



Aquatic and Leisure Centres Strategy

2019



About this document

This document is the Liverpool Aquatic and Leisure Centres Strategy.

Acknowledgements

@leisure Planners acknowledge and appreciate the contributions made by the project team from Liverpool City Council, Councillors, centre managers, user groups and residents who were interviewed or filled in a survey.

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Rear 534 Mt Alexander Road Ascot Vale VIC 3032 Australia
+61 3 9326 1662 info@atleisure.com.au www.atleisure.com.au

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1. Summary

Council's role

Aquatic and leisure centres are a crucially important contributor to resident's wellbeing and the liveability of Liverpool. They provide people with an escape from the pressures and tensions of daily life, lead to improved levels of physical and mental health and build up strong social networks and relationships. Aquatic facilities also provide benefits for residents in Liverpool, as they are a long way from the coast and experience extreme heat.

"Community health, recreation, education and information services" are specified functions required of Council, as outlined in the Local Government Act 2003.

Council's role in swimming, gym, fitness, indoor sports and aquatic facilities, compared to other providers are to:

- Service the population not serviced by the market, where community benefits can be derived
- **Educate and promote**
Provide opportunities to learn a range of physical and social activities as well as water safety
- **Targeted specific populations** with a low propensity to participate, to increase their participation
- **Encourage greater and ongoing participation** in indoor sports and leisure activities for the personal and community benefits they deliver
- **Create a pathway to other services** such as allied health and benefits such as employment, higher levels of competition etc.

• Cross-subsidise

Generate income from services such as learn to swim, fitness or gymnastics that encourage participation and meet community needs and offset the costs of other swimming, gym, fitness, indoor sports and aquatic service delivery.

Under the Local Government Act 2003 Councils are required to "carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers". In terms of aquatic, fitness and sports, it can do this through economies of scale, through multiple centres under one management, including activities that meet community needs but also are more able to generate income to offset other costs and entering into partnerships with entities where there are mutual benefits.

Supply

Liverpool Council currently provides four aquatic and indoor leisure centres: Whitlam Leisure Centre (Whitlam), Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre (Wenden), Michael Clarke Recreation Centre (Clarke), and Holsworthy Aquatic Centre (Holsworthy). Each facility has a distinct market and catchment, (see Chapter 4, Table 5 below and Chapter 6 Maps 1, 2, 3 and 4) even though Whitlam and Wenden centres are close together. There is also a separate splash park at Bigge Park in Liverpool and smaller water play features in Macquarie Mall and Carnes Hill.

@leisure assessed the nature of facilities and services provided by private, adjacent LGAs, schools and other not for profit providers. In most instances, the private sector offers very little competition for Council centres, except for gym and fitness opportunities.

The lack of competition in aquatic services, especially in the learn to swim market was notable and in part driven by the lack of affordable properties available to small businesses and space for parking. The demographic profile of the Liverpool Council area, and low willingness to pay, is also a contributing factor to the lack of private competition.

School water safety programs, swimming lessons and swimming carnivals are not well serviced. Due to the demographic profile and the larger number of schools in the Liverpool LGA, Council should work with the state education department to provide better water safety programs, swimming lessons and carnivals.

Council's existing centres are generally at capacity and expanded facilities in each area, as well as one additional centre in the outer west will be required to meet the demands of an increasing population, for the next ten years.

Whitlam, Wenden and Holsworthy centres need redevelopment, as the facilities are approaching functional obsolescence. (Refer to Chapter 4) and are increasingly expensive to maintain. Desirably Whitlam should be relocated to a more suitable and prominent site within the same park. Locational options for Holsworthy need to be assessed.

A new centre could service the population growth in the outer west (Austral/Rossmore) where sufficient suitable land is available, or as a joint venture with a school or shopping centre is possible.

Redevelopment of existing facilities will enable a more contemporary service focus and code compliant facilities, additional facilities to meet significant gaps in the market including aquatic facilities for people with a disability, leisure water and water play opportunities as well as indoor sports club competition.

Demand

More capacity for a greater diversity of aquatic activities, educational, social, inclusive and physical activities as well activities such as learn to swim, warm water programs, indoor competition sports and gymnastics are needed now.

Some of these activities are highly relevant to local demographic profile and may cross subsidise other less profitable ones.

The supply of competition indoor sports is limited in Liverpool and the region and existing courts are not an acceptable quality or available for the required fixture time slots. Additional compliant courts for club use are required at most centres as well as pathways to regional competitions.

Additional opportunities for social table tennis, futsal, basketball, badminton, volleyball and dance are likely to be in demand.

There are also opportunities to integrate allied health services with aquatic and leisure centres. However more commercially focused wellness options are not likely to be feasible or part of the Council's role.

The strategy promotes more physically accessible and programmable water space, the importance of water safety education to the community and gender-specific and culturally relevant opportunities, including non-immersion and free options, for cooling off (splash parks).

Splash parks will provide additional capacity at aquatic centres that are at capacity on hot days (lockouts) and address the need for cooling off in Liverpool's extreme heat.

Outdoor leisure water, water slide, aquatic play or splash parks should not replicate facilities provided in adjacent municipalities.

These could include custom designed water features, fountains, beaches and natural cooling environments.

Management

Belgravia Leisure operates the Whitlam, Wenden and Clarke centres under a management contract. A private swim school operator leases Holsworthy.

Considering social and financial benefits, skills and resourcing, there are benefits of continuing to manage a suite of facilities together under one management contract. The one management entity should manage the centres with a regional or district catchment (Whitlam, Wenden, Clarke and the proposed Austral /Rossmore centre).

There may be an opportunity to partner with the PCYC in the redevelopment of Wenden, under a joint-use arrangement or other negotiated management arrangement. Similarly, the renewal of Holsworthy could be in partnership with another entity, to enable a more extensive service offer for the local catchment.

There will be service and financial benefits if Whitlam, Wenden, Clarke and the proposed outer west, Austral / Rossmore centre are managed under the one contract. An extended contract term of 10 years or more may encourage a capital contribution from the management entity.

Management contracts should include requirements about pricing, services and programs for specific populations.

The Michael Wenden Aquatics Centre Community Needs Study (2017) suggests joint management and a capital contribution from a sports club. Alternatively, it would be preferable for a volunteer sports club to become an anchor tenant of competition compliant sports courts for fixtured competition and training times.

Such an arrangement will allow basketball and other popular sports to expand and provide a pathways for Liverpool children to other levels of competition.

The diagram in Chapter 11 illustrates the key requirements for aquatic and leisure centres in Liverpool to address the issues associated with policy, planning, facility and demand issues and the directions related to the development of the centres in the next decade.

Key actions

The key actions arising from this plan are:

- Undertake an assessment of landownership and acquisition options to secure a site for a new centre in the outer west.
- Redevelop the existing aquatic and indoor sports and leisure centres to provide a suite of contemporary centres serving the east, central CBD, inner west and west, and address the unmet demand for aquatic, gym, fitness and indoor sports.
- Design future centres in response to the key market requirements: Social Relevance, Accessible and Inclusive, Responsive to Climate, Responsive to Safety, Design Response and Catchment Hierarchy and Management Models recommended.
- Provide a greater depth of social and club competition sports across the centres (for example basketball, gymnastics, table tennis, badminton, futsal, volleyball, as well as dance).
- Work with the state education department to provide better water safety programs, swimming lessons and carnivals.
- Provide a range of free and affordable outdoor leisure water options including water play and splash parks across Liverpool to increase capacity during hot weather.

- Differentiate those from available areas and offer a range of settings and may include custom designed features and more natural settings.
- Seek capital and recurrent funding opportunities through federal and state government funding sources, philanthropic organisations and partnerships with schools and not for profit organisations where there is an alignment of objectives. Consider the potential for a management entity to contribute capital funding in return for a longer tenure arrangements.
- Set out management requirements for the centres to include operating hours, pricing, community access, and intervention programs for specific populations, service levels and building maintenance.
- Offer contract management of Whitlam, Wenden, Clarke centres and any future centre in the outer west, as a package to a single management entity, to maximise economies of scale and program differentiation and increase effectiveness of communication and information provision. Investigate the options for partners in the redevelopment and management of the Holsworthy centre.

2. Introduction

2.1 The project

Liverpool City Council has a range of aquatic, leisure and sporting facilities. They include the E.G. Whitlam Leisure Centre (Whitlam), Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre (Wenden), Michael Clarke Recreation Centre (Clarke) and Holsworthy Aquatic Centre (Holsworthy). There are also splash parks at Bigge Park and Macquarie Mall, Liverpool and in Carnes Hill.

Belgravia Leisure has operated Whitlam, Wenden and Clarke centres under a management contract since 2016. Holsworthy is leased to a private swim school operator under a 20-year lease due to end in December 2024.

The project was required to deliver an Aquatic and Leisure Centres Strategy that identifies and directs the provision of aquatic and leisure services within the Liverpool Local Government Area (LGA).

The Aquatic and Leisure Centres Strategy is based on detailed research, consultation and supporting processes to provide direction to Council for the planning and provision of aquatic and leisure centres within the Liverpool LGA over the next 10 years.

The project objectives are to:

- To provide direction to Council for the planning and provision of aquatic and leisure centres over the next 10 years
- Provide a strategic basis for collaborative planning, partnership and investment in aquatic and leisure facilities
- Provide recommendations on the provision and management of future aquatic and leisure opportunities across the LGA particularly within new growth areas.

2.2 Council's role in aquatic and indoor leisure centre provision

Council's primary mandate for providing aquatic and indoor leisure centres is underpinned by Council's legislated responsibilities under the Local Government Act (1993).

Its role and responsibilities are underpinned by National, State policies, codes and plans, as well as its own strategic directions set by Council and the role of others.

Local Government Act 1993

"Community health, recreation, education and information services" are specified functions required of Council outlined in the Local Government Act 1993.

The principles under the Act indicate Councils "should manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way; work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs; and act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community".

Under the Local Government Act 1993 Councils are required to "carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers". In terms of aquatic, fitness and sports, it can do this through economies of scale, through multiple centres under one management, including activities that meet community needs but also are more able to generate income to offset other costs and entering into partnerships with entities where there are mutual benefits.

Council has a role because of the benefits to the community

Council has an important role to play in providing swimming, gym, fitness and indoor sports and leisure opportunities because:

- Compared to other activities, these have high participation rates in the population and suit people of all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds
- Swimming, gym, fitness and indoor sports provide life skills and influence human development potential in a population with relatively high social disadvantage, limited water safety education, housing stress and subject to extreme heat
- Sports, aquatic and fitness activities also provide potential pathways to careers and social and higher level competition opportunities
- The market on its own cannot provide many of these activities at the same scale and for some specific population due to cost.

Aquatic and leisure centres are a crucially important contributor to the wellbeing of Australians. They provide people with an escape from the pressures and tensions of daily life, lead to improved levels of physical and mental health and build up strong social networks and relationships.¹

Aquatic facilities also provide benefit residents in Liverpool seeking to cool off, as they are a long way from the coast and Liverpool experiences extreme heat in summer.

Swimming is comparatively a very inexpensive form of exercise. It is arguable the highest participation activity of Australian children and in the top ten sports.

Swimming can be enjoyed by a wider range of people of all ages and abilities than most physical activities. In fact, it is the sport participated in by more people with disability than any other. For very young people, older people and people with a disability, swimming or water exercise is a major and sometimes the only form of exercise possible.

Swimming pools are also important educational facilities. They provide an important venue for physical education, school sports, water safety instruction and lifesaving skill development and training. Pools can also be important to sports clubs for training and rehabilitation.

Aquatic and leisure centres activities are important contributors to the local community. Users value their visit to the centre at almost \$48 per visit; the centres provide an average \$38 million of benefits, and \$7.60 of value for every dollar of expenditure.²

Leisure centres also provide a very important point of social outlet and connection for like-minded individuals, through programs and social interaction with staff and other users.

For the Liverpool population, which has relatively low health status, a relatively high level of disenfranchised young people and high risks of drowning, the cost of not having aquatic and leisure centres is very high.

¹ Howat, Alikaris, March, & Howat, 2012; SGS Economics and Planning, 2010.

² Community Benefits of Victorian Aquatic and Recreation Centres. 2014

What distinguishes Council's role from others?

Council's role in swimming, gym, fitness, indoor sports and aquatic facilities, compared to other providers is to:

- Service the population not serviced by the market, where community benefits can be derived
- Educate and promote the benefits of participation. Provide opportunities to learn a range of physical and social activities, as well as water safety skills.
- Encourage higher and ongoing participation in physical and social activities for the personal and community benefits they deliver
- Target specific populations with a low propensity to participate, to increase their engagement
- Create pathways to other services (such as allied health) participation, and benefits such as employment and higher levels of sports competition etc.
- Cross subsidise some swimming, gym, fitness, indoor sports and aquatic service delivery that cannot generate a surplus, with activities that meet a community need and be delivered cost-effectively.

- These programs will need to evolve over time and with demographic change and therefore a staff person dedicated to engaging within and initiate new activities likely to attract different cultural groups, people with a disability and other groups with low participation rates
- Future management contracts should formalise the reporting on programs that provide social benefits with the measurable program and attendance targets, along with a minimum number of staff hours set to support the programs.

Belgravia Leisure has recently commenced a partnership with ActiveXchange to measure community value that will include a social inclusion measure.

In future they will be able to measure the social value of being a centre member, in dollar terms. This data may provide the form of measurement that is required by Councils.

Future roles

- Future provision and management of aquatic and leisure centres can ensure these benefits are realised by:
- Including specific actions related to the identified benefits, in future facility management specification
- Maintaining or introducing particular programs and sports targeting distinct cultural and target groups who are least likely to participate.

2.3 Policy and planning context

Alignment with National and State Policies and Plans

A number of national, state and local policies and plans guide Council's role and directions in Leisure and Aquatic Centre provision, and this strategy.

At the national level, Sport 2030 provides a vision and the plan for sport and physical activity in Australia over the next 12 years to be delivered in partnership with Australia's sporting, physical activity, technology, education and corporate community.

At the State level, The Premiers Priorities include 'protecting our kids', improving education results, creating jobs and tackling childhood obesity. All can be achieved through leisure and aquatic services.

The NSW State Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2038 supports infrastructure investment in sports and cultural activities as the state keeps pace with a growing population.

The Australian Water Safety Strategy 2016-2020 and competency framework that provides a target age group approach to addressing the high number of drowning's in Australia, especially through an education setting.

Active Living is a partnership between the National Heart Foundation - NSW Division and the NSW Ministry of Health to support active living and healthy built environments across NSW.

Regional and Council Plans

- Western City Plan
- Western City District Sport Facility Plan

Key Council plans

Our Home, Liverpool 2027

- Community Facilities Strategy 2017
- Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy 2018
- Liverpool City Activation Strategy 2018

The Community Facilities Strategy 2017

The Community Facilities Strategy 2017 recommends consolidating ageing assets to provide new, modern facilities that benefit the broader community and improving facility planning for new release areas and explores opportunities for income generating activities.

Liverpool City Council Delivery Program 2017-21

The Delivery Program describes actions for leisure centre renewal projects and encouraging visitors to the four centres.

The Recreation Open Space and Sports Strategy 2018

The Recreation Open Space and Sports Strategy 2018 assesses the shortfall of aquatic facilities in 2015 as 2 aquatic centres, and the shortfall of 4 aquatic centres by 2031. The plan recommends four centres:

- Relocate Holsworthy Pool to Hammondville Sporting Reserve
- Upgrade Whitlam Centre or investigate relocation of centre in Woodward Park
- Provide a centre in Miller
- Explore options to provide a new facility within McGirr Park ensuring the centre differentiates activities from Whitlam
- Provide one centre in a new release area, in Austral.

The Miller Town Centre Master Plan suggested creating a new community and youth precinct encompassing the Wenden Centre, St Therese Primary School and the PCYC.

The table below summarises the documents that influence the provision of aquatic and leisure facilities in Liverpool.

Table 1. Key plans that influence the provision of aquatics and leisure facilities in Liverpool

National	Sport 2030 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Play Sport Australia - The Future of Australian Sports - Australian Sports – the pathway to success 		Active Living National Water Safety Plan 2016-2020	State of Australian Cities Report
State	NSW Government Architect's Office Greener Places Policy 2018 NSW Government Architect's Office Sydney Green Grid 3 South West District 2017	Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2018 Western City District Sport Facility Plan 2018	NSW Disability Inclusion Plan 2017 State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) NSW State Infrastructure Plan 2018	NSW Ageing Strategy 2016-2020
Metro	A Metropolis of Three Cities – The Greater Sydney Region Plan Towards Our Greater Sydney 2056			
Regional	A Plan for Growing Sydney – Western City District Plan 2018 Western Sydney Parklands' Southern Parklands Vision 2036 South West Growth Area Plans 2018			
Liverpool City Corporate, Strategies and Planning Controls	Community Strategic Plan, Our Home, Liverpool 2027 Delivery Program 2017 – 2021 Operational Plan 2018 - 2019 Resourcing Strategy 2017-2027			
	Aboriginal Reconciliation Action Plan 2016-2020 Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2017 Community Facilities Strategy 2017	Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2018 Cultural Strategy 2017 Draft Social Justice Policy 2018	Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2008 Development Control Plans 2008 Section 94 Contributions Plan 2018	Property Acquisition Strategy 2018 Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy 2018 Liverpool Activation Strategy 2018
Liverpool City Implementation Plans	Plans of Management for Community and Crown Lands	Capital Works Programs Asset Renewal Plans	10-year Asset Management Plans	Voluntary Planning Agreements Precinct Master Plans

A summary of key documents related to this Strategy can be found in Appendix 1.

3. Demand for Aquatic and Leisure Centres in Liverpool

There are multiple factors that are likely to influence the demand for particular aquatic and leisure facilities in the Liverpool LGA and their use including:

- Population growth and housing profile – this affects capacity, available services and the ability to conduct outdoor leisure activities at home
- Demographic profile – this affects ability to pay, ability to access facilities and travel, the likelihood of participation in sport and physical activity generally, demand for specific activities and likely cultural affinity, constraints and experience associated with swimming and specific indoor sports
- Health, education status and vulnerability to personal safety issues and social determinants of health
- Geographic location in western Sydney – a long way from the beach and very high summer temperatures³ that suggest the need for outdoor leisure water, beach like facilities and water where immersion is not required to cool off.
- Other potential competitors in the market, private operators and proximity to other similar council facilities.

These factors are discussed in the following pages.

³ According to the HeatWatch – Western Sydney report from The Australia Institute, which uses CSIRO-BoM modelling, by the turn of the century this situation will look drastically worse – there could be 52 days over 35 degrees by 2090.

3.1 Population and market size

The 2016 Census revealed that there were 204,333 people living in Liverpool City Council. By 2026 it is estimated this will grow to 241,900. Growth is expected to the west in the Liverpool LGA (with land to be released for development) and in the city centre and surrounds (with an increase in apartment living).

The age profile of the population is much younger than the rest of New South Wales, with 29.9% of the population aged 19 or younger, compared to 24.5% for New South Wales. In particular Liverpool has a high proportion of children younger than 5 years of age compared to the NSW population.

An overview of each suburb is provided in Appendix 2.

Residents in Liverpool are likely to have lower propensity to swim and participate in sport and fitness based on a number of demographic indicators (except age) such as income, employment, education, place of birth and religious affiliation.

Given the main cultural backgrounds of residents there may be low levels of competency in aquatic sports and interest in sports such as futsal, wrestling, indoor cricket, dancing and indoor hockey for example, which may not be offered.

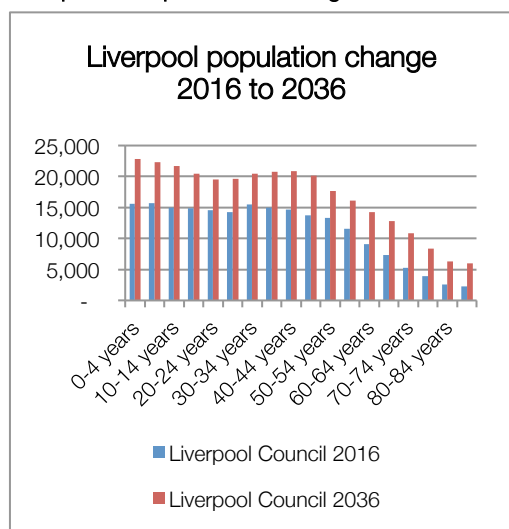
Projected population growth

Overall an increase of 47.4% in the population from 2016 to 2036 is forecast and 18% growth over the next ten years. This has significant implications for the capacity of the current aquatic and leisure centres, as well as the need to provide additional facilities in areas yet to be redeveloped for medium or higher density residential land use.

Table 2. Population forecast by age group, for Liverpool City Council 2016 to 2036

Age	Liverpool 2016	Liverpool 2026	Liverpool 2036
0-4 years	15,611	19,350	22,850
5-9 years	15,658	18,400	22,350
10-14 years	15,028	16,600	21,650
15-19 years	14,886	16,200	20,500
20-24 years	14,554	16,550	19,500
25-29 years	14,241	17,400	19,600
30-34 years	15,519	18,300	20,450
35-39 years	14,980	18,150	20,800
40-44 years	14,712	16,350	20,900
45-49 years	13,783	15,800	20,100
50-54 years	13,352	14,700	17,650
55-59 years	11,584	13,600	16,150
60-64 years	9,099	11,650	14,300
65-69 years	7,361	9,200	12,850
70-74 years	5,251	7,450	10,850
75-79 years	3,881	5,250	8,400
80-84 years	2,550	3,550	6,250
85+ years	2,283	3,400	5,950
Total	204,333	241,900	301,100

Graph 1. Population change 2016 to 2026



3.2 Demographic influences

The key demographic influences on demand for swimming, leisure and participation in sport and physical fitness are age, gender, income, education, and cultural background.

Generally speaking, people that are least likely to participate in swimming and sport or physical activity generally are those:

- Over 65 years of age
- Born overseas in non-English speaking countries
- Living remotely
- Having low incomes and levels of education and who are unemployed or have a disability.

Age

Western Sydney as a region has the youngest age structure in Australia and it is one of the most diverse places. The complexities associated with fast growth, lots of young people without established local support networks, has led to what demographers such as Id describe as “Concentrations of disengaged youth (not in labour force and not studying).”⁴

In NSW, the highest participation rate in swimming is for 5-8 year olds (39%), after which it declines to approximately 30% by 11 years of age, 14% by age 11 years.

Participation then peaks at 18% for 34-40 years olds, before it declines with age.

In different age categories swimming may be important for different reasons. In the younger age groups play and water safety education are key priorities, for teenagers, swimming may be more important as an affordable social opportunity and for competition. For older age groups swimming becomes more important for fitness.

⁴ Profile.id.com.au

Liverpool City Council has a higher proportion of people under 15 years of age (22.7%) than for New South Wales (18.5%) and a smaller percentage of people over 65 years (10.4% compared to NSW's 16.3%).

Liverpool has a higher proportion of young children (under 9 years) that NSW, for whom there will be high demand for water familiarisation, safety programs, lessons and water play. There will also be high demand for childcare, before and after school care and vacation care.

Based on Council centre attendance figures approximately 7% of children under 14 years attend lessons in Council centres. This appears to be considerably lower than average, even considering that there are two private swim centres also offering lessons.

Liverpool has a higher percentage of residents in the most active categories of young adults aged 15 to 24 years (14.4% compared to NSW's 12.5%) and a similar proportion of 25 to 60 year olds (48.0% to NSW's 47.0%). Liverpool has a similar proportion of middle-aged adults when compared to New South Wales as shown in the following Table.

Overall young people between the ages of 10 and 24 represent a higher proportion of the population compared to NSW. This is a core market for indoor sports and recreation and swimming.

Table 3. Liverpool age structure; comparison with New South Wales

Age (years)	NSW 2016	Liverpool 2016
0-4 years	6.2%	7.6%
5-9 years	6.4%	7.7%
10-14 years	5.9%	7.4%
15-19 years	6.0%	7.3%
20-24 years	6.5%	7.1%
25-29 years	7.0%	7.0%
30-34 years	7.2%	7.6%
35-39 years	6.7%	7.3%
40-44 years	6.7%	7.2%
45-49 years	6.6%	6.7%
50-54 years	6.5%	6.5%
55-59 years	6.3%	5.7%
60-64 years	5.6%	4.5%
65-69 years	5.1%	3.6%
70-74 years	3.9%	2.6%
75-79 years	2.9%	1.9%
80-84 years	2.1%	1.2%
Over 85 years	2.2%	1.1%

Gender

Gender has a strong bearing on participation in sport and physical activity, the demand for specific activities and participation patterns.

Liverpool City Council has a slightly higher proportion of females (50.4%) than males (49.6%).

Australian men are more likely to exercise daily (40%) compared to women (34%).

Among males, fitness/gym has the highest participation rate of all sports and physical activities (15.9%).

Users of fitness facilities are typically younger and female.

More females participate in fitness /gym (18.9%), swimming (7.6%) and running (6.7%)⁵ than all other activities, except walking. These participation rates of females are higher than for males.

Over 1 in 5 men and nearly 1 in 3 women aged between the ages 18 and 34 years make use of fitness industry services.⁶ However, more women than men have low exercise levels (35% and 28% respectively).

The time for women to participate in sport and physical activity is typically fragmented, so scheduling opportunities and facility opening times can unreasonably impact on women. Lack of crèche facilities also impacts on whether women can use a community swimming and leisure facility.

As typically swimming and fitness activities can be undertaken in short duration episodes with flexible time slots, participation in physical activity by females has increased significantly in the last 10 years.

Cultural background and religious affiliation

The participation rate in sport and physical activity of people born overseas in a non-English speaking country (52%)⁷ is considerably less than those born in an English speaking country or in Australia (67%). In Australia, participation in swimming is higher for people born in English-speaking countries (12%), compared to participants born in non-English speaking countries (8%).

⁵ Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation 2013-14 (4177.0)', Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2015

⁶ Australian Fitness Industry Report 2012

⁷ Year Book Australia 2009-10 (1301.0), Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2010

For residents born in cultures not centred around water, safety and water familiarisation programs are extremely important.

The makeup of the local community would suggest a lower acceptance and participation in swimming and other sport and leisure activities. In particular:

- Liverpool has a lower percentage of residents born in Australia (51.7%) compared to the NSW state average (65.5%)
- English as the only language spoken at home for 41.4% of households compared to a state average of 68.5%
- The majority of residents born overseas come from Iraq (4.8%), Vietnam (3.3%), Fiji (3.2%), India (2.6%) and Lebanon (2.0%).

Some 14% of Liverpool residents have a religious affiliation with Islam, compared to 3.6% for NSW. This has important implications for swimming, given the demand for segregated swimming by Moslem women as well as clothing and supervision considerations.

The 2016 census also identifies that involvement as a volunteer is very low in Liverpool (11% compared to 18% for NSW as whole). This will affect the propensity of children to play and stay involved in sport.

Education, employment and income

Statistics show that access to financial resources increases a person's ability to participate in sport or physical recreation.

Individuals whose weekly household income was in the highest quintile reported a participation rate of 80% in sport and physical activity, whereas the participation

rates for persons in the lowest quintile was 45%.⁸

Families with lower disposable incomes are less likely to spend money on travel, pay for sporting and recreation services and have the means to pay for sporting subscriptions and equipment.

As a high proportion of people in the lowest income percentile are likely to be public housing residents and from non-English speaking countries, participation rates in swimming and fitness are likely to be low in these areas. These are important target groups and considerable interventions are likely to be required to increase participation from this diverse demographic.

In Liverpool, the lower median income per person is more than \$200 less per week than for NSW as a whole.

Education is an important influence on participation. Typically, people who have attained a bachelor's degree or above are much more likely to participate in sport or physical recreation (77%) than those whose highest education attained was Year 10 or below (49%).⁹

In Liverpool City Council, only 15.7% of the population have attained a bachelor's degree or above. This is significantly lower than the New South Wales average of 21.8%.

Higher education can also lead to higher income and thereby indirectly increase a person's ability to meet the financial costs involved in participating in some sport or physical recreation. It may also provide people with a better understanding of the many benefits that such activities may offer,

thereby increasing their willingness to participate.

ABS indicates that participation rates for full-time and part-time employed people are 70% and 71% respectively, while the sports participation rate for unemployed people sits at 64%.

Liverpool City Council has a slightly higher unemployment rate (5.05%) than the rest of New South Wales (4.29%).¹⁰ This suggests that residents of Liverpool City Council are less likely to participate in sport and physical activity than the rest of New South Wales.

In Liverpool City Council the level of disadvantage is higher than New South Wales as a whole. There is a significantly higher percentage of households in Liverpool earning income of \$800 per week or less (31.4%) than NSW (17.8%). Consistent with this, the percentage of households in Liverpool earning \$2,500 per week or more is less than the rest of NSW (24.0% versus 29.2%).

SEIFA index

The SEIFA index, which measures the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage shows that the level of disadvantage in Liverpool City Council (952) is greater than the New South Wales average (1001.0).

The following table shows the level of disadvantage for each suburb in Liverpool. Percentile shows where the suburb sits within Australia. A higher percentile indicates a higher socio-economic status.

Liverpool City Council has a significant number of suburbs with a high level of disadvantage.

⁸ 'Sports and Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview 2011-2012 (4156.0)', Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2012

⁹ ABS statistical overview

¹⁰ economy.id.com.au/Liverpool/unemployment – December quarter 2018

Nine suburbs in Liverpool City Council are in the 5th percentile of lowest disadvantage in Australia, whilst over half of all suburbs are in the 50th percentile of lowest disadvantage.

Health status

Australia's Health Trackers Atlas (Nov 2017) provides data on chronic diseases, conditions and their risk factors by each LGA in Australia.

Indicators in Health Trackers Atlas (Nov 2017) show Liverpool residents, compared to the NSW average, are more likely to be overweight (Liverpool 27/100 persons) (NSW 24/100 persons), and undertake no or low exercise on a weekly basis (Liverpool 72/100 persons) (NSW 67/100 persons).

Smoking levels and high cholesterol for those 18 and over are at similar levels to the state average.

Access to free and low cost activities/facilities are particularly important in low-income and disadvantaged areas, for social reasons. The findings suggest that there will be some groups in Liverpool Council area who will have a lower propensity to use leisure centres than others and this deserves some consideration in pricing and suitable facilities for programming.

Additional strategies and interventions may be required to increase the awareness of the benefits of health and fitness and to encourage use.

Table 4. SEIFA Index by suburb

Suburb	SEIFA Index 2016	Percentile
Miller	699.3	2
Cartwright	731.2	2
Sadleir	732.2	2
Heckenberg	767.7	2
Ashcroft -Mount Pritchard	777.3	3
Busby	779.3	3
Warwick Farm	818.5	3
Lumea	838.6	4
Liverpool	844.7	5
Green Valley	930.6	16
Austral	960.2	25
Hinchinbrook	967.1	28
Casula	976.6	32
Bringelly	986.0	37
Hammondville	999.5	45
Hoxton Park-Carnes Hill	1,005.8	49
Prestons	1,029.0	63
Elizabeth Hills	1,029.0	63
West Hoxton	1,032.3	66
Cecil Hills	1,036.0	67
Chipping Norton	1,036.4	68
Moorebank	1,039.8	70
Middleton Grange	1,042.5	72
Horningsea Park	1,043.0	73
Leppington-Denham Court	1,053.4	78
Edmondson Park	1,069.9	87
Holsworthy	1,077.1	90
Wattle Grove	1,088.4	94
Voyager Point-Pleasure Point	1,125.5	100

4. Existing facilities and services

Liverpool Council currently provides four aquatic and indoor leisure centres: Whitlam Leisure Centre (Whitlam), Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre (Wenden), Michael Clarke Recreation Centre (Clarke), and Holsworthy Aquatic Centre (Holsworthy).

Each facility has a distinct market and catchment, even though Whitlam and Wenden are close together. There is also a separate splash park at Bigge Park in Liverpool and smaller water play features in Macquarie Mall and at Carnes Hill.

E. G. Whitlam Leisure Centre

The E.G. Whitlam Centre is located in 90 Memorial Avenue, Liverpool.

The centre features include:

- A 10-lane, 50 metre outdoor heated seasonal swimming pool
- An 8-lane, 25 metre indoor heated swimming pool
- Leisure pool with whirlpool, water jets, water features and a slide
- A toddlers pool
- Spa and sauna
- Health club with cardiovascular room, weights room and fitness room
- Indoor sports centre, capable of hosting a range of sporting and community events supported by audio visual equipment, kiosk and kitchen facilities and spectator seating
- Gymnastics centre
- Café
- Crèche.

The Centre is thirty years old and has an annual turnover of more than \$3.5 million.

The centre services the surrounding suburbs of Moorebank, Chipping Norton, Warwick Farm, Casula, Ashcroft and Cartwright.

The Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre

The Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre is located at 62 Cabramatta Avenue, Miller.

The centre features include:

- A seasonal heated 6-lane 50 metre outdoor swimming
- A newly refurbished gym
- Grassed shaded picnic areas
- A toddlers' splash park (installed in place of toddler pool in 2018)
- 12 metre indoor heated program/hydrotherapy pool
- Multipurpose rooms suitable for small events/parties
- Two court multi-purpose sports stadium with grandstand spectator seating for 1000 people
- Crèche
- Café.

The Centre is over 30 years old and has an annual turnover exceeding \$1.25 million.

The centres hosts access and inclusion programs, competitive squad programs, local swim clubs and school swimming carnivals.

Michael Clarke Recreation Centre

The Michael Clarke Recreation Centre (also known as Carnes Hill Recreation Centre) is located at 2 Margaret Dawson Drive, Carnes Hill.

The centre features include:

- Multi-purpose indoor courts
- Tennis courts
- Kiosk
- Creche
- Health club with weights and cardio areas
- Group fitness rooms.

The Centre is Liverpool City's newest sports and leisure centre, which opened in July 2016.

The centre has an annual turnover greater than \$1 million. The Centre is co-located with a library, community centre, outdoor skate park, trails and play space.

Holsworthy Aquatic Centre

Holsworthy - Wattle Grove Aquatic Education Centre is located at 26 Huon Crescent, Holsworthy. The centre is leased to a private learn to swim operator.

The facility includes a 25 metre indoor pool and a program pool.

Bigge Park – Splash Park

Bigge Park in Liverpool has a splash park, which opened in 2016.

The facility is free to use and features a tipping bucket, overhead showers, water guns and ground jets.

Macquarie Mall – Water Play

The water play is part of the upgraded mall that opened in 2016. Other activities include children's playground, outdoor seating, table tennis tables and chess tables. The activities are free.

Carnes Hill – Splash Park

A small splash park is located in the recreation precinct near the Michael Clarke Recreation Centre.

Current management

Belgravia Leisure has operated Whitlam, Wenden and Clarke centres under a management contract with Council since 2016. Wenden and Whitlam were previously managed by the YMCA, who had taken over from Belgravia Leisure under a previous contract. Liverpool Council have not had direct management of their centres in recent history.

Holsworthy is leased to a private swim school operator under a 20-year lease due to end in December 2024.

Liverpool Council manages Bigge Park splash park, the Macquarie Mall water play and Carnes Hill splash park.

4.1 Who each centre serves

The total population of the immediate catchment around a centre, projected growth and likely density of the surrounding area have a considerable bearing on the use of aquatic facilities. These factors will also affect the viability of certain types of additional services and offerings.

- Whitlam draws 41% of members from within 3km and just over 70% with 6km. The current 3km catchment has 72,308 people and is estimated to grow to 80,024 by 2026
- Clarke draws 71% of members from within 3km and 94% within 6km. The current 3k catchment has 32,982 people and is estimated to grow to 34,433 by 2026
- Wenden draws at least 58% of members from within 3km and at least 77% from within 6km. The current 3km catchment has 69,279 people and will grow to 72,087 by 2026
- Holsworthy has a 3km catchment of 24,627 people and catchment will grow to 25,097 by 2026.

The following table shows the suburbs surrounding each leisure centre and where the main users of Council centres in Liverpool live.

Appendix 3 provides member profiles by age and suburb for Whitlam, Clarke and Wenden.

Projections for potential participation have been based on the population profiles of these suburbs.

Table 5. Catchment suburbs surrounding each leisure centre

Whitlam	Clarke	Holsworthy	Wenden	Austral
Liverpool	Hoxton Park –	Holsworthy	Miller	Austral
Lurnea	Carnes Hill	Wattle Grove	Prestons	West Hoxton
Casula	West Hoxton	Voyager Point –	Hinchinbrook	Leppington -
Prestons	Horningsea Park	Pleasure Point	Cartwright	Denham Court
Moorebank	Hinchinbrook	Moorebank	Lurnea	Horningsea Park
Chipping Norton	Leppington –	Hammondville	Sadlier	Leppington North
Warwick Farm	Denham Court	Milperra	Ashcroft - Mount	Catherine Field
Cartwright	Edmondson Park		Pritchard	Catherine Field
Ashcroft - Mount	Prestons		Heckenberg	North
Pritchard	Middleton Grange		Busby	Rossmore
Sadlier	Elizabeth Hills		Green Valley	
Heckenberg			Liverpool	
Cabramatta			Bonnyrig	

Projections assume 15% of potential visitors to each centre are from outside the immediate 3km catchment.

The centres should primarily serve the immediate catchment – as convenience is the major driver of participation. For some activities such as gym and fitness, most gyms only draw from 2km.

The offering of each centre may be slightly different to respond to the immediate demographics and some features such as a major water slide for example will only be provided in one centre to draw from a larger area. Some indoor sports such as handball or volleyball because of their small size may also draw people from the whole city.

The scale of the centre, quality and use by visitors as well as the degree of accessibility to specific populations should reflect the social and physical nature of the catchment and the hierarchy of a centre.

The catchment hierarchy of each centre as proposed as follows:

- Whitlam: Regional
- Wenden and Clarke: District
- Holsworthy: Local
- Proposed Austral /Rossmore centre: Regional

Chapter 6 includes Maps showing the distribution of current centres, catchments and competitors.

4.2 Program and attendance data

The table below shows the annual attendance of the four existing centres in key program areas for 2018.

Table 6. Annual attendances 2018 – key facilities

	Whitlam	Wenden	Clarke	Holsworthy
Lap swimming	124,885	14,970	Not applicable	Not available
Learn to swim attendance	112,344	0	Not applicable	Not available
School learn to swim attendance	22,525	6,577	Not applicable	120
Squad	13,547	0	Not applicable	Not available
Aqua aerobics	0	4,061	Not applicable	Not available
Gym visits	84,538	1,656	51,959	Not applicable
Group fitness visits	29,600	1,418	20,910	Not applicable
Gymnastics attendance	23,484	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Creche/childcare	2,145	5,460	1,707	Not applicable
Stadium sports attendance	15,436	9,423	31,589	Not applicable
Stadium event attendance	68,953	650	3,860	Not applicable
Other	0	0	7,855	0
Total Attendances 2018	497,457	44,215	117,880	47,849
CERM Benchmark¹¹	338,230	41,370	249,645	90,462

¹¹ CERM performance indicators are based on an annual operational management survey for Australian aquatic and leisure centres, with over 150 aquatic and leisure centres providing data each year.

CERM Benchmark. Whitlam Group 6 – Indoor/Outdoor Pools, Wenden Group 5 – Outdoor Pools. Clarke Recreation Centres > 3,000m², Holsworthy Group 6 – Indoor Pools > 3,000m².

4.3 Socially responsive programs

The following table outlines the current socially responsive programs and staff support provided by Belgravia Leisure the management of the Whitlam, Wenden and Clarke centres.

Holsworthy, as a leased facility, does not offer specific programs or services that are aimed at returning social or similar community benefits.

Management support for socially responsive programs

- Belgravia Leisure National Disability and Diversity Manager. Full time. Supports centre staff, initiates programs
- Belgravia Leisure Community Development Coordinator. Full time, across the three Liverpool centres
- Belgravia Foundation. Registered charity that fundraises to support local initiatives providing access to swimming lessons and fitness programs for those who typically participate less
- Belgravia Leisure is a Registered NDIS provider at three centres.

The following table outlines the nature of socially responsive programs and attendance at each where available.

Table 7. Liverpool social responsive programs and attendance

Socially responsive program	Attendance
Swimming lessons for new arrivals referred by Western Sydney Migrant Resources Centre funded by Liverpool Council	Not noted
Young women's group aqua class also educates them about centre use	Not noted
Mental health program. 60 day free centre access for those referred by doctors and agencies. Includes access to Personal Training 2 days per week. Free centre use	160 referrals in 12 months
National Disability Insurance Program (NDIS) programs	157 swim lessons and personal training
Swim Champ – targets people with special needs with a lower entry cost	30 participants
Teen Active allows 11 -16 year olds access 3 days a week with personal training (Whitlam and Clarke)	80
School holiday program x 3 centres	20 per day
Seniors Active at Clarke	25 regulars
Seniors Active at Wenden x 3 aqua classes per week	30 per class
Open Days	300-400 people
Partnership with the Macarthur Disability, Afford Disability, Respite service, Mission Australia	Not noted
Woman only aqua at Wenden.	15-30 1 per week
Liverpool women's resource centre use gym and pool at Whitlam	Not noted

4.4 Capacity of each centre

Most large multipurpose aquatics and leisure centres have attendance peaks at varying times of the day, week and year. For example, fitness classes and gym attendance are at their peak in the early mornings (pre work) and between 5.30pm and 7.00pm - post work. These times are also popular with lap swimmers,

Typically centre attendances are at their highest on Mondays and decline as the working week progresses, with a further peak on Saturday mornings.

Spring and early summer tend to see a peak in gym and fitness class attendance and swimming lessons are most popular in the warmer months. Term 3 of the school year is the least popular with parents and Schools to attend lessons. The peak swimming carnival season for schools is February and early March prior to regional and state carnivals. In 2017, Whitlam held 25 school carnivals in that period in the 50 metre outdoor pool.

Casual and recreational swimming peaks on hot days in summer, particularly on weekends.

Courts sports have more consistent participation across the year with basketball, badminton, and gymnastics played year round with typically a 3-4 week break over the Christmas period. Netball is likely to be played more in the winter months than summer, therefore increasing demand on indoor court space March to September.

When considering 'capacity' at large multipurpose aquatic and leisure centres the daily, weekly and seasonal peaks and troughs should be considered.

A centre can be seen as 'at capacity' when people are been turned away e.g. Whitlam on hot days in summer, or when membership numbers peak but cannot be maintained due to members frustration with lack of space/equipment.

Whitlam

The population in the Whitlam catchment (3km) is expected to increase from 72,308 to 80,024 by 2026.

Unmet demand for swimming shows a potential of 550,745 annual visits increasing to some 604,205 in 2026.

Interestingly, based on data provided by the current operator and estimations of competitor attendances, there is low unmet demand for swimming lessons. This finding is supported by current modelling.

