season	5	5%
More time	4	4%
Swim lessons	3	3%
Kiosk	3	3%
Diving board	2	2%
Easier access to pool information	2	2%
Toddler swim lessons	1	1%
Newer facilities	1	1%
Warmer pool temperature	1	1%
Better road conditions	1	1%
Music	1	1%
If I lost weight	1	1%
No answer	10	10%
TOTAL	98	100%

Table 22 outlines the range of things that would encourage people to use the pool more with 15% of respondents indicating that there was nothing that would encourage them to use the pool more, followed by '*longer opening hours*', '*warmer weather*' and '*shade over the pool*'. 10% of respondents did not answer this question.

It should be noted that multiple responses were received for this question.

7.2.4 Survey responses for pool non users - Poowong Swimming Pool

This section provides specific feedback received from the 79 respondents that did not use the Poowong Swimming Pool. It should be noted that the majority of these respondents were accessed by holding street stalls in the main streets of Poowong, Nyora and Loch.

Figure 11: Gender breakdown of non users – Poowong Swimming Pool

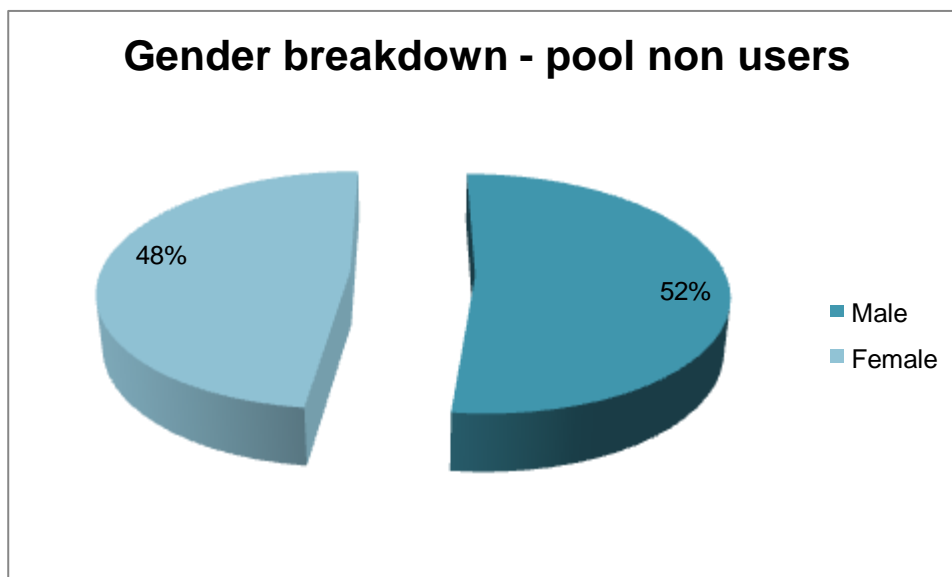


Figure 11 shows only slightly more females than males that completed the non user surveys and that a far greater number of males filled out the non user survey than the user survey.

Figure 12: Age breakdown of non users – Poowong Swimming Pool

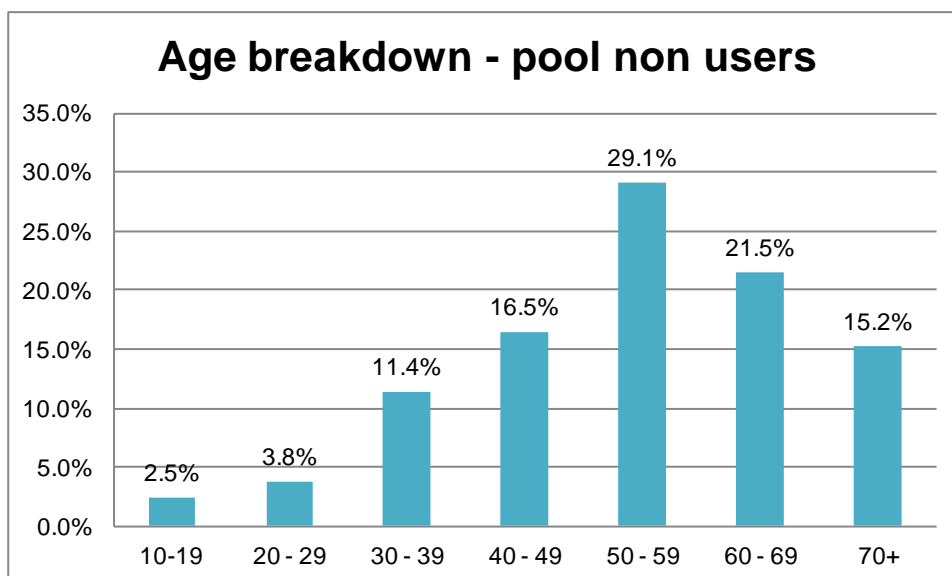


Figure 12 shows that 82.3% of non user respondents were over the age of 40 with minimal responses from people under the age of 29 (6.3%). The majority of these responses were obtained during the three street stalls and these results are indicative of the people that were surveyed on these days.

Table 23: Town of residence for non users – Poowong Swimming Pool

Town	TOTAL	%
Nyora	31	39%
Poowong	20	25%
Loch	17	22%
Kernot	2	3%
Lang Lang	2	3%
Korumburra	2	3%
Woodleigh	1	1%
Bena	1	1%
Heyfield	1	1%
Ranceby	1	1%
No answer	1	1%
TOTAL	79	100%

Table 23 shows that a significant 86% of all non user surveys were completed by residents of Nyora, Poowong and Loch.

Table 24: Why non users do not attend the Poowong Swimming Pool

Why don't you use the Poowong Swimming Pool?	TOTAL	%
I have no interest	28	33%
I have my own pool	13	15%
Not enough time, too busy	11	13%
I don't swim	5	6%
It does not meet my needs	4	5%
Opening hours	4	5%
I would prefer to swim at the beach	3	3%
I don't have kids	3	3%
I have trouble getting there	3	3%
I am too old	2	2%
I am new to the area	2	2%
I didn't know that it existed	2	2%
No lap lanes	2	2%
Dont know when it is open	1	1%
Too crowded	1	1%
The pool is too old	1	1%
My weight	1	1%
TOTAL	86	100%

Table 24 shows that the main reason non users did not use the Toora Swimming Pool is that they have no interest or not enough time (62%). 6% of respondents indicated that had been unaware either that the pool was there or when it was open. The majority of these respondents were from Loch.

It should be noted that multiple responses were received for this question.

Table 25: What would encourage non users to use the Toora Swimming Pool?

Is there anything that would encourage to use the Poowong Swimming Pool?	TOTAL	%
No	47	55%
If the kids wanted to go	8	9%
More community events	4	5%
Lap lanes	3	3%
If I knew that it existed	3	3%
Diving board	2	2%
Earlier opening hours	2	2%
Later opening hours	1	1%
Warmer weather	1	1%
Upgraded facilities	1	1%
Swim lessons	1	1%
If I lost weight	1	1%
If I needed rehabilitation	1	1%
I will use it	1	1%
No answer	10	12%
TOTAL	86	100%

Table 25 explores what would encourage non users to attend the Poowong Swimming Pool with 55% of respondents saying that there was not anything that would encourage them to go to the pool.

It should be noted that multiple responses were received for this question.