Interviews with management noted the following issues with regard to capacity at Whitlam:

- The gymnastics program cannot be expanded due to other bookings in their current program room and cannot be held on weekends due to event bookings
- No further school swimming carnivals can be accommodated in the small timeframe that schools require
- People are turned away from the centre on hot days e.g. 35 plus, for safety reasons due to the high number of attendees
- Complaints regarding lack of lane space for lap swimmers

Feedback from community consultation suggested the following in relation to capacity:

- It is only a 25-metre pool with no room for leisure and limited opportunity for lap swimming.
- Becomes over crowded in the evenings
- Often there are no rooms available for their classes.
- The dance room they were using has now been taken over by the gym
- Bigger gym
- Whitlam centre has one heated kids indoor pool which is always packed, no matter what time you go. Half of it is roped off for learn to swim
- Function space is very limited. Hiring a facility for a regular program is becoming more difficult
- Whitlam centre is currently at full capacity with learn to swim
- Frequently overbooked and crowded. It has insufficient lane space due to overbooking from squad training programs and learn to swim programs
- There needs to be a designated venue for sport if we are serious about the growth of participation in sports
- The sports courts are not available to club on the weekend as the courts are being used for events.

Clarke

The population in the Clarke catchment (3km) is expected to increase from 32,982 to 34,433 by 2026.

Modelling for the Clarke catchment shows that there is currently potential unmet demand for 447,000 annual gym workouts decreasing to 364,600 by 2026 with at least 2 proposed facilities opening in the short term.

Unmet demand for swimming shows potential of 371,000 annual visits increasing to some 380,000 in 2026.

Interviews with management noted Clarke is not yet to experience capacity issues, as most programs are still in a growth phase.

Feedback from community consultation suggested in relation to capacity, there is not enough parking at Carnes Hill at peak times.

Wenden

The population in the Wenden catchment (3km) is expected to increase from 69,279 to 72,087 by 2026.

Unmet demand for swimming shows a potential of 530,500 annual visits increasing to some 537,400 in 2026.

Unmet demand for gym workouts is currently estimated at 249,000 decreasing to 207,900 by 2026

Interviews with management noted that the small 12 metre x 8 metre indoor pool cannot meet the requirements of disability groups due lack of water space, nor can it be fully programmed with swimming lessons. As the outdoor pool operates seasonally, there are limited pool options in winter.

The Wenden outdoor pool has capacity for more school swimming carnivals.

Feedback from community consultation suggested the following in relation to capacity:

- The Wenden Centre is lacking the ability to run a year-round squad
- Function space is very limited. Hiring a facility for a regular program is becoming more difficult
- I personally think that Michael Wenden has a lot of unused space
- There is insufficient space available for swimming in peak hours
- The program pool is too small for the demand of Rainbow Club members.

Holsworthy

The population in the Holsworthy catchment (3km) is expected to increase from 19,020 to 19,740 by 2026.

Unmet demand for swimming shows a potential of 267,000 annual visits decreasing slightly to some 266,000 in 2026.

Unmet demand for swimming lessons shows a potential of 41,000 annual visits decreasing slightly to some 38,000 in 2026 due to a slight decrease in the numbers of children in the catchment that are likely to participate in swimming lessons.

Interviews with management did not note any current capacity concerns other than that terms 1 and 4 were 'busy' for swim lessons. Saturday morning was also popular for lessons as it suits families where both parents work. Aquatic play was not promoted and lanes for lap swimming are available.

Feedback from community consultation suggested the following in relation to capacity:

- The pool at Holsworthy is never available due to swim classes
- Very little to no space available for non-swimming lesson swimmers
- Lack of pool space at Holsworthy for social swimming
- The public generally get one lane to swim recreationally.

4.5 Condition of existing Infrastructure

Etch Architects completed a visual site condition investigation at the four venues on Wednesday 17 October 2018. (See Appendix 4). Facility components were given a rating.

Items that were rated as 'poor' or needing attention within 12 months included:

- Outdoor aquatic change rooms (Whitlam)
- Upstairs office and meeting room (Whitlam)
- Indoor learn to swim pool (Wenden)

The ratings included the following:

- Poor
An item which is damaged, beyond repair and requires replacing. Conditions due to rust, rot, settlement, cracking etc. (requires immediate replacing – approx. 1 month to 1 year). Or is not compliant to current Building Code Regulations and / or current Australian standards (such as disability access requirements AS1428)
- Fair
An Item which is damaged, and possibly requires replacing / refurbishment within 2- 3 years (at a minimum)
- Reasonable
An Item which can remain and possibly requires remedial 'spot' repairing / conditioning, over the next 2 to 5 years.
- Good
An item that is in a reasonable condition, which does not require any remedial work, over the next 3 years.

A summary assessment for each facility by room/area and key areas to address from the investigation report follows.

Whitlam Leisure Centre Condition

The following table shows a summary of the general visual condition of the facility by room/area.

Table 8. General visual condition of the facility by room/area

Item	Poor	Fair	Reasonable	Good
Main entry and exterior			*	
Exterior – basketball / event entry		*		
Reception / control			*	
Indoor aquatic hall			*	
Outdoor aquatic area			*	
Outdoor aquatic spectator area				*
Outdoor aquatic -outdoor change	*			
Cafe		*		
Fitness centre /gym				*
Fitness centre change room		*		
Spin room			*	
Multi-purpose room			*	
Indoor stadium change rooms			*	
Indoor stadium				*
Indoor stadium - amenity			*	
Indoor stadium – upstairs access and balcony		*		
Indoor stadium – upstairs office and meeting rooms	*			
Indoor stadium – gymnastics area			*	

Notes from the architect's assessment follow.

Main entry exterior

- The main entry appears (has that sensation) that it is at the rear of the centre. The two entries actually don't have street presence
- The main entry visually is restrictive due to excessive signage / advertising
- Entry would be well suited to have a café area or breakout area joining the outdoor aquatic component.

Exterior - basketball / event entry

- Potential area for expansion to western side of the indoor stadium / event centre
- The perimeter of the building has several 'hidden' areas which may cause CPTED issues.

Reception / control

- Entry to aquatic area is restrictive via single entry door only. No airlock
- The kiosk is located behind the reception and hidden from view from the pool entry/ exit.

Indoor aquatic hall

- At the time of assessment several building contractors were inspecting the site for a pending tender to re-tile the indoor and outdoor pools. The reason for this was that the state of the pool concourse and floor treatment of the main 50m and 25m pools was poor
- Several areas where / are in the need of repair. Please refer to images in Appendix 5.

Outdoor aquatic area

- Starting blocks need to be removed to make way for removable ones.
- Depth of pool to be confirmed if acceptable for competition diving.
- Physical step greater than standard BCA code compliance
- Potential WH+S issue. Lane ropes for 50m pool and located away from the pool and is also located on a concrete platform – which would be very difficult to move when fully loaded with lane ropes
- The actual 50.0m pool requires its base colour (paint system) to be re-coated as the base of the pool colour is wearing.

Outdoor aquatic – outdoor change

- Male toilets appear in a fair condition.
- It appears to be need of a renovation as fixtures and fittings are tired (old) and masonry requires a thorough cleaning from vandalism.
- Signage to change rooms / amenities is not BCA/ DDA compliant with tactile (braille) indicators.

Café

- Flooring to pool side is uneven and has pooling of water. Sections of the rubber flooring is delaminating off the original tiled floor (under)
- Pool side and internal ramp to café level not to DDA / BCA code compliance and ground tactile indicators.

Fitness centre / gym

- Signage to change rooms / amenities is not BCA/ DDA compliant with tactile (braille) indicators.

Fitness centre – change rooms

- Signage to change rooms / amenities is not BCA/ DDA compliant with tactile (braille) indicators.

Spin room

- Size is restrictive for the number of spin bikes utilising the space.

Indoor stadium change rooms

- Practically both the male and female toilets require a complete refurbishment – fixtures and fittings appear tired due to wear and tear and tiling is in need of repair
- Not accessible (unisex) facilities and no ambulant facilities located within rooms
- Change rooms not practical to be utilised as unisex facilities
- Open showers not practical if amenities were deemed unisex for all gender competition

- Cleaners cupboard located within the male Change – is not big enough
- Signage to be replaced with new BCA/ DDA tactile (braille) signage.

Indoor stadium

- Trip hazards evident at junction of doorways to sports hall. In particular the entry to amenities (pictured) and store room.

Indoor stadium typical amenities

- Not accessible (unisex) facilities and no ambulant facilities located within rooms
- Signage to be replaced with new BCA/ DDA tactile (braille) signage.
- Trip hazards evident at the junction of doorways to sports hall. In particular, the entry to amenities.

Indoor stadium – upstairs access and balcony

- The general access via stairs to the balcony and first floor level are in a reasonable condition; however the handrails and general appearance of the stairs is now not compliant to current BCA/DDA regulations
- Handrails are not complaint as they don't extend 300mm past the top and bottom riser.
- There are no ground tactile indicators at the bottom or top of the stairs. Including no stair nosing indicators at each step
- Fire hose reel appears to be not in the correct location – within 4.5m of the stairway. This will need to be confirmed by an authorised fire engineer
- The mechanical systems need to be confirmed by an authorised mechanical engineer as air condensers appear to be installed not to code. All air condensers are required 'fresh air intake' and not makeup air (within a sports stadium.) Internal installation is not compliant.

Indoor stadium – upstairs office and meeting rooms

- Overall the meeting rooms and first floor offices are in poor condition. This area is in need of refurbishment
- No compliant egress signage or door hardware to all egress doors. (no D pull lever door – all door knobs) – Not DDA compliant
- Access doors too narrow – under 850mm wide
- Roof plant access door – door hardware is not compliant for egress (can be locked via pad lock internally) and no safety signage is evident for restricted access
- Ceilings and walls show signs / appearance of wear and tear – damaged ceiling tiles
- Mechanical system to condition these rooms needs to be upgraded. The use of wall mounted chiller units is not practical or energy efficient
- Indoor stadium – gymnastics area:
- The gymnastic area is in a reasonable condition as a temporary operation. This area as advised by Centre Management has to be removed and stored to allow for main events to operate within the main sports hall, as this is the main entry foyer into the stadium
- Centre management ideally would like this space or gymnastics to have a dedicated (compliant) area to operate in
- Ceiling is not to the minimum requirements as set out by Gymnastics Australia. Need to be min. of 8m (vaulting) or 12.0m for trampoline
- Circulation around equipment is tight – as the operator is trying to maximise amount of equipment to space and user
- Gym office is not practical and ceiling height is at the minimum of 2.2m

Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre Condition

The following table shows a summary of the general visual condition of the facility by room/area.

Table 9. General visual condition of the facility by room/area

Item	Poor	Fair	Reasonable	Good
Main entry and exterior			*	
Main entry reception and foyer			*	
Canteen / kiosk			*	
Gymnasium				*
Indoor sports courts			*	
Aquatic poolside exterior		*		
Aquatic – outdoor pools and water play			*	
Aquatic – indoor learn to swim pool	*			
Aquatic - pool plant filtration		*		
Fitness room / circuit		*		
Change room male and female		*		

Notes from the architect's assessment follow.

Main Entry and Exterior

- The building doesn't appear to have street presence – no main street signage
- The car park is too small with insufficient drop off zones. Way finding is poor to direct the patron to the larger car park (behind the main sports hall)
- Stair access to main entry not compliant due to no handrails, including no tactile ground indicators to both stair landings and ramp
- Accessible ramp to frontage of building is not compliant, due to handrail and kerb rail do not meet current AS 1428 and DDA requirements

- Accessible car space to main entry car park is not to BCA + AS1428 code.

Main entry reception and foyer

- All activity areas are 'hidden away' and not in direct view of the reception / control area and only accessible via doorways
- All glazed areas to main entry are obstructed with advertising and signage. No clear visual connection to the car park. May trigger CPTED implications.

Canteen / kiosk

- Could it be better connected to the foyer, gymnasium & indoor amenities.

Gymnasium

- Directly accessible from main foyer and passage. Signage to activity area is poor
- Store room is too small
- Room may not cater for the membership and appears to only occupy at least 50 people at one time.

Indoor Sports Court

- Flooring appears to be a Gerflor /Tarket or similar synthetic sprung floor. Type of floor will reduced type / level of competition played at venue
- Access to canteen is hidden via an egress passage.

Indoor sports centre amenities (Including Accessible)

- Provide new BCA compliant amenity signage at doorway (needs to include tactile / braille signage)
- It would be 'our' assumption that due to the aged of this facility that no ambulant fixture and fittings would be provided (installed).

Aquatic - Poolside exterior

- Large open space between entry from indoor sports hall, change rooms and

outdoor pool. Adequate space to build in 'new indoor 'aquatic facilities.

- Main entry to indoor 'learn to swim' is very restrictive with poor way finding / signage
- There is no visual connection to indoor pool, as the glazing has been painted out.

Aquatic - Outdoor pools and water play

- Several areas such as the pool concourse require remedial work (maintenance)
- Areas of the pool tiling require remedial works – maintenance works appear to be have been undertaken but works could match tiles?
- Drainage issues to pool concourses
- Pool signage / depth indicators don't appear to meet Royal Life Saving Society pool design guidelines and Australian standards.
- Adequate space between outdoor pool and sports hall to cater any indoor aquatic facility proposal.

Aquatic indoor learn to swim pool

- This indoor 'learn to swim' pool and its facilities are in a poor condition and show signs of wear and tear, including corrosion. Recommendation for activity space to be demolished.
- The area is screen off to the rest of the leisure centre – may be undertaken to cater for the Muslim community – however this is very uninviting. The screening should be temporary fixture and not permanent.
- No change room access internally
- Major structural corrosion concerns to all steel to walls and roof
- Columns cast into floor are corroding
- All pool concourses don't meet minimum Life Saving Design Guidelines. Minimum is 2.0m. Some areas cannot fit a pram or wheelchair around

- No pool ramp
- A disability hoist – in wrong location
- No depth markers evident in pool
- Pool and area needs to be demolished – to build a larger program pool
- Amenities all poor. Single pans for male/female, accessible poor condition and not to code, signage incorrect and not to code, no ambulant facilities
- Pool store is too small
- All change room access is external.

Aquatic plant/pool filtration

- First aid room and pool office should not be a combined room, especially with the entry to the pool filtration room adjoining
- Toilet / shower facilities with pool store / office are in a poor condition and should be removed
- Pool heaters appear in a fair condition and may require maintenance.

Fitness room / circuit

- Door handle and door lock is not complaint to BCA. Door can be locked externally and not allow direct egress from room
- Large gap to door that could allow vermin to enter room. Door width is greater than 850mm – compliant to AS1428 / DDA.

Change room male and female

- No family change facilities catered within the male change room
- Provide new compliant amenity signage at doorway (needs to include tactile / braille signage)
- No accessible or ambulant fixture and fittings provided within this room
- Tiled floor in a reasonable condition
- Two pans may not be adequate for occupancy numbers of the leisure centre

- Door landing / airlock not wide enough for DDA / AS 1428 access – needs to be min 1540 wide
- Potential trip hazard at door threshold to both male and female door openings.

Michael Clarke Recreation Centre Condition

The following table shows a summary of the general visual condition of the facility by room/area

Table 10. General visual condition of the facility by room/area

Item	Poor	Fair	Reasonable	Good
Exterior				*
Main entry reception foyer			*	
Circulation / passages			*	
Sports hall – 2 courts				*
Activity – fitness rooms				*
Amenities/ change rooms				*
Accessible amenity and first aid room				*

Notes from the architect's assessment follow.

Exterior

- Carparking is limited – not enough allocated for the high demand to the fitness areas
- External stairs are not DDA compliant as ground tactile indicators are not installed.

Main entry reception foyer

- Main entry is very open and comprises of main control and kiosk (wouldn't consider this a café due to the facilities provided)
- No access control – potentially during peak hours people could enter without swiping or paying.

Circulation / passages

- Lockers restrict two- way access along corridor.

Sports Hall - 2 courts

- Sports flooring is sprung synthetic – not timber. This restricts the level of competition held there
- Basketball backboards – very hard to ‘line up net’ due to glass back board and glass backing
- Centre management has had issues with telescopic seating and maintenance
- There is a poor join across the courts that clubs say is very dangerous.

Activity -fitness rooms

- Centre Management advised that membership has already peaked and has requested from Council additional funds to extend the group fitness areas and gym.

Accessible amenity and first aid room

- First aid room should have a hands-free basin installed
- No curtain installed for patron privacy to first aid room.

Holsworthy Aquatic Centre Condition

Table 11. Summary of the general visual condition of the facility by room/area

Item	Poor	Fair	Reasonable	Good
Main entry and exterior		*		
Main entry reception and foyer		*		
Link building (pool hall to reception)		*		
Change rooms		*		
Aquatic – indoor learn to swim pool		*		

Notes from the architect's assessment follow.

Main entry exterior

- Light weight 'basic' wall construction. Not practical for energy efficiency – heat loss b/w interior and exterior.

Main entry reception foyer

- Main entry is very restrictive, especially when school groups enter and parents with prams
- All change room, accessible toilet and first aid room's access is directly from the reception foyer and this is very restrictive when groups arrive and access this area
- Handrails at entry are not AS 1428 / BCA complaint (however may not be required for access)
- A lot of condensation evident on glazing and doorways . Appears there is either no or minimal air extraction or pressure balance with pool hall, link building and reception area
- Main door hardware within reception area is not BCA compliant. Requires a 'D' pull handle and not door knobs.

Link building (pool to reception)

- A lot of condensation evident on glazing and doorways. Appears there is either no or minimal air extraction or pressure balance with pool hall, link building and reception area
- Area utilised for baby/ toddler changing as this 'family change' is not provided / allocated in other areas of this facility.
- Exposed concrete pavement is worn to concourse.

Change rooms

- Provide new compliant amenity signage at doorway (needs to include tactile / braille signage)
- No accessible or ambulant fixture and fittings provided within this room
- Rubber flooring in need of general maintenance – requires floor repairs
- Step to shower area not accessible and may be considered not compliant to AS 1428/ DDA
- Aquatic indoor learn to swim pool
- Pool signage and depth indicators require general maintenance (painting)
- The raw concrete pool base is very dark and appears worn in areas
- The pool shell should be painted or tiled to reduce the dark appearance of the actual pool and to also highlight lane markers (these require re-painting).

5. Community preferences and views

The following engagement processes were undertaken to gauge community views about aquatic and leisure centres in Liverpool:

- Interviews with centre management
- Interviews with existing user groups
- Interviews with schools in Liverpool
- Interviews with adjacent Councils
- A Councillor workshop
- Council staff workshops
- A community on-line survey
- Facebook comments

The numbers of people participating in each type of engagement is shown in the following table.

Table 12. Numbers of people participating in by methods of engagement

Group/ Method of Engagement	Attempts	Number completed
User groups	30	11
Schools	58	37
Councillors		1 w/shop
Council officers		2 w/shop
Adjacent Councils	19	8
On-line survey		223
Facebook comments		35
Email comments	3	3
Other providers		20

5.1 Common themes arising – city wide

Key themes arising from the community engagement can be summarised below.

General

Cleanliness was a recurring theme for all centres. The condition and type of floors for stadiums; the change rooms by the users; the need to accommodate different cultural requirements for children and change rooms were raised by multiple groups consulted.

Clubs noted that access to centres was difficult having to compete with Centre-run programs, which limit the ability to expand existing or introducing new activities.

Conflict with management was often cited as an issue, with changes to availability or pricing without negotiation or consultation.

Clubs had identified new sports such as handball as a possible use, but unless it was able to be offer at a reasonable price, have confidence that bookings can be honoured and that there is a pathway, it will be difficult to offer.

Views, centre by centre

The following key themes were raised about each centre.

Whitlam

The recurring themes raised were:

- The stadium floor needs upgrading, plus leaking roof and poor quality lighting.
- Problems with bookings and lack of certainty about access to the stadium.
- Conflict as to what the centre is – A regional event centre or community facility?
- Long term, tenants feel they are being pressured to leave by having times and access for centre's facilities reduced and costs increased.

Wenden

The recurring themes raised were:

- Lack of car parking and poor stadium lighting.
- Condition of the stadium floor – it requires upgrading.
- The centre provides a range of indoor sports from basketball to handball and futsal. However, it does not provide the pathway for players to higher levels of competition.

Clarke

The recurring themes raised were:

- Uncertainty for permanent tenants as to access, with cancellations to bookings without notice. This has major impact on operations.
- Few sports or community groups are users as predominantly the centre operates programs.
- No access to aquatic opportunities

Holsworthy

The recurring themes raised were:

- The centre lacks access for lap swimmers
- The centre lacks lane access for recreational swimmers
- Poor physical accessibility.

On-line survey findings summary

Some 223 people responded to an online survey via the “Liverpool Listens” website between October 30 and December 5, 2018.

The centres visited most by the survey participants were Clarke (31%), Whitlam (29%), Holsworthy (14%) and 8% visited Wenden. Some 18% do not visit any of the four Liverpool aquatic/ leisure centres.

Lap swimming (54 responses), location (51) and splash pad/water play (29) were what people most liked about Liverpool Council centres.

Some 30 respondents of the 223 completed surveys use aquatic, indoor sports or fitness centres not operated by Liverpool Council.

The most common activities that people participated in for the last 12 months included learn to swim (56), lap swimming (44), indoor sports (36), group fitness classes (36) and gym training (33).

The most common reason people use non Liverpool Council centres is to use a splash pad/water play area (10), location (7) and cleanliness (7).

Macquarie Fields Aquatic Leisure Centre and Prairiewood Leisure Centre were the most common other centres used, with 6 respondents attending each.

Swimming (43) was the main activity or program people most commonly would like offered with 12 respondents stating they would like swimming facilities at Clarke.

When asked to choose from 11 options for what Liverpool Council could do to encourage people to use centres more often, the most common options were ‘make programs more affordable’ (79) and ‘improve the quality of facilities’ (77).

Some 85% of users to existing centres travel by car, with 78% saying that travelling up to 15 minutes to an aquatic, indoor sports or fitness centre is reasonable.

When asked, ‘What additional facilities or services do you think should be included if Liverpool Council built a new centre or upgraded a current centre?’ the most common responses were, swimming pool (42), swimming facilities at Michael Clarke/Carnes Hill (31), water play (25) and Facilities rated as ‘Extremely Important’ to those completing the survey included, car parking, well designed change rooms, warm water/program pool and leisure pool/water play.

Facilities considered not important were those that allow separate swimming/activities for women or other groups, childcare and sauna/steam room.

Facilities considered to be very well provided for at Liverpool Council facilities included gym/weight training, café, car parking and indoor swimming lap/competition pool.

Facilities rated 'extremely poor' were "well designed change rooms", "indoor swimming lap/competition pool" and "outdoor swimming lap/competition pool".

Some 73% of those who completed the surveys were women.

The majority of those completing the survey came from the following suburbs - Liverpool 12%, Middleton Grange 11%, Cannes Hill 10%, and West Hoxton 10%.

The detailed findings of the survey are provided in Appendix 11.

Interviews with management

Interviews were held with senior management from Belgravia Leisure who manage Whitlam, Wenden, and Clarke and the management of Holsworthy.

Key points raised were as follows:

Belgravia Leisure

- Key competitors include Anytime Fitness, Crunch, Planet Fitness, Aquatopia, Fairfield and Mounties Club
- Are working with Karen community, indigenous, youth and disability services. They are a NDIS provider and employ a Community Development Officer
- Offer a Teen Active program for those 11 – 16 years
- Offer a 'Liverpool Active' membership that provides access to all 3 centres
- Only two public pools (Whitlam/Wenden) to meet demand on hot days in Liverpool
- View of BOOT schemes and PPP that lease term may lead to an aggressive business aiming for return on investment and if that model suits a community recreation centre
- Family change rooms are required at all sites
- Offer the model of establishing gymnastics and learn to swim facilities where they will either contribute to fit out of a Council /school facility and/or contribute capital if the lease term is 10 plus years.

Whitlam

- Gymnastics is at capacity. It cannot be held on weekends due to events using the facility. Additional staff time is required to set up/pack up equipment – some 20 additional hours per week
- Gymnastics requires space the equivalent of 1/1.5 court size to meet demand
- Additional change space is required to accommodate school swimming programs and carnivals
- Whitlam aquatics is often at capacity on days over 35 degrees. Management let one in one out on such days.
- Security is employed for approximately 20 days summer (2017/18) in peaks
- Additional features that would help meet demand on hot days include splash park features
- Plunge pools and chilled water would be a good addition
- Air conditioning does not work in all areas.

Wenden

- Women only swimming program moved to Wenden Aquatic Centre due to the demand for an enclosed hydro program
- Need for gender neutral amenities
- Has capacity to accommodate more school swimming carnivals in the outdoor pool
- 12 x 8m warm water pool does not meet demand, especially for swimming lessons
- No disability access to outdoor pool.

Clarke

- Fitness facilities busy between 5-7am and 5-7pm
- Request from customers for aquatic facilities but space is limited for any further development.

Holsworthy

- Key competitors include Whitlam Leisure Centre, Blue Water Swim School and Condell Park
- There are no specific programs for cultural groups
- Strengths include off street car parking, large site that can be expanded. Centre provides a financial return to council unlike other Council owned centres. Provides swimming lessons to Holsworthy and Wattle Grove area
- A key disadvantage is that site location is not prominent
- A warm water pool would assist with physiotherapy programs and mums and bubs classes
- Maintenance costs are increasing as the facility ages. There are no outstanding maintenance issues. Council makes capital contributions e.g. painting and change room roof replacement
- The current lessee would contribute to facility development if the lease were extended. Facilities may include solar heating, children's playground, hydrotherapy pool and another swim teaching pool
- The car park is at capacity on Saturday mornings and weeknights after school
- The swimming club compete on Tuesday evenings and operate independently of centre
- Lap swimming lanes are available however aquatic play is not generally promoted
- Schools swim programs offered during term.

Facebook comment summary

Some 35 comments were posted on the Liverpool Council Facebook page in relation to the Aquatic and Leisure Centres Strategy.

The following is a summary of those comments.

What they would like

- Something like Macquarie Fields, Aquatic facilities at Fairfield Prairiewood
- Outdoor water play
- A pool at Carnes Hill – Michael Clarke Recreation Centre
- Something in Austral for young families
- Willowvale Park a good example of what to have
- Pools with steps or easy access
- Better disability equipment in change rooms
- Rebuild Whitlam like Macquarie Fields or Marion in South Australia
- Retile pools
- Cover Wenden outdoor pool
- Management by Belgravia Leisure
- Make Whitlam bigger or better
- Request for pool in Edmondson Park.

What they don't like

- Holsworthy pool is too small. It needs a baby pool and be more family friendly
- Revamp Holsworthy with more recreational swimming options
- The water is too cold at Whitlam and there is a wait for showers.

All Facebook comments received are listed in Appendix 5.

Summary of interviews with local schools

Some 58 schools were contacted via telephone in Term 3, 2018, with 37 of those providing a response to questions.

Many schools spoke of the high number of non-swimmers within their school community. For many their school swimming was often the first time students had been to a pool.

Also common was the perceived high cost of bus hire for a predominantly low socio-economic area.

School suggested that any help with provision of buses would ensure greater number of students being able to afford water safety classes.

School swimming booking and lesson format

- DET book teachers and advise schools of dates / times of sessions
- Under this system; each session has max of 60 students with 4 teachers
- All teachers to have Austswim certification
- Option of 10 days x 45 min class or 5 day x 90 min class
- If more than 60 students, then operate 2 sessions and additional sessions for every additional 60 students.

Issues and concerns raised by schools that use Whitlam and Wenden for their swimming lessons and carnivals

- Schools have to book buses. This is not done by DET or the centre and therefore is time consuming for a school
- High number of non-swimmers in their area and few have opportunities to develop water safety skills outside the school, as not part of the culture for many groups

- Many changing school procedure regarding attendance at carnivals due to low competency levels of students, so only serious students participate
- Cost of hiring the centre for carnivals was a concern – schools are charged for use of the centre plus each lane plus each student plus spectators. This is prohibitive for many parents
- Issue of amenities – primary schools have concerns that children are sharing change rooms with public (adults) this is major concern especially if only same sex teachers
- If a school wishes to use alternative change rooms, it means children are walking through the centre which means additional staff needed to supervise
- Islamic students prefer swimming teachers of the same gender as the students; the girls swim in Muslim approved attire
- When asked about the standard of the amenities a common response was – dirty toilets; change facilities; looks tired and needs upgrading
- Staff were considered generally good and helpful
- Few schools appear to use Wenden, but those that do for carnivals, were impressed with the staff support
- Preston Primary School (Wenden) spoke very highly of the staff helping in developing programs and activities during swimming carnivals for non-swimmers. The school has 95% non-swimmers.
- Schools providing for children with a disability have major issues related to inaccessible facility design and the cost of the swimming programs funded by parents.

Staff workshop

A workshop with Council officers was held on September 20. 2019.

The workshop was attended by:

- Recreation and Open Space Planner
- Coordinator Building Construction
- Recreation Officer
- Strategic Planner
- Community Development Worker (community safety)
- Senior Project Manager
- Property Services, Sports Development and Leisure Officer
- Assistant Manager Infrastructure Delivery
- Project Manager

Following is a summary of their views.

Whitlam - Strengths

- High profile
- Large spaces, has dry space – regional
- Sporting and cultural events
- Multipurpose sports - 3 courts
- Retractable seating 3k seats+
- Good separation of space, entries
- Big catchment area
- Outdoor 50 – major strength + Grandstand. Roof covers over 2 lanes. Filters out UV
- Spa and sauna very popular
- Has car parking adjacent - good for events
- Stall and rides in same space outside for community events
- Point of difference is full service - interaction with staff
- Large number of bus stops 13-15 mins.
- Walkable demand will grow. Based on town centre growth
- High proportion of families with children
- Evening community programs - religious events. Large events up to 9k of people over 2 days

- Have a lane priority policy
- Has space on weekends when sport not in use.

Whitlam - Weaknesses

- Competition between sport and events
- How it sits in the park is poor
- Parking poorly laid out i.e. wayfinding. Entry at back- prone to vandalism
- Not enough small rooms – multipurpose
- Not big enough to meet all demand e.g. hydro, squad, lap etc., etc
- Access
- Spa and sauna small (at capacity)
- Probably 10-15 years life. Plant and Equipment very old. Dry facilities 34 years old and wet facilities 24 years old
- Very dim not a lot of natural light. Décor dated. Lack of clean lines
- Gym spaces limited
- Awkward spaces, adhoc add-ons
- Couldn't operate 24 hours
- Can't meet the demand for gymnastics
- Time taken pack up and pull down gymnastics - safety issues
- Hume Highway restricts access
- Don't know what the cultural groups want in these centres
- State Sports Centre- is a major competitor
- Few interactive features
- No leisure attractions/ water play

Clarke - Weaknesses

- Traffic issues turning into the centre
- Connection with the shopping centre could be better. Kids crossing etc.

Wenden - Strengths

- 50m but only 6 lanes
- Lots of space within the footprint
- Green space-can walk outside for gym fitness in winter
- Small area can be enclosed i.e. women only
- Has new a water play feature
- Childcare centre -review partner opportunities
- Opportunity with PCYC and school next door.

Wenden - Weaknesses

- Issues with outdoor pool shell due to subsidence
- Doesn't' drain evenly on return gutter
- Ducks
- Only summer. So 12m program pool all year
- Learn to swim limited
- Vulnerable to intrusion at night
- Very tired/ old
- Buildings are disconnected
- Needs work – concourse, rust, ventilation.
- Toilet/ change facilities are inadequate
- Miller public housing since 40's – stigma. Old image etc.
- Transport network difficult. 600m to walk from T way. Less frequent buses
- Lower quality allows for lower pricing
- Cheaper than others, therefore differentiation from competitors
- PCYC has sprung floor some competition
- Explore different price points
- No shading of the pool
- Car parking area is very small. Not consolidated. Rarely used at the back
- Lots of social housing in area - violence drugs and alcohol
- Proximity to Whitlam – it is only 5 mins away.

Holsworthy - Strengths

- Nothing else in this area and there is growth
- Future third party? Joint venture with sports club?

Holsworthy - Weaknesses

- Poor quality grounds
- Limited car parking
- Poor traffic management. No on-street parking
- Mostly LTS and programs. Doesn't have the feel of nice swim centres
- Long-term value for the community? Not in a hub
- Past useful life
- Uninviting and poorly located.

Options for development of existing facilities

Whitlam

- Gymnastics
- Hydrotherapy pool
- Sports Courts
- Expanded spa
- Small multipurpose
- More space for 500-600 people for cultural activities / family activities.
- Function centre
- No community space in Whitlam. Don't know demand for smaller rooms?
- Current management operator good for casual use but not necessarily for serving cultural groups and community services – can't pay much. Different ethos.
- Don't have birthday party rooms etc.
- Indoor and outdoor are poorly integrated.

Wenden

- Redesign for an expanded indoor pool and year-round use
- Better integration between spaces
- Relationship with school, town centre and PCYC.

Holsworthy

- Knock down and move to another location to serve the area
- Possible partnership with a local sports club that offers fitness etc.,?

Have you seen something somewhere else Liverpool should have?

Aquatopia – Fairfield

- Off peak concessions
- Ice in winter
- Managed better than Wet and Wild
- Liverpool has large family population - want affordable activities.

Capacity of existing facilities?

Whitlam

- Hot days major problem.

Wenden

- Can handle hot days etc. Splash park opened in 2018.

How can social return on investment be maximised? How do we measure?

- Participation
- Types of programs
- Cultural diversity of participants
- Promotion.

How do we encourage more participation?

- Language options
- Outreach worker
- Integrated hubs - scope for multiple uses
- Experience – service based e.g. Wyndham Council (Vic) – library, children services etc.,
- Life stages focus
- Disability. Accessibility of water spaces - Pool pods
- More and more flexible spaces- to be more multipurpose.
- Better accounting for participation – i.e. capturing of groups
- Promotion of centres - social media etc., word of mouth. Promote Councils customer service information at centres
- Agile – ability to respond to change
- Small community groups - access to community groups
- Council grants to small groups – compilation of outcomes in acquittals – check
- License agreement info
- Belgravia can waive fees

New facilities and locations

- Have a part owned site through subdivision process: Edmonton Ave, in Austral a (1/3 of land has been purchased)
- A 4.5-hectare site
- Planned regional centre
- Joint funding between Liverpool and Camden?
- Catchment of 120,000 people
- Consider that the airport may change residential mix of area

Liverpool councillors workshop

20 September 2018

Councillors at the workshop made the following comments.

What are your thoughts about the current aquatic centres?

- Dirty ugly and unwelcoming
- Repairs take too long
- Old and run down
- For most the existing pools provide us with great memories, but they are now ready to knock down
- Very poor toilets and change facilities
- Maintenance issues
- Facilities overarching collection of legacy facilities
- Physical access a problem
- Go elsewhere for learn to swim- quite threatening spaces
- Don't reflect needs for people on Autism spectrum.

Future?

- Facilitate events that can't be held elsewhere
- Holsworthy major residential subdivision: - Sporties properties planning a development
- Don't replicate the existing facilities
- Think about schools -liaise with them on facility development
- There're 70 schools in Liverpool - how can they possibly have carnivals in the time to feed into a district carnival?
- Band-aids have been applied for a long time.
- There are no facilities to encourage diving. Provide a diving facility in a few pools?
- Fairfield Fun facilities?
- Accessibility is poor
- Holsworthy - consider DA with housing

- Memo of understanding with schools
- Don't build what private operators can do
- Important to keep kids cool
- Liverpool is very hot. We need a beach and waves
- Bigger, well thought out centres
- Splash parks better in parks, rather than at aquatic centres. People go there for a long length of time e.g. 10 -4.00pm
- Significant need for LTS facilities
- Measure how many people learn to swim each year
- Want hubs: sports, library, community centre etc.,
- New facilities next priority Carne Hill Aquatic Centre - Carnes Hill 2 on other side of the creek
- Social benefits important for learn to swim
- Need a balance between big and accessible
- Future centres must be easy to get to - locate facilities near transport
- We need to know many learn to swim who and why are they coming and why not
- Encourage people with a disability - especially those on autism spectrum, consider in facility design
- Need facilities to account for different people. People from other non-swimming cultures. Need to teach them to swim and provide opportunities for their needs to be met.
- Opportunities for single gender sessions
- Non-threatening places where children won't be distracted whilst learning to swim.
- Must be affordable for all our residents and we must teach people how to swim.
- New centres need lots of parking with parking for parents with prams and people with a disabilities
- There should be a pool with a beach

- There is a need for different spaces for different people - or events - from a design sense for example- LTS
- LTS need small separate space not intimidating
- Need centres with good integrated indoor / outdoor space for all seasons
- Open plan spaces
- Not our role offering premium service for a few – in the space of - service for all
- Not for Council to be in competition with private gyms, but we should enable women own space not the case of locking off.

User Groups

The following user groups were interviewed:

- Sloosh Kids Car Incorporated
- Jade Wellness Centre
- Camden Valley Basketball
- Hoopsters Basketball
- Rainbow Club
- KARI Foundation Liverpool
- Yotala Gymnastics
- Kinetix Health and Performance
- Holsworthy Hammerheads Swim Club
- Liverpool Basketball Association
- Millers – MWC
- Prime Physiotherapy
- Sandra Fleeton Dance

Basketball

Basketball is conducted at Clarke, Wenden and Whitlam. Wenden and Whitlam has one club, however both have similar issues with their respective centres.

Issues raised by club representatives for basketball include:

- Clarke floor cannot be used for recognised competitions, due to a join through the floor that makes it dangerous to use

- Issue of maintenance and quality of floors / cleaning. Wenden has a non-timber floor
- Access to centres for Friday evenings; having to compete with events at Whitlam and therefore not able to offer higher level of competitions or attract regular NBL games
- Consistency with pricing; impact when changes made without consultation and minimal notice during the season leaving clubs in financial difficulty
- Inability of offering Friday evenings and weekends means young people participate in neighbouring centres resulting in loss of basketball membership in Liverpool.
- No pathway for participants from 'learn to play sport' through to club or representative competition at various levels
- Social and community benefit is impacted by limiting weekend use for young people
- Unable to expand programs such as women's basketball or new games such as Handball for community as unable to access courts
- There is a problem for the growth for sports in Liverpool, with those wanting a pathway to competition going to Bankstown or Fairfield, because of the lack of suitable facilities and available times to play competition, resulting in loss of identity with Liverpool.

Childcare

Childcare is currently offered at Whitlam, and Clarke with Wenden having a community-based service offering before and after school care.

The services provided at the centres by Sloosh, Rainbow and Jade Wellness are aimed at those children with a range of abilities and have attracted NDIS funding.

There is a belief that these programs could be expanded if space / time was available, as all have a waiting list.

Martial Arts

Although martial arts activities are available at the Whitlam, Liverpool has several private martial arts studios operating for a broad range of community users.

The operator at Whitlam could not be contacted for an interview.

Other Users

The three centres under contract management have a number of tenants who use the facilities for a range of activities and services.

Health professionals operating at the Clarke and Whitlam centres, provide specialist services focussed on rehabilitation, pain management and improved mobility for NDIS clients and referred patients.

Issues raised by related by these service providers include:

- Inadequate parking for people with a disability and access to the centre (Whitlam)
- Carers have trouble with their clients in change rooms, resulting in having to use the open change space which is not always appropriate for clients
- Hydrotherapy programs were important activities that attracted a broad range of users. However, a common issue was the unreliability of the water temperature, resulting in many cancellations of classes at short notice and causing problems for clients
- The gyms were used by the health professionals as part of their programs. However it was noted that centres did not allow additional (cardio) equipment or were too small to provide better exercise activities (Clarke)

The other tenants interviewed discussed the problem of being relocated to smaller spaces for their programs or losing a Saturday to operate, both actions resulted in loss of members and viability of operations for the respective groups.

The general feeling was that management did not necessarily understand the operations of their activities.

For all groups, cultural matters were an issue, ensuring privacy for certain groups – such as for young girls not being viewed during activities.

Installing curtains were an option, but at the expense of the club. These groups were also providing programs for ages from 5 years up to late teens.

Not having Saturday programs limits the ability of groups to develop. (Gymnastics and dance).

All the above groups were long-term tenants and were concerned about their organisation future in these centres.

Past experiences with management resulted in a reduction of services and a sense that they were being “pushed out”. They can provide the same activity, but without the ability to provide appropriate pathways for development or growth.

6. Private centres that compete with Council's centres

Sydney's west has a range of outdoor and indoor aquatic facilities. Outdoor locations range from the West Sydney Parklands to the Georges and Hawkesbury-Nepean Rivers, Chipping Norton Lake and Lake Moore where activities such as water-skiing and sailing are held.

Private facilities such as Wet'n'Wild (Raging Waters) in Prospect and Council owned facilities offer a range of indoor and outdoor aquatic experiences.

@leisure assessed the nature of facilities and services provided by private, adjacent LGAs, schools and other not profit providers, that were likely to be within the catchment for Council centres. In most instances, the private sector offers very little competition for Council centres except for gym and fitness opportunities. The lack of competition in aquatic services, especially in the learn to swim market was notable and in part driven by the lack of affordable properties available to small businesses and space for parking. The demographic profile of the Liverpool Council area, and low willingness to pay, is also a contributing factor to the lack of private competition.

Snap shot of other facilities

Gym and swim facilities

All Council centres have potential competing facilities within less than twenty minutes drive.

There are 33 facilities in the City of Liverpool offering gym, fitness, court, gymnastics or swimming facilities including the four Council

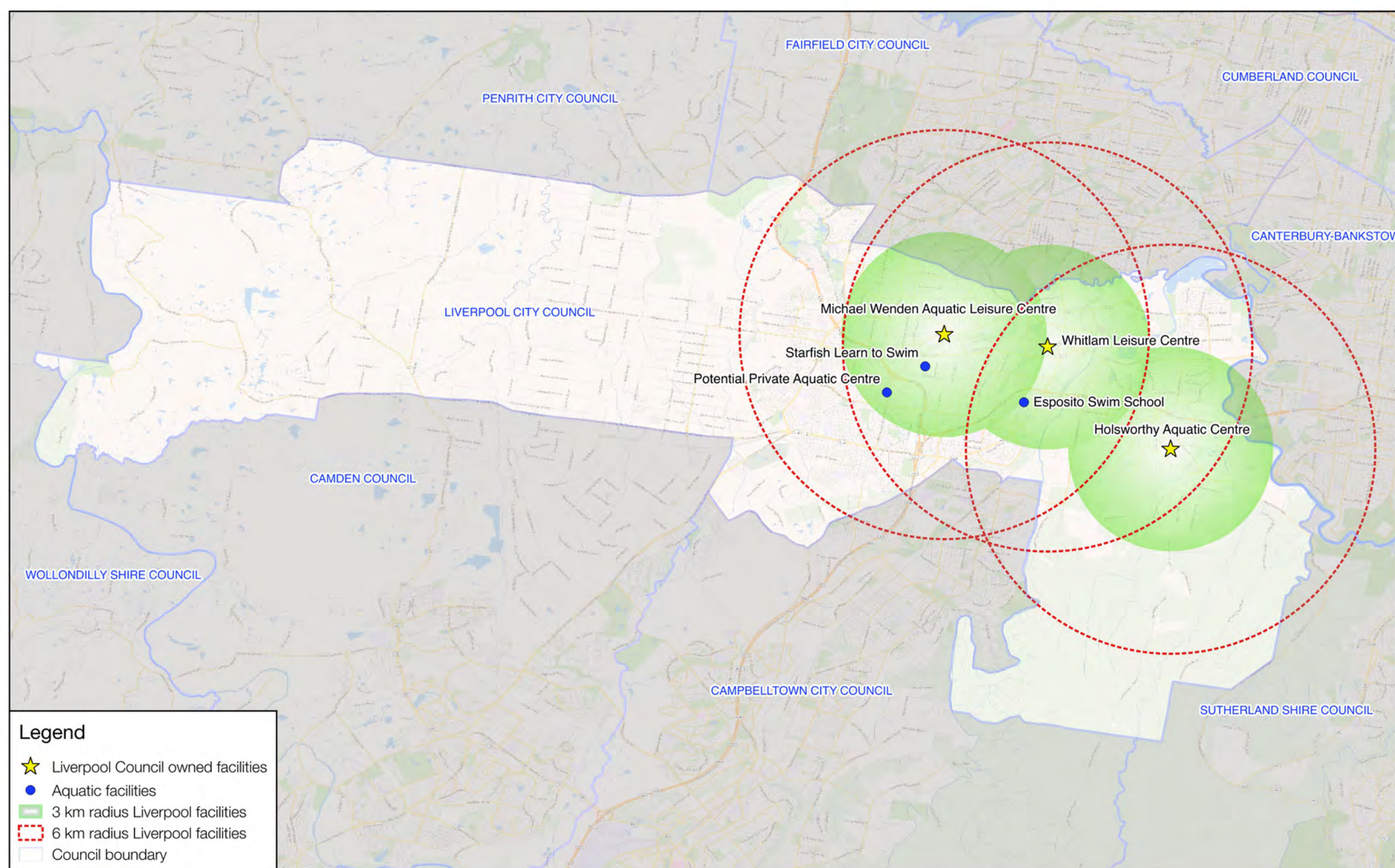
owned venues. A further four venues have DA applications approved for the operation of recreation facilities.

- Of the non-Council owned facilities, only two offer swimming lessons
- Twenty two facilities offer general fitness activities including gym equipment and/or fitness classes
- Only two facilities offer courts sports, none of these are netball or futsal competition compliant courts and most are not sprung timber floors
- All non-Council facilities within the City of Liverpool are within a 16-minute drive of an existing Council owned facility. The majority are within a 10-minute drive of either Whitlam or Wenden
- There is very little competition for swimming pools, events spaces, gymnastics and sports courts, but considerable competition for gym and fitness opportunities
- Liverpool Council facilities may provide more of a full service offering than other centres close by, except for extended gym and fitness hours.

Total population of the immediate catchment around a centre, projected growth and likely density of the surrounding area have a considerable bearing on the use of aquatic facilities. These factors will also affect the viability of certain types of additional services and offerings.

A full inventory of competitor facilities, including the municipality, closest Liverpool Council facility, distance, management, landowner and facility type is provided in Appendix 6.

Map 1, 2, 3 and 4 following; show all the known centres that may compete with Liverpool Council Centres.



Aquatic and Leisure Centres Strategy

Map 1. Private Providers of Aquatic Facilities in City of Liverpool

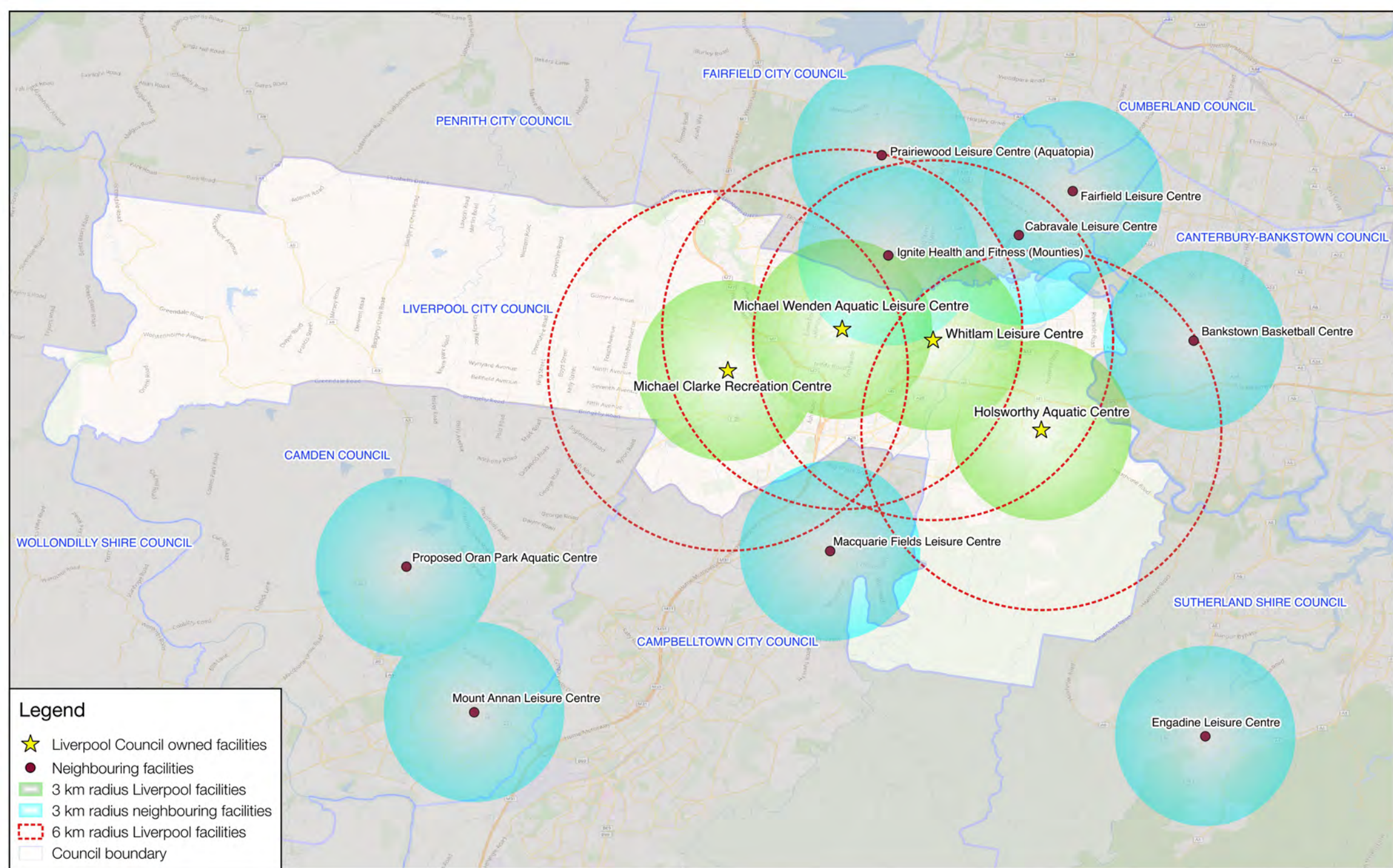
0 1 2 3 km



Date 18 07 19
Prepared by NR

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Aquatic and Leisure Centres Strategy
Map 2. Major Facilities in Neighbouring Municipalities

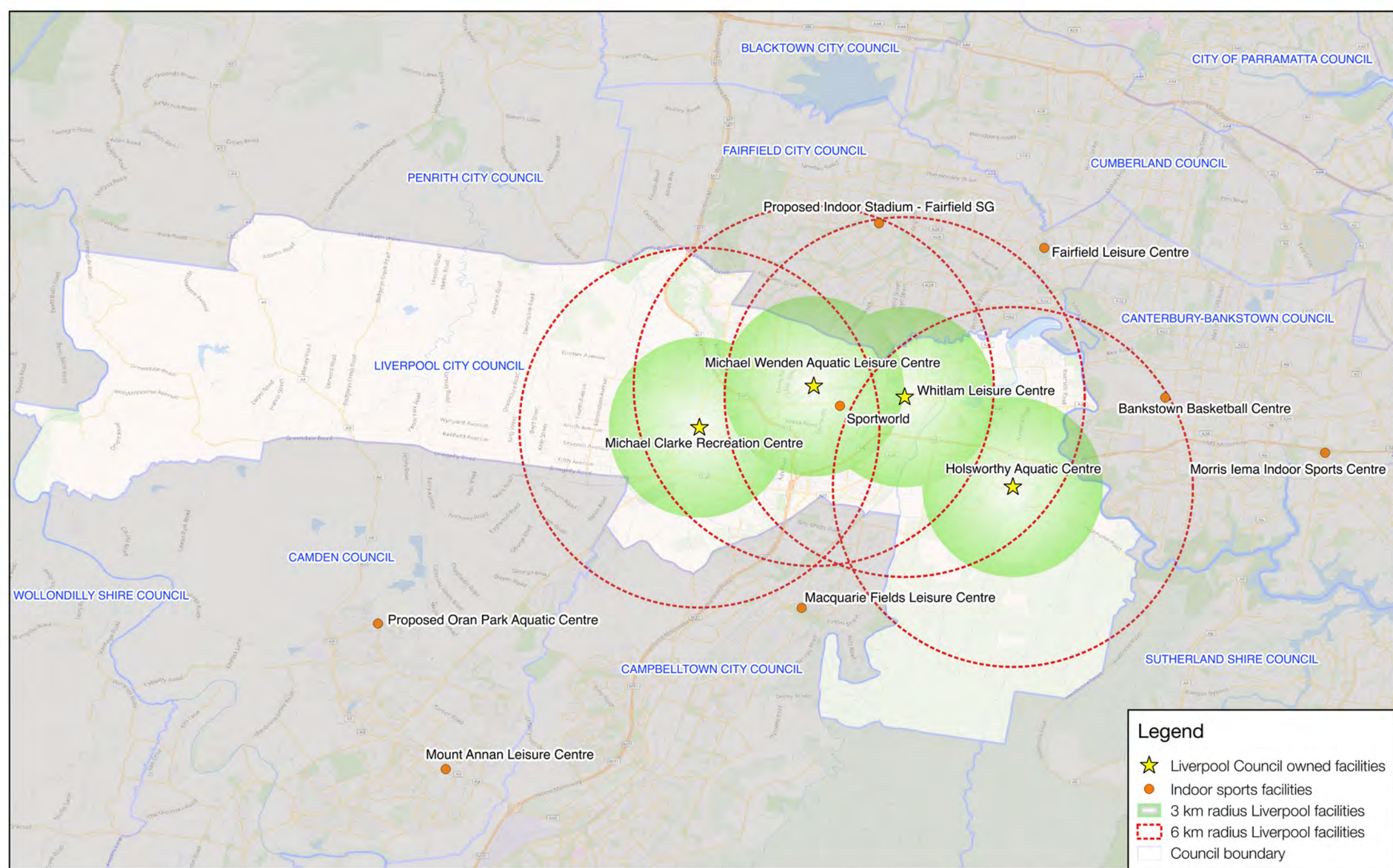
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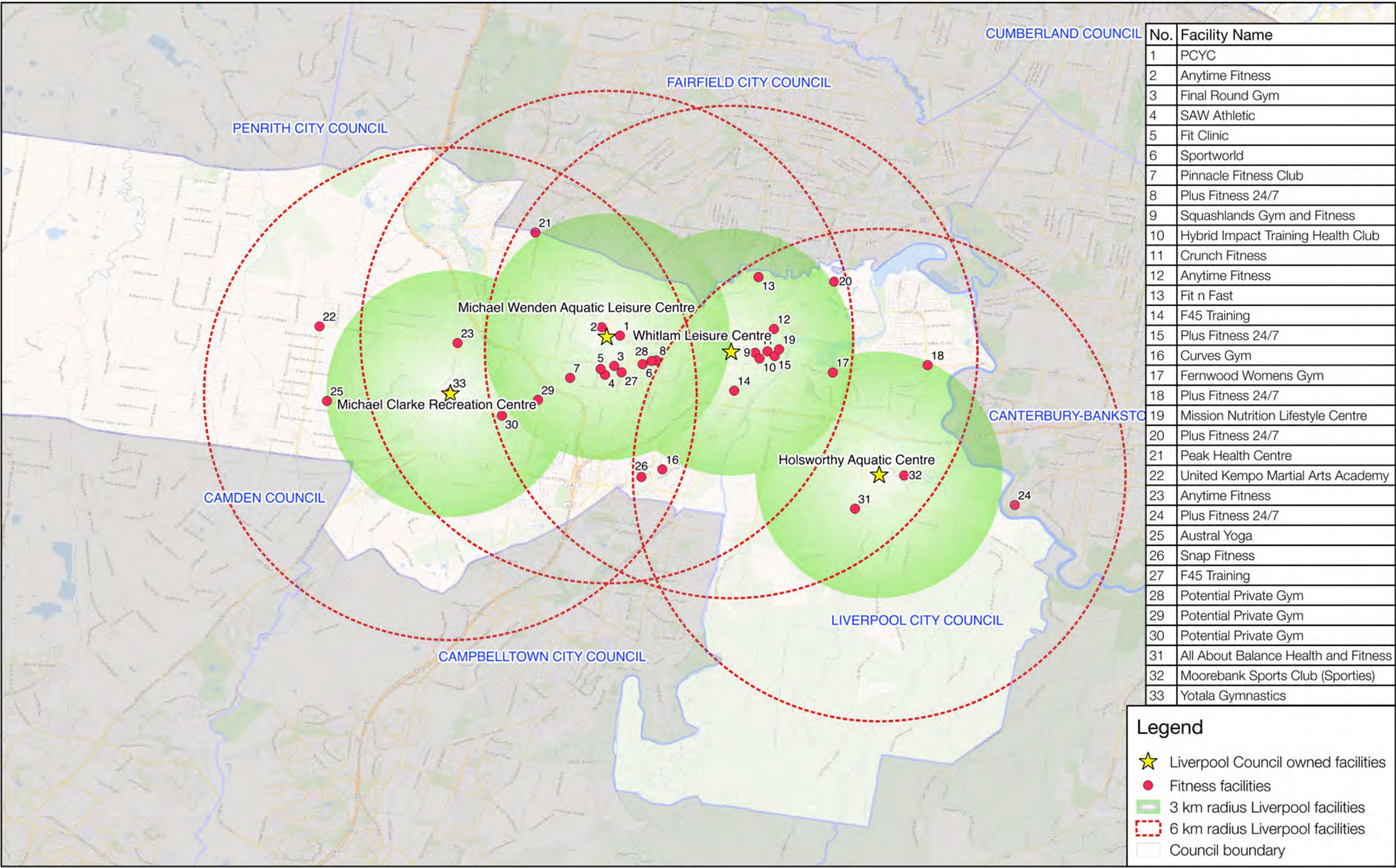


Date 18 07 19
Prepared by NR

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Aquatic and Leisure Centres Strategy
Map 4. Private Providers of Fitness Facilities in City of
Liverpool

0 1 2 3 km



Date 18 07 19
Prepared by NR

DISCLAIMER: While care has been taken with the production of this map, the publishers do not accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.



6.1 Centres in neighbouring Councils

A review of neighbouring Council facilities shows that there are no major Council owned facilities within the immediate catchment of existing Liverpool centres (see Map 2 above).

Only Ignite Health and Fitness is within a 7-minute drive of Wenden and is likely to draw gym and fitness customers from the same catchment as both Wenden and Whitlam.

The seven neighbouring facilities were contacted in relation to the current management, demand and future development. The table below outlines details provided by Council officers.

Table 13. Summary of information about centres in adjoining LGAs from interviews with Council officers

Municipality	Venues	Management	Meeting Demand	Future Developments
Campbelltown	Macquarie Fields Fitness & Indoor Sports Centre, Macquarie Fields Leisure Centre, The Gordon Fetterplace Aquatic Centre, Eagle Vale Central	Council	Not known	Not known
Camden	Camden War Memorial Swimming Pool, Mount Annan Leisure Centre	YMCA	Yes	Recently upgraded Gym facilities at Mt Annan. Oran Park Town centre project will have aquatic and gym/fitness facilities. Details to be confirmed. Nth Leppington to be considered as a potential joint development with Liverpool.
Wollondilly	Wollondilly Leisure Centre, Picton. Warragamba Swimming Pool - 25 outdoor	Leisure Management Services	Yes	No plans
Fairfield	Fairfield Leisure Centre, Prairiewood Leisure Centre. (Aquatopia), Cabravale Leisure Centre.	Council	All sites at capacity especially swim lessons. Lock outs on hot days at Aquatopia. Lap swimmers, squads and aquarobics all want more space.	A 5 lane slide opened in January 2019. A wave pool to be considered for future stage. Planning for future indoor courts at Fairfield Showground. Health and wellness facilities to be included at Cabravale Leisure Centre.
Canterbury Bankstown	6 Outdoor pools	Council	Birrong Leisure Centre regularly reaches capacity during the summer months.	Planning on major investment into some of their centres. Greenacre requires investment of approx. \$2.3m to fix issues.
Penrith	St Clair Leisure Centre, Ripples and St Marys swimming centres	Council Company Limited by Guarantee	Have identified a shortage of 14 indoor courts.	Location of courts to be confirmed. St Clair may get small community gym in future.
Sutherland	Sutherland Leisure Centre, Engadine Leisure Centre, Caringbah Leisure Centre	Council	Water Fun Park Opened Sept 2018	Not known

6.2 Key competitors to each centre

Whitlam

Fairfield and Prairiewood Leisure Centres (Aquatopia) offer extensive outdoor water play, along with a range of aquatic programs. There can be lockouts on hot days at Aquatopia due to centre capacity and there is demand for more space for lap swimming, squads and aquarobics.

The development of water play facilities at Aquatopia over the last 3 years has seen attendances increase from 39,000 in 2016 to over 60,000 in the 2018/19 summer season. This has exceeded expectations from the original business plan. A wave pool will be considered as a future stage in Fairfield.

A private swim school is located within 6 minutes of Whitlam, but it is the only swim school in the immediate catchment other than Wenden.

The gym and fitness market is competitive around Whitlam with some 12 competing gym and fitness facilities. (Refer Appendix 6).

Fairfield Leisure Centre and adjacent Fairfield Youth and Community centre has one and two Gerflor type surfaced courts and offer a range of social indoor sports options and hire for badminton, volleyball, futsal and basketball. These courts don't appear to cater for club competition or netball.

Fairfield Council has developed plans to DA stage for 4 indoor courts at the Fairfield Showgrounds as part of its redevelopment.

Council also have plans for the redevelopment of Cabravale Leisure Centre to include a hydrotherapy pool, spa, sauna and steam rooms, rehabilitation gym as well as doctors and counsellors' rooms.

Wenden

A private swim school is located within less than 10 minutes drive of Wenden and is the only swim school in the immediate catchment other than Whitlam.

There are nine health and fitness centres within a 10-minute drive of Wenden, one proposed and a private swim school.

Pinnacle Fitness Club (Liverpool Catholic Club) is within a 7-minute drive and has one indoor court used for fitness classes along with health club facilities and a women's only gym area. The club has no plans for future development of indoor courts or aquatic facilities.

There is one indoor sports centre within 5 minutes of the centre. The focus of this is social programs, parties etc. It offers indoor cricket, social netball and futsal and has Inflatable World on the weekends. This centre is unlikely to compete with timber floor courts for sports competitions, if these were to be provided in Wenden.

Clarke

Clarke has several indoor sports facilities within half an hour: Mount Annan Leisure Centre and Macquarie Fields Fitness and Indoor Sports Centre. These appear to offer mostly social sports opportunities. Mount Annan Leisure Centre is approximately half an hour from Clarke.

The centre provides a two-court basketball sized stadium, low level gymnastic programs, netball, indoor soccer and volleyball.

Macquarie Fields Fitness and Indoor Sports Centre has 2 timber floor sports courts for basketball, badminton, gymnastics, volleyball and netball.

Clarke has limited competition for gym facilities with just 2 venues within 3km.

A further two gym/fitness facilities are expected to be developed in the catchment in the coming months.

A small outdoor splash park is located within the Clarke precinct.

Holsworthy

The centre does not have any competing swim schools in the catchment, with Whitlam the closest aquatic facility.

Holsworthy has Morris lemma Indoor Sports Centre and Bankstown Basketball Stadium with about 25 minutes. The centre offers two netball-sized courts. Morris lemma Indoor Sports Centre does not have sprung timber floors. Courts are available for casual hire for basketball, basketball competitions, martial arts, netball, holiday programs and walking football. There are social league netball and futsal competitions that run from the centre. Bankstown Basketball Stadium has 7 courts and is managed by the Bankstown Basketball Association. Bankstown Basketball Association, or the 'Bruins' is one of the largest Associations in New South Wales, with almost 3,000 registered members.

Challenges and opportunities other centres present to Council

At present private centres offer limited challenges to Council centres except in the low fee/ low service market and 24hrs gym and fitness market. This market may not be fully saturated.

A major challenge that the City faces is the inability of aging aquatic centres to meet public expectations and contemporary accessibility requirements.

In addition to the aging infrastructure, the limited capacity of the existing centres is a major threat to be able to meet the demand for fitness, aquatic services and indoor sport

competitions and provide social and health benefits to the community.

Council's centres have the strength of providing a niche in the full service gym and fitness market and offering a diversity of social and physical activity options at prices that allow access for people who are less likely to participate due to cost.

A major opportunity for Council is to target the learn to swim market that is not well serviced by the private sector and provide a suite of activities that will address the relatively low health and physical activity status of residents.

A major threat to the delivery of future aquatic and indoor sport sports facilities is if a suitable site in the outer west is not able to be acquired, or the site is not large enough for an integrated regional facility, which will leave a major gap in distribution and the Clarke catchment underserved.

If the facilities at Clarke can't be further developed due to the lack of space, or site constraints, alternative sites will need to be found (in the west) and if the outer west facility (proposed for Austral/ Rossmore) cannot be built at the scale required.

With only two small gymnastics programs in Liverpool (Whitlam and Wenden) there is an opportunity to develop one dedicated venue to a scale that provides a pathway for gymnastics beyond the basic program offered now in temporary facilities.

The public consultation was clear about the need for more informal leisure water to meet resident needs in hot weather. A 'beach in the west' with a large number of shallow water play options would be enormously popular. Residents are currently travelling out of Liverpool in search of places to cool off on hot days, with these venues turning people away due to high demand.

7. Trends in aquatic and leisure centres

7.1 Large aquatic centres targeting visitors

An increasing number of large tourist villages/ caravan parks or resorts now include swimming and play facilities to attract visitors and offer some access to the community.

Many Councils are being encouraged to build very large aquatic centres that feature key points of difference and target visitors.

These types of centres include the following.

Major water parks

These include parks at tourism destinations like Cairns and in Fairfield in western Sydney. See images following.



Aquatopia, Fairfield. Photo - Fairfield City Council



Sugarworld water park, Cairns. Photo - <http://sugarworldwaterpark.com.au>

Aquatic lagoons and splash park developments on foreshores

Foreshore aquatic development targeting visitors include those at Darwin, Townsville, Cairns and Brisbane Southbank.



Southbank, Brisbane. Photo-@leisure

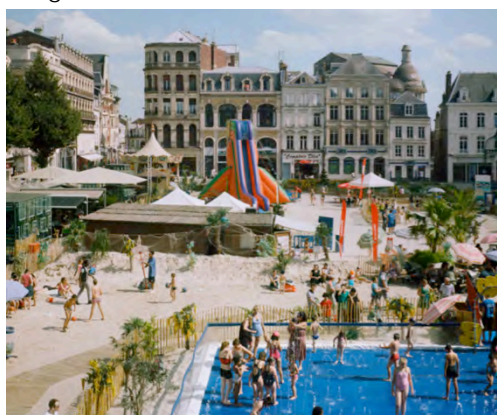
Major centres with multiple components and indoor water play and slides

There has been a general increase in the proportion of indoor swimming pools due the desire to provide all year, more comfortable, warm water and services for an ageing and less able population. This includes components such as water slides and splash parks typically provided outdoors. Examples include: LeisureLink, (Waurin Ponds, Geelong Victoria), Watermarc (Greensborough, Victoria), PARC (Frankston, Victoria), and AquaPulse (Hoppers Crossing, Victoria).

Internal water slides are a major attractor for older children. They are however very seasonal in patronage, require additional supervision and can infringe on circulation space. Generally speaking, they are not a major revenue earner.

7.2 Urban renewal projects; beaches and river pools

Several urban renewal projects where urban spaces are in short supply have included urban beaches and pools in reclaimed areas and rivers. Beach examples include Saint-Quentin in France, Paris, along the river Seine between Pont Neuf and Pont de Sully, Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 4 Beach, and HTO Park in Toronto. See the following images.



Urban Saint-Quentin, France



Sugar Beach; HTO Park, Toronto. Photos- Nichola Betts

River pools include Islands Brygge Harbour Bath in Copenhagen.



Islands Brygge Harbour Bath, Copenhagen. Photo-Mycityhighlight.com

There are a large number of proposals to provide floating or pop up pools in urban rivers, such as in the Parramatta River in Sydney, West Beach in Canberra, the Hudson River in New York and Moscow. See following images.



Proposed pool for NTC Hudson River. Renderings by family New York, courtesy of friends of +POOL.



Floating pool proposed for Moscow 2019:
100architects conceptualizes floating
'Suprematist Pool', Moscow.
Dresignboom.com

7.3 Warm water pools

An increasing proportion of the population are seeking access to warm water for programs, therapy, lessons and gentle exercise. A growing number of aged care facilities incorporate a pool that may have public access. These often include fully accessible facilities and spa.

A review of over aged care facilities in Liverpool showed no warm water or hydrotherapy pools provided.

Warm water pools need to be designed to meet the current Disability Discrimination Act and the Building Code of Australia. Beach entries, pool lifts systems such as "pool pods" and "changing places" change rooms with seamless access from change facility to pool, are requirements of aquatics centres, to enable all the population to use these facilities. With the introduction of the NDIS, more people with a disability will require access to facilities and programs.

Comparative figures from ABS estimates that people with disability are 15% less likely to participate in sport and active recreation than the general population.

It is reasonable to assume that this under-representation in sport participation among persons with a disability exists and is due to disadvantages or barriers encountered.

There is consistency in participation trends for those who reported being mobility impaired. They were most likely to participate in walking (60.2%, aerobics/fitness (28.2%) and swimming (15.7%). Females were more likely than males to engage in aqua aerobics and yoga.

ABS data estimates that one-fifth of Australians have a disability, this suggests that there could be more 40,000 people with a disability in Liverpool and that figure may increase to over 48,000 by 2026.

Based on available participation rates, the potential market for swimming for people with a disability is likely to grow from 6,474 now to 7,740 in 2029 in the City of Liverpool.

Providing more purpose built facilities in Liverpool will be important to encourage participation.



One care Wellness Centre, Glenorchy.
Photo-@leisure

7.4 Water safety education

Drowning was the cause for 249 deaths in Australia in 2017/18. New South Wales recorded the most significant number of drowning deaths in Australia with 87, followed by Queensland with 60 drowning deaths.

A person of Indigenous descent is more than four* times¹² more likely to drown than a non-indigenous person. Royal Life Saving Australia suggests this is due to the fewer Indigenous children participating in swimming lessons.

In 2016, 1.5% of Liverpool and Greater Sydney residents were of Indigenous descent, compared with 2.9% for NSW.¹³

Facility design and management practices are increasingly important in facilitating supervision and responsiveness to potential drowning.

An increasing proportion of people born overseas without a culture of swimming or water safety intelligence have prompted increased vigilance in aquatic centres and new strategies in supervision and information. This is highly relevant in Liverpool given that 40.7% of residents were born overseas. This compares with 36.7% for Greater Sydney and 27% for NSW.

Royal Life Saving Australia indicates that all Australian children have the right to a comprehensive swimming and water safety education. The skills of swimming, survival swimming and necessary rescue all contribute to saving a life. However, there are many barriers; including cost, distance, awareness, and access in communities most at risk of drowning.

¹² www.royallifesaving.com.au/facts-and-figures/resources/indigenous-resources

¹³ abs.gov.au

Several anti-drowning systems are now in use in swimming pools. Some check individual swimmers via their wristband – monitoring their depth, motion, heart rate and time. Others use computer vision and alert Lifeguards when a swimmer may be in difficulty.

Centres need to be fitted with information technology that can provide frequent and regular customer communication, to swim school and gym members.

7.5 Splash parks and water play areas

Both in Australia and overseas, more water is being included in public space design due to:

- The need to manage stormwater
- The need to combat the heat island effect
- The increasing costs of outdoor swimming pool provision, coupled with the desire to replace costly ageing assets and expenses of operating outdoor seasonal pools due to ageing infrastructure and changes in customer expectations.

Splash park developments are often seen as a way to replace older style pools that are costly to operate and poorly patronised. Splash parks generally include zero depth-wet areas; sprays and interactive water play equipment. Splash parks can't replace swimming experiences but may be more affordable and accessible, allow people to cool off without the effort of going to a swimming pool and encourage people who don't want to be immersed or have to change clothes. They may also support families to play together.

The capital cost of splash parks vary depending on the size, number of features and the support facilities built with the splash park, such as toilets, shade and BBQ facilities.

A district size splash park built in conjunction with existing facilities can be built for around \$500,000.

Splash parks located with existing aquatic facilities and maintained mainly by on-site aquatic staff can cost as little as \$1,500 per month to manage. Assuming that items such as insurance, marketing, security, and rubbish removal are absorbed as part of the overall operations of the aquatic site.

A stand-alone splash park could cost around \$8,000 a month to maintain with external contractors completing tasks such as 4 hourly water testing, backwashing, cleaning and rubbish removal.

Many outdoor pools or destination playgrounds now include splash parks.

Splash parks are not a substitute for a pool, and they are not cost-free. Splash parks require water, may not be cost effective to run in some weather conditions, or drought and require regular water quality and condition monitoring and cleaning. In many instances splash parks do not attract any revenue unless within an aquatic centre and if provided in parkland provide additional hard surfaces in what was previously green space.

Water play facilities are significant attractors for families with young children. How equipment is placed (i.e. in zero depth water or on softfall) and the relationship with dry equipment in outdoor parks is an issue because of the temperature differential.

Internal water play facilities need specific supervision and the maintenance on equipment can be very high - especially on equipment with moving parts; hence these features may have high recurrent costs.

Examples of outdoor water play and splash parks in Australia include:

- Bigge Park, Liverpool, NSW
- Leanyer Recreation Park, Darwin, Northern Territory
- Vera's Water Garden, The Entrance, NSW
- Aquamoves, Shepparton, Victoria
- Noble Park Aquatic Centre, Noble Park, Victoria

In conjunction with the splash park trend is the trend to provide water in nature play spaces such as in The Potter Garden in Centennial Park and in Royal Park in Melbourne.



Ian Potter Wild Play Park; Photo. Tim Lumsdaine



Royal Park Play Space, Melbourne. Photo City of Melbourne

7.6 Inflatables

A number of commercial entities provide inflatables as pop up facilities in parks e.g., Splash 'n Bounce, located in Ballarat, Victoria. See image following.



Splash 'n Bounce, Ballarat

Similar inflatables have been provided in rivers (Mulwala, NSW) and open water such as off Broadbeach Parklands in QLD, AquaSplash in Redcliffe, QLD and in the Brisbane Water adjacent to the Gosford Olympic Pool. See image following.

Aquazone@LakeMulwala is the seventh Wibit sports park operating in Australia.



AquaSplash.com.au

Many municipal pools now provide scheduled times with inflatables to facilitate play. These come with additional management responsibilities, staffing and the need for storage.

There is now a confirmed Australian standard for water borne inflatables following industry consultation.

The standard provides guidance to manufacturers and operators of constant airflow waterborne inflatable equipment and facilities on how to design and operate this type of device.

Inflatables in indoor leisure centres

In an indoor court setting inflatables are commonly used to attract additional users in holiday periods, for example. However, inflatables may also displace important court uses that don't have the same some likely income but rely on court space.

This trend of indoor centres needing to choose uses based on income over participation benefits, has affected sports such as indoor cricket and particularly squash which were largely provided by the private sector and have been replaced by residential developments, or other internal components such as child care and gym space for example, that may draw higher returns.

7.7 Group fitness

More aquatic and leisure centres are offering more group fitness classes: e.g. aqua moves, gentle exercise, high intensity fitness classes, bikes, personal training and Pilates style programs in the water and on the pool deck.

More centres now have multiple rooms that can be used for different types of group fitness, yoga and meditation, and seek flexible water spaces to be able to program a range of water based classes traditionally only undertaken on land (i.e. Pilates).

There is a trend for centres to offer more virtual classes outside scheduled staffed programs. These virtual offers assist with providing opportunities outside the most viable and popular time slots.

Whitlam currently offers virtual cycle classes. It does not offer other group exercise classes.

The complete 'Top 20 Worldwide Fitness Trends for 2018'¹⁴ are:

1. High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT)
2. Group Training
3. Wearable Technology
4. Body Weight Training
5. Strength Training
6. More Educated, Certified and Experience Fitness Professionals
7. Yoga
8. Personal Training
9. Fitness Programs for Older Adults
10. Functional Fitness
11. Exercise and Weight Loss
12. Exercise Is Medicine
13. Group Personal Training
14. Outdoor Activities
15. Flexibility and Mobility Rollers
16. Licensure for Fitness Professionals
17. Circuit Training
18. Wellness Coaching
19. Core Training
20. Sport Specific Training

One implication of the trends in group fitness for Liverpool centres is the need for space for group fitness and adequate storage space poolside for the increasing range of classes that are likely to be offered especially water based programs when more pool space is provided for programs.

7.8 Swimming participation trends¹⁵

Almost 16.7% of people over 15 years of age swim in NSW. Slightly more females swim, than males. Of the people who swim, 52.4% swim in an organised setting such as a leisure centre. Some 6% of organised swimming participation is club based. Slightly more people swim in an organised setting than in previous years.

The participation rate for swimming among children, as an organised activity is 33% (0-14 years), outside school hours.

The median annual spend on swimming is \$400 per child. This spend is 27% of the total spent on sports and physical activities outside of school hours.

About 50% of people swim once a week and the average is 45 minutes.

The direct motivation to swim for people over the age of 15 years is physical health and fitness 51%. Social reasons are the second main motivator (but the highest for playing most sports). Some 34% of people swim for more social reasons. The AusPlay data 2019 suggests some 26% of the population would consider swimming.

There has been a decrease in school based swimming programs due to bus costs, as well as policies about taking children off-site and a crowded curriculum.

There is an increasing demand for learn to swim classes, for babies, young and middle years' children and stroke improvement classes for adults and even grandparents (who are the largest providers of child care in Australia). Swim Teaching qualifications are no longer strictly AUSTSWIM provided.

¹⁴ ACSMs Health and Fitness journal, November/December 2017

¹⁵ AusPlay 2019.

There are more options using technology tracking students' progress in swim schools providing parent feedback – such as Swim Desk.

There are an increasing number of private swimming school facilities and providers offering swimming lessons e.g. JUMP, King Swim, Paul Sadler Swimland, Shapland Swim Schools, Carlile Swimming, Rackley Swimming, State Swim and school PPP developments. There are few providers however in Liverpool, due to the lack of affordable sites or buildings to lease according to a Jump Swim School representative.

Participation in swimming peaks in the age group 5 to 8 years at approximately 43% he declines gradually to 18 to 24 years and then rises about 5% to approximately 11% of the population between 35 and 44 years and then declines again to around about 6% in people 65 years and over. Participation in club swimming has a similar age profile as swimming as a whole.

There has been a decline in the number of registered swim club members in Australia since 2000. This is consistent with the trend toward participation in small groups and event based rather than club based activities.

The implications of the current profile of swimmers is the increasing demand for larger, shallow warm water pools to accommodate swim lessons, programs and classes.

7.9 Increasing energy and water costs

Of all public facilities, swimming pools are the most energy-intensive (to heat the water and air and to ventilate the premises). Space heating, more warm water in pools, water heating, showers and the electricity requirements of mechanical systems, lighting and pool technology as well as other electricity consumption from other devices, all contribute to increasing energy demands of public aquatic centres and puts at risk their financial viability.

The increasing energy demand and cost of energy and water are driving new technologies such as the “Pooled Energy’s cloud-based control system” that collects data from sensors that monitor the multiple pool’s water chemistry and temperature is an example of new technologies used in conjunction with information on the local weather, the state of the national electricity grid and the current cost of power to implement an optimal pool management regime.

Elsewhere there are good examples where heat from servers and sewers are being recovered and recycled and solar farms are being used to heat public pools.

Trigeneration and cogeneration, use of geothermal heat pumps and variable speed drives that allow pumps to run at a lower frequency have been used in pools across the country to reduce reliance on gas and carbon emissions.

A number of technologies around solar and storage of solar energy are changing rapidly and should be monitored. The replacement of fittings and fixtures may also make a considerable difference to energy costs.

Installation of water tanks and harvesting of water reduce the use and cost of potable water.

7.10 Indoor sports

There has been growth in indoor sports in recent years as additional offerings are available for traditional outdoor sports, such as archery and lacrosse. More modified or social sports are now being offered to a diversity of age groups and market segments, by non-traditional sports organisation including cultural groups and small businesses. Activities such as walking basketball, soft tennis and table tennis are examples of those now offered for older adults. There are more sports available to people with a disability – including parasports and sports such as wheelchair Australian rules football, floorball and power hockey.

Indoor sports courts are also being used more for training for outdoor sports such as cricket.

More centres are being dedicated to sports such as futsal, badminton, table tennis and gymnastics and skate facilities, as population increases and the size of the market increases. Indoor mountain bike centres are also likely to open where affordable properties present.

The indoor sports industry's revenue has grown slightly over the past five years, despite strong competition from alternative forms of exercise like gyms, fitness centres, running and cycling. Government grants and contributions have helped support growth in industry revenue. These grants generally go towards constructing or redeveloping stadiums.

One concern for volunteer sports such as netball in using more indoor courts is the costs to players, as typically the price of outdoor courts is less than half that of an indoor court.



Dedicated Badminton Centre, Melbourne Badminton Centre.

Source: www.melbournebadminton.com

Design of future centres

The implications for Liverpool related to accessibility, demand for water play and the design to co-locate aquatics with other services that may include events, courts space and group fitness or allied health is that new centres will require a larger footprints and with more zero depth play space than previously.

8. Potential participation

8.1 Implications of demographic influences

The key demographic influences on demand for swimming, leisure and participation in sport and physical fitness are age, gender, income, education and cultural background.

Generally speaking, people that are least likely to participate in swimming and sport or physical activity generally are those that:

- Are over 65 years of age
- Are born overseas in a non-English speaking country
- Live remotely
- Have low incomes and levels of education and
- Are unemployed or have a disability.

The additional 37,000¹⁶ people arriving in the LGA over the next 10 years will have an impact on the capacity of centres. The young population profile alone will increase the demand for aquatic, sports and leisure opportunities, however the high proportion of people born overseas will require additional effort to address the lower propensity to participate, lack of water safety knowledge and affinity with sport and swimming and increased challenges associated with cultural diversity, in addition to low incomes and higher unemployment.

In response to these demographic factors it is suggested there will be a need to:

- Extend opportunities for children's swimming lessons with facilities with expanded shallow program pools at Whitlam, Wenden, the proposed centre in Austral/ Rossmore and Hammondville Park (potential relocation of Holsworthy Aquatic Centre)

¹⁶ planning.nsw.gov.au

- Include a change room and pool design that encourages use by women and those from Muslim cultures
- Control pricing of programs that encourage access to all residents. This is likely to require subsidised centre operations
- Provide shallow water space at all venues to safely accommodate those with low or no swimming ability
- Provide child care and before/after school options as part of, or within close proximity to venues
- Provide opportunities to cool off without having to be fully immersed or needing to change clothes
- Continue to provide interventions and expertise that can reach out to specific populations less like to participate on their own account.

8.2 Potential numbers of people likely to swim or use aquatic leisure centres

Interviews with staff and a review of annual attendance data from 2018 for the four centres highlights that the current facilities are at capacity and the demand for a number of activities such as warm water swimming and aquatic programs, school swimming carnivals, gymnastics and basketball are not being met.

This is reinforced by existing benchmarks. The two of the three centres managed under contract (Whitlam, and Wenden) exceeded the CERM¹⁷ benchmark for centres in their category.

The reported annual attendance for Holsworthy for 2018 was well short of the

¹⁷ CERM performance indicators are based on an annual operational management survey for Australian aquatic and leisure centres with over 150 aquatic and leisure centres providing data each year

average benchmark for the indoor pool category, however this may be due to the limited offering of the facility.

The review of potential participation by activity and centre based catchment population and typical visitation rates for the various activities; the annual visitation rate could be much higher for each centre than currently. These figures exclude the use of the centres by schools and other additional non-residential markets.

The assessment suggests that in the catchment around Clarke, some 4,800 potential swimmers will either not swim, or they will need to travel to Wenden for example, as the site at Clarke is not large enough to accommodate aquatic facilities, other than a splash park.

The figures suggest that there will be demand for a splash park in association with all centres.

Early childhood swimming lessons (out of school) show a greater potential demand than evident, even considering participation likely in the two private centres. A large number of potential users of lessons around Clarke (some 1,400) may have to use Wenden for example or go elsewhere.

Potential participation in diving is very low and hence is not likely to be viable for Council to provide, unless Council wishes to provide for a regional catchment.

Factors affecting participation are likely to include demographic influences as described above, the age and condition of the facilities, presence of other facilities, their location and prominence and marketing.

A large number of activities participated in Council's centres are likely to include:

- Swimming
- Spa
- Sauna
- Splash park
- Water slide
- Early childhood swimming lessons private out of school
- Clinical hydrotherapy
- Underwater sports
- Lifesaving
- Aqua aerobics
- Triathlon
- Water polo
- Diving
- Gym /weight training
- Fitness

In addition to indoor sports and events, there is likely to be a small demand for activities not currently provided for including underwater sports, waterslide, water polo and diving.

8.3 Demand from schools and learn to swim programs

There are presently some 70 schools in Liverpool City Council, providing a large potential demand for swimming lessons. Attendance figures currently don't capture the details about school's usage.

There will be an increase in the number of school and students in Liverpool in the next ten years. Currently the existing centres do not cater well for the existing demand especially carnivals (because of the short duration when these are held) due to capacity and the design of current centres.

Current and new leisure facilities should attract significant demand from schools and learn to swim programs. Schools are a very important market for swimming pools, for water safety and lessons (especially for children who may not otherwise have access to lessons), for sport, carnivals etc, and for school holiday programs.

Research from an Australian wide survey of swim school managers and using ABS population estimates, it is thought that swim schools currently only reach between approximately 17% (741,000) and 24% (1 million) of all Australian children under 14 years per annum.¹⁸

8.4 Demand for Indoor fitness

The fitness industry survey 2015 indicated that the main drivers of activities going into 2017 and beyond:

- Small group training will continue to be popular, as many people want a fitness experience mixed with a social or community experience.
- Strength training will continue to grow in popularity, especially amongst women who are starting to become more aware of the health benefits of this type of activity.
- Training that equips people to improve their everyday functional ability will also be attractive, especially for those who are new to exercise or have been relatively inactive for a period of time.