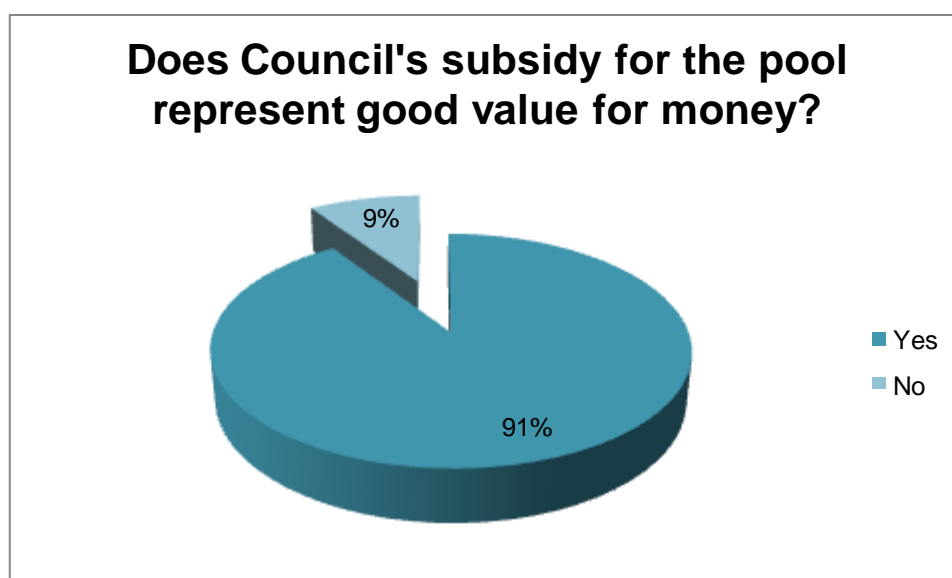
Figure 13: Does Council's subsidy for the 2012/13 season for Poowong Swimming Pool represent good value for money?

Figure 13 shows that while the response was not as high in Poowong as Toora, 91% of non user respondents felt that the amount of money that Council subsidised the pool in the 2012/13 season did represent value for money. Similarly to Toora, the main comments that were made along with answering this question were *'even though I don't use the pool it is an important community asset'*.

7.3 Stakeholder consultation findings

7.3.1 Schools

Nine schools were contacted as part of the master planning process. Schools in Toora, Alberton and Fish Creek used the Toora Swimming Pool and schools in Nyora and Loch used the Poowong Swimming Pool.

Although these schools have used the Toora Swimming Pool in the past, at the time of consultation schools in Yarram used the pool at Yarram, and Tarwin Valley Primary School used SG Splash.

Schools that accessed both of these pools commented that they were important community assets and conveniently located to reduce travel times which reduced the cost of the swimming program for parents and enabled the school's to run a comprehensive swimming program for students.

Toora Primary School utilise the Korumburra Outdoor Pool for their carnivals as it is a 50m pool. Tarwin Lower is the only school that currently accesses SG Splash on a regular basis although Fish Creek did comment that they were investigating the use of SG Splash at the time of consultation.

No key concerns regarding either of the pools were expressed from any of the schools.

7.3.2 Community groups

Toora

The Toora Pool Committee and the Toora and District Community Progress Association were both consulted as part of this master planning process. Both of these groups said that the pool was very important to the community and acts as a 'social hub' during the pool season, both meeting local community needs and also attracting people to the town.

With limited opportunities for children and young people within the town, the pool is seen an important and safe place for families and young people to go to learn to swim and 'hang out with friends'. Due to the heated water, the pool is used by a wide range of age groups in the community, from babies to older adults.

The Toora Pool Committee plays an active role in fundraising within the community to raise funds for improvements at the pool by organising raffles, come'n'try days, free bbq's and community events during the season.

Future priorities that were identified for this facility include:-

- Interactive children's water play as the current toddlers pool is underutilised
- Upgraded change facilities and toilets
- Shaded bbq area between the 25m and learners pools
- Extended verandah to offer shade and increase seated area near the kiosk
- Covered walkway between the change facilities and the pool
- Small change rooms near the 25m pool
- More blinds around the pool
- Sealed car park and improved drainage

Poowong

The Poowong Pool Committee, Poowong Community Consultative Committee (PCCC), Loch Development Association and Nyora and District Development Association were consulted as part of this master planning process. All of these groups agreed that the pool is an extremely important community asset with such limited other services available locally. As well as general pool usage, the number of community events that are held at the pool during the season (including local community markets), sees the pool acting as a 'social hub' while it is open.

The Poowong Pool Committee had been extremely active in the operation of this pool in the 2012/13 and 2013/14 seasons, organising volunteers to work in the kiosk on hot days and undertaking minor maintenance and grounds maintenance tasks to reduce staff and operational costs, as well as working closely with the swim club and facility staff to organise a range of community events to increase attendances. Events held at the pool include pool parties, discos, movie nights, season open and close parties and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the pool.

Future priorities that were identified for this pool include:-

- The importance to the community of the pool remaining open, even if cold years impact attendances
- Permanent shade sales along the side of the pool
- Upgrade to change rooms and toilets
- Changing the season to start in mid December but stay open for an additional two weeks in March
- Splash pad for children instead of the toddlers pool
- Shed for equipment
- Bbq area under existing shade sails
- Verandah next to female change rooms where bbq is currently located
- Coffee machine for the kiosk
- Investigation into the health and risk associated with a tree located in the middle of the grass area
- Play equipment at the recreation reserve that could be used by patrons of the pool

An opportunity for the three communities and the four groups to work together (and with Council) to better promote the pool was identified, with feedback received from several people in Loch that they were either unaware that there was a pool in Poowong or were unaware of when it was open.

7.3.3 Council staff

Key priorities for Council in relation to these two pools include ensuring that these Master Plans:-

- Provide an achievable vision for the future in the context of Council's other financial responsibilities (aquatics and otherwise); and
- Maximise Council's chance of receiving external funding for future development at each pool.

7.3.4 Facility staff

Toora Swimming Pool

Staff indicated that this facility is used by a broad range of different age groups with adults and older adults using the pool on mornings, mums and young children throughout the day and young people

and families after school. Staff did indicate that a lot of mums with young children currently use the 25m pool rather than the toddler's pool.

Feedback was also received that the facility has a wide catchment with user groups from Yarram, Alberton, Devon, Toora, Meeniyah, Fish Creek and Foster. During the January school holidays the pool is also used by a lot of tourists that visit the area.

Programming has a strong focus at the pool with regular aqua aerobics classes, swim lessons, school groups and rehabilitation and disability groups utilising the pool.

Key issues identified by facility staff included inadequate change facilities that are not accessible, drainage issues with the car park, overflowing gutters, wind chill on cold days getting from the pool to the change rooms and the current bbq does not work.

Poowong Swimming Pool

Staff indicated that the pool is mainly used by families with between 200 and 300 people attending on hot days (over 30 degrees) and mainly season pass holders attending on days less than 27 degrees.

The swim club and pool committee organise events at the pool during the season, liaising with pool staff as part of the process.

Identified future needs for the pool were upgraded change room and installing a wet deck and a vinyl liner.

7.4 Key consultation findings

Toora Swimming Pool

Key consultation findings for this facility include:-

- The pool is highly valued by the local community (not just the pool users), is seen as the social hub within town while it is open and it plays a broader role than just the provision of aquatics
- The current providers have a very strong following in the community
- The pool has a broad catchment with users from Yarram, Foster, Fish Creek, Welshpool, Devon, Won Wron and Meeniyah, as well as tourists
- The pool caters for a wide range of ages and has a strong programming focus
- There is a need to upgrade the change facilities
- There is a desire for children's water play and an undercover bbq area near the pools
- The pool has regular users and is less impacted by cooler weather than other outdoor pools with three quarters of survey respondents having used the pool more than 15 times last season

Poowong Swimming Pool

Key consultation findings for this facility include:-


- The pool is highly valued by the local community (not just the pool users), is seen as the social hub within town while it is open and it plays a broader role than just the provision of aquatics
- The pool committee have been playing a very active role in increasing attendances and reducing operational costs at the pool
- The pool has a strong family and community focus with 46% of pool user survey respondents saying that the thing they liked most about going was the atmosphere, social nature, fun and community feel of the pool
- The main catchment for the pool comes from Poowong, Nyora and Loch but the pool is also used by people from other nearby towns, including Drouin and Warragul
- There is a need to upgrade the change facilities
- There is a desire for additional permanent shade along the side of the pool and an undercover bbq on the grass area

SECTION 8: SITE ANALYSIS

This section of the Master Plan investigates site characteristics and considerations associated with each site. It also focuses on the existing conditions, issues, constraints and opportunities.

8.1 Toora Swimming Pool

Table 26: Overview of Toora Swimming Pool site

	Site analysis comments	
Existing site facilities	The site currently houses the Toora Swimming Pool. This site has a 25m heated pool which is covered, a learner's pool and a toddler's pool.	
Key existing connections	<p>There are a number of key connections for this site which include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Toora Primary School is located to the north west of the pool ▪ Two tennis courts are located to the south of the pool on the same land allocation ▪ Land across the other side of Cunningham Street has been earmarked for future development although no timeframes for this development had been identified at the time of writing 	
Land ownership and zoning	The site is Council and zoned Public Purpose Recreation (PRRZ).	
Planning overlays	There are no current planning overlays on this site.	
Estimated land area	Approximately 1.4 hectares (including car park and tennis courts).	

8.2 Poowong Swimming Pool

Table 27: Overview of Poowong Swimming Pool site

	Site analysis comments
Existing site facilities	The site currently houses the Poowong Swimming Pool which has a 25m solar heated pool and a toddler's pool.
Key existing connections	<p>The key connections for this site are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Poowong Recreational Reserve is located directly to the north of the pool site with the entrance to the reserve running along the western side of the pool ▪ The Poowong stadium is located several doors down
Land ownership and zoning	The site is Council owned and zoned Public Use (PUZ).
Planning overlays	There are no current planning overlays on this site.
Estimated land area	Approximately 1,992 sqm.
Site considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The possibility of obtaining additional green space for the pool from the Poowong Recreation Reserve ▪ The entrance to the facility is quite steep. Different options have been explored to address the accessibility of this site



SECTION 9: FUTURE PROVISION

9.1 Provision criteria

The following criteria has been developed to assess the range of different development possibilities. It has been based on priorities from Council planning documents and government funding requirements. The criteria has been used to determine priorities for future provision of aquatic facilities at Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools and the developments recommended in **Section 10** of this report are the ones that best meets the following criteria.

9.1.1 Meeting long term sustainability

- Consistency with the Council's strategic principles in aquatics provision (as outlined in Council's Aquatic Strategy);
- The capital cost of the facility is within Council's budget tolerance;
- Council can demonstrate capacity to provide ongoing annual subsidy to support operation of the facility post-development; and
- Encouragement of sustainable development that promotes health, wellbeing and the unique character of the community.

9.1.2 Diversifying and maximising use and participation

- Facilities provided foster use from infants to older adults and provide a range of different facilities and services;
- Facilities that will maximise use of a range of groups in the community;
- Facilities that provide a physical environment that supports lifelong health and wellbeing; and
- Facilities that provide improved facilities that are publicly accessible.

9.1.3 Accessible design and efficient functionality

- Adequately addresses any identified site constraints;
- Increases the potential for universal and environmentally sustainable design practices; and
- Design considers the practicalities and efficiencies of management and operation.

9.2 Facility and service matrix

A facility and service matrix has been developed for each pool based on current use and identified future needs of each community.

9.2.1 Toora Swimming Pool

A future need that has been identified for the Toora Swimming Pool is the addition of interactive children's water play. This will make the facility more attractive to families.

Table 28: Facility and service matrix – Toora Swimming Pool

Component	Service/Program	Target Audience
Covered 25m pool	School lessons	School aged children
	School carnivals	School aged children
	School fun days	School aged children
	Aqua aerobics	Adults and older adults
	Lap swimming	12 - 60 years
	Squad training	8 - 80 years
	Swimming lessons	5 - 12 years
	Pool inflatable/fun days	4 - 18 years
	Rehabilitation classes	Adults and older adults
	Disability groups	Adults
	General use	Babies - 80 years
Learners pool	General use	Babies and young children
	Swimming lessons	Babies and young children
Children's water play	General use	Babies and young children
Pool grounds	Movie nights	4 - 70 years
	Community events	Babies - 80 years
	General use	Babies - 80 years

9.2.2 Poowong Swimming Pool

No new program requirements were identified for Poowong.

Table 29: Facility and Service mix – Poowong Swimming Pool

Component	Service/Program	Target Audience
Outdoor 25m pool	School lessons	School aged children
	School carnivals	School aged children
	School fun days	School aged children
	Lap swimming	12 - 60 years
	Swim club	8 - 80 years
	Vic Swim lessons	5 - 12 years
	Pool inflatable/fun days	4 - 18 years
	Active After School Program	School aged children
	General use	Babies - 80 years
Toddlers pool	General use	Babies and young children
Pool grounds	Movie nights	4 - 70 years
	Community events	Babies - 80 years
	General use	Babies - 80 years

SECTION 10: REDEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

This section of the report provides an overview of the design and development concept for the Toora and Poowong Swimming Pools. It provides an overview of the proposed development option for each pool including estimated development costs.

Universal Design best practice principles have been applied to the proposed designs to ensure that the facility is inviting and accessible to the whole community. These principles should flow through to the management and programming of these facilities which will maximise programming opportunities and participation at each facility.

10.1 Preferred development option – Toora Swimming Pool

The proposed range of facilities and services for this facility are outlined in **Section 9.2.1** and are aimed at retaining and maximising a broad range of aquatic and passive recreation opportunities for the community.