According to AusPlay¹⁹ fitness or gym activities were participated in by some (17%) of the population, second only to walking. Participation by females was 20%.

Gym workouts is the largest potential market within Liverpool City Council with some 34,121 adults likely to participate in this activity.

Non-organised participation in fitness or gym activities is significantly higher (64.5%) than organised participation (27.7%). The majority of participants participate twice a week (39.9%).

The total participation rate for group exercise /fitness in Australia has grown between 2001 and 2010 by 110%.²⁰

¹⁸ Royal Life Saving Society Australia and AUSTSWIM, *Survey of Swim School Managers – Benchmarking 2010*

¹⁹ Australian Social Trends (4120.0), Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011

²⁰ IBID

The highest participation rate in group exercise /fitness is by people born in the main English-speaking countries (15%), compared to people born in non-English speaking countries (11%).²¹

Frequency of participation

Fitness and gym activities are typically participated in on a more frequent basis than swimming. Some 40% of participants participate more than twice a week.²²

Industry data suggests that assisted exercise has greater participation rates than un-assisted (50% vs. 36%), whilst group exercise users attend more regularly and remain members longer.²³

Les Mills suggest that many group fitness users participate up to 3 times per week, which is more than other gym users (1.9 times per week).

Females tend to participate more frequently than males.

The latest fitness industry survey suggests that the majority of members and clients (90%) visited their fitness centre once or twice per week with 8% visiting three times per week.

The table following shows the potential participation in key activities for each leisure centre in Liverpool City Council based on the catchment suburbs identified above. These exclude indoor sports that are provided separately.

Participation figures for a potential leisure centre in Austral/ Rossmore have also been included in the table.

²¹ 'Participation in Sports and Physical Recreation, 2005-06 (4177.0)', Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2010

²² Available ABS data

²³ Bryce Hasting LES MILLS Fitness Research 2015

Table 14. Potential number of participants by activity for each centre based on AusPlay participation averages for NSW²⁴

Activity	Facility				
	Whitlam	Clarke	Holsworthy	Wenden	Austral/ Rossmore
Gym workouts	11,534	5,051	3,854	10,895	2,786
Swimming	10,046	4,835	3,511	9,813	2,456
Early childhood swimming lessons -private out of school	2,836	1,407	1,027	2,740	679
Spa	992	434	332	937	240
Splash park	769	403	280	776	190
Water Slide	769	403	280	776	190
Aqua aerobics	640	280	214	604	155
Sauna	496	217	166	469	120
Hydrotherapy	379	192	136	378	93
Underwater sports	323	143	109	306	78
Water polo	278	123	94	264	67
Triathlon	145	68	50	140	35
Diving	19	9	7	18	5
Synchronised swimming	5	2	2	5	1

²⁴ The potential number of participants (all things being equal) have been derived by applying the state wide participation rates from AusPlay 2018 for New South Wales and applying these to the current and forecast population for each of the Centres catchments and factoring in some likely demographic influences such as SEIFA index and cultural background.

8.5 Potential gym, swim and fitness visits by activity and centre – should space be available

The following tables illustrate the 2018 attendance; potential demand now by annual visitation, based on 2016 data and by 2026 for different activities at each centre based on state “organised” participation rates in each activity and the projected population of the suburbs within the catchment of each centre. The tables show unmet demand for activities for 2019 and 2026 that takes into account, estimated attendances at competitor facilities within each catchment.

Note: Several sources of attendance data were available. These were not consistent or broken down to individual activities. The potential visitations forecast below are not adjusted to take into account the demographic differences described above in Chapter 3. The differences are likely to reduce the potential participation in 2016 and 2026. Council would need to provide specific ongoing-targeted marketing campaigns and provide additional intervention programs to improve visitation rates.

Potential visitation per year for each centre based on AusPlay participation averages for NSW.

The grey denotes activities/facilities not currently provided.

Table 15. Whitlam potential annual visits and unmet demand 2019 and 2026

Activity	Potential Visits		Unmet Demand	
	2019	2026	2019	2026
Gym workouts	1,199,573	1,333,163	263,835	293,217
Swimming	777,461	856,169	550,745	604,205
Swimming lessons - private out of school	113,448	122,288	12,648	12,472
Aqua aerobics	87,700	97,467	61,239	68,059
Spa	16,866	18,744	7,422	8,249
Underwater sports	14,095	15,662	14,095	15,662
Hydrotherapy	13,350	14,830	13,350	14,830
Water polo	10,584	11,761	10,584	11,761
Triathlon	8,338	9,187	8,338	9,187
Sauna	3,969	4,410	0	0
Splash park	3,078	3,353	3,078	3,353
Water slide	3,078	3,353	3,078	3,353

Potential Visits calculated by participation rates (AusPlay 2018 NSW) x catchment population x visit frequency

Unmet Demand = Potential visits less estimated current visitations from centres within catchment.

Table 16. Clarke potential visits and unmet demand 2019 and 2026

The grey denotes activities/facilities not currently provided.

Activity	Potential Visits		Unmet Demand	
	2019	2026	2019	2026
Gym Workouts	525,267	558,072	447,198	364,632
Swimming	371,228	380,208	371,228	380,208
Spa	7,385	7,847	7,385	7,847
Sauna	1,738	1,846	1,738	1,846
Swimming lessons - private out of school	56,270	54,860	56,270	54,860
Underwater sports	6,185	6,565	6,185	6,565
Hydrotherapy	5,872	6,227	5,872	6,227
Splash park	1,612	1,590	1,612	1,590
Water slide	1,612	1,590	1,612	1,590
Triathlon	3,962	4,066	3,962	4,066
Aqua aerobics	38,402	40,800	38,402	40,800
Water polo	4,643	4,929	4,643	4,929

Potential Visits calculated by participation rates (AusPlay 2018 NSW) x catchment population x visit frequency

Unmet Demand = Potential visits less estimated current visitations from centres within catchment.

Table 17. Wenden potential visits and unmet demand 2019 and 2026

The grey denotes activities/facilities not currently provided.

Activity	Potential Visits		Unmet Demand	
	2019	2026	2019	2026
Gym Workouts	1,133,045	1,194,197	249,263	207,909
Swimming	757,239	776,375	530,523	537,422
Swimming lessons - private out of school	109,594	108,635	20,394	19,973
Aqua aerobics	82,836	87,307	56,375	59,418
Splash park	3,103	3,085	3,103	3,085
Spa	15,931	16,791	15,931	16,791
Underwater sports	13,323	14,033	13,323	14,033
Hydrotherapy	12,629	13,292	12,629	13,292
Water polo	10,004	10,538	10,004	10,538
Triathlon	8,107	8,325	8,107	8,325
Sauna	3,748	3,951	3,748	3,951
Water slide	3,103	3,085	3,103	3,085

Potential Visits calculated by participation rates (AusPlay 2018 NSW) x catchment population x visit frequency

Unmet Demand = Potential visits less estimated current visitations from centres within catchment

Table 18. Holsworthy potential visits and unmet demand 2019 and 2026

Activity	Potential Visits		Unmet Demand	
	2019	2026	2019	2026
Gym Workouts	400,834	416,017	114,834	119,184
Swimming	270,649	270,094	266,999	266,306
Swimming lessons -private out of school	41,095	37,901	41,095	37,901
Spa	5,636	5,849	5,636	5,849
Sauna	1,326	1,376	1,326	1,376
Hydrotherapy	4,470	4,630	4,470	4,630
Underwater sports	4,714	4,888	4,714	4,888
Splash park	1,122	1,071	1,122	1,071
Water slide	1,122	1,071	1,122	1,071
Aqua aerobics	29,305	30,415	29,305	30,415
Triathlon	2,896	2,896	2,896	2,896
Water polo	3,540	3,671	3,540	3,671

Potential Visits calculated by participation rates (AusPlay 2018 NSW) x catchment population x visit frequency

Unmet Demand = Potential visits less estimated current visitations from centres within catchment.

8.6 Demand for indoor sports

Potential participation in indoor sports can be projected based on state participation rates and based on the nature and quality of opportunities available in other centres and having considered likely influences of demographic profile.

Participation in the key indoor sports of badminton, table tennis, basketball, indoor football, indoor netball, indoor cricket, squash and volleyball has been projected for Liverpool City Council.

Potential participation for 2016, and 2026 factoring in demographic profile the increase in the total population is displayed in the table following.

The table shows that there is a potential increase of 345 participants in badminton, 3,095 participants in basketball, 1,432 participants in indoor football, 3,033 participants in netball and 538 participants in volleyball from 2016 to 2026.

Table 19. Projected demand for indoor sports and recreation activities within Liverpool City Council

Activity	2016	2026
	Total	Total
Basketball	6,587	7,739
Martial arts	4,400	4,676
Football (indoor)	3171	3,793
Gymnastics	2,861	3,290
Indoor netball	1,938	2,276
Squash	1505	1782
Volleyball	1,132	1,335
Badminton	797	941
Indoor cricket	763	902
Table Tennis	695	825

Note: the dance has a very high number of potential participants; Dance hasn't been included as much of what is recorded as participation (some 6,500 people) may be nightclub and other social dancing which is not likely to be conducted in a leisure centre. Cultural dancing however may well be occur in the centres during festivals and programs etc. and presents an opportunity to encourage people to be active.

An assessment of non-Council facilities in the vicinity and the likely demand suggests the following:

Table 20. Number of courts required to meet projected demand (includes existing Courts)

Sport	Assessment of current demand
Basketball	Access to 6 courts – at least 4 with sprung timber floors
Martial arts	none given no of private centres
Football (indoor)	Access to 3 courts
Gymnastics	One dedicated centre
Indoor netball	Access to 2 courts
Squash	None give access to 5 courts in private centre
Volleyball	Access to 2 courts
Badminton	Access to 2 courts
Indoor cricket	None, given existing centre
Table Tennis	Access to equivalent to 2 courts.

To meet an increasing demand in these sports, Council will need to provide an increased number of indoor sports courts with suitable floors and ceiling heights in an additional centre in Austral/ Rossmore and make these available at time when local teams can play against outside teams when these sports are typically played.

Some sports such as gymnastics will need a dedicated space to accommodate the range of disciplines in the sport and reduce down-time from setting and packing up.

Data from Gymnastics NSW show that there were 3,307 gymnastic members residing in the Liverpool LGA in 2018 with only 691 participating in clubs that operate within the LGA. Therefore 77% of Liverpool residents seeking gymnastic services do so outside their local area.

To meet participation demand by 2036, an additional 10,700 square metres of facility space will be required for an additional 9,738 participants.

8.7 Demand for events

There is a very wide range of cultures represented in Liverpool and this is likely to continue to grow as migration continues. In line with this growth there is a high demand for affordable facilities to celebrate local cultural traditions and religious events. These activities provide multiple benefits including development of social connections and cohesion, as well as spiritual fulfilment and a sense of identity and belonging.

Studies²⁵ have indicated that three of the top four venues where people attend cultural programs and events are community venues.

Almost all people who attend arts and cultural events do so in community venues at least some of the time, but a substantial group of arts and cultural participants attend only in community venues.

Based on the main non-English cultures present in Liverpool there are number of festivals and annual events that are likely to be celebrated. See Appendix 7.

There are major implications of the demand for events for other activities using Council Leisure Centres, especially Whitlam.

Sports competitions, which have fixtured competition times, compete with events and seek more specialised sports surfaces.

²⁵ Participation in Arts and Culture: The importance of community venues. Chris Walker with Kay Sherwood 2003.

8.8 Gaps in distribution of aquatic and leisure centres

The previous maps show the distribution of the four existing facilities within Liverpool. The venues are relatively spread across the municipality with each site sharing a portion of their catchment with the neighbouring facility, assuming a 3-kilometre radius for the majority of each centre's catchment.

Map 1 shows the concentration of private facilities around Wenden and Whitlam centres. These are predominately private gym and fitness facilities.

Council is the only provider of lap swimming, aquatic exercise and splash parks; facilities that are not typically provided by private operators.

Only Whitlam offers indoor sport court space with a timber floor suitable for competitive basketball, however these are not available at times when the sport plays. As events use them on weekends.

Whitlam, Wenden, Bigge Park, Macquarie Mall and Carnes Hill offer outdoor splash parks but not on a large scale.















The following gaps in the distribution of aquatic and indoor sports facilities can be noted:

- There are no indoor courts and aquatics facilities servicing the rural areas in the west of Liverpool Council area, where most of the future residential growth will occur
- There are no indoor sports facilities serving the south of Liverpool
- There is a lack of Indoor courts space serving the central and east LGA
- There is a lack of competition standard indoor sports courts and availability in peaks times generally

- There is a limited distribution of outdoor 50m pools (suitable for school carnivals for example)
- There are no diving facilities in Liverpool
- There is no provision for outdoor leisure water in the LGA, except the limited provision in Whitlam
- There are no public hydrotherapy pools in Liverpool
- Both Whitlam and Clarke centres offer gymnastics. They focus on different disciplines. Both share with other community groups
- There are no water slides in pools in Liverpool
- There is a notable lack of private swim school facilities. There are only three other operators offering lessons outside Council facilities. Given the expected population growth, there is a significant market for swimming lessons and water safety classes in Liverpool
- There are no aquatic facilities easily accessible to people with a physical disability
- The Clarke catchment is poorly serviced by any aquatic facilities
- The development of a facility in the outer west (Austral/ Rossmore) will service residents in the west of the LGA in the future. Should a full array of aquatic service and indoor courts sports be provided at Austral, this will largely service the catchment of Clarke.

This overview of distribution however does not take into account the lack of capacity, which could be exacerbated by the population growth projected in the CBD.

Table 21. The following graphic summarises the main gaps in distribution

Gaps in distribution of aquatic and leisure centres	
	Indoor sports courts, gym and aquatic facilities servicing the outer west of the LGA
	Indoor sports/fitness facilities servicing the east of the LGA
	24hr access to gym and fitness facilities
	Club competition-standard indoor sports courts and availability in peak times across the LGA
	Suitable swimming pools for school carnivals
	Diving facilities
	Scale of outdoor leisure water in the LGA
	Public hydrotherapy pools in Liverpool
	Dedicated and purpose built gymnastics facilities
	Water slides at pools in Liverpool
	Substantial splash parks in the west or outer west
	Swim school facilities with only two operators present in the LGA
	Aquatic facilities easily accessible to people with a physical disability
	Aquatic facilities in the west

8.9 Strengths, weaknesses opportunities and threats of existing centres

The following tables provide a snapshot of the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for the four venues from the consultation process. Overall the limitation and opportunities of the current aquatic and leisure service can be summarised as follows:

Limitations

- Aged facilities, not fit for purpose or code compliant and have limited access for people of all abilities
- Little or no capacity for additional indoor sports, swimming lessons, gymnastics, hydrotherapy or aquatic play
- Existing venues in close proximity
- If a site in Austral / Rossmore cannot be developed at a sufficient scale, there will be a major gap in distribution, especially if the site at Clarke cannot be further developed.

Opportunities

- Integrate Wenden if future Miller Town Centre Master Plan proceeds
- Resite Whitlam in Woodward Park Master Plan
- Develop an aquatic sports and fitness centre to serve the outer west at a greenfield site in the vicinity of Austral/ Rossmore
- High demand for gymnastics, basketball and swimming lessons and leisure water for hot weather
- Redevelop Holsworthy and provide a wider range of fitness, aquatic and sports services
- Partner with other organisations to redevelop the existing facilities and deliver new services at Wenden, Holsworthy and potentially Clarke.
- Target the learn to swim market that is not well serviced by the private sector and provide a suite of activities that will address the relatively low health and physical activity status of residents.

The following tables provide a SWOT by centre.

SWOT ANALYSIS - Whitlam Leisure Centre

S Strengths

- High profile in community
- Close to Liverpool town centre
- Large attendances with strong financial viability
- Large gym and weight training facilities
- Availability of parking
- Community outreach programs
- Outdoor 50m 10 lane pool
- Ability to accommodate community events indoor and outdoor

Which means that

- The scale of the centre and range of services (sports, aquatics and events) means it has a high profile
- The population served by this centre is large due to its centre and higher density context. This context includes visitors and potential employees
- As the major and most central facility in Liverpool, it has good market share, strong attendance and mix of opportunities, supporting strong financial viability
- The large gym and weight training facilities provide an important income stream
- The centre is convenient to people who wish to drive
- Community outreach programs reflect social equity and inclusion objectives and demographic profile of the Liverpool community
- The outdoor pool can provide for school activities and carnivals, lap swimming and free play on hot days.
- Events promote the centre to a wide range of people and generate income.

Action needed

- A large scale aquatic and sports facility is warranted as the Liverpool centre grows
- Maintain this centre in this general location
- Maintain a large gym and weight training as a point of difference
- Ensure future development continues to provide for parking whilst minimising with other green space or sports facilities
- Continue to provide these programs that address "social focused outcomes"
- The outdoor 50m pool warrants retention as this centre as is more able to ensure high usage of an outdoor 50m pool than others.
- Provide a more suitable balance between demand for events and sports that are dependant on the same space.

W Weaknesses

- Not visible to the main road
- Inability to meet pool demand on hot days
- Lack of school-only changerooms
- Basketballs access to courts limited by weekend events
- Lack of warm water and indoor lane space at peak times.
- Gymnastics is at capacity and has to share space with other users
- The facilities is aging, presentation is tired, dim light and no longer meets current access and building codes. Plant is old.

Which means that

- People may not be motivated to use the centre as they don't see it, and unappealing
- The centre experiences a number of lock out days in summer
- Schools find student supervision difficult. Change rooms carry a high bather load increasing noise and the need for cleaning
- Sports must travel further for weekend competition which is limiting opportunities and growth
- Residents may have a negative experience or can't swim due to lack of space
- Growth in gymnastics is limited and costs higher due to staff required for set up and pack up
- Facility condition increases maintenance costs and attendances are likely to decline, affecting financial performance.

Action needed

- Redevelop facilities on a more prominent site in the park and/or provide strong visible street signage
- Provide additional aquatic facilities to allow residents to cool off
- Provide school change rooms near the bus zone in the future redesign
- Improve access to courts and provide additional indoor courts for basketball
- Provide additional aquatic facilities
- Include a new dedicated gymnastic facility in the design
- Redevelop the centre as more inclusive fit for purpose and to current standards.

SWOT ANALYSIS - Whitlam Leisure Centre

O

Opportunities

- Available land to expand facilities and develop women's only areas, accessible water spaces, warm water pool and aquatic play space
- Woodward Park Master Plan could allow centre to be re-sited to a more prominent location and remain open during the rebuild
- Are to serve the high demand for court sports and gymnastics not currently met
- Childcare: review partner opportunities.

Which means that

- The needs of lap swimmers, learn to swim students, recreational swimmers and those with rehabilitation needs or supports are better met
- The Centre can be located in a more prominent location within park, increase participation and offer facilities that better meet current demand
- Growth in participation in sports and associated benefits.

Action needed

- Develop specific aquatic components that meeting existing and future demand
- Integrate actions from Aquatic and Leisure Centre Strategy with Woodward Park Master Plan and develop a new facility
- Provide additional sports courts and a dedicated gymnastics facility in a redesign
- Review the nature of child care in conjunction with competitors and partners.

T

Threats

- The number of private gym competitors offering 24/7 access
- Current design cannot provide 24/7 access
- The Woodward Park Master Plan provides a very commercial development focus to the site
- Most issues can not be resolved unless the facility is redeveloped
- Inability to fund a new development.

Which means that

- It maybe difficult for the operator to grow the gym business without better facilities and strong service offer - which will affect overall centre performance
- The master plan may constrain the resiting and expansion of the aquatic and leisure centre and limits needs being met
- Without significant funds the centre may not to be able to be relocated and remain open in staged development.

Action needed

- Provide modern facilities, quality equipment and strong service offer to maintain market position
- Offer 24/7 access in new design
- Ensure the master plan accommodate space for an expanded centre in a suitable location
- Commence the process of securing funds for the redevelopment of this centre.

SWOT ANALYSIS - Michael Wenden

S

Strengths

- Proximity to the Miller town centre
- Provides women's only access to a warm water pool
- Large site that can be expanded
- Addition of a new splash park.

Which means that

- The Centre should be integrated into any future town centre master plan
- The Centre has ability to cross promote to local businesses
- It is the only public pool in Liverpool that is designed to allow women only bathing, that is required to meet cultural norms
- Development costs at this site will be less than one where land is required to be purchased
- The centre will be able to offer more to attract families and young children.

Action needed

- Include Wenden inside the boundary of any future town centre master plan
- Include cross promotion with local businesses in an annual marketing plan
- The future centre design should include an ability to isolate pools for segregated swimming
- Consider available land as a key criteria when selecting an alternative site for development
- Consider retention of a splash park in any future development.

W

Weaknesses

- The indoor pool is too small (only 12m) for the required programs and the demographic profile
- Court surface is not a suitable playing surface for competition especially basketball
- No compliant disability access to pools
- Lack of and poor layout of car parking
- Old facility, tired appearance not code compliant and outdoor pool shell subsidence and draining issues
- Buildings are not well connected
- The centre is not very visible from the road
- Disjointed centre components.

Which means that

- Basketballers, people with a disability and those seeking indoor and accessible water space have to travel to access indoor facilities, competition courts, or they may have a negative experience. These things impact on health and well being
- Maintenance costs continue to increase, attendances are likely to decline affecting financial performance
- Supervision is difficult due to layout, increasing staff costs and decreases customer experience
- Negative affect on centre attendances
- Configuration of centre makes it hard and costly to supervise.

Action needed

- Develop a larger indoor pool that meets local and future demand
- Provide sports courts that meet current standards for multiple sports
- Upgrade the facility to meet contemporary standards for access
- Provide more parking in future design
- Undertake a major redevelopment or rebuild to improve functionality and layout
- Improve signage in short term and consider resitting if redeveloped in future.

SWOT ANALYSIS - Michael Wenden

O

Opportunities

- Space to expand facilities on site
- Proximity to PCYC (that services a similar market) and potential to integrate recreation facilities such as courts, fitness facilities
- Miller town centre redevelopment and Master Plan
- Focus on services to meet local (rather than regional) needs – especially people with a disability
- Retain price differentiation with other centres to promote participation.

Which means that

- Development costs at this site will be less than one where land is required for purchase
- Development costs could be shared and facility usage maximised with a partnership
- If the master plan is to proceed, Wenden should be included as part of the town centre. Impacts on traffic flow, pedestrian access, parking etc should be considered
- People with lower propensity to participate can be well serviced.

Action needed

- Consider available land as a key criteria when selecting a site for development
- Consider the future needs of PCYC and future management structure if facilities were integrated
- Include Wenden in Miller town centre master plan if it proceeds
- Include a high degree of accessibility in the redesign and potential allied health services.

T

Threats

- Close proximity to Whitlam as a regional centre, and other private gyms offering 24/7 access
- Current design cannot provide 24/7 access
- PCYC is redeveloped separately and provides some duplication in services
- Most issues can no to be resolved unless the facility is redeveloped.

Which means that

- Services will need to have a specific market focus and not duplicate those available in the catchment
- It maybe difficult for the operator to grow the gym business unless targeted, which could affects the overall centre performance.

Action needed

- Provide facilities and services to target the local demographic profile
- Design option for 24/ 7 access in redevelopment
- Upgrade the with quality equipment to maintain market position.

SWOT ANALYSIS - Michael Clarke

S Strengths

- Relatively new centre and recently replaced equipment
- Located in a growth area
- Corner location on busy road in community hub
- Provides outdoor courts.

Which means that

- New equipment helps attract and retain new members
- Increasing demand and limited other facilities. New arrivals may not be aware of existing facilities
- Ability to use hub and street frontage to promote centre and programs.

Action needed

- Adequate budget to maintain facility and replace equipment at regular intervals
- Regular marketing to new residents
- Planning permit required for external signage.

W Weaknesses

- Lack of parking at peak times and traffic issues turning into centre
- Centre shuts earlier on weekends
- No women's only fitness areas
- No aquatic facilities
- Fault in floor and court surface is not a sprung floor
- Constrained site and relatively poor position of facilities on the site with limited space for expansion.

Which means that

- Member and customer retention is more difficult
- Potential members may choose other venues with more convenient access
- Residents aquatic needs are not met and they are required to either travel to other pools, or they do not participate
- Basketball players travel elsewhere to play or they do not participate- which has negative health and wellness implications
- Additional health and fitness cannot be provided without major redevelopment on this site – for example removal of outdoor courts and alternatives need to be found to meet future growth.

Action needed

- Review alternative parking and promote public transport options
- Review potential weekend usage and extend if feasible and explore 24/7 gym access
- Plan for aquatic facilities within the Clarke catchment
- Provide sports courts that meet current standards for multiple sports including basketball
- Plan future sites for health and fitness activities.

SWOT ANALYSIS - Michael Clarke

O

Opportunities

- Demand for additional stadium court space
- Accommodate small aquatic and/or outdoor water play area potentially including a water slide
- Could expand to offer other commercial services e.g. allied health.
- Develop additional sports programs and participation.

Which means that

- Management are required to make decisions that prioritise one group ahead of others
- Some of the local demand for aquatics can be met on this site
- Users and potential users have a broader offer of programs and services improving centres financial viability
- Participation in sport can be increased.

Action needed

- Policy and plans to be developed to help meet demand for court space
- Consider relocation of tennis outdoor courts
- Provide a splash park, learn to swim/programmable and potentially a water slide.

T

Threats

- Inability to meet increasing demand for indoor sports and aquatic activity
- Congestion at the site if overdeveloped.

Which means that

- High cost to the community if opportunities for physical activity and social connection and water safety are not provided.

Action needed

- Prepare concept options to provide two additional basketball/netball courts with a sprung floor as well as small scale aquatic components.

SWOT ANALYSIS - Holsworthy

S Strengths

- The only aquatic facility in the area
- Established learn to swim program
- Off-street car parking
- Adjacent to two schools
- Centre provides a financial return to Council unlike other Council owned centres.

Which means that

- There is no competition for services
- Provides important service to local residents and adjacent schools
- Opportunities are available for children to learn to swim.
- Activities provided for are those which generate revenue and therefore may not include ones necessary for social benefits.

Action needed

- Retain an aquatic centre in the area
- Provide ongoing aquatic and learn to swim programs.

W Weaknesses

- Restricted operating hours
- Limited range of facilities and access for lap or recreational swimmers
- No access for people with a disability
- Poor siting and not visible from a main road or close to a town centre
- Small catchment due to physical context
- There are no specific programs for cultural groups
- Age and condition of facility.

Which means that

- People cannot easily access pools on weekends
- Lap and recreational swimmers are required to travel further to swim
- People with a disability are not included
- The venue may not attract the patronage that it could if in higher profile location
- The needs of a large number of people in the catchment may not be met by the existing facility
- Poor presentation and higher operating and maintenance costs.

Action needed

- Consider changing the contract conditions for next lease period to address hours of opening and range of offerings
- Provide more accessible and an expanded range of facilities
- Redevelop the centre to provide a great range of components
- Consider relocating the centre to a larger and more high traffic area
- Complete asset review and comprehensive asset upgrade.

SWOT ANALYSIS - Holsworthy

O

Opportunities

- To relocate to another site to expand the range of facilities including fitness and indoor sport
- Possibility of relocating to a larger site that fits additional components
- Offer of partnership with a sports club to provide aquatic services as part of their existing fitness facilities.
- To provide specific programs and services that are aimed at returning social or community benefit.

Which means that

- A redevelopment would provide a wider range of benefits to a wider range of the community, including lap, recreation swimming and people with a disability
- The site has space to develop expanded aquatic facilities and fitness and indoor sports
- Both aquatic and health and fitness facilities could be provided more economically
- The management model would need to be more focused on community benefits.

Action needed

- Complete feasibility study and assess site options to redevelop the facility and provide a greater range of services and facilities to meet supply gap for the long term
- Address local residents, school and sports users and provide a more inclusive facility
- Consider developing a partnership with a third party, including current operator, to contribute to funding a combined aquatic fitness facility in area
- Management to provide programs and services that are aimed at returning social or community benefit.

T

Threats

- Increasing maintenance costs of existing facilities
- Increasing financial and environmental cost as no renewal energy source
- Many community needs go unmet if facilities and service does not change
- Catchment constrained by physical geography.

Which means that

- Lower financial returns for operator
- Lower attendances and financial performance and limited benefits accrued
- Any facility would have a relatively small catchment population
- The carbon footprint for the centre is unnecessarily high.

Action needed

- Complete feasibility study and assess site options to redevelop the facility
- Consider developing a partnership with a third party, including current operator, to maximise usage and contribute to funding the expansion of services and facilities
- Ensure new facility has solar heating and recycled water.

9. Future provision models

9.1 Integrated service provision

Some new Council owned leisure centres have recently expanded their range of services from swimming lessons and gym memberships to a broader range of health and wellness services. These include allied health services such as physiotherapy, dietetics and general practice to relaxation massage and beauty treatments. Typically the services are offered thorough a lease arrangement from the centre operator (e.g. Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre (GESAC), Victoria – My Physio and Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre, Bendigo, Victoria - Tristar Medical Group or managed in house by the centre operator (e.g. SPLASH, Craigieburn, Victoria – Bunjil Wellness Centre and GESAC -Transcend Spa and Wellness.

Generally 180 – 220 square metres is the average space requirement for a wellness facility. It is expected that the current return on leased space in Liverpool would be approximately \$400 per square metre per year for 100 to 200 square metres of space at ground floor level.

From the centres reviewed, the provision of allied health services appeared to be providing better financial returns than the ‘wellness’ and beauty treatment services.

Based on our investigations and if space permits, allied health services including physiotherapy and rehabilitation services would be the most suitable addition to existing facilities at Whitlam and Wenden when redeveloped and a new in the outer west.

Some examples of centres with wellness components or associated allied health services are listed below.

Appendix 8 provides more information about these examples.

- Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre, East Bentleigh, Victoria offers Sports and Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy, Hydrotherapy, Clinical Pilates, Remedial, Sports and Relaxation Massage, Exercise Physiology, and a Dietician. It also offers, facials, body treatments and beauty services. Note this centre is located in a very affluent area and it is able to cross subsidise other Council aquatic and leisure centres in the City.
- Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre, Kangaroo Flat, Victoria. This centre offers a full-time physiotherapist and general practitioner.
- SPLASH Aqua Park and Leisure Centre, Craigieburn, Victoria. This centre offers Wellness Suites with massage, facials, manicure, pedicure, waxing, spray tanning, and eye treatments.
- Mildura Waves, Mildura Victoria. This centre offers Callahan Physiotherapy.
- Rosebud Aquatic Centre. This centre will open in 2020 will include wellness, massage and physiotherapy.
- PARC Frankston, Victoria – this centre is run as a combined business entity with Council. The wellness centre at PARC offers beauty therapy, facials, waxing and tinting, tanning and massage.
- Sandringham Family Leisure Centre in Bayside, Victoria provides a range of co-located facilities leased to private operators. This centre includes a Goodlife Gym, SwimRight swimming centre and a Sports Physio, as well as café and basketball courts.

9.2 Management models

Current management

Belgravia Leisure has operated Whitlam, Wenden and Clarke centres under a management contract with Council since 2016. Wenden and Whitlam were previously managed by the YMCA, who had taken over from Belgravia Leisure under a previous contract. Liverpool Council have not had direct management of their centres in recent history.

Holsworthy is leased to a private swim school operator under a 20-year lease due to end in December 2024.

Management Options

There are a number of management considerations and options for leisure facilities. These are outlined below:

- The type of entity who manages the facilities
- The degree of control by community, Council or user groups
- The social or financial objectives
- Exclusivity of occupancy of the premises
- Single or multiple elements managed together in the facility, and
- Whether the facility is managed as a single facility or as a suite of other facilities.

Contracted to a Management Entity

Generally, the two most common options for **management entity** are the management of Council facilities is internal Council management or contract management.

Liverpool have typically chosen the contract management option (Whitlam, Wenden, Clarke) and lease options (Holsworthy which a smaller scale and does not include indoor sport or multiple aquatic services.

The contract options gives Council the flexibility of a high degree of control and opportunities to address social and financial objectives, as they can specify the nature of the service and they can include or exclude more or less profitable components, as they see fit.

The contract management option has also become more competitive in recent years with new players in the market. Belgravia and the YMCA now compete with companies such as Aligned Leisure, Blue Fit, and Clublinks to provide management services to Councils.

Company / Combined Business Entity

Some Victorian Councils have recently chosen to form companies (combined business entities) to manage their venue at arm's length, reduce costs by not having to pay LGA staff rates, and be able to respond quicker to market forces.

There can be some duplication as local government and commercial reporting is required and considerable cost is incurred in setting up independent functions already available in Council. These tend to be preferred when the focus is on financial performance and how well they can address social objectives is yet to be assessed.

PPP and other partnerships

Other options identified in the brief for this project include: Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Build, Own, Operate, Transfer (BOOT schemes).

A PPP (public private partnership) is an arrangement whereby construction, operation and private financing are bundled in one long-term contract awarded through a tender.

PPPs are common in very large education, transport and health projects and some stadiums (such as the stadium in the Docklands in Melbourne). PPPs are not normally an option pursued by local government for aquatic and leisure centres.

Recently in Victoria, a number of indoor netball stadiums, outdoor synthetic sports fields/courts, an indoor swimming and a hydrotherapy pool and before and after school care facilities have been delivered as part of new primary school PPP developments.

PPPs offer little flexibility in service offer for aquatic and leisure centres, as the nature of the service and maintenance need to be specified and costed for the life of the building and hence the developer bears a considerable risk.

Build–Own–Operate–Transfer (BOOT) is a form of project financing, wherein a private entity receives a concession from the private or public sector to finance, design, construct, own and operate a facility stated in the concession contract. This enables the project proponent to recover its investment, operating and maintenance expenses in the project. This type of scheme is not common in aquatic centres due to the considerable cost of managing water and as they typically would offer very low if any, return.

Joint use agreements

In sports courts, it is common to have a joint-use agreement between a Council, school and sports club to finance a development on school land that Council or a club manages. These are common in Victoria. The agreements typically cover all use after school hours for community or a single club use.

Joint Use Agreements are now being progressed in NSW.

For centres with indoor sports courts it is common for management options to include anchor tenants such as basketball clubs, who licence the facility (from Council or a management entity), for peak times and over terms such as 1-3 years. Over and above these peak times, the centre management programs or hires the remaining court time.

No example of a sports club managing an aquatic and sports facility is known, as they typically do not have the management expertise or financial resources to operate larger multipurpose aquatic venues.

Other partnerships

Recently a number of Councils have entered into partnerships with social and other entities to deliver major facilities. These include a church and PCYCs, such the Northern Beaches PCYC. The details of which are not known.

Councils have provided capital funding for facilities that are operated by licensed clubs. For example; Central Coast Athletics, Wyong Shire Council, Gosford City Council, the NSW Government and Mingara Recreation Club jointly funded the Mingara Regional Athletics Centre.

Leasing

Leasing of major Council aquatic and leisure facilities (unless stand-alone indoor sports facilities) is less common. Leasing means exclusive use, so Councils have little control over services and the asset under the common terms of a lease. The most common type of facilities to be leased are small facilities single service aquatic centre such as a learn to swim pool (Holsworthy), or a large (5+ court stand-alone indoor sports centres where the scale of operations allow an association to generate a regular income and pay staff.

In NSW, Bankstown, Auburn and North Sydney are examples of where large stadiums are leased to a Basketball Association. It is unusual that an indoor sport association can generate substantial income (over several hundred thousand dollars) to be able contribute to the capital expense. However, they may well be able to contribute to the provision of quality fittings and fixtures and the upkeep of floors for example, if they have a 4-5 court facility and are able to a) retain the income and b) provide café and merchandise to service recurrent costs.

Future

Under the Local Government Act Council 2003 is required “carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers”. In terms of aquatic, fitness and sports, it can do this through economies of scale, through multiple centres under one management, including activities that meet community needs but also are more able to generate income to offset other costs and entering into partnerships with entities where there are mutual benefits.

Having assessed the advantage and disadvantages of different management models for Liverpool, the current model of contract management is the preferred management model, with a minimum 5-year term. This type of management and entity provides the expertise Council doesn't have internally.

Contract management provides a good level of control and the ability to address social and financial objectives as well as provide economies of scale over multiple large centres.

Longer-term contracts of 10 plus years can allow potential capital contributions.

Given current resources, lack of history in direct management and the nature of service provided, the preferred model of Management Entity Under Contract is preferred in future. There will be service and financial benefits if Whitlam, Wenden, Clarke and a future centre in the outer west, are managed under the one contract, If the contract can be extended to 10 years some capital contribution from the management entity may be possible.

Relocating Holsworthy Aquatic Centre to another site could allow the development of a management arrangement with another entity such as a sports club or a lease to a specialist swimming school provider.

Role of sports clubs

Michael Wenden Aquatics Centre Community Needs Study (2017) suggests that Council continue discussions with the Camden Valley Basketball Association about their options for joint management. This is not a recommended option (unless just for sports courts), as small volunteer clubs do not have the financial resources or management expertise to operate large multipurpose aquatic and leisure centres. However future management agreements should ensure this or a similar Club, can be an anchor tenant for the additional sports compliant courts required to expand participation in basketball and other sports, at affordable rates.

Additional sports courts for competition should be licenced to sports.

Sports clubs should be given anchor tenancies of competition compliant courts, which can be programmed by the management entity outside peak fixtured sports games and training.

Appendix 9 provides a list of typical management models and their advantages and disadvantages.

10. The strategy

10.1 Future locations of facilities

It is recommended that Whitlam, Wenden and Clarke remain in their current locations and a dilapidation report and probable costs be undertaken for the Holsworthy site. A feasibility study should be conducted to consider existing and alternate sites in the East to include gym fitness and indoor sport.

Although Wenden and Whitlam are relatively close together, they have their own market and future design and joint management can ensure they continue to differentiate their offer. Population growth and increasing housing density provides a growing market for all existing centres.

The preferred site in the outer west would be at a community hub, in a prominent location with high vehicle and foot traffic, close to public transport and schools.

Advantages of the identified locations are listed below.

Whitlam

- Available land to meet expanded footprint
- Close to the CBD
- An iconic venue with a high profile
- A high traffic area
- Increasing population density.

Wenden

- Available land that can meet an expanded footprint
- Serves an important demographic in most disadvantaged area of Liverpool LGA
- Close to town centre and serves the inner west
- An upgrade will assist objectives of town centre master plan

- Potential for redevelopment to incorporate nearby PCYC with funding contribution
- Walking distance for nearby school.

Clarke

- A significant financial investment has been made in new facility and additional components will make this more sustainable.
- Some growth in the area
- A corner location on a busy road
- Co located with other new community facilities.

Holsworthy

- Opportunities to resite to serve the east and expand the offer, including to colocate with another fitness and sport facility
- Currently located close to schools
- Greater prominence and availability of parking.

Austral/Rossmore

- A future site would serve a major gap identified in the outer west.
- The Austral/Rossmore area is a growth area with potential to serve a large catchment with no competing facilities.
- Opportunities to colocate in a town centre, and or adjacent to a school, in a prominent location, with major road access.

10.2 Key requirements for future facilities

The following table outlines the key requirements for aquatic and leisure centres in Liverpool to address the issues associated with policy, planning, facility and demand issues and the directions related to the development of the centres in the next decade.

Key requirements for Liverpool's future aquatic and leisure centre provision						
Social Relevance	Accessible and Inclusive	Responsive to Climate	Responsive to Safety	Design Response	Management Model	Financial Sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities reflect profile of local neighbourhood and distinct markets so they don't compete Convenient access - given limited transport and adequate parking Importance of events Meets capacity given growth area Affordability for volunteer groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities and programs encourage all ages and abilities Meets NDIS demand Encourages access by people less likely to participate Increase options and grow market Address locational gaps Addresses specific cultural requirements (i.e. water safety awareness, separate swimming for females, appropriate clothing), for emerging communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very hot summers and becoming increasingly hot. Will require more aquatic opportunities Indoor and outdoor options to address changes in weather Provision of beach type facilities e.g. sand, shallow water, waves Shade – including retractable shade over outdoor pool for summer Plant mature trees to offer more shade Retain existing green space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for provision of and shallow water options for people without swimming proficiency Education and communication for people not born in Australia in relation to water safety More available and affordable swimming lessons Interventions for health – i.e. exercise/fitness (Active Script program implemented by general practitioners) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale reflects hierarchy: Whitlam (Regional), Wenden, and Clarke (District), Holsworthy (Local) Austral centre to be of a Regional scale Mix ensures local relevance, sustainability and program / products to offset costs Can't close any centre during redevelopment: Relocate Whitlam within Woodward Park and consider relocating Holsworthy to Hammondville Park Increase carrying capacity year round 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with current management entities in the short term In long term, seek management partners who can make capital contributions e.g. PCYC, Belgravia Leisure, Moorebank Sports Club for 10 + year contracts. Future management contracts should require intervention programs for cultural groups / people with a disability and have social equity focus as well as financial focus Provide better access for club competition sports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross subsidise less profitable services with those that can generate revenue and meet community need. In long term, seek partners who can make capital contributions e.g. PCYC, Belgravia Leisure, Moorebank Sports Club. Provide greater capacity at centres, more prominent siting and improve functionality at all centres to increase market appeal and cost effectiveness.

10.3 Centre strategies

The following tables show the proposed short-term development and location strategy, the long development and location strategy, the market focus for each centre, proposed facility components, size and the priority.

Whitlam Leisure Centre Strategy (Central/CBD)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current catchment has 72,308 people and is estimated to grow to 80,024 by 2026 Unmet demand for swimming could be as high as 550,745 visits annually growing to 604,205 in 2026 Unmet demand for indoor sports could be as high as 174,000 visits annually growing to 191,000 in 2026 Current annual visitations exceeds CERM benchmarks for like facilities
Short Term Development and Location Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Woodward Park Master Plan to determine best location and facilities for Whitlam in the central CBD zone
Long Term Development and Location Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocate to a more prominent site in Woodward Park and then demolish the existing centre Ensure adequate space for proposed components as a regional centre
Market Focus to Distinguish From Other Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor club competition sports courts 10 lane, 50 metre outdoor competition pool Events, school carnivals 24 hour gym access Home of gymnastics Associated child care and cafe Outdoor leisure water and beach Spa and sauna
Facility Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gymnastics centre (1200 sq m) Event space retained Two indoor timber sprung floor sport courts (1760 sq m) Indoor 8 lane 25 metre pool (961 sq m) Large separable warm water/program pool (180 sq m) Spa and sauna (40 sq m) Indoor splash park (180 sq m) Outdoor beach and leisure water (900 sq m) and 10 lane 50m pool inc. retractable shade (1000 sq m) Birthday party room/function space (80 sq m) Childcare (120 sq m) Fully accessible wet/dry change rooms (180sq m) School only change facilities (150 sq m) Café / commercial kitchen (70 sq m) Gym with women's only area (800 sq m) Cycle studio (60 sq m) Multi-purpose program rooms (100 sq m)
Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority 1a. Master plan and design in conjunction with Wenden Master Plan Priority 1b. Rebuild at the same time as courts at Wenden

Michael Clarke Recreation Centre Strategy (West)

- The current catchment has 32,982 people and is estimated to grow to 34,433 by 2026.
- Unmet demand for gym workouts at Clarke could be as high as 276,000 visits annually growing to 293,500 by 2026.
- Unmet demand for swimming at Clarke could be as high as 371,000 visits annually growing to 380,000 by 2026.

Short Term Development and Location Strategy

- Master plan in conjunction with the other two centres, to include additional indoor sports courts, programmable warm water, as well as a splash park to serve the western zone

Long Term Development and Location Strategy

- Provide additional indoor sport with 2 additional compliant sports courts
- Develop to a district standard
- Consider potential water slide options

Market Focus to Distinguish From other Centres

- Gym and fitness
- Junior/social indoor sports and club sports
- Aquatic outdoor play and small learn to swim

Facility Components and Required Size

- Two additional indoor netball/basketball sports courts with sprung timber floor (760 sq m)
- Splash park (220 sq m) and dry play space (220 sq m), Learn to swim / Programmable pool (300 sq m)
- Car parking

Priority

- Priority 3. Cost benefit analysis of options and master plan

Michael Wenden Aquatic and Leisure Centre Strategy (Inner west)

- The current catchment has 69,279 people and is estimated to grow to 72,087 by 2026
- Unmet demand for swimming could be as high as 530,525 visits annually growing to 537,400 by 2026
- Unmet demand for sports courts at Wenden could be as high as 168,600 visits annually growing to 173,400 by 2026.
- Current annual visitations exceeds CERM benchmarks for like facilities

Short Term Development and Location Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the centre as part of Miller Town Centre Master Plan • Master plan centre for the long term and consider design that incorporates a PCYC • Add 2-3 basketball/ netball compliant courts in the short term, to cater for club competition sports
Long Term Development and Location Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolish centre, except existing courts and splash park • Rebuild on the same site as a district level centre
Market Focus to Distinguish From Other Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor sports clubs including office space • Volunteer groups, services for people with a disability and allied health • No school carnivals • Larger outdoor splash and leisure water • Review childcare offer
Facility Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add 2-3 timber sprung netball/basketball courts (2640 sq m) • Indoor 8 lane 25 metre pool (961 sq m) • Warm water pool with potential to segregate (150 sq m) • Expand splash park and aquatic play (150 sq m) • Program pool (150 sq m) • Don't replace the 50m outdoor pool • Group fitness/gym (existing) • Café and referee facilities (150 sq m) • Fully accessible • Allied health facilities (80 sq m) • Additional car parking
Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1a. Master Plan • Priority 1b. Build courts, accessible facilities and allied health

Holsworthy Aquatic Centre Strategy (East)

- The population in the Holsworthy catchment is expected to grow marginally from 24,627 in 2019 to 25,097 by 2026
- Unmet demand in the Holsworthy catchment for swimming lessons is estimated to be 41,000 visits annually and estimated to decline to 37,900 by 2026 (due to the decline in the 0-9 yr. population)
- Unmet demand for swimming at Holsworthy could be as high as 267,000 visits annually declining slightly to 266,300 by 2026
- Unmet demand for indoor courts at Holsworthy could be as high as 60,200 visits annually increasing slightly to 60,300 by 2026

Short Term Development and Location Strategy

- Prepare a dilapidation report and probable costs to upgrade
- Undertake minor accessibility works
- Conduct a feasibility study of alternate sites in East, to consider gym and fitness and indoor sport
- Investigate funding options and potential development partners. Include dialogue with current operators

Long Term Development and Location Strategy

- Prepare a design and management plan for an alternative site
- Negotiate with potential partners to provide a capital contribution to a redevelopment of the existing facility with potential health and fitness and/or indoor sports facilities

Market Focus to Distinguish from Other Centres

- Service the local residential catchment and schools, with day to day needs
- Provide higher level of accessibility

Facility Components and Required Size

- Indoor 25m pool (961 sq m)
- Warm water program pool (150 sq m)
- Spa (25 sq m)
- Splash park (150 sq m)
- Community rooms (80 sq m)
- Gym and group fitness (400 sq m)

Priority

- Priority 3

Austral /Rossmore Strategy (Outer west)

- The population in the Austral /Rossmore catchment is expected to grow from 19,556 to 62,635 by 2026
- Unmet demand for swimming could be as high as 672,000 visits annually in 2026 *
- Unmet demand for indoor sports could be as high as 148,000 visits annually in 2026 *
- Unmet demand for gym workouts could be as high as 881,000 visits annually in 2026*

Short Term Development and Location Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate land ownership and acquisition options • Investigate potential partners including commercial or management entities and education
Long Term Development and Location Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master plan and analyse spatial options. Required space estimated at 7,000 sq m (plus car parking) • Package management with Whitlam, Wenden and Clarke centres • Construction following an investigation into space availability and colocation options
Market Focus to Distinguish From Other Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop in line with plans for adjacent residential, commercial and educational facilities • Centre be of a regional scale, comparable to Whitlam
Facility Components and required size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 metre heated indoor pool (961 sq m) • Warm water program pool (300 sq m) • Gym / group fitness (500 sq m) • Splash park (200 sq m) • Three Indoor sport courts if not provided in conjunction with an adjacent school (3,160 sq m) • Multi-purpose program room / parties etc. (80 sq m)
Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 2. Master plan <p>* no competitors have been identified in this catchment to date</p>

10.4 Funding

Funding for aquatic and leisure centre projects is likely to come from a range of sources, most importantly, grants from the State and Federal government, and development contributions.

Other options include smaller contributions from management contractors and lessees.

The size of the contribution will depend on the length of term provided to the contract manager/lessee, degree of control and exclusive use for example.

Typically, a 10-20 year term would be required to recoup any return on investment.

Contributions by Association users

Some large basketball associations can provide /contribute money for fit out items such as shot clocks and backboards and rings and contribute to floor maintenance, but do not generally have the ability to contribute to major capital projects, unless they have had exclusive use of a large centre where they can generate funds over a long period of time.

Liverpool does not have a large association or clubs with a member base that could offer such contributions. Association/clubs need more than 3 courts to establish a large base and Liverpool do not have these facilities.

Where capital contributions are being considered it would be highly advantageous for Council to scope out a policy that for example includes: the asset being retained in Council ownership after a term equivalent to the value of the contribution as rent, and the ability for Council to reassign the asset to other users if use by the contributor declines to be unsustainable over time.

Typical funding sources for leisure and aquatics facilities

1. Government grants
 - a. Federal Government
 - b. State Government
 - c. Local Government Funds
 - ii) Community Grants / Sport Programs
 - iii) Special rates levies
2. Developer or open space contributions following subdivision
3. Philanthropic Trusts / Foundation Grants etc.
4. Naming rights or sponsorship funds
5. Management entities contributing capital into
6. Sports or service club contributions
7. Other

Appendix 10 provides details of the types of funding sources and examples

11. Recommended Actions

11.1 Overall recommendations

Number	Action
1.1	Endorse Council's role compared to the private sector's as: Service community needs; Educate and promote awareness; Target specific populations; Encourage greater participation; Create pathways; and Cross subsidise. (See Council Rule 2.2) Incorporate these roles into future management agreements and performance criteria.
1.2	Undertake master planning of the long-term development of five leisure and aquatics centres in Liverpool Council. Commence master planning of the three sites: Whitlam, Wenden and Clarke as one project, in the short term, as per the individual facility strategies in Chapter 10.2
1.3	Design future centres in response to the key market requirements: Social Relevance, Accessible and Inclusive, Responsive to Climate, Responsive to Safety, Design Response and Catchment Hierarchy and Management Model as per the diagram in Chapter 10.
1.4	Ensure all centres are relevant to local physical, demographic, cultural, education and climate context. Provide a balance between social equity, access and inclusion, physical activity and competition sports needs and include market-driven elements that allow cross-subsidisation.
1.5	Provide a greater depth of social and club competition sports across the centres (for example basketball, gymnastics, table tennis, badminton, futsal, volleyball, as well as dance).
1.6	Specifically provide a dedicated gymnastics facility in conjunction with Whitlam and introduce indoor sports courts that are primarily for use by sports clubs and associations and that enable pathways to higher levels of competition.
1.7	Work with the state education department to provide better water safety programs, swimming lessons and carnivals
1.9	Provide a range of free and affordable outdoor leisure water options including water play and splash parks across Liverpool to increase capacity during hot weather. Differentiate those from available areas and offer a range of settings and may include custom designed features and more natural settings
1.10	Seek capital and recurrent funding opportunities through federal and state government funding sources, philanthropic organisations and partnerships with schools and not for profit organisations where there is an alignment of objectives. Consider the potential for a management entity to contribute capital funding in return for a longer tenure arrangement per Chapter 10.2
1.11	Set out management requirements for the centres to include operating hours, pricing, community access, and intervention programs for specific populations, service levels and building maintenance
1.12	Offer contract management of Whitlam, Wenden, Clarke and any future centre in the outer west, as a package to a single management entity, to maximise economies of scale and program differentiation and increase effectiveness of communication and information provision.

11.2 Whitlam

Number	Action
Planning	
2.1	Relocate the centre to a more prominent site within Woodward Park, ensuring adequate space for required components.
2.2	Include additional facility components including accessible facilities aquatic play, gymnastics and dedicated sports competition courts, as per The Strategy in Chapter 10 .
2.3	Ensure a differentiated pricing and market focus between Whitlam and Wenden. Whitlam to retain events, include Gymnastics, outdoor 50 metre pool and school's market and providing dedicated club competition sports.
2.4	Commence a master plan for the redevelopment of Whitlam to determine the footprint and cost planning.
2.5	Accommodate a reconfigured and expanded footprint for Whitlam in the Woodward Park Master Plan.
2.6	Demolish the existing facilities once construction of a new facility is complete.
Funding	
2.7	Monitor additional funding opportunities through federal and state government funding sources as per Appendix 10.
Management/Partners	
2.8	Prepare an expression of interest document for the long term management rights of the centre, requesting capital funding in return for a 10 plus year management option.
2.9	Offer contract management of Whitlam, Wenden, Clarke and any new centre in the outer west, as a package to a single management entity, to maximise economies of scale and program differentiation.
2.10	If space permits, following the master plan, seek an allied health provider for centre to provide physiotherapy and rehabilitation services considering a contribution to the fit out of the facility.

11.3 Wenden

Number	Action
Planning	
3.1	Include the existing Wenden Centre and PCYC as part of Miller Town Centre Master Plan.
3.2	Prepare a master plan for the redevelopment of Wenden on the existing site, integrating PCYC services and facilities.
3.3	Ensure a differentiated pricing and market focus between Whitlam and Wenden. Wenden should be more leisure and social equity focused.
3.4	Retain the existing sports courts and splash park, while demolishing and redeveloping other components. Include additional indoor 8 lane and warm water pools, outdoor leisure and aquatic play facilities and 2 additional sports courts. Consider the addition of a small allied health area and facility components as per The Strategy in Chapter 10.
Funding	
3.5	Partner with PCYC in the redevelopment of facility, on the basis of some capital contribution 2019/20.
3.6	Monitor additional funding opportunities through federal and state government funding sources as per Appendix 10.
Management/Partners	

Number	Action
3.7	Offer contract management of this centre in conjunction with Whitlam, Clarke and any new centre in the outer west as a package, to a single management entity to maximise economies of scale and program differentiation.
3.8	Develop a draft agreement for long term management of the centre in conjunction with PCYC and Council's contract management group.
3.9	If space permits and following master plan, seek allied health provider for centre to provide physiotherapy and rehabilitation services with contribution to facility fit out.

11.4 Clarke

Number	Action
Planning	
4.1	Investigate available space in the precinct for additional competition compliant indoor sports courts, aquatic play and where possible, learn to swim and prepare a master plan for the centre.
4.2	Construct an outdoor splash park in conjunction with existing play space to help meet demand for aquatic play if space allows
4.3	Expand courts space with 2 additional indoor multi lined courts if space allows
4.4	Allow gymnastics to continue on one existing court permanently
4.5	Provide additional car parking
Funding	
4.6	Monitor funding opportunities through federal and state government funding sources as per Appendix 10
Management/Partners	
4.7	Offer contract management of Whitlam, Wenden, Clarke and any future centre in the outer west as a package to a single management entity, to maximise economies of scale and program differentiation.

11.5 Holsworthy

Number	Action
Planning	
5.1	Prepare a dilapidation report with probable costs to assist future planning or redevelopment.
5.2	Conduct a feasibility study of alternate sites in east to accommodate gym, fitness and potentially indoor sport.
5.3	Include facility components as per The Strategy in Chapter 10 (25 metre and warm water pools, spa, community rooms and splash park, gym and group fitness).
Funding	
5.4	Negotiate a contribution from a third party operator in return for long term lease of aquatic/sports facility.
5.5	Monitor funding opportunities through federal and state government funding sources as per Appendix 10.
Management/Partners	
5.6	Negotiate a management agreement with a capital contribution from a third party operator in return for long term tenure.

11.6 Austral /Rossmore

Number	Action
Planning	
5.1	Investigate land ownership and acquisition options for a new regional centre to serve the outer west.
5.2	Include facility components as per Strategic Directions: 25 metre and warm water pools, 3 indoor sports courts, splash park or outdoor leisure water, gym and group fitness and multipurpose and meeting rooms.
Funding	
5.3	Investigate the options of partnering with a third party including commercial or management entities, and or the education department to deliver indoor sports and or aquatic facilities.
5.4	Monitor funding opportunities through federal and state government funding sources as per Appendix 10.
Management/Partners	
5.5	Offer contract management of the centre in conjunction with Whitlam, Wenden and Clarke as a package to a single management entity, to maximise economies of scale and program differentiation, with a potential joint use agreement to include an education partner.
5.6	Negotiate a joint use agreement with the education department for use of school indoor courts if space does not permit indoor sports courts with the proposed aquatic fitness centre.
5.7	If space permits, following master plan, seek an allied health provider for centre to provide physiotherapy and rehabilitation services with contribution to facility fit out.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1. Details of relevant National, State and Council plans

Sport 2030 - National Sport Plan

The Australian Government has a clear and bold vision for sport in Australia — to ensure we are the world's most active and healthy nation, known for our integrity and sporting success. Sport 2030 has four key priority areas which will, when fully implemented, create a platform for sporting success through to 2030 and beyond. The priorities are:

- Build a more active Australia — More Australians, more active, more often
- Achieving sporting excellence — National pride, inspiration and motivation through international sporting success
- Safeguarding the integrity of sport — A fair, safe and strong sport sector free from corruption; and
- Strengthening Australia's sport industry — A thriving Australian sport and recreation industry.

Sport 2030 brings together the knowledge and insight of many people from across the sporting sector and the general public who provided submissions, attended consultation sessions and contributed ideas.

Active Living

The Heart Foundation is working with federal, state and local governments to directly influence the urban planning decisions that affect our communities. Across Australia, the program work on projects that support the adoption of health design principles in the planning for new and existing neighbourhoods.

Most Australians aren't getting the physical activity they need. This can shorten life expectancy and increase the risk of heart disease and other non-communicable diseases.

State of Australian Cities Report

These reports provide insight into the vital role that Australian cities play in the growth of our economy and track the overall progress made in Australia's major centres. The reports looks at the drivers behind some of the public policy issues facing the country today and into the future.

NSW Greener Places Policy

Greener Places is a draft policy to guide the design, planning, design and delivery of Green Infrastructure in urban areas across NSW. Green Infrastructure is the network of green spaces, natural systems and semi-natural systems including parks, rivers, bushland and private gardens that are strategically planned, designed and managed to support good quality of life in the urban environment.

The aim of the policy is to create a healthier, more liveable, more resilient and sustainable urban environment by improving community access to recreation and exercise, walking and cycling connections.

Sydney Green Grid

The Sydney Green Grid is delivering an interconnecting network of open space that will keep the city cool, encourage healthy living, enhance biodiversity and ensure ecological resilience. Linkages between open spaces are fostered within the wider public realm through enhancing creek corridors, transport routes, suburban streets, footpaths and cycle ways.

Office of Sport (NSW) Strategic Plan

The plan identifies the value of sport and recreation as

Sport and active recreation is important, contributing significantly to our health, economy, social wellbeing and the liveability of our cities and communities.

The plan's agenda links to the NSW Government's:

Priorities	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering infrastructure Creating jobs Tackling childhood obesity Improving education results Protecting our kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved health Productive people Strong economy Strong communities Liveable and culturally vibrant cities and towns

The Plan's vision is "A vibrant and valued sport and active recreation sector that enhances the lives of the people of NSW"

Priorities

Places and spaces

Well managed facilities that meet the needs of users and investors

Sector performance

A strategically focused and empowered NSW sport and active recreation sector

Participation

More people in NSW participating in sport and active recreation

Thigh performance pathways

More NSW sporting success and NSW being a valued partner in Australia's international success

Our capability

The Office of Sport has the capability to make a valued contribution to the sector.

NSW Disability Inclusion Plan

The plan is the NSW Government's commitment to identifying and breaking down the barriers which prevent those with disability from enjoying the same opportunities and choices as everyone else.

It aligns with the Australian National Disability Strategy and our obligations under the United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The plan has 4 focus areas that are aimed at creating long term change and require consistent efforts from government and the wider community. The focus areas are:

1. Developing positive community attitudes and behaviours
2. Creating liveable communities
3. Supporting access to meaningful employment
4. Improving access to mainstream services through better systems and processes.

State Environmental Planning Policies

The NSW Government has been working towards developing a new State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) for the protection and management of our natural environment. These areas are important to communities in delivering opportunities for physical health, economic security and cultural identity.

National Water Safety Education Competency Framework

The framework allows for the definition of minimum competencies and for achievement to be benchmarked against those competencies to ensure all children have a basic level of swimming and water safety skill and knowledge prior to leaving primary school. These skills are important throughout the life span to reduce the risk of drowning.

Table 22. National Water Safety Education Competency Framework

School level	Competency framework	Minimum competencies
(I) Infant And Pre-School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in skill competencies for safe water entries & exits, floating & sculling, breathing, movement & swimming strokes, survival & underwater skills, water safety education & parent education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the program
(II) Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Aquatic Survival section of the National Swimming and Water Safety Framework Competencies to be achieved by the completion of Primary School education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equivalent to Swim and Survive Level 4 (and Surf Ed where available) Level 5 Swim and Survive (and Surf Ed where available) Level 6 Swim and Survive (and Surf Ed where available)
(III) Secondary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Saving section of the National Water Safety Framework – including exposure to Basic First Aid & Resuscitation Training Competencies to be achieved by the completion of Year 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equivalent to RLSSA Dry Rescue, including Resuscitation (and SLSSA Surf Survival where available) RLSSA Bronze Star (and SLSSA Surf Survival where available) RLSSA/SLSSA Bronze Medallion

NSW Premier's Priorities

The NSW Premier's Priorities reflect the commitment to whole-of-government approaches to tackling important issues for the people of NSW, from helping vulnerable children and raising the performance of school students, to improving housing affordability and building local infrastructure.

The 12 priorities are;

- Creating jobs
- Delivering Infrastructure
- Driving public sector diversity
- Improving education results
- Improving government services
- Improving service levels in hospitals
- Keeping our environment clean
- Making housing more affordable
- Protecting our kids
- Reducing domestic violence reoffending
- Reducing youth homelessness
- Tackling childhood obesity

NSW Government – The NSW State Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2038

The strategy sets out the government's priorities for the next 20 years, and combined with the *Future Transport Strategy 2056*, the *Greater Sydney Region Plan* and the *Regional Development Framework*, brings together infrastructure investment and land use planning for NSW cities and regions.

The NSW Government is developing a Sport Infrastructure Strategy and whole-of-sector investment framework. The strategy will help ensure NSW has modern facilities that offer a great experience for artists, sportspeople and fans. This will help create great local communities by promoting arts, culture, sport and visitation in Western Sydney and across regional NSW.

Western City District Sport Facility Plan

The Office of Sport is working in collaboration with the Greater Sydney Commission to develop District Sport Facility Plans for the Greater Sydney Region. This initiative will provide a strong foundation for future facility provision and participation in sport and active recreation.

Participation in sport and active recreation contributes to the development of health, cohesive, resilient, liveable and strong communities. To maintain and grow the current levels of participation in Greater Sydney, a plan is needed for great places where people of all ages and abilities can participate in a wide range of sports and active recreation.

The Recreation and Open Space Sports Strategy 2018

The Recreation and Open Space Sports Strategy 2018 identifies a benchmark provision standard for aquatic centres as one centre per 50,000 population that the "current provision of aquatic centres is inadequate to service growth in western areas. In addition, existing centres are ageing requiring significant investment".

The gaps in provision were assessed as follows:

Gap based on 200,000 population: In 2015 the shortfall of aquatic facilities was assessed as 2 aquatic centres

Gap based on 300,000 population: a shortfall of 4 aquatic centres by 2031.

The plans recommendations were to provide four centres:

- Relocate Holsworthy Pool to Hammondville Sporting Reserve
- Upgrade Whitlam Centre/ investigate relocation of centre in Woodward Park
- A centre in Miller

- Explore options to provide new facility within McGirr Park
- Ensuring the centre differentiates activities from Whitlam Centre
- One centre in a new release area, in Austral

South West Growth Area Plans

Releasing more land for housing will mean Sydneysiders have access to a range of homes that suit different needs, budgets and lifestyle choices. It also helps to place downward pressure on housing prices.

NSW Ageing Strategy

The strategy is the NSW Government's commitment to respond to the opportunities and challenges of our ageing population.

The vision is that people in NSW experience the benefits of living longer and enjoy opportunities to participate in, contribute to and be included in their communities.

The strategy focuses on five priorities that older people across NSW have said are important to them:

1. Health and wellbeing
2. Working and retiring
3. Housing choices
4. Getting around
5. Inclusive communities

Southern Parklands Vision 2036

This document provides a 20 year vision for the Southern Parklands, guiding the development, land uses and facilities, and informing the relationship with adjoining infrastructure and development. The Southern Parklands is 1,500 ha of the Western Sydney Parklands corridor bordered by Elizabeth Drive in the north and Bringelly Road in the south. This area is

currently underdeveloped for recreational and leisure uses. This vision has been recognised with a state and national AILA award for best landscape master plan.

A Metropolis of Three Cities

A Metropolis of Three Cities – the Greater Sydney Region Plan will rebalance growth and deliver its benefits more equally and equitably to residents across Greater Sydney. The plan is the first to be prepared concurrently with Future Transport 2056 and the State Infrastructure Strategy aligning land use, transport an infrastructure planning to reshape Greater Sydney as three unique but connected cities.

The plan is built on a vision of three cities where most residents live within 30 minutes of their jobs, education and health facilities, services and great places.

Western District City Plan

The vision for Greater Sydney as a metropolis of three cities – the Western Parkland City, the Central River City and the Eastern Harbour City and a 30-minute city – means residents in the Western City District will have quicker and easier access to a wider range of jobs, housing types and activities. This vision will improve the District's lifestyle and environmental assets. Aquatic and leisure centres would achieved this by:

- Transform the Western City District over the next 20 to 40 years by building on natural and community assets and developing a more contained Western City District with a greater choice of jobs, transport and services aligned with growth .
- Mitigating the heat island effect and providing cooler places by extending urban tree

canopy and retaining water in the landscape

Planning Priority W1

- Planning for a city supported by infrastructure

Planning Priority W2

- Working through collaboration
- *Indicators will be developed in consultation with State and local Government to optimise regional, district and local monitoring programs.

Planning Priority W3

- Providing services and social infrastructure to meet people's changing needs

Planning Priority W4

- Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities

Planning Priority W5

- Providing housing supply, choice and affordability with access to jobs, services and public transport

Planning Priority W6

- Creating and renewing great places and local centres and respecting the District's heritage.

Our Home, Liverpool 2027

Our home, Liverpool 2027 is Liverpool's long-term vision for the future. It is a plan to develop Liverpool as a high quality, attractive regional city for South Western Sydney. It sets key strategic directions and promotes Council as an organisation that embraces innovation, excellence, sustainability and equity in delivering the most efficient and effective services for our community.

Directions relevant to this plan include:

3.a Foster social inclusion, strengthen the local community and increase opportunities for people who may experience barriers

3.b Celebrate and respect Liverpool's rich cultural and social diversity and embrace the opportunities it provides

3.c Improve health and wellbeing and encourage a happy active community

3.c Improve health and wellbeing and encourage a happy active community

3.d Plan, support and deliver high quality and accessible services, program and facilities

4.d Provide first class and iconic facilities and places

5.c Reduce adverse environmental impacts for present and future generations

7.a Position Council as an industry leader, delivering best practice and innovation

Appendix 2. Liverpool population and birthplace by suburb

Suburb	Population 2016	Population 0-14 yrs. %	Birthplace Australia %	Birthplace elsewhere %	Top 3 overseas countries of birth and %
Liverpool City	204,333	22.7%	51.7%	40.7%	1. Iraq - 4.8%, 2. Vietnam - 3.3% 3. Fiji - 3.2%
Ashcroft/ Mount Pritchard	4,111	24.2	53.3%	34.8%	1. Vietnam – 7.1, 2. Lebanon – 5.2% 3. Iraq – 3.4%
Austral	3,032	16.9%	60.0%	27.1%	1. Italy – 9.8%, 2. Lebanon – 2.3% 3. Malta – 2.3%
Bringelly	6,647	19.7%	67.8%	24.3%	1. Italy – 4.3%, 2. China – 2.6% 3. Lebanon – 2.3%
Busby	4,321	25.1%	56.4%	32.4%	1. Vietnam – 6.0%, 2. Lebanon – 5.0% 3. Fiji – 2.5%
Cartwright	2,345	21.6%	51.1%	37.2%	1. Vietnam – 6.2%, 2. Iraq – 4.9% 3. New Zealand – 3.0%
Casula	15,769	21.5%	51.0%	41.7%	1. Iraq – 3.6%, 2. Fiji - 3.3% 3. Lebanon – 2.7%
Cecil Hills	6,549	20.9%	54.1%	41.9%	1. Iraq – 6.7%, 2. Vietnam – 5.0% 3. Philippines – 2.7%
Chipping Norton	9,004	19.4%	62.9%	32.1%	1. Vietnam – 4.4%, 2. Lebanon – 2.5% 3. Italy – 2.1%
Edmondson Park	2,254	26.8%	46.5%	47.5%	1. Fiji – 7.3%, 2. India – 6.7% 3. Philippines – 2.6%
Elizabeth Hills	2,534	29.8%	51.1%	44.0%	1. Iraq – 17.3%, 2. Vietnam – 2.4% 3. Fiji – 1.7%
Green Valley	12,488	20.8%	45.2%	49.8%	1. Vietnam – 8.9%, 2. Iraq – 6.5% 3. Fiji – 4.6%
Hammondville	3,497	20.3%	68.7%	25.5%	1. United Kingdom – 4.1%, 2. New Zealand – 2.0%, 3. Fiji – 1.5%
Heckenberg	3,126	23.4%	50.7%	37.3%	1. Vietnam – 9.9%, 2. Lebanon – 4.9% 3. Iraq – 2.9%
Hinchinbrook	11,207	21.2%	49.2%	46.7%	1. Iraq – 7.1%, 2. Fiji – 5.6% 3. Vietnam – 4.6%
Holsworthy	5,523	22.4%	59.6%	33.5%	1. India – 7.4%, 2. Philippines – 3.0% 3. Indonesia – 2.3%
Horningsea Park	3,678	26.4%	57.1%	39.5%	1. Fiji – 4.4%, 2. Iraq – 3.3% 3. Philippines – 3.0%
Hoxton Park – Carnes Hill	6,399	25.7%	51.6%	44.3%	1. Fiji – 7.1%, 2. Iraq – 6.8% 3. Vietnam – 2.8%
Leppington – Denham Court	1,353	9.3%	59.4%	25.8%	1. United Kingdom – 3.5% 2. New Zealand – 29. %, 3. Italy – 2.7%
Liverpool	26,998	21.2%	31.2%	55.5%	1. Iraq – 11.1%, 2. India – 6.5% 3. Serbia/Montenegro – 3.0%

Suburb	Population 2016	Population 0-14 yrs. %	Birthplace Australia %	Birthplace elsewhere %	Top 3 overseas countries of birth and %
Lumea	9,225	24.3%	49.4%	40.4%	1. Iraq – 8.0%, 2. Lebanon – 5.9% 3. Vietnam – 2.9%
Middleton Grange	5,157	30.1%	55.4%	27.0%	1. Iraq - 9.7%, 2. Fiji – 3.1% 3. Philippines – 2.4%
Miller	3,142	21.6%	55.5%	31.5%	1. Lebanon – 5.4%, 2. Vietnam – 5.4% 3. Iraq – 2.5%
Moorebank	10,548	24.0%	63.6%	31.7%	1. Vietnam – 2.7%, 2. India – 2.4% 3. Fiji – 2.1%
Prestons	15,268	25.7%	52.5%	43.3%	1. Fiji – 6.6%, 2. India – 3.4% 3. Philippines – 3.3%
Sadlier	3,102	24.6%	56.2%	35.7%	1. Vietnam – 7.0%, 2. Lebanon – 6.1% 3. Iraq – 4.1%
Voyager Point – Pleasure Point	2,181	23.3%	67.4%	29.7%	1. India - 6.4%, 2. United Kingdom – 2.7%,3. Egypt – 1.7%
Warwick Farm	5,893	18.3%	33.5%	50.5%	1. India – 6.5%, 2. Vietnam – 4.6% 3. Iraq – 4.1%
Wattle Grove	8,242	24.2%	66.9%	29.4%	1. India – 4.2%, 2. Egypt – 2.8% 3. Philippines – 2.3%
West Hoxton	9,947	25.1%	58.2%	38.2%	1. Iraq – 5.1%, 2. Fiji – 4.7% 3. Philippines – 2.5%

* Please note, birthplace percentages does not include persons where place of birth is not stated.

Appendix 3. Member profile by centre

Member profile recorded by suburb and centre²⁶

Whitlam

Suburb	
Liverpool	31%
Lurnea	10%
Casula	9%
Prestons	6%
Moorebank	6%
Mount Prichard	5%
Hinchinbrook	4%
Cabramatta	4%
Wattle Grove	4%
Other	21%

Clarke

Suburb	
West Hoxton	27%
Carnes Hill	21%
Horningsea Park	18%
Prestons	18%
Hinchinbrook	5%
Middleton Grange	5%
Other	6%

Wenden

Suburb	
Miller	43%
Prestons	11%
No suburb provided	9%
Hinchinbrook	9%
West Hoxton	8%
Sadler	6%
Other	14%

Member age profile (Aug 2018)

Whitlam

Breakdown by Age	
0-14 years	15%
15 - 19 years	5%
20 - 24 years	6%
25-29 years	7%
30-34 years	8%
35-49 years	22%
50-59 years	16%
60+ years	21%

Clarke

Breakdown by Age	
0-14 years	5%
15 - 19 years	16%
20 - 24 years	11%
25-29 years	11%
30-34 years	14%
35-49 years	34%
50-59 years	6%
60+ years	3%

Wenden

Breakdown by Age	
0-14 years	18%
15 - 19 years	9%
20 - 24 years	8%
25-29 years	8%
30-34 years	9%
35-49 years	19%
50-59 years	14%
60+ years	15%

²⁶ (Aug 2018)

Appendix 4. Site investigation reports

Whitlam Leisure Centre

Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre

Michael Clarke Recreation Centre

Holsworthy Aquatic Centre

Site Investigation Report

E-01

Site:	Whitlam Leisure Centre	Date visited:	Wednesday the 17 th October 2018
Project:	Liverpool Council – Aquatic Review	Project No:	171026
Client:	Scott Hawkins – Belgravia Leisure	Representative:	Centre Manager
Investigation undertaken by:	Sean Stone, Etch Architects	Email:	seanstone@etcharch.com.au
Copies to:	Sally Jeavons / Michael Graham @leisure Planners	Email:	
Weather Conditions:	Overcast and showers	Version:	First Issue

Pages (including this page)

This Site Investigation Report is based on the Reference material provided from the Client (listed below), and a physical 'visual' inspection only of the nominated site. Any assumptions noted within this report are based on evidence of similar projects – in reference to the Age of the Facility, its condition, site conditions and nature of its construction. Etch Architectural Solutions Pty Ltd will not make any assumptions to any elements relating to the nominated site which can't be observed (i.e. underground) or relating to any building service which the company is not specialised to undertake (such as any electrical review).

Reference documents supplied by the Client

(Which can be read in conjunction to this report)

1. National Construction Code Series – Volume 1. Building Code of Australia 2014- Class 2 to Class 9 buildings
2. Australian Standard 1428.1-2009: Design for access and mobility - General requirements for access - New building work
3. Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010;
4. Australian Standard AS1428.2 (1992) - 'Design for Access and mobility Part 2: Enhanced and additional requirements—Buildings and facilities

Site Investigation:

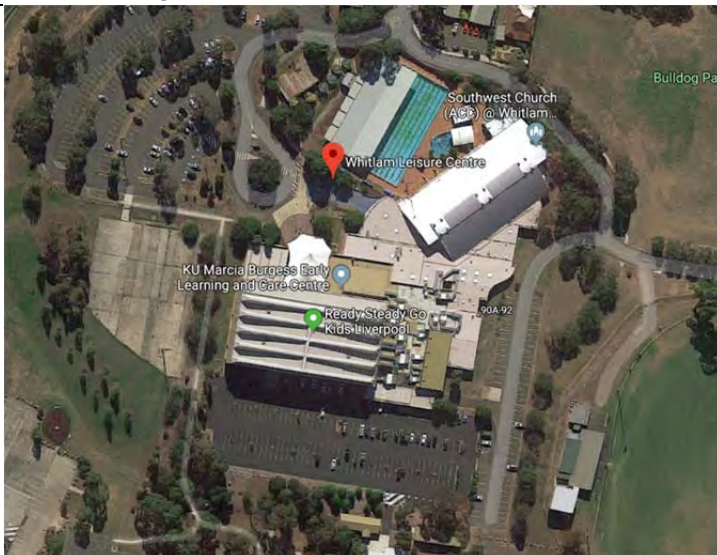


image source : Google Maps

Definitions:







- ☐ Poor – Item which is damaged, beyond repair and requires replacing. Conditions due to rust, rot, settlement, cracking etc. (requires immediate replacing – approx 1 month to 1 year). Or is not compliant to current Building Code Regulations and / or current Australian standards (such as disability access requirements As1428)
- ☐ Fair – Item which is damaged, and possibly requires replacing / refurbishment within 2- 3 years (at a minimum)
- ☐ Reasonable – Item which can remain and possibly requires remedial 'spot' repairing / conditioning, over the next 2 to 5 years.
- ☐ Good – Item which is in a reasonable condition which does not require any remedial work, over the next 3 years.

Distribution: ☐ Principal ☐ Contractor ☐ File

Etch Architectural Solutions Pty Ltd

Suite 6, 2 Nelson Street Ringwood, VIC 3134 | PO Box 2138, Nth Ringwood, Victoria, 3134 | 03 9876 8066 | info@etcharch.com.au | acn 120 712 781 | www.etcharch.com.au

C:\ETCH ARCHITECTS\EJ171026_Liverpool Aquatic Strategy\01 - PROJECT FILES\E Site\01 - Existing Conditions\Site Investigation Report_Liverpool Aquatic - Whitlam Leisure Centre.docx Page 1

Area: EXTERIOR – MAIN ENTRY								
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair		Reasonable	X	Good	
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall the main building and surrounds are in a reasonable to good condition. The main leisure centre entry is well sign posted – way finding The main entry appears (has that sensation) that it is at the rear of the centre. The two entries actually don't have street presence. The main entry visually is restrictive due to excessive signage / advertising. Entry would be well suited to have a café area or breakout area joining the outdoor aquatic component. 								
Photos								
								
Image 1: The main leisure centre entry is well sign posted – way finding			Image 2: main entry visually is restrictive due to excessive signage / advertising.			Image 3: Entry would be well suited to have a café area		
								
Image 4: Crèche / occasional care – outdoor play adjoins the main entry to the south			Image 5: Main outdoor pool is to the north of the main entry.			Image 6: blank		

Area: EXTERIOR – BASKETBALL / EVENT CENTRE								
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair	X	Reasonable		Good	
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building is in a fair to reason condition – appearance shows evidence of wear and tear Main entry is in close proximity to the aquatic centre main entry however this entry is very secure with fencing. The Sun shade structure over the main entry is in need of a clean and not aesthetically pleasing. As an event centre – it contains separate entry areas, ticket booths etc. Centre external cladding is made up of precast concrete panels and masonry (brickwork) The perimeter of the building has several 'hidden' areas which may cause CPTED issues Southern (after hours) membership entry and group entry. Direct access from larger car park. Potential area for expansion to western side of the indoor stadium / event centre 								
Photos								



Image 1: Main entry is in close proximity to the aquatic centre main entry



Image 2: The Sun shade structure over the main entry is in need of a clean and not aesthetically pleasing.



Image 3: Security fencing quite evident.



Image 4: As an event centre – it contains separate entry areas, ticket booths etc.

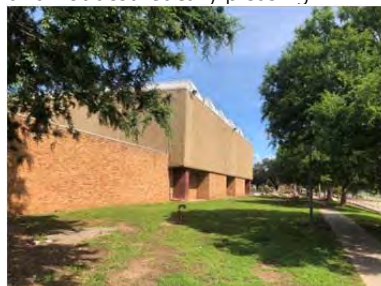


Image 5: The perimeter of the building has several 'hidden' areas which may cause CPTED issues



Image 6: similar issues to image 5



Image 7: Building is in a fair to reason condition – appearance shows evidence of wear and tear



Image 8: Southern (after hours) membership entry and group entry. Direct access from larger car park.



Image 9: Potential area for expansion to western side of the indoor stadium / event centre

Area: **RECEPTION / CONTROL**

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

Fair

Reasonable

X

Good

Comments:

- Main entry / control area including foyer to the leisure centre is in a reasonable to good condition.
- The reception is clear from the main entry with good visual connection to the main entry to the aquatic area (entry doors only) and restrictive to other areas (as they are physically behind)
- Merchandise (aquatic mainly) is directly opposite to the control desk and visually accessible if occupied.
- Entry to aquatic area is restrictive via single entry door only. No airlock.
- The kiosk is located behind the reception and hidden from view from the pool entry/ exit.
- All other areas of the leisure centre are connected via lengthy hallways.
- Gym/ fitness area is directly accessible from main foyer.

Photos



Image 1: Main entry / control area including foyer to the leisure centre is in a reasonable to good condition.



Image 2: The reception is clear from the main entry with good visual connection to the main entry to the aquatic area (entry doors only) and restrictive to other areas (as they are physically behind)



Image 3: Merchandise (aquatic mainly) is directly opposite to the control desk and visually accessible if occupied.



Image 4: Gym/ fitness area is directly accessible from main foyer.



Image 5: Entry to aquatic area is restrictive via single entry door only. No airlock.



Image 6: All other areas of the leisure centre are connected via lengthy hallways.

Area: INDOOR AQUATIC HALL

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

Fair

Reasonable

X

Good

Comments:

- Overall the building – the indoor aquatic component appears in a fair to reasonable condition.
- At the time of inspection several building contractors were inspecting the site for a pending tender to re-tile the indoor and outdoor pools. Reason for this is that the state of the pool concourse and floor treatment of the main 50m and 25m pools was poor.
- The indoor aquatic centre appeared to have a good mixture of active and passive recreation with the indoor 25m lap pool, larger leisure pool, small toddler pool and spa/ sauna area.
- Several areas where / are in the need of repair. Please refer to images.

Photos



Image 1: the indoor aquatic component appears in a fair to reasonable condition.

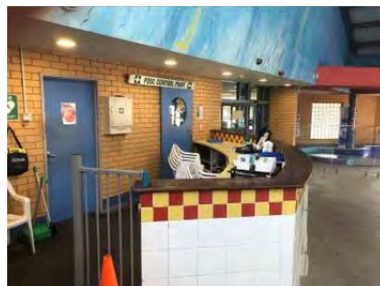


Image 2: life guard station in reasonable condition and has direct line of sight to all main pool bodies



Image 3: enclosed toddler pool – area rather isolated from other aquatic areas



Image 4: The indoor aquatic centre appeared to have a good mixture of active and passive recreation with the indoor 25m lap pool, larger leisure pool, small toddler pool and spa/sauna area.



Image 5: Pool concourse in need of repair



Image 6: Pool concourse in need of repair. Evidence of water pooling and poor surface drainage.



Image 7: starting blocks to be removed to make way for removable ones. Depth of pool to be confirmed if acceptable for competition diving.



Image 8: Pool concourse in need of repair along 25m pool and tiered concrete seating

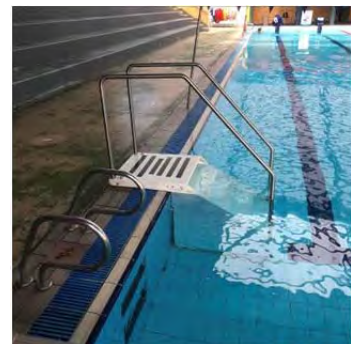


Image 9: portable climb out steps installed to 25.0m pool – this limits use of lane for lap swimming.

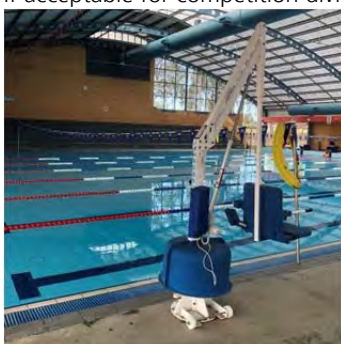


Image 10: No accessible ramp to 25.0m pool – disabled hoist available.

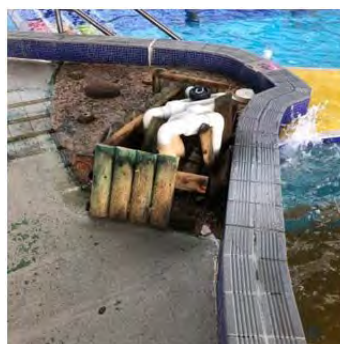


Image 11: Exposed Spa bubbler pump – treated pine timber feature rotten and should be removed. Deemed a trip hazard.



Image 12: Pool concourse in need of repair. Evidence of water pooling and poor surface drainage.

Area: **OUTDOOR AQUATIC AREA**

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

Fair

Reasonable

X

Good

Comments:

- Overall 50.0m pool and concourse appear to be in a reasonable condition.
- Interface with indoor pool and outdoor pool areas are good. Good visual connection.
- Starting blocks to be removed to make way for removable ones. Depth of pool to be confirmed if acceptable for competition diving. Physical step greater than standard BCA code compliance.