10.1.1 Development considerations

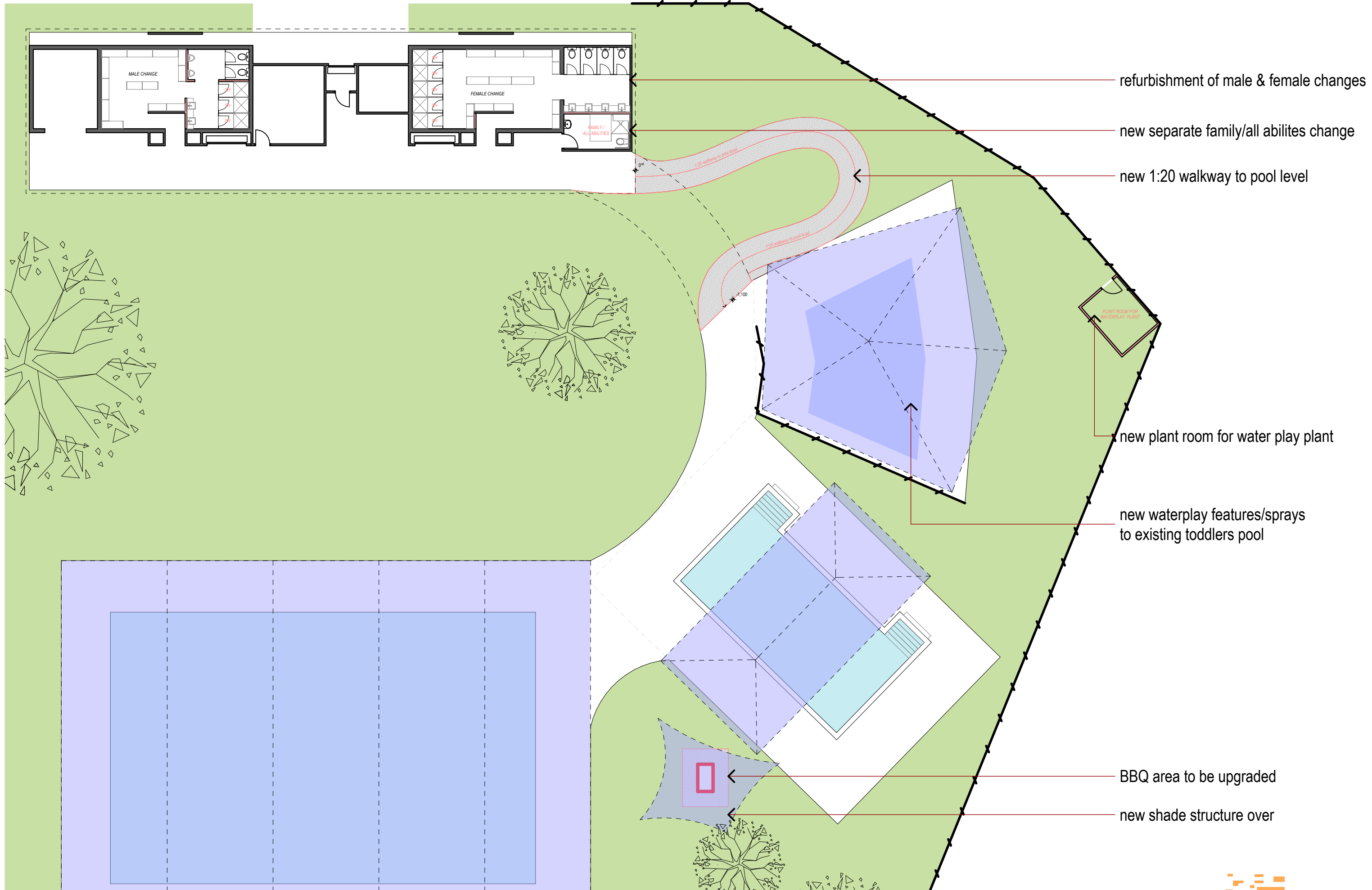
There are a number of development considerations when looking at redevelopment at the Toora Swimming Pool. These include:-

- Ensuring that any proposed redevelopment would provide Council with the greatest opportunity to attract government funding and be financially achievable
- Current usage and providing a mix of facilities that best meet future needs of residents
- Ongoing operational costs

10.1.2 Design considerations

There are a number of design considerations to take into account for the proposed redevelopment at this site, these include:-

- To retain as much of the grass area as possible while incorporating a bbq and shade structure in between the 25m and learners pools
- Creating an alternate path down to the pools that is in line with Universal Design best practice principles and does not detract from the look of the facility
- The installation of interactive children's water play features into the existing toddlers pool to encourage more families to use this pool
- Retaining grassed areas for families and visitors to the pool to enjoy
- Retaining the family friendly environment
- Refurbishment of male and female change rooms and the inclusion of a family/accessible change room and toilet within the existing building footprint



refurbishment of male & female changes

new separate family/all abilities change

new 1:20 walkway to pool level

new plant room for water play plant

new waterplay features/sprays to existing toddlers pool

BBQ area to be upgraded

new shade structure over



TOORA OUTDOOR POOL

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PROPOSED SITE PLAN

24/03/2014

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10.1.3 Estimated probable capital costs – Toora Swimming Pool

Capital development costs are estimated at \$787,263. **Appendix 1** provides a full breakdown of construction costs by component, including square metre rates and allowances assumed.

The following table provides a breakdown of estimated capital cost for future possible works at Toora.

Table 30: Capital cost estimate – Toora Swimming Pool

Development Components	Estimated capital costs
Total building works	\$ 198,800
Total pool works	\$ 283,000
Total external works and services	\$ 64,250
ESD and contingencies	\$ 176,210
Allowances and professional fees and charges	\$ 65,003
Total estimated probable development costs	\$ 787,263

*It should be noted that these costs are exclusive of GST and have a number of exclusions which are outlined in **Appendix 1**.*

The change room upgrades and access improvements projects fit within Councils Strategic Direction to renovate the facilities at the Outdoor Pools.

The water play, bbq and shade projects are considered in the Strategic Direction as an improvement to the facility. Therefore the delivery of these projects will require partnership with the community, external funding bodies and Council to bring these projects to fruition.

10.1.4 Operational implications – Toora Swimming Pool

The proposed development at the Toora Swimming Pool is expected to have four impacts on the operational cost of the facility. A breakdown of operational costs for this facility was not available at the time of writing this report so these impacts will be represented as either a percentage of existing income/attendances or an anticipated additional cost. The impacts are expected to be:-

- *Increased attendances due to the interactive children's water play* – based on feedback received during the consultation process about the limited use of the toddler's pool and the fact that the town attracts a large number of tourists it is anticipated that family visits to the pool could increase by up to 10%
- *Increased secondary spend* – the additional visits to the pool are expected to lead to an associated increase in secondary spend income
- *Increased operational costs to run a second plant room for the interactive children's water play* – based on operational costs at other facilities it is envisaged that the second plant room could add between \$3,000 and \$5,000 in additional operating costs for electricity and pool chemicals. This amount does not include maintenance that will be required for this plant room. It should be noted that this figure is conservative and is an indicative figure as the true cost will not be able to be calculated until the actual water features are chosen

While other parts of the development, such as change room upgrades, bbq and shade structure and access paths will enhance the user experience, they are not expected to affect the operational cost of the facility.

10.1.4 Facility signage

While it has not been deemed as a priority for this Master Plan, facility signage from the main road could be improved.

10.2 Possible development options – Poowong Swimming Pool

The range of facilities and services for this facility are outlined in **Section 9.2.2** and are aimed at retaining and maximising a broad range of aquatic and passive recreation opportunities for the community.

Three different options were developed for Poowong based on the challenges around access issues to the existing facility entrance. This section will provide an overview of each of these options along with estimated capital costs.

10.2.1 Development considerations

There are a number of development considerations when looking at redevelopment of this site. These include:-

- Availability of land from the Poowong Recreation Reserve to be incorporated into the swimming pool site
- Ensuring that any proposed redevelopment would provide Council with the greatest opportunity to attract government funding and be financially achievable
- Current usage and providing a mix of facilities that best meet future needs of residents
- Ongoing operational costs

10.2.2 Design considerations

There are a number of design considerations to take into account for the proposed redevelopment at Poowong, these include:-

- To retain as much of the existing grass area as possible while incorporating a bbq under existing shade sails and considering alternate access to the facility
- Managing the entrance to the facility so that it is in line with Universal Design best practice principles, it does not detract from the look of the facility and it enables Council to accurately record attendances
- To rectify chemical delivery and confined space issues
- The addition of permanent shade along the side of the pool while maintaining sight lines for lifeguards
- Maximising grassed areas for families and visitors to the pool to enjoy
- Retaining the family friendly environment
- Refurbishment of male and female change rooms and the inclusion of two family/accessible change rooms within the existing building footprint