- Potential WH+S issue. Lane ropes for 50m pool and located away from the pool and is also located on a concrete platform – which would be very difficult to move when fully loaded with lane ropes.
- The actual 50.0m pool requires its base colour (paint system) to be re-coated as the base of the pool colour is wearing.
- Indoor aquatic change rooms were not inspected or images taken due to current centre privacy policies and as these rooms were occupied. The Male change rooms appeared in a reasonable condition and were missing ambulant facilities.
- Spa and sauna were occupied at time of inspection and no images were taken.

Photos



Image 1: Interface with indoor pool and outdoor pool areas are good. Good visual connection.



Image 2: Several of the door thresholds require a ramp, so to mitigate the existing step and potential trip hazard.



Image 3: Northern door way – step too high to current BCA requirements.



Image 4: Access to outdoor amenities is only accessed via one entry. This could have CPTED issued with security and well-being.

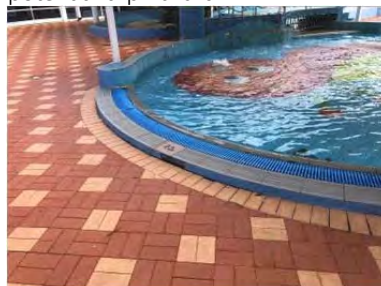


Image 5: leisure pool and step access higher than pool concourse. Not really fit for purpose and may be considered a trip hazard for children



Image 6: potential WH+S issue. Lane ropes for 50m pool and located away from the pool and is also located on a concrete platform – which would be very difficult to move when fully loaded with lane ropes.



Image 7: Overall 50.0m pool and concourse is in a reasonable condition.



Image 8: Pool climb outs acceptable and step from pool concourse to pool edge is acceptable – however height to starting blocks is not.



Image 9: Starting blocks to be removed to make way for removable ones. Depth of pool to be confirmed if acceptable for competition diving.



Image 10: Climbing stairs in good condition

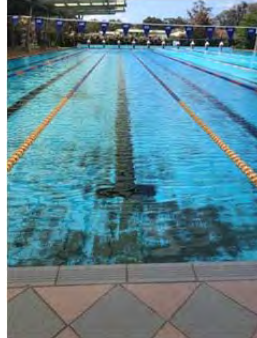


Image 11: The actual 50.0m pool requires its base colour (paint system) to be re-coated as the base of the pool colour is wearing.

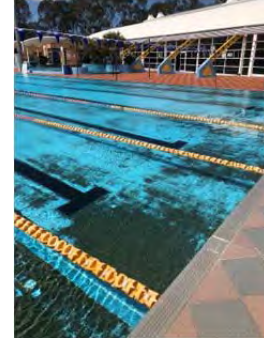


Image 12: The actual 50.0m pool requires its base colour (paint system) to be re-coated as the base of the pool colour is wearing.



Image 13: signage is acceptable – however should be larger in size and more prominent.



Image 14: Pool climbing stairs acceptable and step from pool concourse to pool edge is acceptable – however height to starting blocks is not.

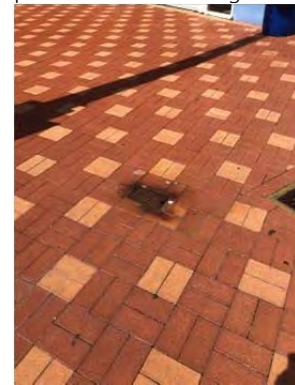


Image 15: existing metal floor wastes are corroding.

Area: **OUTDOOR AQUATIC – SPECTATOR SHELTER**

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

Fair

Reasonable

Good

X

Comments:

- Outdoor pool shelter is in good to excellent condition.
- Shelter has adequate seating (temporary) alum seating – it appears additional seating can be installed during swimming carnivals.
- Galvanised steel in good condition.

Photos



Image 1: Galvanised steel in good condition.

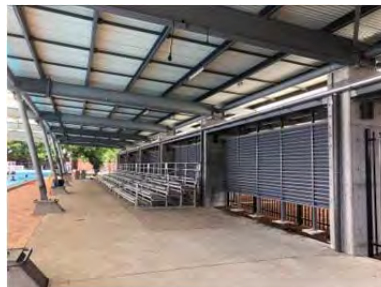





Image 2: Shelter has adequate seating (temporary) alum seating – it appears additional seating can be installed during swimming carnivals.



Image 3: view from other side of the pool.

Area: OUTDOOR AQUATIC – OUTDOOR CHANGE							
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor	X	Fair		Reasonable		Good
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male toilets appear in a fair condition. It appears to be need of a renovation as fixtures and fittings are tired (old) and masonry requires a thorough cleaning from vandalism. Signage to change rooms / amenities is not BCA/ DDA compliant with tactile (braille) indicators. Female change / amenities not inspected at time of inspection as they were occupied. Floor tiling in a reasonable condition. 							
Photos							
							
Image 1: Floor tiling in a reasonable condition.		Image 2: fitting and fixtures are tired and require renovating.		Image 3: Masonry vandalised – require removing painting off brickwork.			




Area: CAFÉ (INDOOR TO AQUATIC HALL + WITHIN FOYER)							
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair	X	Reasonable		Good
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The café area is located behind the main entry and reception area. It has direct access into pool hall and restricted access into the main foyer. There is no direct access from aquatic side to dry side of seating areas (door is locked) Flooring to pool side is uneven and has pooling of water. Sections of the rubber flooring is delaminating off the original tiled floor (under) Pool side and internal ramp to café level not to DDA / BCA code compliance and ground tactile indicators 							
Photos							
							
Image 1: There is no direct access from aquatic side to dry side of seating areas (door is locked)		Image 2: Flooring to pool side is uneven and has pooling of water		Image 3: blank			



Image 4: Pool side ramp to café level not to DDA / BCA code compliance and ground tactile indicators



Image 5: Internal ramp to café level not to DDA / BCA code compliance and ground tactile indicators



Image 6: blank

Area: **FITNESS CENTRE / GYM**

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

Fair

Reasonable

Good

X

Comments:

- Fitness Centre recently (currently) being renovated. New Flooring and painting.
- All fitness equipment appears in excellent condition and recently installed.
- Hazard signage apparent at changes to floor level (due to free weight area and heavy duty mats)
- Lockers located within space for members instead of traditionally being located within amenity areas.
- Signage to change rooms / amenities is not BCA/ DDA compliant with tactile (braille) indicators.

Photos



Image 1: Fitness Centre recently (currently) being renovated



Image 2: All fitness equipment appears in excellent condition and recently installed.



Image 3: Lockers located within space for members instead of traditionally being located within amenity areas.

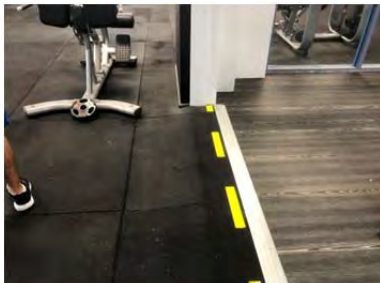


Image 4: Hazard signage apparent at changes to floor level (due to free weight area and heavy duty mats)



Image 5: Signage to change rooms / amenities is not BCA/ DDA compliant with tactile (braille) indicators.

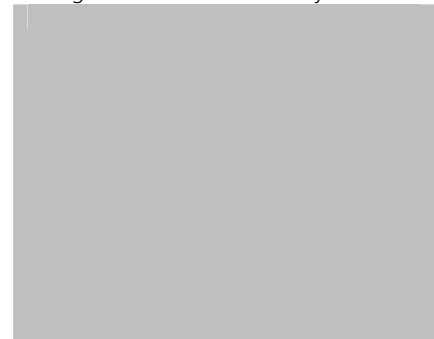



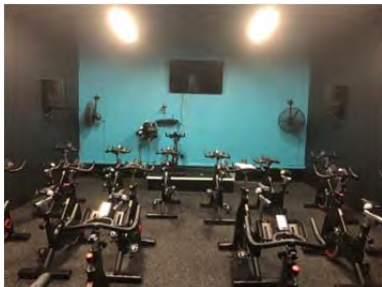
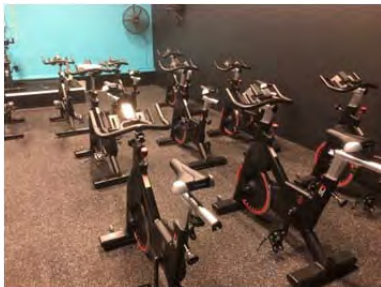



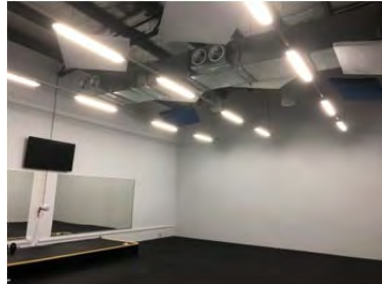


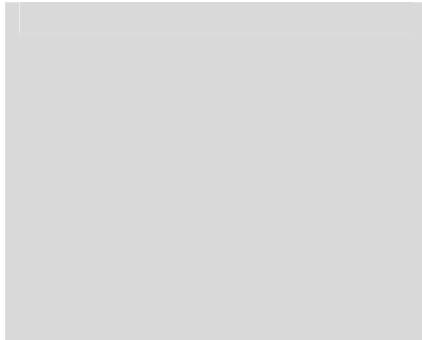
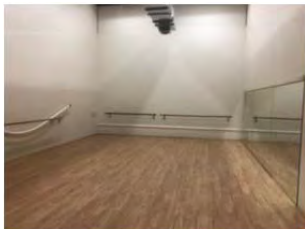
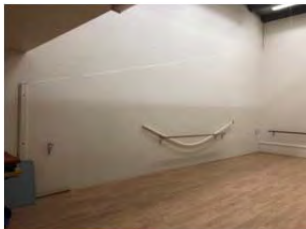









Image 6: Blank

Area: FITNESS CENTRE – CHANGE ROOMS							
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair	X	Reasonable		Good
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appear in a reasonable condition. It appears to be need of a renovation as fixtures and fittings are tired (old) • Signage to change rooms / amenities is not BCA/ DDA compliant with tactile (braille) indicators. • Female change / amenities not inspected at time of inspection as they were occupied. • Advantage of centre having dedicated amenities – fitness centre can operate afterhours while the rest of the centre can be closed. 							
Photos <div>    </div> <div> <p>Image 1: Signage to change rooms / amenities is not BCA/ DDA compliant with tactile (braille) indicators.</p> <p>Image 2: Male Amenities – typical condition of fixtures.</p> <p>Image 3: Typical view of the fittings and flooring (tiles)</p> </div>							

Area: SPIN ROOM (OLD SQUASH COURT 1)							
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair		Reasonable	X	Good
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall the renovated squash court (now spin room) appears in a reasonable condition. • Size is restrictive for the number of spin bikes utilising the space. • Floor surfaces in a good condition and fit for purpose. • All fitness equipment appears in excellent condition and recently installed. 							
Photos <div>    </div> <div> <p>Image 1: Size is restrictive for the number of spin bikes utilising the space.</p> <p>Image 2: Floor surfaces in a good condition and fir for purpose.</p> <p>Image 3: Blank</p> </div>							

Area: MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM (OLD SQUASH COURT 2+3)								
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair		Reasonable	X	Good	
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall the renovated squash court (now multi-purpose room) appears in a reasonable condition. Two squash courts have been renovated to form one room. Floor surfaces in a good condition and fir for purpose. Circulation outside of squash courts is excessive, however well suited to cater large pedestrian traffic. 								
Photos <div>       </div>								

Area: REMAINING SQUASH COURT (4)								
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair		Reasonable		Good	X
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall building in good condition Floor surfaces in a good condition and fit for purpose. 								
Photos <div>    </div>								

Area: INDOOR STADIUM - TYPICAL CHANGE ROOMS (MALE)							
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair		Reasonable	X	Good
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall change rooms inspected (male only) were in a fair to reasonable condition Practically both the male and female toilets require a complete refurbishment – fixtures and fittings appear tired due to wear and tear and tiling is in need of repair. Not accessible (unisex) facilities and no ambulant facilities located within rooms Change rooms not practical to be utilised as unisex facilities. Open showers not practical if amenities were deemed unisex for all gender competition. Cleaners cup board located within Male Change – not big enough Signage to be replaced with new BCA/ DDA tactile (braille) signage. 							
Photos <div> <div>  <p>Image 1: Male competition change – shower area.</p> </div> <div>  <p>Image 2: Treatment area directly associated with open showers. Open showers not practical if amenities were deemed unisex for all gender competition.</p> </div> <div>  <p>Image 3: Male Amenities – typical condition of fixtures. Damaged tiles and areas require general refurbishment</p> </div> <div>  <p>Image 4: Evidence of general wear and tear to the change rooms.</p> </div> <div>  <p>Image 5: Change rooms not practical to be utilised as unisex facilities.</p> </div> <div>  <p>Image 6: Cleaners cup board located within Male Change – not big enough</p> </div> </div>							

Area: INDOOR STADIUM							
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair		Reasonable		Good X
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoors ports hall in a reasonable to good condition. Sports floor in particular appears in a good condition. Sports hall is also utilised as an event space – not just elite sport, for community events and religious groups as well. Number of egress doors applicable for the occupancy in event mode. Trip hazards evident at junction of doorways to sports hall. In particular the entry to amenities (pictured) and store room. All courts are multi-lined for different sports (netball, basketball, volleyball and badminton). 							

- Telescopic seating – wall mounted in good condition. Seating (2 banks / rows located adjacent to the third court – accesses/ moves over to form a show court in the centre (court 2)
- Roof structure is very extensive and robust in appearance.

Photos



Image 1: Indoors sports hall in a reasonable to good condition. Sports floor in particular appears in a good condition.



Image 2: Sports hall is also utilised as an event space – not just elite sport, but utilised for community events and religious groups.



Image 3: Number of egress doors applicable for the occupancy in event mode.



Image 4: All courts are multi-lined for different sports (netball, basketball, volleyball and badminton). Telescopic seating – wall mounted in good condition.



Image 5: Trip hazards evident at junction of doorways to sports hall. In particular the entry to amenities (pictured) and store room.



Image 6: Trip hazards evident at junction of doorways to sports hall. In particular the entry to amenities and store room (pictured).

Area: INDOOR STADIUM – TYPICAL AMENITIES (MALE)

General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair		Reasonable	X	Good	
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Comments:

- Overall change rooms inspected (male only) were in a fair to reasonable condition
- Not accessible (unisex) facilities and no ambulant facilities located within rooms
- The amenities are very basic in appearance and finish. Catering for number populations, for example trough basins.
- Signage to be replaced with new BCA/ DDA tactile (braille) signage.
- Trip hazards evident at junction of doorways to sports hall. In particular the entry to amenities (pictured).

Photos

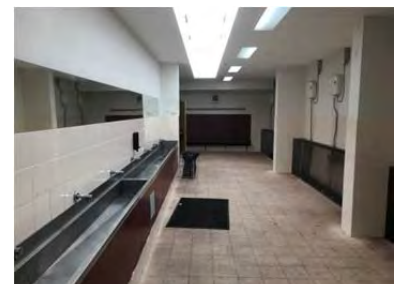
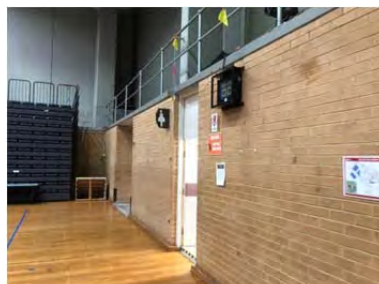


Image 1: Trip hazards evident at junction of doorways to sports hall. In particular the entry to amenities (pictured).



Image 4: Toilet cubicles appear in a reasonable condition.

Image 2: Signage to be replaced with new BCA/ DDA tactile (braille) signage.



Image 5: Change rooms and amenities designed for 'fit for purpose' only.

Image 3: The amenities are very basic in appearance and finish. Catering for number populations, for example trough basins.



Image 6: blank

Area: INDOOR STADIUM – UPSTAIRS ACCESS + BALCONY

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

Fair

X

Reasonable

Good

Comments:

- The general access via stairs to the balcony and first floor level are in a reasonable condition; however the handrails and general appearance of the stairs is now not compliant to current BCA/ DDA regulations.
- Handrails are not compliant as they don't extend 300mm past the top and bottom riser.
- There are no ground tactile indicators at the bottom or top of the stairs. Including no stair nosing indicators at each step.
- Fire Hose reel appears to be not in the correct location – within 4.5m of the stairway. This will need to be confirmed by an authorised fire engineer.
- The Mechanical systems need to be confirmed by an authorised mechanical engineer as air condensers appear to be installed not to code. All air condensers are required 'fresh air intake' and not makeup air (within a sports stadium.) Internal installation is not compliant.

Photos

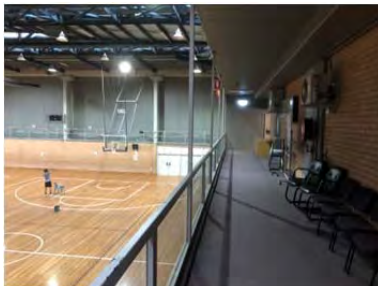


Image 1: Reasonable view to the sports courts from the balcony.



Image 2: No stair nosing indicators at each step.

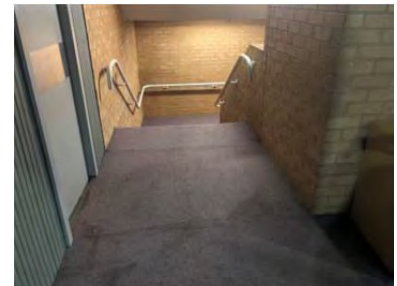


Image 3: Handrails are not compliant as they don't extend 300mm past the top and bottom riser.



Image 4: Handrails are not compliant as they don't extend 300mm past the top and bottom riser.



Image 5: Internal installation is not compliant.



Image 6: blank

Area: **INDOOR STADIUM – UPSTAIRS OFFICES + MEETING ROOMS**

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

X

Fair

Reasonable

Good

Comments:

- Overall the meeting rooms and first floor offices are in poor condition. This area is in need of refurbishment.
- No compliant egress signage or door hardware to all egress doors. (no D pull lever door – all door knobs) – Not DDA compliant.
- Access doors too narrow – under 850mm wide
- Roof plant access door – door hardware not compliant for egress (can be locked via pad lock internally) and no safety signage evident for restricted access.
- Ceilings and walls show signs / appearance of wear and tear – damaged ceiling tiles.
- Mechanical system to condition these rooms needs to be upgraded. The use of wall mounted chiller units (pictured) is not practical or energy efficient.

Photos

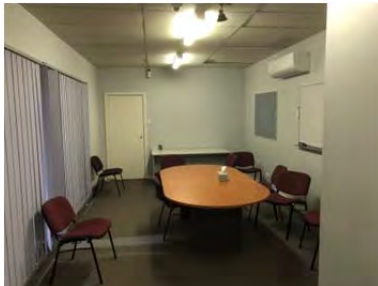


Image 1: Overall the meeting rooms and first floor offices are in need of refurbishment.

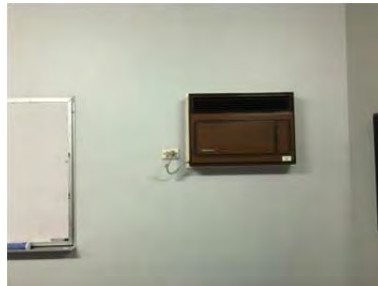


Image 2: The use of wall mounted chiller units (pictured) is not practical or energy efficient.

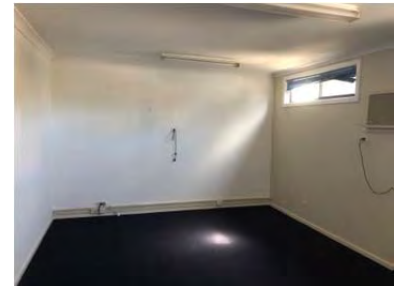


Image 3: Ceilings and walls show signs / appearance of wear and tear.

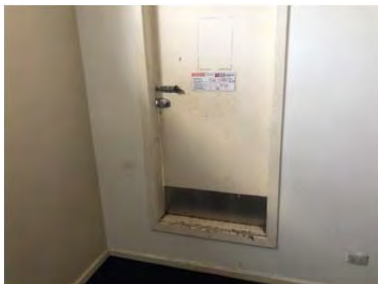


Image 4: Roof plant access door – door hardware not compliant for egress (can be locked via pad lock internally).

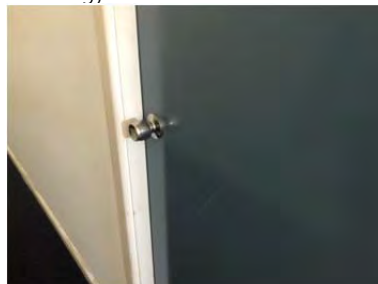


Image 5: No emergency egress signage and all door hardware not BCA compliant – can't escape from room

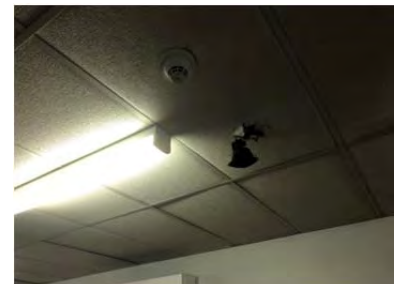


Image 6: Ceilings and walls show signs / appearance of wear and tear – damaged ceiling tiles.

Area: **INDOOR STADIUM – GYMNASTICS AREA**

General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor	Fair	Reasonable	X	Good
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Comments:

- The gymnastic area is in a reasonable condition as a temporary operation. This area as advised by Centre Management has to be removed and stored to allow for main events to operate within the main sports hall. As this is the main entry foyer into the stadium.
- Centre management ideally would like this space or gymnastics to have a dedicated (compliant) area to operate in.
- Ceiling is not to the minimum requirements as set out by Gymnastics Australia. Need to be min of 8m (vaulting) or 12.0m for trampoline
- Circulation around equipment is tight – as the operator is trying to maximise amount of equipment to space and user.
- Gym office is not practical and ceiling height is at the minimum of 2.2m

Photos



Image 1: The gymnastic area is in a reasonable condition as a temporary operation. This area as advised by Centre Management has to be removed and stored to allow for main events to operate within the main sports hall.

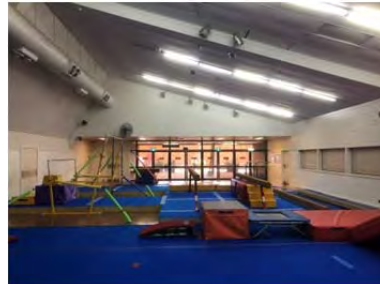


Image 2: Ceiling is not to the minimum requirements as set out by Gymnastics Australia. Need to be min of 8m (vaulting) or 12.0m for trampoline



Image 3: This is the main entry foyer into the stadium.



Image 4: Circulation around equipment is tight – as the operator is trying to maximise amount of equipment to space and user.



Image 5: Gym office is not practical and ceiling height is at the minimum of 2.2m

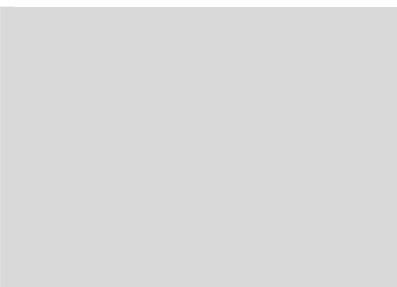


Image 6: blank

Document History:

Version – P1

First Draft – P1 25th November 2018

Second Issue – P2 – 3rd December 2018

Site Investigation Report

E-01

Site:	Michael Wendon Aquatic Leisure Centre	Date visited:	Wednesday the 17 th October 2018
Project:	Liverpool Council – Aquatic Review	Project No:	171026
Client:		Representative:	
Investigation undertaken by:	Sean Stone, Etch Architects	Email:	seanstone@etcharch.com.au
Copies to:	Sally Jeavons / Michael Graham @leisure Planners	Email:	
Weather Conditions:	Overcast and showers	Version:	First Issue

Pages (including this page)

This Site Investigation Report is based on the Reference material provided from the Client (listed below), and a physical 'visual' inspection only of the nominated site. Any assumptions noted within this report are based on evidence of similar projects – in reference to the Aged of the Facility, its condition, site conditions and nature of its construction. Etch Architectural Solutions Pty Ltd will not make any assumptions to any elements relating to the nominated site which can't be observed (i.e. underground) or relating to any building service which the company is not specialised to undertake (such as any electrical review).

Reference documents supplied by the Client

(Which can be read in conjunction to this report)

1. National Construction Code Series – Volume 1. Building Code of Australia 2014- Class 2 to Class 9 buildings
2. Australian Standard 1428.1-2009: Design for access and mobility - General requirements for access - New building work
3. Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010;
4. Australian Standard AS1428.2 (1992) - 'Design for Access and mobility Part 2: Enhanced and additional requirements—Buildings and facilities

Site Investigation:



image source : Google Map

Definitions:

- ☐ Poor – Item which is damaged, beyond repair and requires replacing. Conditions due to rust, rot, settlement, cracking etc. (requires immediate replacing – approx 1 month to 1 year). Or is not compliant to current Building Code Regulations and / or current Australian standards (such as disability access requirements As1428)
- ☐ Fair – Item which is damaged, and possibly requires replacing / refurbishment within 2- 3 years (at a minimum)
- ☐ Reasonable – Item which can remain and possibly requires remedial 'spot' repairing / conditioning, over the next 2 to 5 years.
- ☐ Good – Item which is in a reasonable condition which does not require any remedial work, over the next 3 years.

Distribution: ☐ Principal ☐ Contractor ☐ File

Etch Architectural Solutions Pty Ltd

Area: MAIN ENTRY + EXTERIOR								
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair		Reasonable	X	Good	
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall building in reasonable to good condition. The building doesn't appear to have street presence – no main street signage. The car park is too small with insufficient drop off zones. Way finding is poor to direct the patron to the larger car park (behind the main sports hall). Stair access to main entry not compliant due to no handrails, including no tactile ground indicators to both stair landings and ramp. Accessible ramp to frontage of building not compliant, due to handrail and kerb rail do not meet current AS 1428 and DDA requirements. Accessible car space to main entry car park is not to BCA + AS1428 code. 								
Photos								
								
Image 1: The building doesn't appear to have street presence. Stair access to main entry not compliant due to no handrails.			Image 2: Way finding is poor to direct the patron to the larger car park (behind the main sports hall).			Image 3: No main street signage		
								
Image 4: The car park is too small with insufficient drop off zones.			Image 5: Accessible ramp to frontage of building not compliant, due to handrail and kerb rail do not meet current AS 1428 and DDA requirements.			Image 6: Accessible ramp to frontage of building not compliant, due to handrail and kerb rail do not meet current AS 1428 and DDA requirements		

Area: MAIN ENTRY RECEPTION + FOYER								
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair		Reasonable	X	Good	
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main entry door to this area is BCA / AS 1428 compliant with minimum opening greater than 850mm. Way finding (signage) could be improved to direct the patron to the activity areas, including change rooms. All activity areas are 'hidden away' and not in direct view of the reception / control area, and only accessible via doorways. All glazed areas to main entry are obstructed with advertising and signage. No clear visual connection to the car park. May trigger CPTED implications. 								

- Overall space and fixtures are good and in a reasonable condition. Well managed.
- Reception / control area rather crowded as it's also consisting as a kiosk for 'dry' operation and merchandise / aquatic shop.
- After School Care room adjoining the reception area – not inspection as it was occupied during the time of the site inspection.

Photos



Image 1: Reception / control area rather crowded as it's also consisting as a kiosk for 'dry' operation and merchandise / aquatic shop.

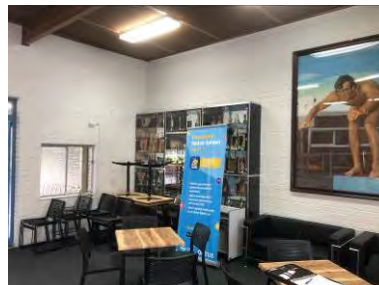


Image 2: Breakout space to main reception area used as a furniture store.



Image 3: All activity areas are 'hidden away' and not in direct view of the reception / control area, and only accessible via doorways.



Image 4: All activity areas are 'hidden away' and not in direct view of the reception / control area, and only accessible via doorways.

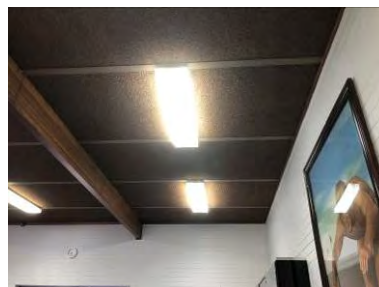


Image 5: Ceiling could be considered a fire hazard due to its material structure (compressed straw)



Image 6: All glazed areas to main entry are obstructed with advertising and signage. No clear visual connection to the car park.

Area: CANTEEN / KIOSK

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

Fair

Reasonable

X

Good

Comments:

- Overall the kiosk/ canteen area serving the outdoor aquatic area and indoor sports centre is well maintained and kept in a reasonable to good condition
- The kitchen and cool room area appear to meet current health regulations. Clear separation between prep areas and cooking areas.
- Vinyl flooring is in a good condition
- Good storage
- Could it be better connected to the foyer, gymnasium & indoor amenities?
- Wash area in good condition. Dishwasher should connect to a mechanical exhaust system so to collect the steam.

Photos



Image 1: Clear separation between prep areas and cooking areas.



Image 2: The kitchen and cool room area appear to meet current health regulations.



Image 3: Wash area in good condition. Dishwasher should connect to a mechanical exhaust system so to collect the steam.



Image 4: Connects to outdoor pool area and indoor basketball court (shown here)



Image 5: Vinyl flooring is in a good condition



Image 6: Circulation is adequate with main external access to outdoor pool area. No direct access to indoor activity areas.

Area: GYMNASIUM

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

Fair

Reasonable

Good

X

Comments:

- Gymnasium is in a good condition. All equipment appears to be in a reasonable condition and well-spaced to provide suitable circulation for both patron and instructor.
- Directly accessible from main foyer and passage. Signage to activity area is poor.
- Floor is in a good condition – rubber flooring (thick) – fit for purpose.
- Store room is too small
- Room may not cater for the membership and appears to only occupy at least 50 people at one time.
- No separation between the free weight areas and cardio.

Photos

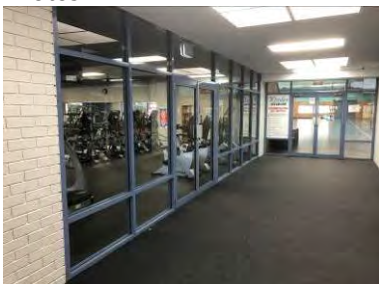


Image 1: Directly accessible from main foyer and passage. Signage to activity area is poor.



Image 2: Gymnasium is in a good condition.

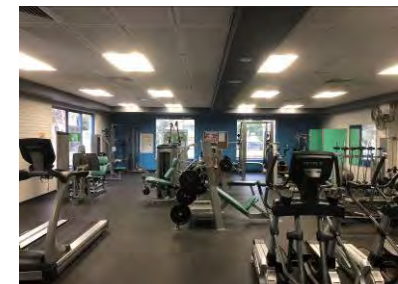


Image 3: No separation between the free weight areas and cardio.



Image 4: All equipment appears to be in a reasonable condition and well-spaced to provide suitable circulation for both patron and instructor.



Image 5: Room may not cater for the membership and appears to only occupy at least 50 people at one time



Image 6: Store room is too small

Area: **INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE**

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

Fair

Reasonable

X

Good

Comments:

- Overall the indoor sports hall is in a reasonable to good condition. The sports flooring and sports 'back boards' appear to be well managed and in a reasonable condition.
- Sports Hall suitable to cater local level sports completion. Can cater for futsal, volleyball, badminton netball and basketball.
- Flooring appears to be a Gerflor /Tarket or similar synthetic sprung floor. Type of floor will reduced type / level of competition played at venue.
- 2 courts for multi-sports and Futsal
- Net divider curtain separating both courts appears in a fair condition.
- Access to canteen hidden via egress passage.
- Tiered (TMB) seating – fair condition
- Circulation around courts is good
- No access to change rooms and toilets – most likely to be in a fair condition with general wear and tear. (if similar to accessible room)
- No access to ambulant facilities evident within leisure centre
- Clear height above the sports hall appears to be at 'its' minimum under 7.0m in height.

Photos



Image 1: Sufficient safety off (approx. 3.0m) for netball and basketball



Image 2: Can cater for futsal, volleyball, badminton netball and basketball.

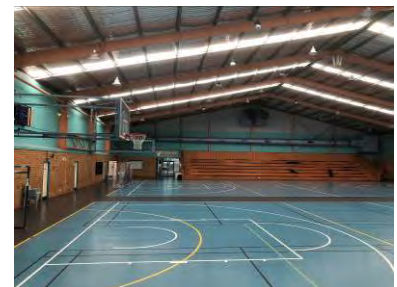


Image 3: Clear height above the sports hall appears to be at 'its' minimum under 7.0m in height.

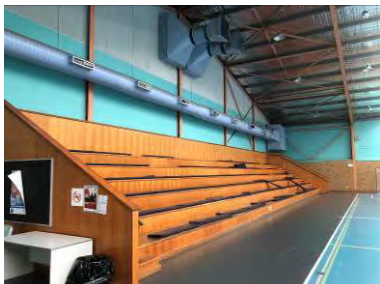


Image 4: Timber tiered seating appears in a reasonable condition

Image 5: Mechanical system may need to be inspected for its condition and energy efficiency.

Image 6: blank

Area: **INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE - AMENITIES (INCLUDING ACCESSIBLE)**

General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair		Reasonable		Good	X
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Comments:

- Accessible Amenities are in a reasonable to good condition due to its age and construction
- Male and Female Amenities were locked and not accessible at time of inspection.
- Provide new BCA compliant amenity signage at doorway (needs to include tactile / braille signage)
- It would be 'our' assumption that due to the aged of this facility that no ambulant fixture and fittings would be provided (installed).
- Tiled floor in reasonable condition.

Photos



Image 1: Provide new BCA compliant amenity signage at doorway (needs to include tactile / braille signage)



Image 2: Tiled floor in good condition. Accessible pan should be installed with a back rest.



Image 3: Accessible Amenities are in a reasonable to good condition due to its age and construction

Area: **AQUATIC – POOL SIDE EXTERIOR (ACCESS TO ALL AREAS)**

General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair	X	Reasonable		Good	
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Comments:

- Large open space between entry from indoor sports hall, change rooms and outdoor pool. Adequate space to build in 'new indoor' aquatic facilities.
- Main entry to indoor 'learn to swim' is very restrictive with poor way finding / signage.
- There is no visual connection to indoor pool, as the glazing has been painted out.
- Large under cover area to cater 'seating' area for pool access side to canteen
- Pool plant room and main pedestrian path from change rooms to outdoor pool.
- Access to fitness rooms appears to meet BCA / AS 1428 requirements with a ramp door threshold. Door opening appears to be greater than 850 min clearance.

Photos



Image 1: large open space between



Image 2: Large under cover area to

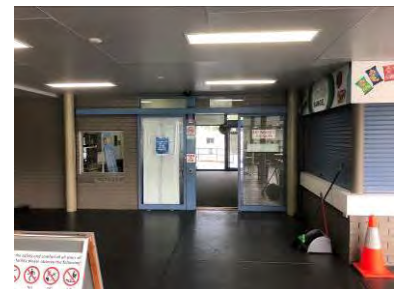


Image 3: All glazed areas to main

entry from indoor sports hall, change rooms and outdoor pool. Adequate space to build in 'new indoor 'aquatic facilities.



Image 4: Main entry to indoor 'learn to swim' is very restrictive with poor wayfinding / signage.

cater 'seating' area for pool access side to canteen



Image 5: There is no visual connection to indoor pool.

entries are obstructed with advertising and signage.



Image 6: No visual connection to fitness room.



Image 7: Entry to fitness room not appealing.



Image 8: Pool plant room and main pedestrian path from change rooms to outdoor pool.

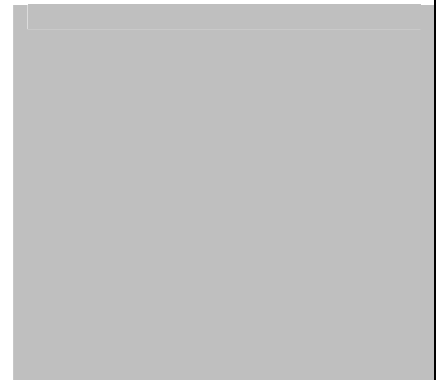


Image 9: BLANK

Area: **AQUATIC – OUTDOOR POOLS + WATERPLAY**

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

Fair

Reasonable

X

Good

Comments:

- Overall the outdoor pool areas are in fair to reasonable condition. Several areas such as the pool concourse require remedial work (maintenance)
- The outdoor pool consists of a mixture of a freeform shape + 6 lanes @ 50m.
- Areas of the pool tiling require remedial works – maintenance works appear to be have been undertaken but works could match tiles?
- Drainage issues to pool concourses
- Area to expand
- Splash pad appears in a reasonable condition. No mixture of water play – all appear to be the same (sprays)
- Pool signage / depth indicators don't appear to meet Royal Life Saving Society pool design guidelines and Australian standards.
- Adequate space between outdoor pool and sports hall to cater any indoor aquatic facility proposal.

Photos



Image 1: Outdoor pool consists of a mixture of a freeform shape + 6 lanes @ 50m.



Image 2: Starting blocks recommend to be removable.



Image 3: Drainage issues to pool concourses



Image 4: Pool concourse require remedial work (maintenance)

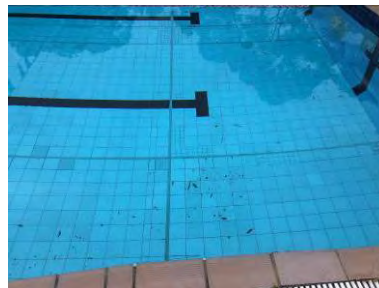


Image 5: Pool tiling in areas appears in a reasonable condition.



Image 6: Areas of the pool tiling require remedial works – maintenance works appear to be having been undertaken but works could match tiles?

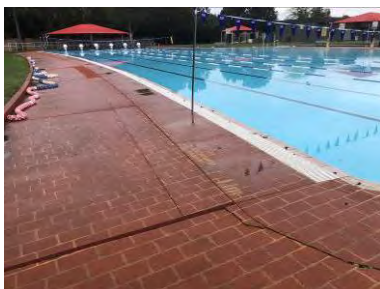


Image 7: Pool concourse require remedial work (maintenance)



Image 8: Splashpad appears in a reasonable condition. No mixture of water play – all appear to be the same (sprays)



Image 9: raised concrete platform – not sure its use.

Area: **AQUATIC – INDOOR ‘LEARN TO SWIM’ POOL**

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

X

Fair

Reasonable

Good

Comments:

- This indoor ‘learn to swim’ pool and its facilities are in a poor condition and show signs of wear and tear, including corrosion. Recommendation for activity space to be demolished.
- The area is screen off to the rest of the leisure centre – may be undertaken to cater for the Muslim community – however this is very uninviting. The screening should be temporary fixture and not permanent.
- Direct Entry is off the outside zone
- No change room access internally
- Major structural corrosion concerns to all steel to walls and roof
- Columns cast into floor are corroding
- All pool concourses don’t meet minimum Life Saving Design Guidelines
 - Minimum is 2.0m

- o Some areas cannot fit a pram or wheelchair around
- No pool ramp
- A disability hoist – in wrong location
- No depth markers evident in pool
- Pool and area needs to be demolished – build a larger program pool!
- Amenities all poor
 - o Single pans for male/female
 - o Accessible poor condition and not to code.
 - o Signage incorrect, and not to code.
 - o No ambulant
- Pool store too small
- All change room access is external

Photos



Image 1: This indoor 'learn to swim' pool and its facilities are in a poor condition



Image 2: Major structural corrosion concerns to all steel to walls and roof



Image 3: All pool concourses don't meet minimum Life Saving Design Guidelines



Image 4: Columns cast into floor are corroding



Image 5: A disability hoist – in wrong location



Image 6: Pool concourse 'pinch point' at corner too narrow.



Image 7: Signage incorrect, and not to code.

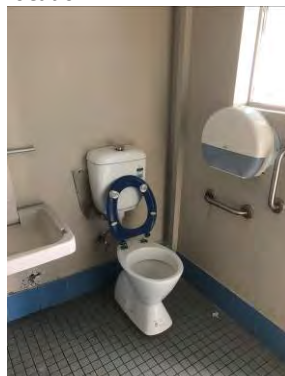
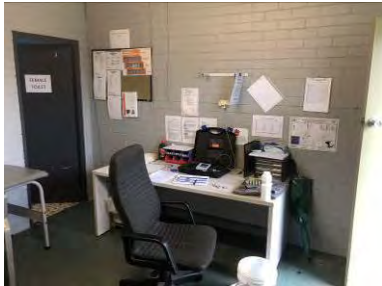
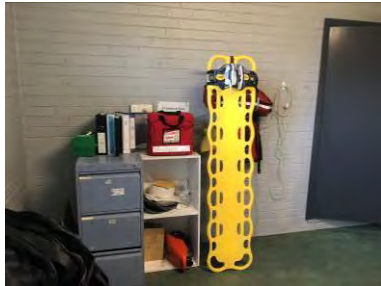






Image 8: Accessible facilities not code compliant to AS 1428 / BCA.



Image 9: Toilet facilities are poor

Area: AQUATIC – PLANT / POOL FILTRATION							
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair	X	Reasonable		Good
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid room and pool office should not be a combined room, especially with the entry to the pool filtration room adjoining Toilet / shower facilities with pool store / office are in a poor condition and should be removed. Pool filtration room has ample space to expand (allow for more pools) Pool filtration plant appears in a reasonable to good condition. It appears to be refurbished in the past 5- 10 years. Chemical (hypo chloride) stored in a reasonable bund. Pool heaters appear in a fair condition and may require maintenance. 							
Photos							
 <p>Image 1: First aid room and pool office should not be a combined room, especially with the entry to the pool filtration room adjoining.</p>		 <p>Image 2: First aid room and pool office should not be a combined room</p>		 <p>Image 3: Toilet / shower facilities with pool store / office are in a poor condition and should be removed.</p>		 <p>Image 4: Pool filtration room has ample space to expand (allow for more pools)</p>	
		 <p>Image 5: Pool filtration plant appears in a reasonable to good condition. It appears to be refurbished in the past 5- 10 years.</p>		 <p>Image 6: Chemical (hypo chloride) stored in a reasonable bund.</p>			

Area: FITNESS ROOM / CIRCUIT							
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair	X	Reasonable		Good
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall fitness room appears to be of an adequate size that may cater for at least 50 to 100 patrons. Room has been furnished – fit for purpose. Flooring to fitness room consists of thick (heavy duty) rubber matting – fit for purpose. Air conditioner appears in a fair condition. Needs to be cleaned. Entry to fitness room not appealing, and door threshold (ramp) may be DDA compliant Door handle and door lock not complaint to BCA. Door can be locked externally and not allow direct egress from room. Large gap to door that could allow vermin to enter room. Door width is greater than 850mm – compliant to AS1428 / DDA. 							