new entry for delivery

existing entry setout to be retained

new steps and ramp

existing gates

new shades

new access

new lawn area

alternative all abilities access

new shades

new BBQ facility under shade

DELIVERY

relocate fence towards north by 15M

new storage shed

PLANT ROOM

confined space compliance upgrade to existing plant room



POOWONG OUTDOOR POOL

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PROPOSED SITE PLAN OPT-1

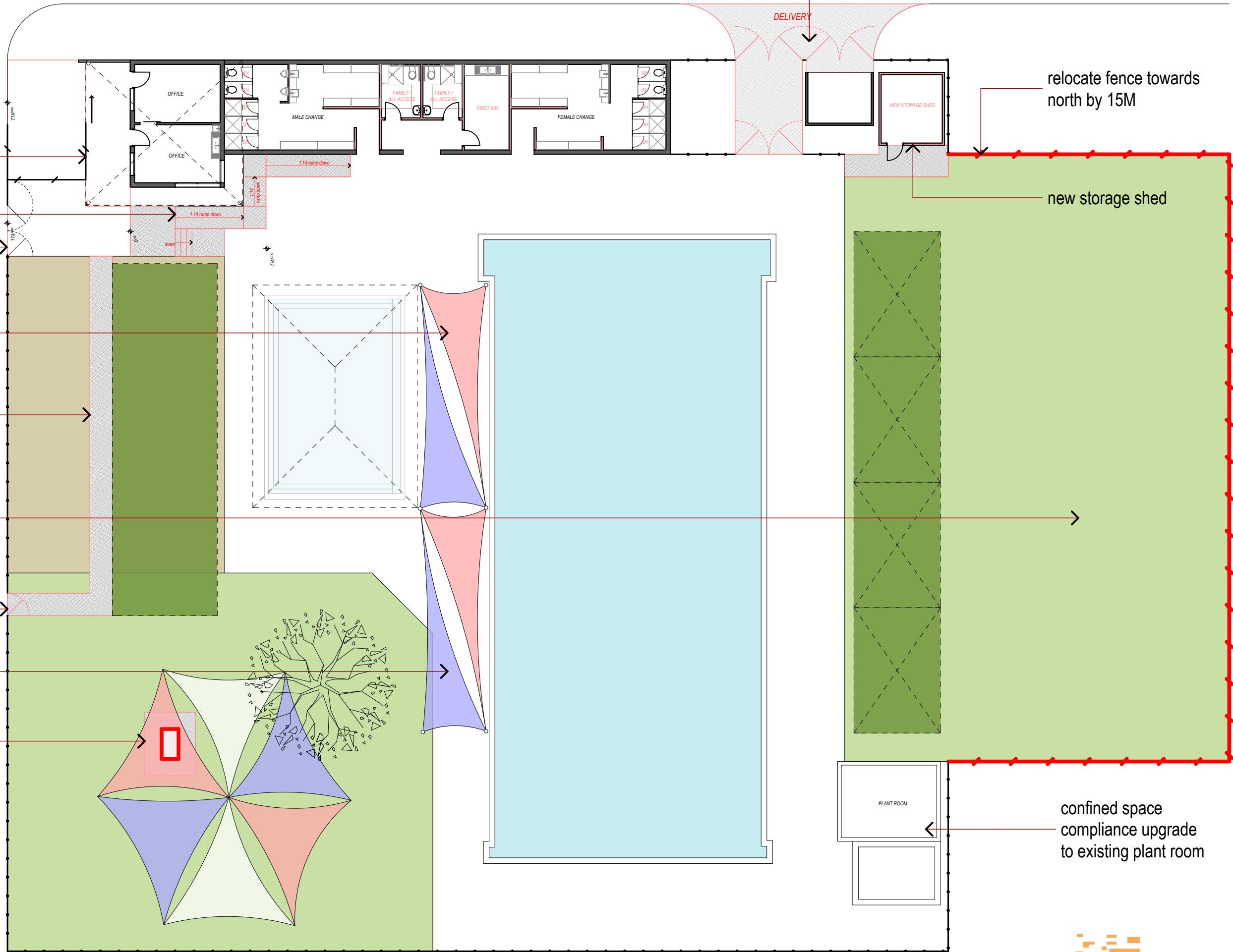
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architecture | master planning | urban design | interior design



new entry for delivery

DELIVERY

relocate fence towards north by 15M

new entry setout

new storage shed

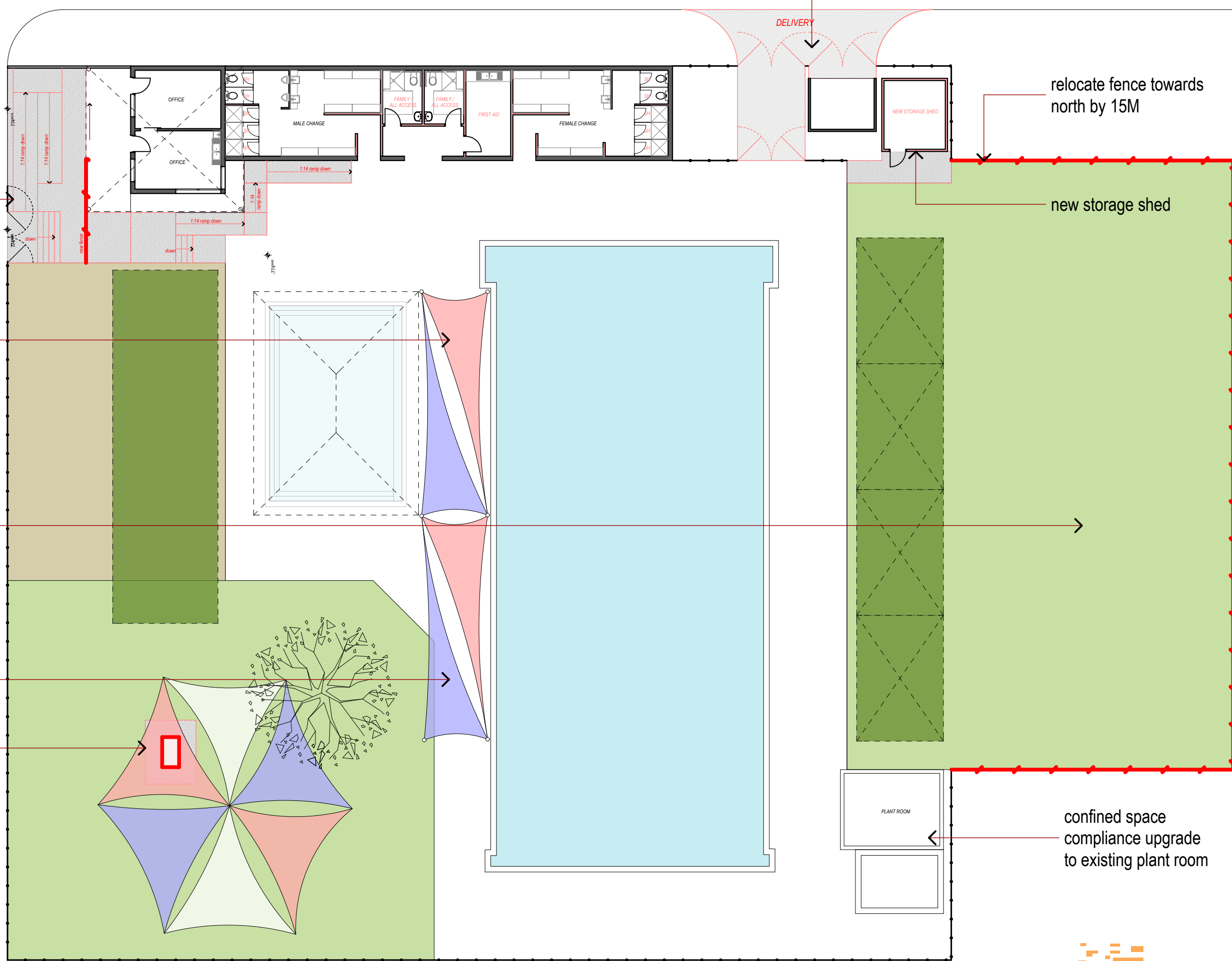
new shades

new lawn area

new shades

new BBQ facility under shade

confined space compliance upgrade to existing plant room

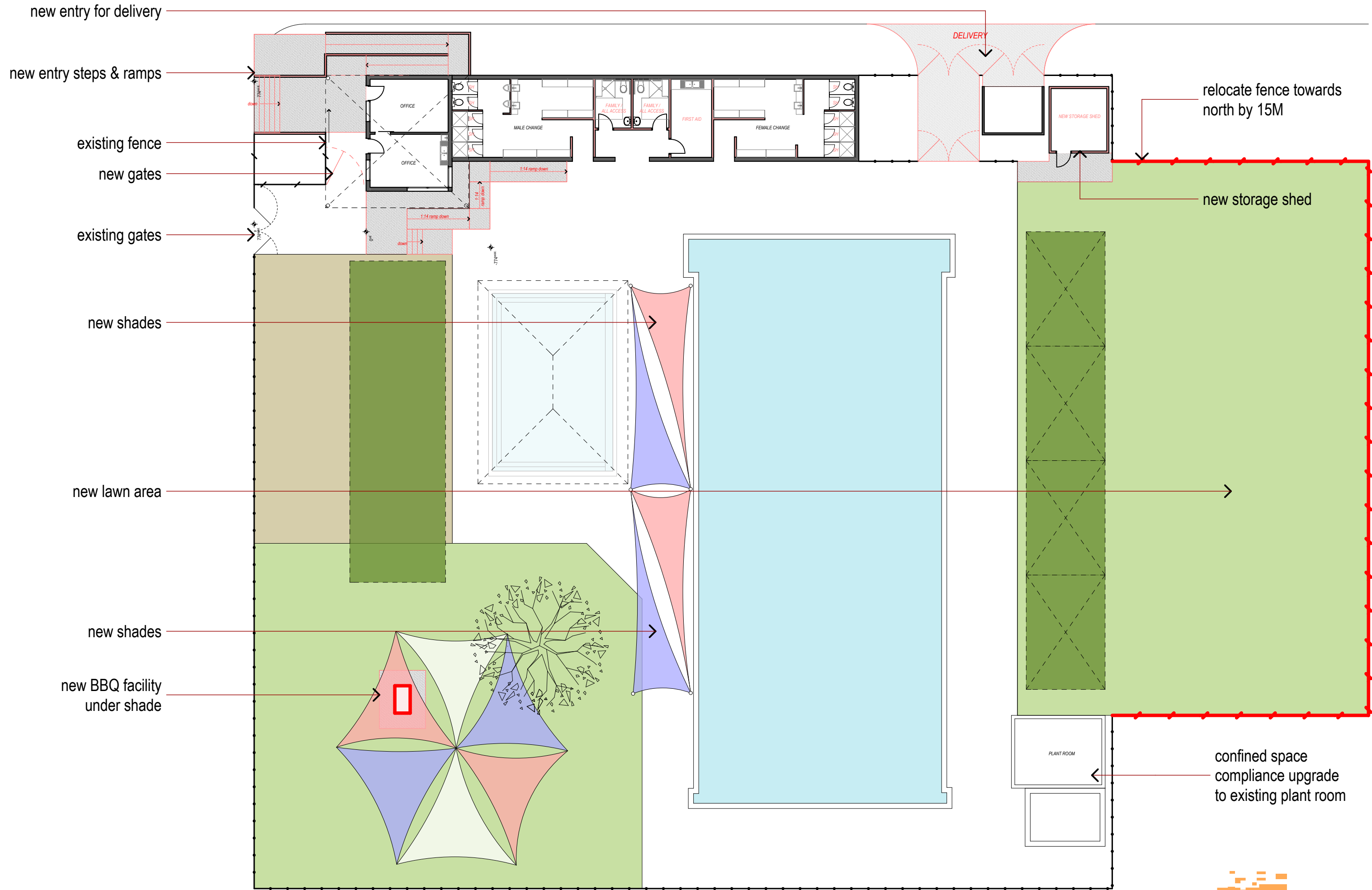


POOWONG OUTDOOR POOL

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new entry for delivery

new entry steps & ramps

existing fence

new gates

existing gates

relocate fence towards north by 15M

new storage shed

new shades

new lawn area

new shades

new BBQ facility under shade

confined space compliance upgrade to existing plant room

POOWONG OUTDOOR POOL

26/03/2014

2014051SK222F



10.2.3 Estimated probable capital costs – Poowong Swimming Pool

Capital development costs are estimated at between \$772,167 and \$847,687 for Poowong, depending on the access option chosen. **Appendix 2** provides a full breakdown of construction costs by component, including square metre rates and allowances assumed.

The following tables detail the estimated capital cost for each proposed option.

Table 31: Capital cost estimate – Poowong Swimming Pool (option 1)

Development Components	Estimated capital costs
Total building works	\$ 391,300
Total pool works	\$ 90,650
Total external works and services	\$ 160,460
Contingencies	\$ 66,000
Allowances and professional fees and charges	\$ 63,757
Total estimated probable development costs	\$ 772,167

*It should be noted that these costs are exclusive of GST and have a number of exclusions which are outlined in **Appendix 2***

Option 1 leaves the existing entrance to the facility and puts in an alternate entrance via the eastern boundary of the pool. Refer to the concept plan for Option 1 for a visual representation of this.

Table 32: Capital cost estimate – Poowong Swimming Pool (option 2)

Development Components	Estimated capital costs
Total building works	\$ 391,300
Total pool works	\$ 90,650
Total external works and services	\$ 205,080
Contingencies	\$ 66,000
Allowances and professional fees and charges	\$ 63,757
Total estimated probable development costs	\$ 816,787

*It should be noted that these costs are exclusive of GST and have a number of exclusions which are outlined in **Appendix 2**.*

Option 2 includes changes to existing entrance to include ramp entry within the existing facility footprint. Refer to the concept plan for Option 2 for a visual representation of this.

Table 33: Capital cost estimate – Poowong Swimming Pool (option 3)

Development Components	Estimated capital costs
Total building works	\$ 391,300
Total pool works	\$ 90,650
Total external works and services	\$ 235,980
Contingencies	\$ 66,000
Allowances and professional fees and charges	\$ 63,757
Total estimated probable development costs	\$ 847,687

*It should be noted that these costs are exclusive of GST and have a number of exclusions which are outlined in **Appendix 2**.*

Option 3 includes changes to the existing entrance to include ramp entry to the west side of the existing site boundary with stairs at the front of the facility. Refer to the concept plan for Option 1 for a visual representation of this.

Consultation with Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure's (DTPLI) Universal Design Facilitator indicated that the preferred option from a Universal Design perspective is Option 1, even though this means having an alternate entry that can be used by people who do not feel comfortable going down such a steep slope at the current entry to the pool. Option 1 is also the least expensive option and the most aesthetically pleasing. If Council decides to go forward with Option 1, development of a management plan will important to ensure that operational practices are in place so that staff can still collect money and record attendances for people that use the alternate entrance.

The change room upgrades and access improvements projects fit within Councils Strategic Direction to renovate the facilities at the Outdoor Pools.

The bbq and shade projects are considered in the Strategic Direction as an improvement to the facility. Therefore the delivery of these projects will require partnership with the community, external funding bodies and Council to bring these projects to fruition.

10.2.4 Operational implications – Poowong Swimming Pool

While the proposed development will enhance the user experience at this facility, it is not envisaged that it would have any significant impact to the operating budget for this facility.

10.3 ESD considerations

A range of ESD initiatives have been considered for the proposed development at Toora. Opportunities exist to introduce a range of environmentally friendly initiatives such as solar hot water, photo voltaic cells electricity generation, rainwater collection and third pipe for toilet flushing and irrigation, waterless urinals and possible environmentally sustainable upgrades to existing pool plant.

Preliminary cost estimates indicate that approximately \$109,000 worth of ESD related initiatives have been included within the proposed concept design. Specific initiatives will be factored into the detailed design of the project and will be assessed and incorporated based on budget availability and overall benefit to the facility, the users, the environment and the operational cost.