Photos

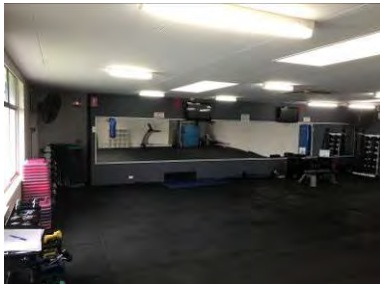


Image 1: Overall fitness room appears to be of an adequate size that may cater for at least 50 to 100 patrons.



Image 2: Room has been furnished – fit for purpose.

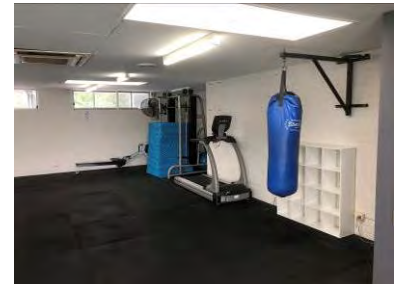


Image 3: No storage required within room.



Image 4: Air conditioner appears in a fair condition. Needs to be cleaned.

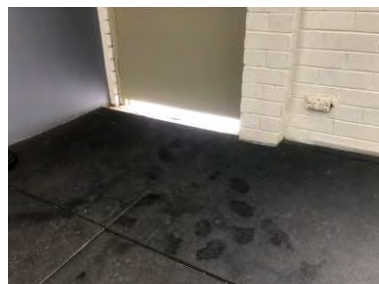


Image 5: flooring to fitness room consists of thick (heavy duty) rubber matting – fit for purpose.



Image 6: floor matting to be repaired at edges. Requires general maintenance.



Image 7: Door handle and door lock not complaint to BCA. Door can be locked externally and not allow direct egress from room.

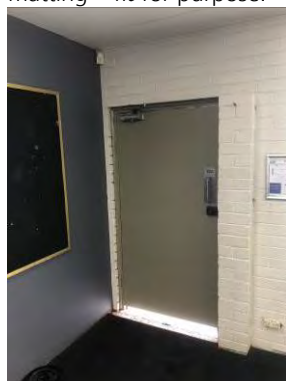


Image 8: Large gap to door that could allow vermin to enter room. Door width is greater than 850mm – compliant to AS1428 / DDA.



Image 9: Entry to fitness room not appealing, and door threshold (ramp) may be DDA compliant

Area: **CHANGE ROOM (MALE + FEMALE)**

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

Fair

X

Reasonable

Good

Comments:

- Male (inspected) and Female (not inspected and deemed to be) amenities appear in a fair to reasonable condition.
- There are areas within the Male change rooms of general wear and tear to flooring and skirting (rust).
- No family change facilities catered within the Male change room.
- Provide new compliant amenity signage at doorway (needs to include tactile / braille signage)
- No accessible or ambulant fixture and fittings provided within this room.
- Tiled floor in a reasonable condition.
- 2x pans may not be adequate for occupancy numbers of the leisure centre

- Door landing / airlock not wide enough for DDA / AS 1428 access – needs to be min 1540 wide.
- Potential trip hazard at door threshold to both male and female door openings
- Bench seating appears in a good condition.

Photos



Image 1: Male (inspected) and Female (not inspected and deemed to be) amenities appear in a fair to reasonable condition.



Image 2: Potential trip hazard at door threshold to both male and female door openings

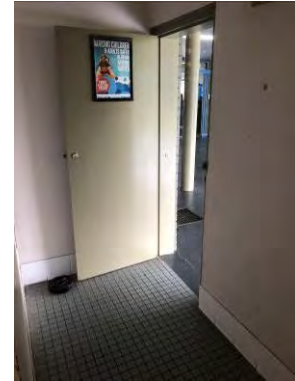


Image 3: Door landing / airlock not wide enough for DDA / AS 1428 access – needs to be min 1540 wide.



Image 4: Tiled floor in a reasonable condition.

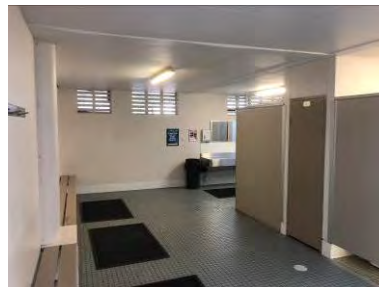


Image 5: Bench seating appears in a good condition.



Image 6: amenities appear in a fair to reasonable condition.

Document History:

Version – P1

First Draft – P1 13th November 2018

Site Investigation Report

E-01

Site: **Michael Clarke Recreation Centre** Date visited: Wednesday the 17th October 2018
 Project: Liverpool Council – Aquatic Review Project No: 171026
 Client: Centre Manager Representative: Laura
 Investigation undertaken by: Sean Stone, Etch Architects Email: seanstone@etcharch.com.au
 Copies to: Sally Jeavons / Michael Graham @leisure Planners Email:
 Weather Conditions: Overcast Version: First Issue

Pages (including this page)

This Site Investigation Report is based on the Reference material provided from the Client (listed below), and a physical 'visual' inspection only of the nominated site. Any assumptions noted within this report are based on evidence of similar projects – in reference to the Aged of the Facility, its condition, site conditions and nature of its construction. Etch Architectural Solutions Pty Ltd will not make any assumptions to any elements relating to the nominated site which can't be observed (i.e. underground) or relating to any building service which the company is not specialised to undertake (such as any electrical review).

Reference documents supplied by the Client

(Which can be read in conjunction to this report)

1. National Construction Code Series – Volume 1. Building Code of Australia 2014- Class 2 to Class 9 buildings
2. Australian Standard 1428.1-2009: Design for access and mobility - General requirements for access - New building work
3. Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010;
4. Australian Standard AS1428.2 (1992) - 'Design for Access and mobility Part 2: Enhanced and additional requirements—Buildings and facilities

Site Investigation:

No Image

Area: EXTERIOR								
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair		Reasonable		Good	X
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facility has recently being constructed (in the past two years). • This is a 'dry' facility with 2 indoor hardcourts (synthetic sports surface) and multipurpose rooms for fitness and gym. No aquatics available. • Centre also has 2 outdoor tennis courts. • Carparking is limited – not enough allocated for the high demand to the fitness areas. • Majority of path ways are accessible for all – well graded on a sloped topography. • External stairs not DDA compliant as ground tactile indicators are not installed. 								
Photos								

Definitions:

☐ Poor – Item which is damaged, beyond repair and requires replacing. Conditions due to rust, rot, settlement, cracking etc. (requires immediate replacing – approx 1 month to 1 year).Or is not compliant to current Building Code Regulations and / or current Australian standards (such as disability access requirements As1428)

Fair – Item which is damaged, and possibly requires replacing / refurbishment within 2- 3 years (at a minimum)

Reasonable – Item which can remain and possibly requires remedial 'spot' repairing / conditioning, over the next 2 to 5 years.

Good – Item which is in a reasonable condition which does not require any remedial work, over the next 3 years.

Distribution: ☐ Principal ☐ Contractor ☐ File

Etch Architectural Solutions Pty Ltd



Image 1: Roof and steel structure in a good condition. Recently constructed.



Image 2: recreation centre combined with a community hub (library, community centre and café)



Image 3: Majority of path ways are accessible for all – well graded on a sloped topography.



Image 4: External tennis courts



Image 5: Majority of path ways are accessible for all – well graded on a sloped topography.



Image 6: External stairs not DDA compliant as ground tactile indicators are not installed.

Area: MAIN ENTRY RECEPTION + FOYER

General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair		Reasonable	X	Good	
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Comments:

- Main entry is very open and comprises of main control and kiosk (wouldn't consider this a café due to the facilities provided)
- Main entry to all activity areas via double doors or stair case.
- Visual connection from entry only to main 2 indoor courts.
- Reception / Control has adequate space (in width) to cater for peak loads (after school drop off and business hours)
- No access control – potentially during peak hours people could enter without swiping or paying.
- Way-finding – excellent and compliant to DDA / Access to premise requirements.

Photos

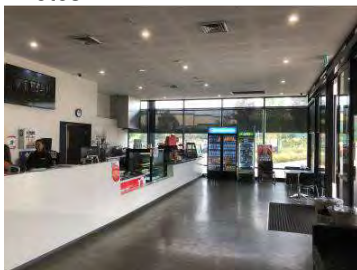


Image 1: Main entry is very open and comprises of main control and kiosk(wouldn't consider this a café due to the facilities provided)

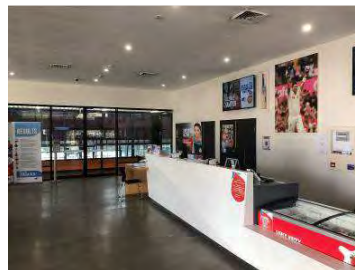


Image 2: Reception / Control has adequate space (in width) to cater for peak loads (after school drop off and business hours)



Image 3: Main entry to all activity areas via double doors or stair case.



Image 4: kiosk are 'end' of counter provides 'minimal' condiments

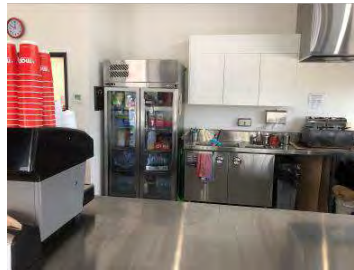


Image 5: kiosk - ok



Image 6: blank

Area: CIRCULATION / PASSAGES TO ACTIVITY ROOMS

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

Fair

Reasonable

X

Good

Comments:

- All stair ways are fully DDA/ AS 1428 compliant.
- All rooms are accessible by long corridors – width normally under 1800mm (not designed for 2 way accessible traffic) majority of width greater than 1500mm.
- Lockers restrict 2 way access along corridor.
- No means to limit visual connection from corridor to main indoor sports hall if event is on.

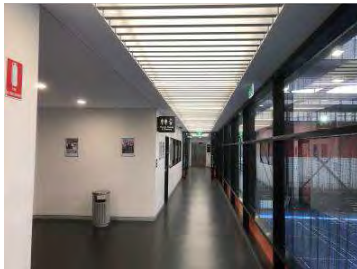
Photos


Image 1: All rooms are accessible by long corridors



Image 2: Lockers restrict 2 way access along corridor.



Image 3: No means to limit visual connection from corridor to main indoor sports hall if event is on.



Image 4: All stair ways are fully DDA/ AS 1428 compliant.



Image 5: All stair ways are fully DDA/ AS 1428 compliant.



Image 6: All rooms are accessible by long corridors

Area: SPORTS HALL (2 COURT BASKETBALL / NETBALL + FUTSAL)								
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair		Reasonable		Good	X
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All glazing is protected by sports netting Sports flooring is sprung synthetic – not timber. May restrict level of competition held there. Basketball backboards – very hard to ‘line up net’ due to glass back board and glass backing. Courts are multi-lined to cater – basketball, netball, badminton, volleyball and futsal Overall indoor courts in an excellent condition Centre management has had issues with telescopic seating and maintenance. Acoustic control to space – reasonable. Space is ventilated by natural means via louvers both internally and externally. 								
Photos <div style="display: grid; grid-template-columns: 1fr 1fr 1fr; gap: 10px;"> <div>  <p>Image 1: All glazing is protected by sports netting</p> </div> <div>  <p>Image 2: Overall indoor courts in an excellent condition</p> </div> <div>  <p>Image 3: Sports flooring is sprung synthetic – not timber. May restrict level of competition held there.</p> </div> <div>  <p>Image 4: Basketball backboards – very hard to ‘line up net’ due to glass back board and glass backing.</p> </div> <div>  <p>Image 5: Courts are multi-lined to cater – basketball, netball, badminton, volleyball and futsal</p> </div> <div>  <p>Image 6: Centre management has had issues with telescopic seating and maintenance.</p> </div> </div>								

Area: ACTIVITY – FITNESS ROOMS								
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair		Reasonable		Good	X
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of fitness rooms – circuit, cardio and gymnasium are in a good condition. These rooms were all occupied at time of inspection and with respect to Centre Management and Patrons no photographs were taken. Images below show the typical condition of the fitness rooms – all equipment relatively new and flooring fit for purpose. Centre Management advised that membership has already peaked and has requested from Council additional funds to extend the group fitness areas and gym. 								
Photos								

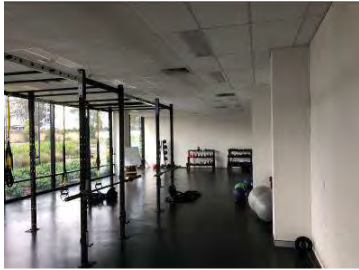


Image 1: typical condition of the fitness rooms – all equipment relatively new and flooring fit for purpose.

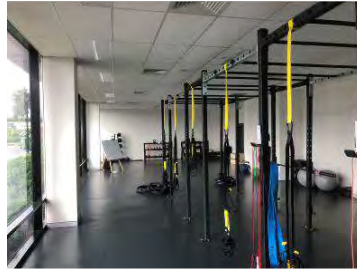


Image 2: all equipment relatively new and flooring fit for purpose.



Image 3: blank

Area: AMENITIES INCLUDING CHANGE ROOMS

General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair		Reasonable		Good	X
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Comments:

- All amenities including change rooms are all in a good condition.
- All current 'Access to premise and AS 1428 requirements have been designed and provided for.
- All signage is DDA compliant including tactile braille indicators and clearly defined symbols and contrast for visual impaired patrons.
- Ambulant facilities are provided for.
- All fixture and fittings are 'Fit for purpose'– well maintained.

Photos



Image 1: All signage is DDA compliant including tactile braille indicators and clearly defined symbols and contrast for visual impaired patrons.

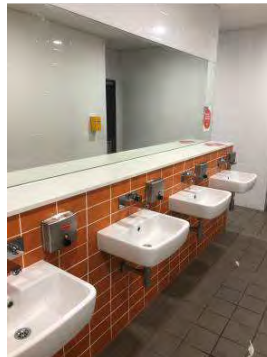


Image 2: All fixture and fittings are 'Fit for purpose'– well maintained.



Image 3: All fixture and fittings are 'Fit for purpose'– well maintained



Image 4: Door hardware is not BCA compliant. Door handle is required to be a 'D' pull handle



Image 5: no coat hook rails.



Image 6: Ambulant facilities are provided for.

Area: ACCESSIBLE AMENITIES + FIRST AID ROOM

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

Fair

Reasonable

Good

X
Comments:

- All accessible amenities including first aid room are all in a good condition.
- All current 'Access to premise and AS 1428 requirements have been designed and provided for.
- All signage is DDA compliant including tactile braille indicators and clearly defined symbols and contrast for visual impaired patrons.
- Ambulant facilities are provided for.
- All fixture and fittings are 'Fit for purpose'– well maintained.
- First aid room should have a hands free basin installed.
- No curtain installed for patron privacy to first aid room

Photos


Image 1: All signage is DDA compliant including tactile braille indicators and clearly defined symbols and contrast for visual impaired patrons.

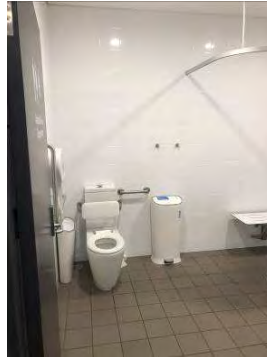


Image 2: All fixture and fittings are 'Fit for purpose'– well maintained.



Image 3: blank



Image 4: All signage is DDA compliant including tactile braille indicators and clearly defined symbols and contrast for visual impaired patrons.

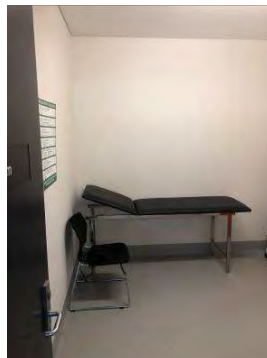


Image 5: No curtain installed for patron privacy



Image 6: First aid room should have a hands free basin installed.

Document History:

Version – P1

First Draft – P1 30th October 2018

Site Investigation Report

E-01

Site:	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	Date visited:	Wednesday the 17 th October 2018
Project:	Liverpool Council – Aquatic Review	Project No:	171026
Client:		Representative:	
Investigation undertaken by:	Sean Stone, Etch Architects	Email:	seanstone@etcharch.com.au
Copies to:	Sally Jeavons / Michael Graham @leisure Planners	Email:	
Weather Conditions:	Overcast and showers	Version:	First Issue

Pages (including this page)

This Site Investigation Report is based on the Reference material provided from the Client (listed below), and a physical 'visual' inspection only of the nominated site. Any assumptions noted within this report are based on evidence of similar projects – in reference to the Age of the Facility, its condition, site conditions and nature of its construction. Etch Architectural Solutions Pty Ltd will not make any assumptions to any elements relating to the nominated site which can't be observed (i.e. underground) or relating to any building service which the company is not specialised to undertake (such as any electrical review).

Reference documents supplied by the Client

(Which can be read in conjunction to this report)

1. National Construction Code Series – Volume 1. Building Code of Australia 2014- Class 2 to Class 9 buildings
2. Australian Standard 1428.1-2009: Design for access and mobility - General requirements for access - New building work
3. Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010;
4. Australian Standard AS1428.2 (1992) - 'Design for Access and mobility Part 2: Enhanced and additional requirements—Buildings and facilities

Site Investigation:



image source : Google Map

Definitions:

- ☐ Poor – Item which is damaged, beyond repair and requires replacing. Conditions due to rust, rot, settlement, cracking etc. (requires immediate replacing – approx 1 month to 1 year). Or is not compliant to current Building Code Regulations and / or current Australian standards (such as disability access requirements As1428)
- ☐ Fair – Item which is damaged, and possibly requires replacing / refurbishment within 2- 3 years (at a minimum)
- ☐ Reasonable – Item which can remain and possibly requires remedial 'spot' repairing / conditioning, over the next 2 to 5 years.
- ☐ Good – Item which is in a reasonable condition which does not require any remedial work, over the next 3 years.

Distribution: ☐ Principal ☐ Contractor ☐ File

Etch Architectural Solutions Pty Ltd

Area: MAIN ENTRY + EXTERIOR									
General visual condition <i>(see definitions on cover page)</i>	Poor		Fair	X	Reasonable		Good		
Comments:									
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall building in fair to reasonable condition.• The Aquatic Centre consists of the original ('outdoor pool' entry building with change rooms) and with the 'outdoor pool' now enclosed.• Good street access and visual connection. Adjoining the local high school and within close proximity to primary schools (learn to swim programs)• The indoor pool building consists of precast concrete construction and galvanised steel frame. Overall appears to be in a reasonable condition.• Plant room / filtration system is externally located• Aquatic centre car park is located on the site and at the rear of the aquatic centre. No dedicated pedestrian path from the car park to the main entry (otherwise already entering the 'pool' grounds and 'easy' access into the pool hall and not via the main entry.• Light weight 'basic' wall construction. Not practical for energy efficiency – heat loss b/w interior and exterior.									
Photos									
									
Image 1: Traditional 'outdoor' pool entry and change room building.			Image 2: Good street access and visual connection. Adjoining the local high school.			Image 3: Aquatic centre car park is located on the site and at the rear of the aquatic centre. No dedicated pedestrian path from the car park to the main entry			
									
Image 4: Plant room / filtration system is externally located			Image 5: Path access from rear car park can allow patrons to enter the pool away from the main entry.			Image 6: Light weight 'basic' wall construction. Not practical for energy efficiency.			

Area: MAIN ENTRY RECEPTION + FOYER							
General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor		Fair	X	Reasonable		Good
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main entry is very restrictive, especially when school groups enter and parents with prams. All change room, accessible toilet and first aid room's access is directly from the reception foyer and this is very restrictive when groups arrive and access this area. Overall this area including the reception / kiosk area is in a fair condition. 							

- Handrails at entry are not AS 1428 / BCA complaint (however may not be required for access)
- A lot of condensation evident on glazing and doorways . Appears there is either no or minimal air extraction or pressure balance with pool hall, link building and reception area.
- Main door hardware within reception area is not BCA compliant. Requires a 'D' pull handle and not door knobs.
- Reception foyer also utilised as a toddlers (supervised by parents) play area.
- Way finding signage is clear and visible.

Photos



Image 1: Handrails at entry are not AS 1428 / BCA complaint (however may not be required for access)



Image 2: Main entry is very restrictive, especially when school groups enter and parents with prams.



Image 3: A lot of condensation evident on glazing and doorways. Appears there is either no or minimal air extraction or pressure balance with pool hall, link building and reception area.



Image 4: All door handles are not compliant to current BCA / AS 1428 requirements.

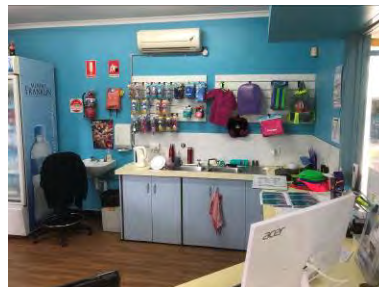


Image 5: Overall this area including the reception / kiosk area is in a fair condition.



Image 6: Fit for purpose reception area and kiosk. Suitable to cater a recreation centre such as this facility.



Image 7: Way finding signage is clear and visible.



Image 8: Reception foyer also utilised as a toddlers (supervised by parents) play area.



Image 9: blank

Area: LINK BUILDING (TO POOL FROM RECEPTION + CHANGE ROOMS)

General visual condition (see definitions on cover page)	Poor	Fair	X	Reasonable	Good
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Comments:

- A lot of condensation evident on glazing and doorways . Appears there is either no or minimal air extraction or pressure balance with pool hall, link building and reception area.

- A link structure joining the 'old' main entry and change rooms to the enclosed 'outdoor' pool.
- Area utilised for baby/ toddler changing as this 'family change' is not provided / allocated in other areas of this facility.
- Exposed concrete pavement is worn to concourse.

Photos



Image 1: Link building to main entry / reception. No air handling system evident. This may be causing the 'thermal - cold bridging effect' and condensation to glazed surfaces.



Image 2: Area utilised for baby/ toddler changing as this 'family change' is not provided / allocated in other areas of this facility.



Image 3: Exposed concrete pavement is worn to concourse.



Image 4: A link structure joining the 'old' main entry and change rooms to the enclosed 'outdoor' pool.



Image 5: blank



Image 6: blank

Area: **CHANGE ROOMS**

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

Fair

X

Reasonable

Good

Comments:

- Male (inspected) and Female (not inspected and deemed to be) amenities appear in a fair to reasonable condition. There are areas within the Male change rooms of general wear and tear to flooring and skirting (rust).
- Provide new compliant amenity signage at doorway (needs to include tactile / braille signage)
- No accessible or ambulant fixture and fittings provided within this room.
- Rubber flooring in need of general maintenance – requires floor repairs.
- Tiled floor and walls are in reasonable condition.
- Step to shower area not accessible and may be considered not compliant to AS 1428/ DDA.
- Bench seating appears in a good condition.

Photos

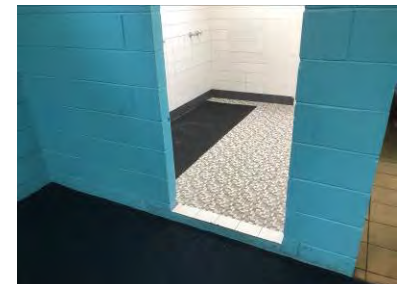


Image 1: Male amenities appear in a fair to reasonable condition.



Image 4: Male amenities appear in a fair to reasonable condition.

Image 2: Rubber flooring in need of general maintenance – requires floor repairs.



Image 5: Male amenities appear in a fair to reasonable condition.

Image 3: Tiled floor and walls are in reasonable condition. Step to shower area not accessible and may be considered not compliant to AS 1428/ DDA.

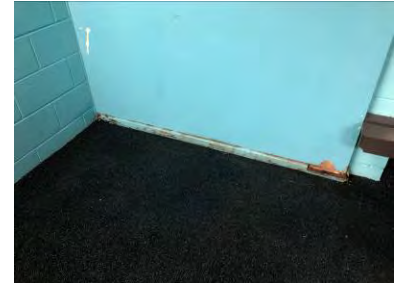


Image 6: There are areas within the Male change rooms of general wear and tear to flooring and skirting (rust).

Area: AQUATIC – INDOOR ‘LEARN TO SWIM’ POOL

General visual condition
(see definitions on cover page)

Poor

Fair

X

Reasonable

Good

Comments:

- Overall construction of the enclosed structure for the pool hall is in a reasonable condition.
- The galvanised steel doesn't appear to have evidence of rust.
- Pool concourse appears to be at the minimum requirement of 2.0m in width.
- Pool signage and depth indicators require general maintenance (painting).
- The raw concrete pool base is very dark and appears worn in areas.
- The pool shell should be painted or tiled to reduce the dark appearance of the actual pool and to also highlight lane markers (these require re-painting).

Photos



Image 1: Overall construction of the enclosed structure for the pool hall is in a reasonable condition.



Image 2: The galvanised steel doesn't appear to have evidence of rust.



Image 3: Pool signage and depth indicators require general maintenance (painting).



Image 4: Pool signage and depth indicators require general maintenance (painting).



Image 5: The pool shell should be painted or tiled to reduce the dark appearance of the actual pool and to also highlight lane markers (these require re-painting).



Image 6: The raw concrete pool base is very dark and appears worn in areas.



Image 7: external access from pool hall to rear car park – easily accessible



Image 8: mixture of tilt up / roller doors to façade of pool hall.



Image 9: Adequate external space adjoining the pool hall to provide for leisure water / pool or aqua play.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Document History:

Version – P1

First Draft – P1 22ND October 2018

Appendix 5. Submissions register

Sub No.	Submitter	Content	Source
1	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Something like the Macquarie Fields Leisure Centre would be good. An outdoor water playground, regular playground, BBQ facilities and a fenced off Olympic Pool. We choose to go there during summer over any swimming centre Liverpool Council offers, even though we currently live in Wattle Grove 	Facebook
2	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I agree with you. (Sub no. 1). We like to go there too. We like all the facilities there. And we come from Liverpool 	Facebook
3	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have to agree, it's pretty impressive that pool 	Facebook
4	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We go over to Fairfield or Prairiewood, even travel to Olympic Aquatic centre as well 	Facebook
5	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We like it at Prairiewood and Fairfield too. Often go to those pools. 	Facebook
6	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I love swimming for fitness and have always had my kids in lessons we live in Hoxton park however our closest pool is Michael Wenden and it is very run down I was so disappointed when our new library and rec centre opened at Carnes hill and there was no pool, we need one out here. 	Facebook
7	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YMCA ruined Michael Wenden pools, the original management team is backing again Belgravia, and they were good. Let's hope they bring it back to where it previously was 	Facebook
8	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A forward-thinking approach is needed. Given the massive growth already in the western areas of Liverpool council and future growth to come there is strong case to develop something in Carnes Hill/Austral area. Council are already aware of this population growth and should be planning according 	Facebook
9	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I totally agree with Louise there is so much opportunity at the moment for the council to open a new centre around Austral especially, so much growth and not enough leisure centres, our family don't go, as it's just so inconvenient. So much growth and infer structure within west of Liverpool and it's time the council starts thinking about these young families provide them with access to facilities their rates pay for. 	Facebook
10	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holsworthy pool is too small. Needs the baby pool reopened and a family friendly area. Needs lot of maintenance done 	Facebook
11	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There's a baby pool? I didn't even know! Is it outside? 	Facebook
12	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, under the wooden deck outside the building (referring to above comment about baby pool) 	Facebook
13	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs to actually be available to the community 	Facebook
14	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thomas Warren Yes when I have tried to exercise there, they are always filling with swimming lessons. They give the public one lane sometimes 	Facebook
14	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I second this, Holsworthy pools need a revamp with more pool areas for recreational swimming as well as waddling pools for the little ones. 	Facebook
15	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have attended Whitlam centre for many years. Mainly for health reasons. Hydrotherapy. Unfortunately, water is often too cold, how the tiny tots don't freeze is a mystery. A certain type of people monopolizes the "bubble" jets. And are not letting others uses these facilities. Take far too long in shower area. Shampoo their hair etcetera. Whilst patrons shiver waiting for a quick shower. Need a supervisor on duty. 	Facebook
16	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willowdale Park should be the new standard for parks, such a great setup and already preparing for outdoor movies open to the community 	Facebook

Sub No.	Submitter	Content	Source
17	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We can't even get roads, footpaths, or parks in Middleton Grange. What chance have we got getting a leisure centre? Maybe the stupid high-rise development with 912 units can have a pool in it HAHA 	Facebook
18	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please make pools with steps for older folk and those with physical disabilities who cannot manage a ladder. 	Facebook
19	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be nice if you could look after people with disabilities better and better disability equipment and changing room areas 	Facebook
20	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not just disabilities but older people need steps and a rail to get in and out of pools 	Facebook
21	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'll fill it in but start by demolishing the Whitlam Centre which is an utter disgrace. Yes, they should close it and build a centre like Macquarie fields pools. 	Facebook
22	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I was thinking more like the proposed one for Parramatta. Take Marion in SA as a model to emulate. Liverpool is supposed to be one of the biggest cities in the country, yet it has facilities worse than tiny country towns 	Facebook
23	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The old Liverpool pools was better than this crap 	Facebook
24	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't know how many times I have cut my toe open on the broken and damaged tiles in the bottom of the pool. Plus, I'm not really good in a pool. Need to be able to hold on to walk around. 	Facebook
25	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Totally agree (With above comment) 	Facebook
26	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pool at the Michael Wenden centre should have a cover over it too hot in the summertime 	Facebook
27	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes definitely (Agreeing with above comment) 	Facebook
28	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liverpool is such a fast-growing area; you need to expand and have a fun park attached like Macquarie fields pool 	Facebook
29	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minto Council?? No such organisation exists 	Facebook
30	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minto is Campbelltown council 	Facebook
31	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you mean the Macquarie Fields pools? They are awesome. 	Facebook
32	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do something about Edmondson park. It's the only new development I've been in Sydney without decent bloody parks. 	Facebook
33	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly ness of pool is a problem at times 	Facebook
34	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Something better than Whitlam in Liverpool or please do something about that pool make it bigger and better for families 	Facebook
35	Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need one in Edmondson Park 	Facebook

Appendix 6. Competitor facilities and distance

Table 23. Gym, Fitness, Court and aquatic facilities within 30 minutes drive of the four Liverpool Council facilities

Municipality	Facility	Closest Council Venue	Travel Time from Closest Venue in Minutes	Distance from Closest Venue	Suburb	Land owner	Management	Type/Facility	Sports courts basketball
Camden	Camden War Memorial Swimming Pool	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	30 min	21 km	Camden	Council	YMCA	Outdoor aquatic	No
Camden	Mount Annan Leisure Centre	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	25 min	18 km	Mount Annan	Council	YMCA	Indoor and outdoor aquatic and gym	Yes
Camden	Harrington Park Tennis Courts	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	22 min	16 km	Harrington Park	Council	Council	Tennis Courts	No
Camden	Narellan Tennis Courts	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	25 min	17km	Narellan	Council	Council	Tennis Courts	No
Camden	Narellan Vale Tennis Courts	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	27 min	19 km	Narellan Vale	Council	Council	Tennis Courts	No
Camden	Currans Hill Tennis Courts	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	27 min	18 km	Currans Hill	Council	Council	Tennis Courts	No
Camden	Leppington Tennis Courts	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	12 min	7 km	Leppington	Council	Council	Tennis Courts	No
Camden	Onslow Park Tennis Courts	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	32 min	21 km	Camden	Council	Tennis Association	Tennis Courts	No
Camden	South Camden Tennis Courts	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	32 min	24 km	Camden South	Council	Tennis Association	Tennis Courts	No
Camden	Proposed Oran Park Aquatic Centre	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	22 min	17 km	Oran Park	Council	TBC	Indoor and outdoor aquatic	Yes
Campbelltown	Macquarie Fields Fitness and Indoor Sports Centre	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	14 min	11km	Macquarie Fields	Council	Council	Indoor Sports Centre	Yes

Municipality	Facility	Closest Council Venue	Travel Time from Closest Venue in Minutes	Distance from Closest Venue	Suburb	Land owner	Management	Type/Facility	Sports courts basketball
Campbelltown	Macquarie Fields Leisure Centre	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	14 min	11km	Macquarie Fields	Council	Council	Aquatic and Leisure Centre	No
Campbelltown	The Gordon Fetterplace Aquatic Centre	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	18 min	12km	Bradbury	Council	Council	Aquatic and Leisure Centre	No
Campbelltown	Eagle Vale Central Aquatic Centre	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	17 min	15km	Eagle Vale	Council	Council	Aquatic and Leisure Centre	No
Canterbury Bankstown	Birrong Aquatic and Leisure Centre	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	25 min	14km	Birrong	Council	Council	Indoor and outdoor aquatic and gym	No
Canterbury Bankstown	Canterbury Leisure and Aquatic Centre	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	25 min	21km	Canterbury	Council	Council	Indoor and outdoor aquatic and gym	No
Canterbury Bankstown	Max Parker Aquatic and Leisure Centre	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	14 min	10km	Revesby	Council	Council	Indoor and outdoor aquatic	No
Canterbury Bankstown	Roselands Leisure and Aquatic Centre	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	21 min	15km	Roselands	Council	Council	Indoor and outdoor aquatic	No
Canterbury Bankstown	Wran Leisure Centre (Closed indefinitely)	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	23 min	13km	Villawood	Council	Council	Indoor and outdoor aquatic	No
Canterbury Bankstown	Morris lemma Indoor Sports Centre	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	14 min	13km	Riverwood	Council	Council	Indoor sports	Yes
Canterbury Bankstown	Bankstown Basketball Stadium	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	20 min	13km	Condell Park	Council	Bankstown Basketball Association	Indoor sports	Yes
Canterbury Bankstown	Blue Water Swim School	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	25 min	11km	Condell Park	Private	Private	Learn to swim pool	
Canterbury Bankstown	My swim	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	22 min	11km	Bass Hill	Education	Private	Learn to swim pool	
Fairfield	Cabravale Leisure Centre	Whitlam Leisure Centre	13 min	6km	Cabramatta	Council	Council	Indoor aquatic and gym	No

Municipality	Facility	Closest Council Venue	Travel Time from Closest Venue in Minutes	Distance from Closest Venue	Suburb	Land owner	Management	Type/Facility	Sports courts basketball
Fairfield	Fairfield Leisure Centre	Whitlam Leisure Centre	20 min	9km	Fairfield	Council	Council	Indoor and outdoor aquatic and gym	Yes
Fairfield	Prairiewood Leisure Centre (Aquatopia)	Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre	18 min	9km	Prairiewood	Council	Council	Indoor and outdoor aquatic and gym	No
Fairfield	Youth and Community Centre	Whitlam Leisure Centre	19 min	9km	Fairfield	Council	Council	Multipurpose indoor not sprung timber floor	Yes
Fairfield	Ignite Health & Fitness (Mounties)	Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre	7 min	3km	Mount Pritchard	Private	Member based organisation	Indoor aquatic and gym	No
Fairfield	Jump Swim School	Whitlam Leisure Centre	17 min	8.2km	Greenfield Park	Private	Private	Learn to swim pool	
Fairfield	Jump Swim School	Whitlam Leisure Centre	20 min	8.6km	Villawood	Private	Private	Learn to swim pool	
Liverpool	Final Round Gym	Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre	4 min	2km	Prestons	Private	Private	Boxing gym	No
Liverpool	SAW Athletic	Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre	4 min	2km	Prestons	Private	Private	Strength and conditioning gym	No
Liverpool	Fit Clinic	Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre	4 min	2km	Prestons	Private	Private	General fitness	No
Liverpool	Sportworld Liverpool	Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre	4 min	2km	Lurnea	Private	Private	Indoor sports	No
Liverpool	Pinnacle Fitness Club	Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre	7 min	3km	Prestons	Private	Private	General fitness	No

Municipality	Facility	Closest Council Venue	Travel Time from Closest Venue in Minutes	Distance from Closest Venue	Suburb	Land owner	Management	Type/Facility	Sports courts basketball
Liverpool	Starfish Learn to Swim	Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre	7 min	3km	Prestons	Private	Private	Learn to swim pool	No
Liverpool	Plus Fitness 24/7 Hoxton Park	Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre	7 min	3kms	Lurnear	Private	Franchise	General Fitness	No
Liverpool	Squashlands Gym and Fitness	Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre	4 min	2kms	Liverpool	Private	Private	General Fitness	No
Liverpool	Hybrid Impact Training Health Club	Whitlam Leisure Centre	4 min	1km	Liverpool	Private	Private	General Fitness	No
Liverpool	Crunch Fitness Liverpool	Whitlam Leisure Centre	4 min	800m	Liverpool	Private	Franchise	General fitness	No
Liverpool	Anytime Fitness	Whitlam Leisure Centre	5 min	2km	Liverpool	Private	Franchise	General fitness	No
Liverpool	Fit n Fast	Whitlam Leisure Centre	7 min	2km	Liverpool	Private	Franchise	General fitness	No
Liverpool	F45 Training Liverpool	Whitlam Leisure Centre	7 min	3km	Liverpool	Private	Franchise	General fitness	No
Liverpool	Plus Fitness 24/7 Liverpool	Whitlam Leisure Centre	5 min	2km	Liverpool	Private	Franchise	General fitness	No
Liverpool	Curves Gym Liverpool	Whitlam Leisure Centre	5 min	3km	Liverpool	Private	Franchise	General fitness	No
Liverpool	Fernwood Womens Gym	Whitlam Leisure Centre	8 min	3km	Moorebank	Private	Franchise	Female fitness	No
Liverpool	Yotala Gymnastics	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	1 min	5m	Carnes Hill	Council	Club	Gymnastics	No
Liverpool	Esposito Swim School	Whitlam Leisure Centre	6 min	3km	Casula	Private	Private	Learn to swim pool	No
Liverpool	Plus Fitness 24/7	Whitlam Leisure	9 min	5km	Moorebank	Private	Franchise	General fitness	No

Municipality	Facility	Closest Council Venue	Travel Time from Closest Venue in Minutes	Distance from Closest Venue	Suburb	Land owner	Management	Type/Facility	Sports courts basketball
	Moorebank	Centre							
Liverpool	Mission Nutrition Lifestyle Centre	Whitlam Leisure centre	6 min	1km	Liverpool	Private	Private	Group fitness	No
Liverpool	Plus Fitness 24/7 East Hills	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	12 min	8km	East Hills	Private	Private	Group fitness	No
Liverpool	Plus Fitness 24/7 Warwick Farm	Whitlam Leisure Centre	11 min	3km	Warwick Farm	Private	Private	Group fitness	No
Liverpool	Peak Health Centre	Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre	7 min	4.1km	Green Valley	Private	Franchise	General fitness	No
Liverpool	United Kempo Martial Arts Academy	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	8 min	5.1 km	Austral	Private	Private	Martial Arts	No
Liverpool	Austral Yoga	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	10 min	7.1 km	Austral	Private	Private	Yoga studio	No
Liverpool	All About Balance Health and Fitness	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	4 min	1.9 km	Wattle Grove	Public	Private	School and Open Space	No
Liverpool	Anytime Fitness	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	4 min	2km	Hoxton Park	Private	Private	General fitness	No
Liverpool	Snap Fitness	Whitlam Leisure Centre	10 min	5km	Casula	Private	Private	General fitness	No
Liverpool	F45 Training	Whitlam Leisure Centre	8 min	3.3km	Prestons	Private	Private	General fitness	No
Liverpool	Moorebank Sports Club (Sporties)	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	3 min	0.8km	Hammondville	Private	Private	General fitness	
Liverpool	PCYC	Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre	1 min	0.4km	Miller	Council	Community	General fitness	

Municipality	Facility	Closest Council Venue	Travel Time from Closest Venue in Minutes	Distance from Closest Venue	Suburb	Land owner	Management	Type/Facility	Sports courts basketball
Liverpool	Potential Gym	Michael Wenden Aquatic Leisure Centre	3 min	1.7km	Prestons	Private	Private	TBC	
Liverpool	Potential Gym	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	3 min	2.4km	Prestons	Private	Private	TBC	
Liverpool	Potential Gym	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	2 min	1.4km	Prestons	Private	Private	TBC	
Liverpool	Potential Aquatic Centre	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	4 min	2.9km	Carnes Hill	Private	Private	TBC	
Penrith	St Clair Leisure Centre	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	22 min	24 km	St Clair	Council	Council	Multipurpose indoor	Yes
Penrith	Emu Plains Tennis Courts	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	32 min	39 km	Emu Plains	Council	Council	Tennis Courts	No
Penrith	Werrington Tennis Courts	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	30 min	28 km	Werrington	Council	Council	Tennis Courts	No
Sutherland	Sutherland Leisure Centre	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	30 min	28km	Sutherland	Council	Council	Indoor and outdoor aquatic and gym	No
Sutherland	Engadine Leisure Centre	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	23 min	23km	Engadine	Council	Council	Indoor and outdoor aquatic and gym	No
Sutherland	Caringbah Leisure Centre	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	40 min	33km	Caringbah	Council	Council	Outdoor aquatic	No
Sutherland	Menai Indoor Sports Centre	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	23 min	22km	Menai	Council	Council	Multipurpose indoor	Yes
Sutherland	Como Swimming Complex	Holsworthy Aquatic Centre	31 min	30km	Como	Council	Council	Outdoor aquatic	No
Wollondilly	Wollondilly Leisure Centre	Michael Clarke Recreation Centre	40 min	43km	Picton	Council	Contractor	Indoor and outdoor aquatic and gym	Yes

Appendix 7. Some likely festivals in 2019: based on some cultural groups present in Liverpool²⁷

January

- 5th Birth of Guru Gobindh Singh (Sikh)
- 6th Epiphany (Christian)
- 6th Armenian Christmas Day
- 19th Epiphany (Orthodox)
- 26th Australia Day
- 26th Republic Day (India)

February

- 5th Chinese New Year
- 5th Tet (Vietnamese Lunar New Year)
- 15th Parinirvana Day (Buddhist)
- 19th Magha Puja (Buddhist)

March

- 14th New Year (Sikh)
- 17th St Patrick's Day (Ireland)
- 20th Holi - Festival of Colours (India)
- 21st Norouz (various spellings) New Year/Spring (Iran, Kurd, Baha'i)

April

- 1st Kha b-Nisan – Assyrian New Year
- 14th Hindu, Sinhala and Tamil New Year
- 14th Palm Sunday (Christian)
- 15th Ramanavami (Hindu)
- 19th Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
- 19th Theravada New Year (Buddhist)
- 20th First Day of Ridvan – sunset 20th to 2nd May (12th day) (Baha'i)
- 21st Easter Sunday (Christian)
- 21st Palm Sunday (Orthodox)
- 25th Anzac Day
- 26th Holy Friday (Orthodox)
- 28th Pascha - Easter Sunday (Orthodox)

²⁷ Excerpts from Origins (www.originsinfo.com.au)

May

- 5th Ramadan – sunset 5th to 4th June (Islamic)
- 19th Vesak Day - Buddha's birthday (Buddhist)
- 29th Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh (Baha'i)

June

- 5th Eid al Fitr – end of Ramadan (Islamic)
- 9th Pentecost (Christian)
- 16th Pentecost (Orthodox)

July

- 1st Coming of the Light Festival (TSI)
- 16th Asalha Puja (Dhamma) Day (Buddhist)

August

- 11th Eid al Adha to 15th (Islamic)
- 24th Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)
- 31st Al Hijra/Muharram – Islamic New Year to 28th September

September

- 2nd Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindi)
- 9th Ashura – 9th to 10th (Islamic)
- 13th Mid-Autumn (Moon) Festival (China, Vietnam)
- 21st Oktoberfest to 6th October (Germany)
- 29th Navaratri to 8th October (Hindu)

October

- 8th Vijaydashami (Dussehra) (Hindu)
- 20th Inauguration (Gurgadi) of Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh)
- 27th Deepavali (Diwali): Festival of Lights (Hindu, Sikh, Jain)
- 27th Bandi Chhor Divas (Sikh)
- 29th Birth of Bahá'u'lláh – begins sunset 29th to 30th (Baha'i)
- 31st Halloween

November

- 12th Birth of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib (Sikh)
- 24th Martyrdom (Shahidi) of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh)s

December

- 24th Christmas Eve
- 31st New Year's Eve

Appendix 8. Centres with health and wellness components

The table below outlines five examples of Council owned centres that offer wellness and or allied health services.