10.4 Universal Design considerations

Physical accessibility refers to the built environment to ensure that the facilities are accessible to the entire community. The built environment around the facility needs to be accessible for people walking, riding, driving and catching public transport (where applicable) and Council should ensure that redevelopments to any existing facilities include Universal Design best practice principles.

Universal design refers to broad-spectrum architectural planning ideas meant to produce buildings, products and environments that are inherently accessible to both the able-bodied and the physically disabled. The term is used to describe the concept of designing all products and the built environment to be aesthetic and usable to the greatest extent possible by everyone, regardless of their age, ability, or status in life.³ This means designing, building and managing facilities that are intuitive and impartial to particular user or demographic groups.

The principles of universal design are outlined below:

1. **Equitable use** – the design does not disadvantage or stigmatise any group of users;
2. **Flexibility in use** – the design accommodates a wide range of individual presences and abilities;
3. **Simple and intuitive use** – use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level;
4. **Perceptible Information** – the design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities;
5. **Tolerance for error** – the design minimises hazards and the adverse consequences do accidental or unintended actions;
6. **Low Physical effort** – the design can be used efficiently and comfortably, and with a minimum of fatigue;
7. **Size and Space for Approach and use** – appropriate size and space is provided for approach/reach/manipulation, and use, regardless of the user's body size, posture, or mobility.

Universal design has the following goals:

1. **Body fit** - accommodate a wide a range of body sizes and abilities;
2. **Comfort** - keeping demands within desirable limits of body function and perception;
3. **Awareness** - ensuring that critical information for use is easily perceived;
4. **Understanding** - making methods of operation and use intuitive, clear and unambiguous;
5. **Social integration** - treating all groups with dignity and respect;
6. **Personalisation** - incorporating opportunities for choice and the expression of individual preferences;
7. **Appropriateness** - respecting and reinforcing cultural values and the social and environmental context of any design project.

³ Wikipedia

DTPLI's Universal Design Facilitator has been an integral part of the design process and has worked closely with the project consultants, architects and Council to ensure that the proposed design addresses the critical elements of Universal Design best practice principles.

Incorporating Universal Design best practice principles into future planning for this facility will be important and Council should ensure that these principles are included in the detailed design phase and subsequent facility fit out to ensure that the built environment is in line with these principles. The development of a management plan to ensure that ongoing management and programming also reflect these principles will also be important.

SECTION 11: POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES

Below are five sources of funding that are available to Council for future aquatic projects at these pools.

11.1 Better Pools Funding Program

At the time of writing the Sport and Recreation Victoria '*Better Pools*' program is the key government grant source that may provide a funding contribution towards the redevelopment at the Toora Swimming Pool. This program contributes to the provision of high quality and accessible community sport and recreation facilities across Victoria. In recent years the '*Better Pools*' and associated '*Seasonal Pool Renewal*' programs have contributed more than \$46 million annually into aquatic centre development and improvement projects across Victoria.

Under the program criteria, maximum grants of up to \$3 million will be provided to aquatic and leisure centre development projects, although Council would only need to apply approximately \$394,000 for the proposed redevelopment at the Toora Swimming Pool, based on the funding ratios. In the context of South Gippsland shire, a funding ratio of \$1 from SRV to every \$1 of local funding would be required to support state government investment. To achieve maximum grant funding, a minimum local commitment of approximately \$394,000 would be required.

This program has a requirement that 20% of the project cost be spent on ESD initiatives. This requirement has been included in the estimated capital costs for Toora.

The *Better Pools Program* is extremely competitive and is targeted towards projects that can demonstrate the improvement of access and participation opportunities for communities, as well as demonstrate a justified need within the local community. Collaboration through planning and enhancing community partnerships through ongoing facility operation, are also critical to accessing this funding.

11.2 Seasonal Pool Renewal Program

The Seasonal Pool Renewal program is an annual Sport and Recreation Victoria program through their Community Facilities Funding Program. Under the program criteria maximum grants of up to \$200,000 will be provided with a funding ratio for South Gippsland of \$2 from SRV to every \$1 of local funding.

The objectives of the Seasonal Pool Renewal program are:-

- To encourage local government's ability to renew and modernise small aquatic and leisure centre's in small rural and regional Victorian towns and in the interface municipalities where access to indoor aquatics centre's is significantly limited
- To encourage a greater range of aquatic recreational opportunities accessible to all

Proposals that focus on increasing participation and access to aquatics activities will be highly regarded under this category, for example:-

- Increasing the amount of leisure water and aquatic play facilities at a venue

- Water and energy conservation infrastructure initiatives
- Raising water temperature levels
- Improving amenity of facilities through better change areas and shelter or shade
- Improving accessibility to swimming pools and change facilities

11.3 Planning

The Planning program is part of the annual Community Facilities Funding Program through Sport and Recreation Victoria. This program helps to provide high quality, accessible community sport and recreation facilities across Victoria. The program encourages:-

- Increasing sport and recreation participation
- Increased community access to leisure opportunities
- Better planning of sport and recreation facilities
- Innovative sport and recreation facilities
- Environmentally sustainable design

The Planning category provides funding for the future sport and recreation needs of communities through better information gathering, consultation and strategic planning. Grants of up to \$30,000 are available for projects focusing on recreation planning and facility feasibility planning. Under the program criteria there is a dollar for dollar funding ratio.

11.4 South Gippsland Shire Council contribution

Council will need to make a contribution to any significant infrastructure upgrade at either of the pools, for example upgrade to change facilities and interactive children's water play. Improving access at both facilities is also an area which would require a contribution from Council.

Council has an allocation for swimming pools in its long term financial plan. This identifies priorities for each of the pools as well as providing an allocation for 'consolidated future programs' from 2017/18 to 2028/29.

Council has two significant projects identified in 2016/17 which are a new hydrotherapy pool at SG Splash and a refurbishment at Mirboo North. The next major pool upgrade is budgeted for the Korumburra Outdoor Pool in 2020/21.

The remaining capital funds for pools sits under 'consolidated future programs' and this money is yet to be allocated, but needs to cover all capital funding required at each of Council's six aquatic facilities for that year.

Capital projects that precede this master planning process have been identified at both pools for 2017/18 and are likely to expend the majority of Council's 'consolidated future programs' allocation for that year.

11.5 Community contribution

Council's Aquatic Strategy states that '*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.*' This means that it is important that

each community is able to contribute to minor infrastructure projects. Listed below are five different avenues of achieving funding at a community level.

11.5.1 Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (The Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation)

Investing in the communities that make up the dairy industry is critical to the sustainability of dairy farming in Victoria. The Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation is committed to strengthening dairy communities.

The Gardiner Foundation has made available \$100,000 to fund \$5,000 grants for innovative, community-driven projects. The aim of these grants is to strengthen small Victorian dairy communities, help build their capacity to deal with local issues, and enhance existing community infrastructure.

Applications from communities with a population of 5,000 or less will receive priority and must be in a recognised Victorian dairy area. Priority will be given to projects that assist in strengthening of small rural communities, building their capacity to deal with local issues, or enhancing of existing community infrastructure. Applicants should be not-for-profit community organisations, and must have an ABN or incorporation number.

11.5.2 Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (Small Grants for Rural Communities)

The Small Grants for Rural Communities is a collaborative program supported by various partners. It is the longest running and broadest program offered by FRRR. The program is open twice a year, and closes at the end of March and September.

The program offers at least \$400,000 per round in grants up to \$5,000 for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities, with populations of \$10,000 or less, living in small rural and remote locations in Australia, contributing to their development in social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas.

Applications are invited from not-for-profit, incorporated community organisations. Organisations should have an ABN or Incorporation Certificate and projects must be for a charitable purpose (benefit the whole community).

11.5.3 Community grants

Council has an annual Community Grant process which communities can apply for. The pool committees could apply for funding under the Major Projects category which ranges from \$5,000 to \$10,000. This program has a matching dollar requirement, so the community would need to contribute the amount of the grant that they are seeking from Council to the project.

11.5.4 Community fundraising

Community events or other targeted fundraising within each community is another means of raising funds for the community component of projects, although capacity to achieve significant funds through this means will be limited due to population size.

11.5.5 Operational cost savings at the Poowong Swimming Pool

Under the new contract arrangement that Council is considering, operational savings made by volunteers contributing to the operations of the centre to reduce staff or other costs (where

appropriate) e.g. kiosk and minor maintenance tasks would be retained by the facility and could be used to fund appropriate projects that have been identified as part of this Master Plan report.

This option only applies to Poowong.

SECTION 12: PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN

FINDINGS

Council has a significant portfolio of aquatic facilities with five outdoor pools and an indoor aquatic centre. The outdoor pools alone have cost Council more than \$3 million to maintain and operate for the eight years from 2005/06 to 2012/13.

Findings in this master planning document have considered the aquatic needs of the Toora and Poowong communities and how this fits in with Council's strategic priorities and financial capacity.

Both facilities are valued highly by their respective communities and have a broader catchment than the immediate towns they are located in. They both fulfil a broader role than just the provision of aquatics, with communities seeing these facilities as 'social hubs' during the pool season. This aligns with the strategy of social connection to '*support events that promote community participation/social inclusion*' in Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The ongoing operation of and future development of these pools fits in with a number of key Council priorities including the "*encouragement of sustainable development that promotes health, wellbeing and the unique character of the community*" and for Council to "*engage and work collaboratively with the community to minimise barriers and find ways to support volunteers, community groups and committees to provide services beyond those that Council, by itself, can provide*" from the Council Plan, and for Council to "*work with committees and communities to maximise attendance at use of the aquatic facilities through promotional initiatives and development of a range of programs and activities*" from the Aquatic Strategy.

Both facilities have ageing amenities that need to be refurbished and access issues which may currently inhibit some members of the community from using these facilities.

12.1 Basis for future development of the Toora Swimming Pool

The proposed redevelopment of the Toora Swimming Pool has strong support from the local community. The unique nature of this pool, being an outdoor pool that is heated and covered, provides opportunities which are usually only available at indoor pools, including toddler swim lessons, older adult aqua aerobic classes and rehabilitation and disability classes, with the pool open for more than six months of each year.

The Toora area has a higher than average percentage of people aged over 60 and the Toora Swimming Pool caters to the needs of this age group as well as catering for rehabilitation and disability groups from surrounding areas that would otherwise have to travel significant distances to access warm water.

In addition to the above Council priorities, this pool helps to meet the strategies of "*providing physical environments that support lifelong health and wellbeing and ageing in place*", "*increasing activities for older people conducted at Council owned facilities*" and "*promoting the benefits of healthy lifestyle for maintaining independence*" as outlined in Council's Active Ageing Plan.

12.2 Implications of future development of the Toora Swimming Pool

12.2.1 Capital costs

The proposed development of this facility has an estimated capital cost of \$787,265. Discussion with local funding partners has indicated that Council could look to submit a funding application under Better Pools funding for this facility, which if successful would provide dollar for dollar funding.

Some of the smaller projects identified within the development cost, such as the bbq and shade sail would fall to the local community and pool committee to raise funds for, which will reduce the overall capital cost to Council.

Based on Council's current long term financial plan and the allocation to swimming pools, it is unlikely that this entire development could be funded prior to 2021/22. Council may wish to look at staging some of the components within the proposed development but this would reduce the amount of grant funding that they could access for this development.

12.2.2 Community Impact

The Toora Swimming Pool has been identified as the 'strongest community space in Toora' by residents, and described as a facility that 'brings the community together'. The addition of interactive children's water play will help to attract more families to the pool (both locally and visitors to the region), with feedback indicating that the existing toddler's pool is underutilised.

The addition of a functional bbq with shaded area between the 25m and learners pools is expected to further enhance this family experience at the pool.

Upgrading the amenities will provide a more appropriate area for patrons to shower and change both before and after swimming, with strong feedback from aqua aerobic participants that current facilities are inadequate and that they do not currently use these facilities.

12.2.3 Access within the facility

Access to the pools from the change rooms has been identified as a barrier for some people with the gradient being outside of acceptable access standards. These issues have been addressed as part of the facility design and it is expected that changes to the footpath to reduce the gradient of this path will ensure that the pools are more accessible (and safe) for people in wheelchairs, with prams, for older adults and anyone with mobility issues.

12.3 Basis for future development of the Poowong Swimming Pool

The proposed redevelopment of the Poowong Swimming Pool also has strong support from the local community. Being a traditional outdoor pool, attendances at the Poowong Swimming Pool are subject to weather conditions with staff indicating that the pool is generally quiet on days of less than 27 degrees.

The attendances at this pool increased significantly in the 2011/12 and 2012/13 pool seasons (data was not available for the 2013/14 season at the time of writing). These increases are due to improved weather conditions, but also as a result of the pool committee and the community rallying to increase attendances and demonstrate the value of the facility to the local community.

Balancing the ongoing operational costs of this pool with facility usage and availability to the public will continue to be a challenge for Council. The increase to the cold weather policy will mean that this pool will be open for fewer days, which will have some impact on the community's ability to access the pool, but is expected to provide Council with significant cost savings in staff wages. Council could look to investigate the safe community use of this pool outside of normal operating hours (on a similar model to Buloke shire) to increase the ability for the community to access this pool without the associated staffing costs.

The Poowong Swimming Pool catchment has a higher percentage 5 to 9 year olds and 10 to 24 year olds, and a higher percentage of couples with children than the Shire. This is reflected in the usage of the facility.

12.4 Implications of future development of the Poowong Swimming Pool

12.4.1 Capital costs

The proposed development of this facility has an estimated capital cost of \$772,167. The most likely source of government funding for this facility would be through the State Governments 'Seasonal Pool Renewal Program'. If successful, Council could obtain \$200,000 from this program which still leaves a significant portion of the project to be funded locally.

As with Toora, some of the smaller projects identified within this cost, such as the bbq and permanent shade structure along the side of the 25m pool would fall to the local community and pool committee to raise funds for, which will reduce the overall capital cost to Council.

Based on Council's current long term financial plan and the allocation to swimming pools, it is unlikely that this entire development could be funded prior to 2021/22, although an upgrade to change rooms and toilet facilities at this pool has been identified as a capital works priority in 2017/18. As with Toora, Council may wish to look at staging some of the components within the proposed development.

12.4.2 Community Impact

The Poowong Swimming Pool has been identified as a key community asset and a 'social hub' during pool season, a place that 'brings the community together'. This can be seen by the large number of community events that are held at the pool during the pool season.

As previously identified this pool has a strong family and community focus with this being a key reason that people attend the pool. The addition of a functional bbq under existing shade and permanent shade along the side of the 25m pool is expected to further enhance this family and community experience at the pool.

Upgrading the amenities will provide a more appropriate area for patrons to shower and change, and the introduction of family/accessible change rooms will provide safer and private amenities.

12.4.3 Access to and within the facility

The current entrance to the facility has quite a steep slope which is well outside of access guidelines and would prove difficult for some people to use. The footpath between the kiosk and the pools also has a gradient which exceeds acceptable ratios to meet accessibility guidelines.

Three options have been identified within this report to address these access issues to make this pool more accessible to the community.