Table 24. Five examples of Council owned centres that offer wellness and or allied health services

Centre	Service	Management arrangement	Service space	Rent /Income per sq. metre
Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre. Glen Eira Council. Opened May 2012 Indoor 8 lane 25 metre pool, 8 lane wellness pool, spa, steam, sauna, learn to swim pool, two water slides and water park, gymnasium, cycle studio, 3 court stadium outdoor 50m pool, group fitness room, café, retail	Sports and Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy, Hydrotherapy, Clinical Pilates, Remedial, Sports and Relaxation massage, Exercise Physiology, Dietician	MyPhysio completed fit out at their cost. 3 x 5 year options.	180 square metres (Ground floor with street entry)	Slightly higher than current commercial rates. Increasing annually by a fixed percentage.
	Massage, facials, body treatments, beauty services	Transcend Spa and Wellness – In house management (Council). Operating for 12 months.	145 square metre. (Upstairs mezzanine area)	In-house management. Average 100 clients per month – 33% of capacity
Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre, Kangaroo Flat. City of Bendigo, Opened October 2018. Indoor 50 metre, eight-lane swimming pool, beach entry leisure pool, learn-to-swim pool, splash park, warm water exercise pool and spas, a steam room and sauna, gym and group fitness rooms, childcare and multipurpose room, health and wellness centre and cafe	Full-time physiotherapist and general practitioner	Lease to Tristar Medical Group	80 square metres	Commercial in confidence. Less than commercial rates
SPLASH Aqua Park and Leisure Centre, Craigieburn. City of Hume. Opened October 2017 Leisure, toddler and learn to swim pools, warm water pool and spas, indoor 25m pool, two waterslides, children's aqua play zone, sauna and steam room, 24/7 gym, group fitness rooms and cafe	Wellness Suites - Massage, facials, manicure, pedicure, waxing, spray tanning, eye treatments	Bunjil - In house management (Council)	183 square metres (Ground floor. No direct street entry)	Average 220 treatments per month. Not currently financial viable due to staff costs. Considering leasing for \$70,000 pa. (\$382 per square metre per annum)
Mildura Waves. Mildura Rural City Council Indoor 25m pool, wave pool, and pool, spa, gym, group fitness room, café retail, outdoor 50m pool, outdoor diving tower	Callahan Physiotherapy	Lease agreement	10 square metres (No direct street entry)	Approximately \$600 per square metre per year

Centre	Service	Management arrangement	Service space	Rent /Income per sq. metre
<p>Rosebud Aquatic Centre. Mornington Peninsula Sire Council. Expected opening date 2020 Indoor 8 lane x 50m, Toddler Pool and Splash zone, learn to swim pool, Warm Water Pool, Sauna, Steam, Party Room, Kiosk, Gymnasium, Program Room x 2, Spin Room</p>	<p>Plan for wellness and massage - physiotherapy</p>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>170 square metres approximately</p>	<p>TBC</p>

Appendix 9. Management models

Advantages and disadvantages by management model

A list of management models and their advantages and disadvantages are provided below.

Table 4 Management models: advantages and disadvantages

Management Model	Advantages	Disadvantages
Direct Supervision - Internal Council Managed	Council officers closer to business and ability to influence daily operations	Council may lack expertise in facility management and operations
	Ability to implement Council policy and directions through venue more easily	Large multipurpose venues can need 24/7 support and require quick decisions to meet customer expectations
	Allows flexibility in programming to meet local needs	
Contract Management	Organisations such as YMCA, Belgravia Leisure, Aligned Leisure, Blue fit have the ability to apply specialist knowledge gained from operating multiple centres	May prioritise financial benefits ahead of community need
	Generally lower staff costs	Perception that building asset may not be well maintained
	Pool of experienced staff and support structures	Centre direction not always aligned with council policy
	May contribute capital to venue in return for longer tenure	Requires structured and regular contract compliance monitoring
	Annual maintenance contribution can be written into contract	Short term (3 year contracts) allows little time for operator to have an impact on centre performance
Council Company (Combined business entity)	Ability to operate in a commercial and market responsive manner similar to Contract Management	Support overheads remain high as an entity won't have the geographic and business scale contract management groups have Establishment costs – of setting up the entity may be high and reporting to commercial and local government regulators may be challenging
	Provides community with sense of local management and control	Model still relatively new to local government facility management to adequately assess, although likely to be mostly cost driven and less flexible to address social objectives without additional subsidies
		Focus on financial bottom line may mean assets are not as well maintained as when under Council direct supervision. These entities are typically only used for large-scale new facilities
Public Private Partnerships	Transfer the high capital cost and risk of project to a private entity over a relatively long term	Overall these projects provide a low degree of flexibility over a term that is likely to be too long (35yrs) in aquatic centres where demand changes rapidly. May not be the most economical way to provide new facilities. As the cost will be higher over the full term, and in most cases the finance (at least in part) for such projects is available is at no cost from the government. This type of development is not like to be appealing to a developer as these types of facilities rarely provide a commercial return

Management Model	Advantages	Disadvantages
	Access to broader capital funding	Loss of control over the design and building of an asset and the service provided
	Ability to operate in a commercial manner similar to Contract Management	
Build Own Operate Transfer (BOOT)	Transfer the high capital cost and risk of project to a private entity who can amortise their cost over the term	Not a model used for the construction and operation of sports facilities or aquatic centre largely due to the low level of return possible
Lease – Commercial or Not for Profit	Council remain at arm's length from operation	Inability to influence programming and respond to community needs
	Requires minimal council support	Option only available if 'not for profit' body is interested and capable of operating venue or that centre is commercially attractive
	Council may not be required to contribute to operating or daily maintenance costs	Council responsible for long term condition of asset and risks associated with it
	Lessee is responsible for financial performance	
Other partnerships with not for profit entities like schools, PCYC and Sports Clubs	Case by case advantages depending on mutual objectives and the possible colocation and capital contribution options	Negotiated agreements may be complex and time consuming to negotiate and manage in the long term.

Appendix 10. Typical funding sources and examples

Types of funding sources and examples

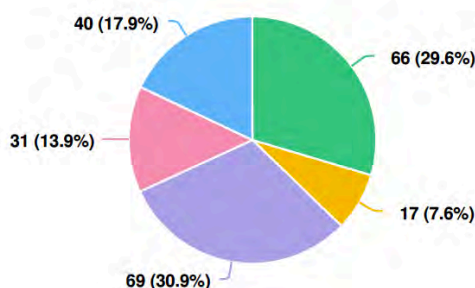
Type of Funding Source	Example
1. Government grants	
a. Federal Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Sport Infrastructure \$30m for 2018/19 Stronger Communities Program 2018/19 Move it AUS \$25,000 to \$250,000 (programs/events) closes Feb 2019 for Local Government
b. State Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Sport Grant Program 2018/19 Office for Sport NSW Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund \$33m/year for 3 years, Office of Sport NSW Infrastructure Grants. \$12.5m for 2018/19 Community Building Partnership Increasing Resilience to Climate Change \$1.1m; applications close 1 March 2019, Office Local Government Incubator Event Fund, Destination NSW next round March 2019; culture of region up to \$20,000 Arts and Cultural Development Program, Create NSW; Western Sydney Strategic Partnerships – Art and Cultural Development Celebration Grants to celebrate cultural diversity up to \$5,000 Multicultural NSW Compact Grants – sports for social cohesion up to \$150,000 Multicultural NSW (not for profit organisations)
c. Local Government Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving for Grassroots (G4G) help increase grassroots/diversity participation – Australian Sports Federation up to \$10,000
ii) Community Grants / Sport Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club Grants Category 3 fund – Infrastructure, Office of Gambling
iii) Special rates levies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traders Associations for shopping strip marketing and promotional activities
2. Developer or open space contributions following subdivision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7.11 contributions or other negotiated contributions
3. Philanthropic Trusts / Foundation Grants etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ian Potter Foundation (Arts; Community Well Being; Disability), Australian Sports Foundation Scanlon Foundation Holden home ground advantage grants for sports clubs (up to \$250,000) Vincent Fairfax Foundation – community programs

Type of Funding Source	Example
4. Naming rights or sponsorship funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kyneton Toyota Aquatic Centre, Wallan Community Bank Adventure Park, Schweppes Stadium Bendigo
5. Management entities contributing capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belgravia Leisure and the Albany Creek Leisure Centre, Brisbane YMCA and Boroondara Council Leisure Centres
6. Sports or service club contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mingara Recreation Club and the Mingara Regional Athletics Centre Collingwood Basketball Association and Collingwood College basketball Stadium
7. Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees from other hosting major events, functions, filming and photography
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leases to telecommunication towers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revenue from leases and hire agreements e.g. three years paid in advance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NDIS – funding to include people with disability
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable Energy grant and Solar Panel rebate scheme.

Appendix 11. Online survey findings

Question 1: 'Which Council centre do you or your family visit most often?'

Choose an option	Frequency
Whitlam Leisure Centre, 90 A Memorial Ave, Liverpool	66
Michael Wenden Aquatic Centre, 62 Cabramatta Ave, Miller	17
Michael Clarke Recreation Centre, 2 Margaret Dawson Dr, Carnes Hill	69
Holsworthy Aquatic Centre, 26 Huon Cr, Holsworthy	31
None	40

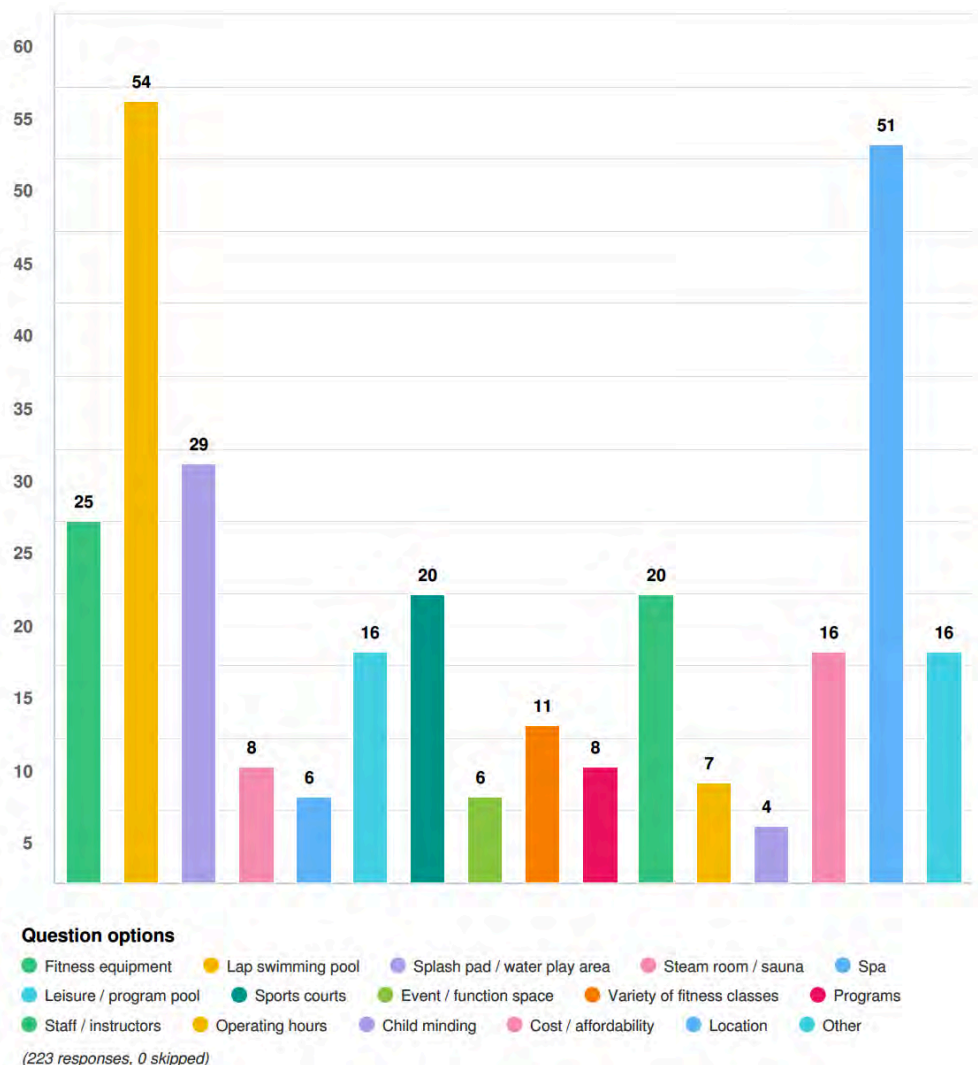


Question options

- Whitlam Leisure Centre, 90A Memorial Ave, Liverpool
- Michael Wenden Aquatic Centre, 62 Cabramatta Ave, Miller
- Michael Clarke Recreation Centre, 2 Margaret Dawson Dr, Carnes Hill
- Holsworthy Aquatic Centre, 26 Huon Cr, Holsworthy
- None

(223 responses, 0 skipped)

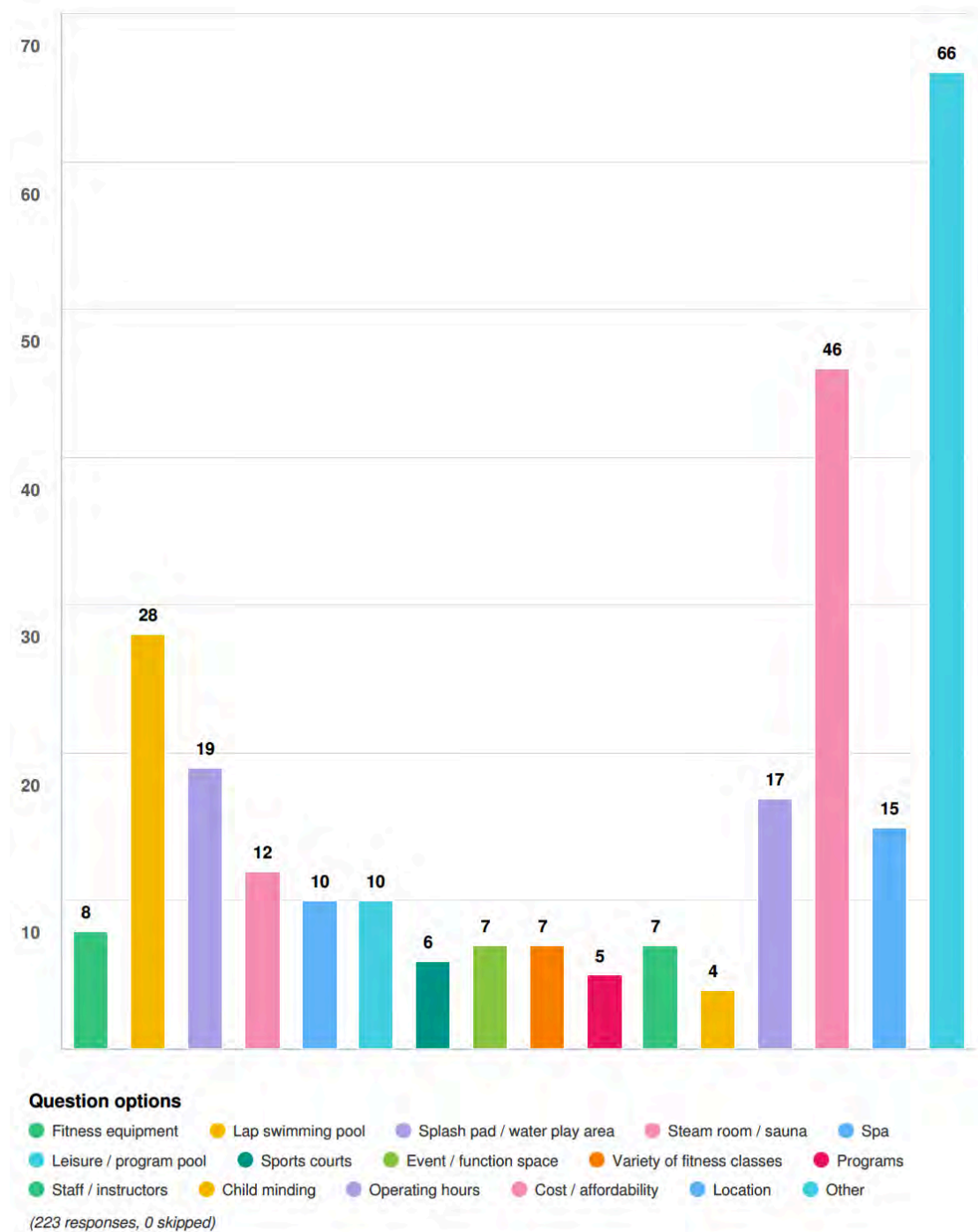
Question 1a: 'What do you like most about Council's aquatic, indoor sports or fitness centre you attend?'



Other Activities:

- Swim School
- Café and park. We have no pool facilities at Michael Clarke Centre. Function space too expensive for community.
- This is our closest centre and the only one we visit, but there is no pool or aquatic services
- Would like a pool in Michael Clarke Centre, that would be idea for the adults, rehab and kids alike
- I'd like if a pool was at the facility

Question 1b: 'What don't you like about Council's aquatic, indoors sports or fitness centres?'



Other Comments

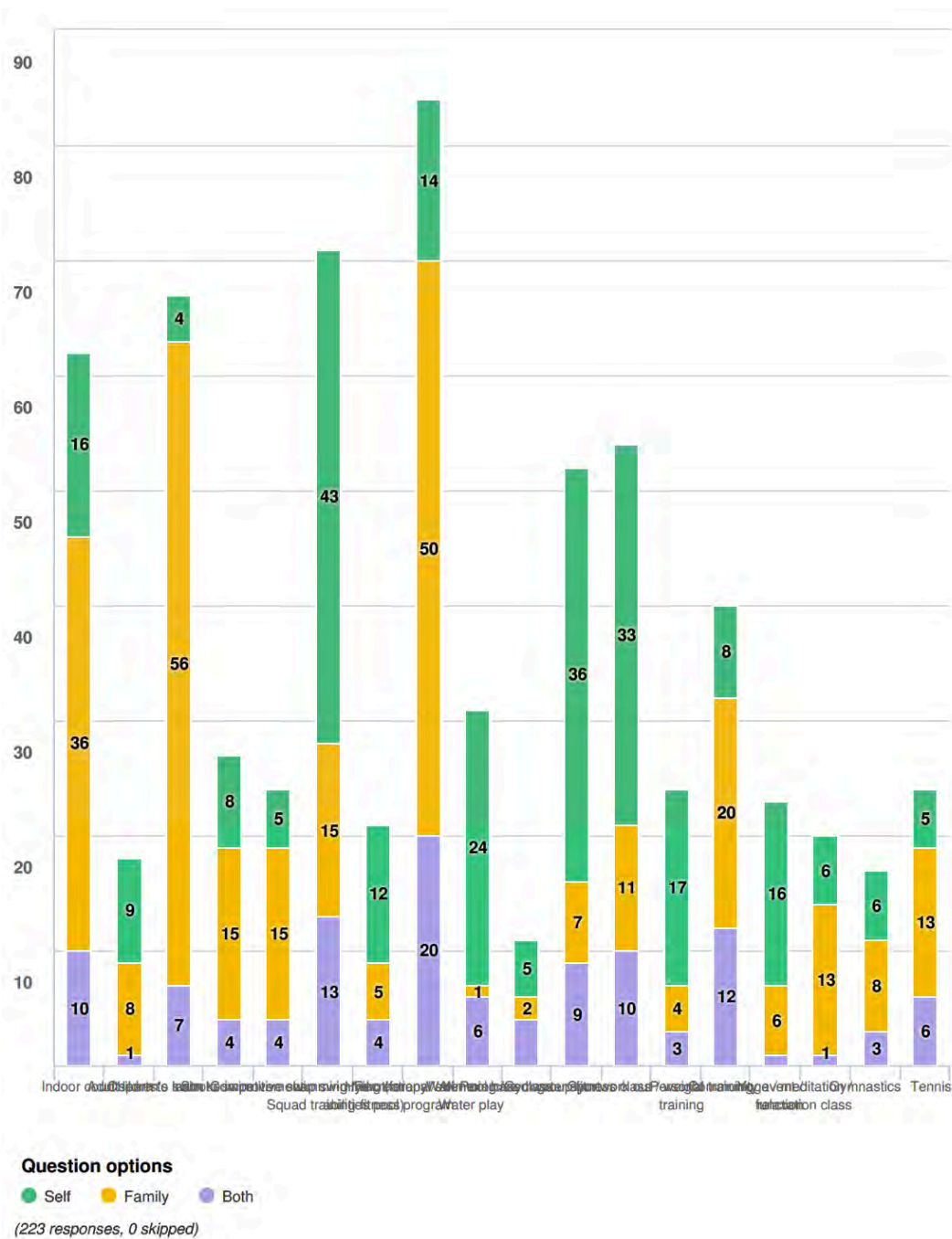
Theme	Comment
Hygiene (11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleanliness- leisure centre needs to hire more cleaning staff. The floors are dusty and dirty, and no one vacuums them, and we exercise on the floor. Change rooms are always dirty. Whitlam centre is disgusting. The Whitlam centre is always so dirty. Cleanliness of change rooms. Limited ventilation, very steamy, moisture condensation on walls, ceiling etc. It is aging and feels dirty. Level of uncleanliness, and disrepair of the centre. The toilets and change rooms located outside are very dirty and smelly. For whatever reason, our kids seem to have increase of ear infections attending this pool as opposed to other pools prior to us moving here and using this one. The change rooms are the same, mouldy and the showers do not work properly. The walls and floors are very dirty. Possible hygiene of the pool as I know the local schools also use it for their swimming.
Facility upgrade (9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole centre needs an upgrade. Falling apart. Amenities, and the basketball courts in Michael Wenden are slippery and not maintained. This facility needs to be updated. Whitlam centre is atrocious. Needs a complete makeover. We never go there and always go to Prairiewood Leisure centre even though it's further. The whole place needs a refurbishment. It would be great if council or the owner could refurbish. The centre is very run down. The walls and ceiling of the indoor pool is overly rusted and rotting and the pool surrounding is badly deteriorating. Not dirty due to not being cleaned but due to age and deterioration. We go to the Holsworthy because it's close to where we live. Our kids and all our neighbours' kids attend it too for swimming lessons. The pool is out-dated and old. The younger kids get scared of the brown pebbling of the big lap pool because they can't see the bottom properly, it's always dark in there, improve the lighting.
Shared use (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pool is only used for swimming lessons, very little to no space available for non-swimming lesson swimmers. Closes early on weekends. That squad swims inside through winter; it is very difficult to get a lane. The pool at Holsworthy with steps is never available due to swim classes and physiotherapy. This allows no one else in. It is also too shallow. Take a look at Revesby indoor pool. Always being moved to another room.
Positive (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I like Holsworthy and have no problems with it. There is nothing. I think it is a great facility. None that I can think of that I don't like. Love the facilities.
Accessibility for people with disability and seniors (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No steps into the pool for older people and those with physical disabilities who cannot manage a ladder. Please allow for disabled children and disabled adults, as there are a few retirement places and old people's homes in the area as well. The way that seniors are treated and facilities provided for them to use for their fitness classes. Access for people with physical disabilities. Those that cannot get out of their wheelchair without a hoist to assist them. Also require a change table to enable them to get changed.

Theme	Comment
Staff (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Centre manager at the Whitlam Leisure Centre has no clue what she is doing when it comes to group fitness classes, she is not the right person for the job because she comes from a freestyle aerobics background and has no idea about Les Mills classes. The other thing I do not like is hypocritical staff that comes to the defence of a manager who is blatantly rude and talks down to people. I stopped going to aqua because it was cancelled whenever staff were sick or on holidays or taken by an inexperienced instructor from the gym. Staff is too few in numbers. Terrible staff, I would never take my family there. Your staff also needs an upgrade, they're very rude.
Opening hours (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pool closes very early on the weekend. The outdoor pool closure over winter; it does not allow the Wenden Squad to train over winter. However, the squad is not given acceptable hours for training at Whitlam (7 - 8:30pm is too late for 7-year olds to be swimming) as the management at Whitlam Leisure Centre gives priority to the business. Rising Stars (this is outside council policy for as all other not for profit sporting organisations are given priority booking for their sports clubs for council sports fields and courts). This centre does not encourage public swimming of any kind even though it is a council pool. Often does not open during the peak holiday Christmas period.
Space (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pool is overcrowded. It is only a 25mt pool with no room for leisure and limited opportunity for lap swimming. There is no morning squad and becomes over crowded in the evenings. There is lots of unused space. Maybe should take a page out of Fairfield City Councils book and add maybe an indoor 25m pool or big water park.
Parking (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very limited parking spots. Car parking is terrible.
Change rooms (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change rooms always have broken tap locks, too much condensation, wet and mould on walls. Music and speakers often broken and takes weeks to repair. Communication of management to clients is extremely poor. Change rooms are out-dated and very horrible.
Other (14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot use due to traffic issues. Lack of pool space at Holsworthy for social swimming. On an afternoon it is very hard to get a place to swim. No lanes are available. Michael Clarke is a great location but hardly any useful services. The problem there is the skate park, which brings about unsavoury characters. Get rid of that. Replace with water play, and have an indoor and outdoor pool similar to Prairiewood (which is where we go). No locks on ladies shower doors at Whitlam. Disgusting rap music in weights training/cardio rooms with constant swearing and the use of words such as "N" word over and over again. It's offensive and needs to be stopped. Too many Islamic people polluting the picnic area. The fact that it could have had a fully functional sports stadium make that two plus Water Park plus well thanks for nothing. I don't know how many times I have cut my toe open on the broken and damaged tiles in the bottom of the pool. Plus, I'm not really good in a pool. Need to be able to hold on to walk around. If my girls were not with me last time, I went I think I would have drowned cause staff just stand around and don't see danger. They are not pool ready either they would have to strip off just to get in. I feel I have been paying my taxes all these 20years and feel we need a pool at Edmondson Park either near the shops and highway. Buses already in place and go straight to train station. Other areas would benefit. Casula, Leppington, Prestons, Edmondson Park, Carnes Hill, Horningsea park, Hoxton Park, Bardia, Glenfield We have lots of schools in the area that would also benefit this with swimming lessons, as a lot of children don't know how to swim these days. Great form of sport and

Theme	Comment
	<p>exercise, which is what the Government is, supposed to be promoting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • But also building a pool in an area that still has vacant land is better than trying to create a poky little pool centre. Hope I have given food for thought. It would be nice if the council could really do something in Prestons' as the residents have been waiting over 20 years. Great spot would also be last block of land in Prestons. That's on the bus route as well. Make sure there is ample parking space and bus depot for drop offs at the pool. • Not enough Parking at Carnes Hill at peak times. • Shaded area and bigger pool at Wenden for events. Turn now outdoor pool indoors with tent like shade. • My daughter swims in the squad at Whitlam. Often she complains that the pool is not heated and too cold. They swim at 5 am so I feel that this is very important to get right. I'm a teacher and the school I work at use the outdoor pool area for our swimming carnivals and the "grassed" area for spectators it is all dirt and the kids have to sit in mud. I would never bring my family there. • Lack of swimming facilities.

Question 1c: 'Have you or your family participated in any of the following activities at one of our centre's in the last 12 months?'

Activity	Self	Family	Both
Indoor court sports	16	36	10
Adult learn to swim	9	8	1
Children's learn to swim	4	56	7
Stroke improvement	8	15	4
Competitive swimming/squad training	5	15	4
Lap swimming (for fitness)	44	15	13
Hydrotherapy/all abilities pool program	12	5	4
Recreational swimming/water play	14	51	20
Water exercise class	14	1	6
Pool based water sport	5	2	4
Gym group fitness class	36	7	9
Gym work out/weight training	33	11	10
Personal training	17	4	3
Community event/function	8	20	20
Yoga/meditation/relaxation class	16	6	1
Gymnastics	6	13	3
Tennis	6	8	3
Other	5	13	6

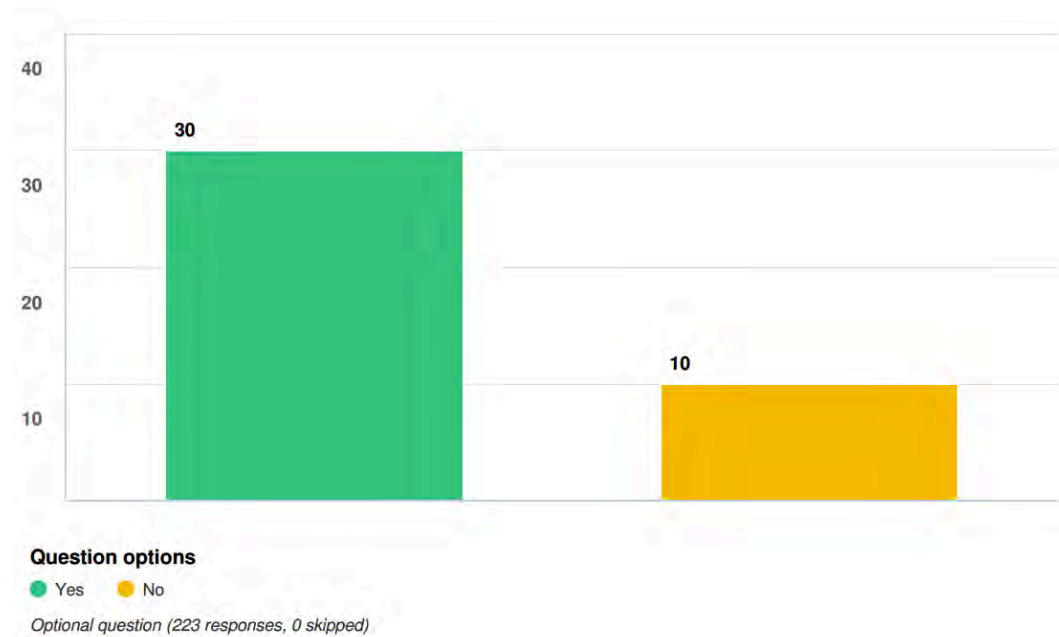


Please list any activities you, or your family participate in which are not listed above.

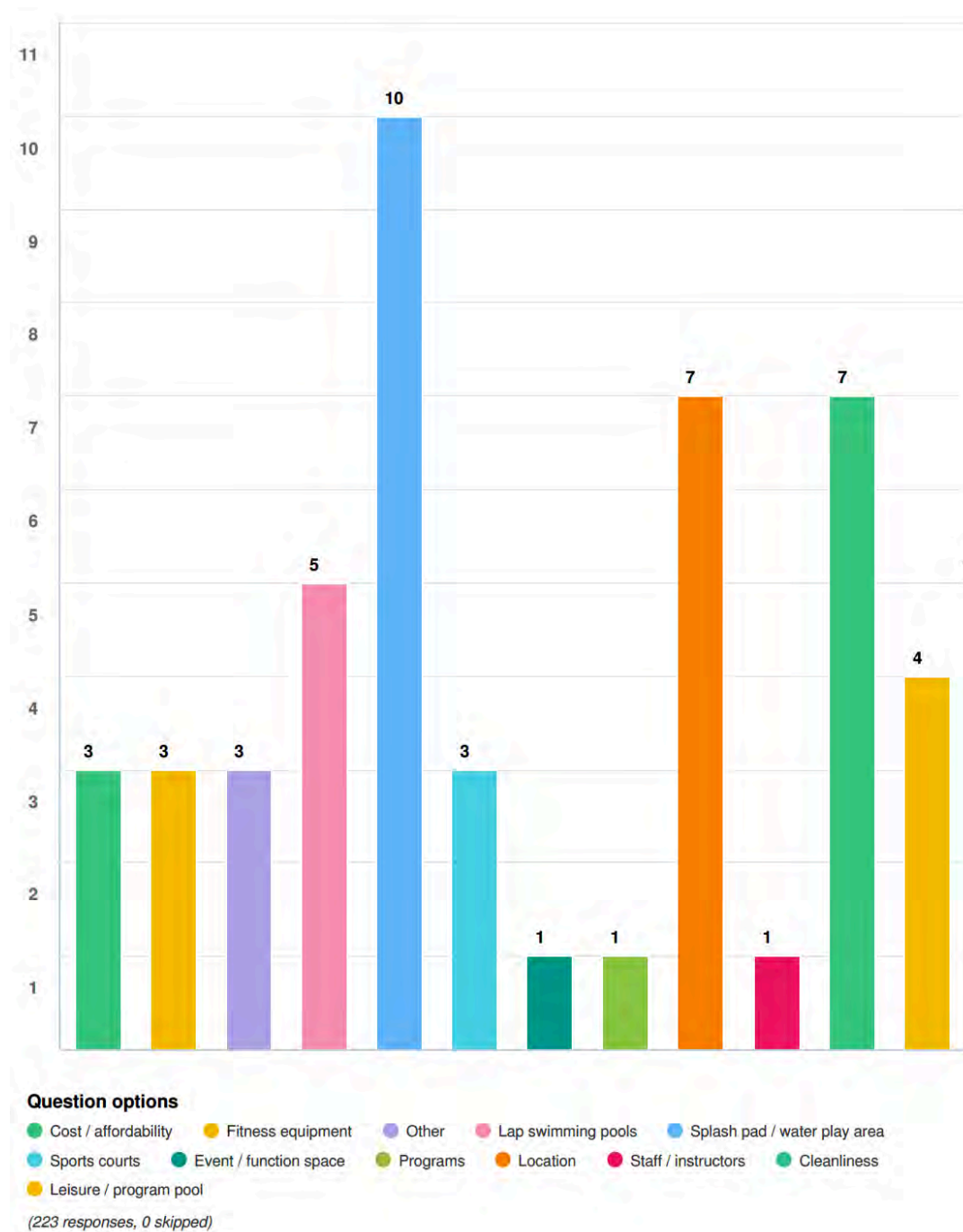
- Would like all of the above in the Michael Clarke Centre. (2)
- Karate tournament (2).

- Social events.
- Physical culture.
- I go lap swimming at Prairiewood centre as it is too far to go to Liverpool
- I would much prefer to go to Michael Clarke centre.
- Great to have something closer to home with more activities.
- We would like all of the above in Michael Clark Centre.
- Water park for the kids, BBQ areas, look at Macquarie fields leisure centre.
- Tuition centre.
- Oztag, Netball and Rugby League.
- My daughter does physical culture ("physie") at the Whitlam Centre. Often there are no rooms available for their classes. The dance room they were using has now been taken over by the gym. I feel this is unfair as the Liverpool Physical Culture club have been loyal tenants of the Whitlam Centre for the last 25 years, and now due to bigger revenue raising, they are being pushed out by the gym program and also the kid's gymnastics program.
- Have to drive from Carnes hill all the way to Mount Annan for swimming lessons. Wish there was one at Carnes hill or surrounding areas.
Currently go to gym and indoor soccer at Michael Clarke centre.
- Club swimming.
- Zumba.
- I would do Hydrotherapy if there were a pool with steps.
- Physical culture at the Whitlam centre.
- BJP Physiotherapy.
- Just swimming but nearly drowned.
- Use of basketball courts and walking activities.
- Basketball.
- General fitness following stroke.
- Self-defence and meditation
- Please see above, plus the missing 19 million dollars and extra fees we had to pay and 10 years under administration and you guys still have not learnt your lessons.
- The park at the back and library

Question 1d "Do you use aquatic, indoor sports or fitness centres which are not operated by Liverpool Council?"



Question 1f, "Why do you choose non-Liverpool council centres over Council Centres"



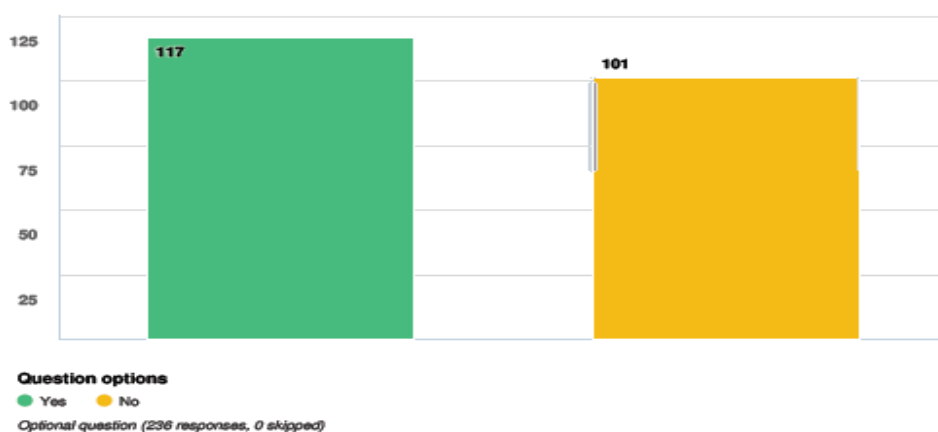
Please list any other reasons you choose other non-Liverpool Council Centres

- Accessibility-adult accessible change rooms, including adult sized change bed.
- There is none in Middleton Grange.

Question 1g “ Please list the aquatic, indoor sports or indoor fitness you use including the name and suburb of the centre”

Other centres	Frequency
Macquarie Fields Aquatic Leisure Centre	6
Prairiewood Leisure centre	6
Olympic Park	2
Fairfield Leisure Centre	2
Mount Annan Leisure Centre, Mount Annan	1
Ashcroft	1
Jump swim school, Greenfield park	1
Mounties Sports Club, Mount Pritchard	1
Padstow Pool, Padstow	1
Revesby	1
Ian Thorpe and all other City of Sydney centres	1
Marrickville	
Squashlands Liverpool	1
Fernwood Moorebank	1
Westfield's Sports Centre (Fairfield Heights)	1
Sydney Gymnastics and Aquatic (Rooty Hill)	1
Richmond swim centre	1
Sutherland Leisure Centre	1
Sydney University Gym Lidcombe	1

Question 2: ‘Are there any new or different activities/programs you would like offered by Liverpool Council aquatic indoor sports or fitness centres?’



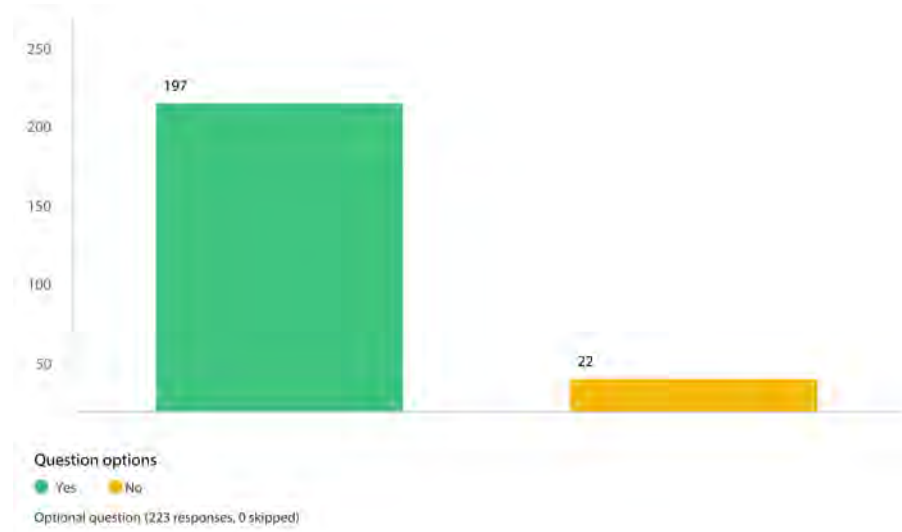
Question 2a 'If you answered "Yes", what activities or programs would you like offered?'

	Other activities/programs
Swimming facilities (43)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pool, water activities and water park at the Michael Clarke Recreation centre. (12) Swimming pool. (5) Swimming pool Prestons (4) Swimming. (2) Squad swimming training at Wenden Centre. A water play area similar to "Aquatopia" at Holsworthy. Yes, this side of Liverpool needs an aquatic centre for the booming population growth. A pool and wave pool, and saunas. Aquatic fitness classes. Swimming classes to accommodate for growing population. Aquatic centre. Water physiotherapy. This area needs an Aquatic centre. Lap/swimming pool. Swim classes. Better swimming pools. 50-meter pool at Holsworthy. The nearest swimming pool is 20 minutes away and at traffic times it's even worse. Morning Squad and bigger pool. Swimming pools that aren't overtaken by swimming classes. Hydrotherapy in a heated pool with steps. Pools that you can walk into if you are not good on your feet with a handrail. Handrail should go right round the pool. To help people who are wobbly. More swimming pools for adults, preferably heated for the winter months.
Health and fitness classes (22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More aqua classes with variety at alternative times. (6) Simple sport and exercise activities. (4) Inclusive health and fitness activities. Greater variety in the evening classes at Michael Clarke, including a cycle studio and Body Combat. More classes on weekends too. More Body Balance classes offered in the evenings. Thirty-minute Body Attack evening classes should be increased to at least forty-five minutes. Thirty minutes is not enough time and is not effective contrary to what the manager and instructors think. More variety of gym classes and times. Meditation, health, food and nutritional programs. More water classes for the unfit and those with an injury. More variety of group fitness classes, yoga and Pilates. Water exercise prior to 7am. I'd like Liverpool to have a park like Fairfield council did at Vine street with an outdoor obstacle course. BJP Physiotherapy. Recommend free fitness classes, more classes and instructions.
Sport facilities (13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other indoor sports like hockey. Kids basketball comp at Michael Clarke, this is only offered at Whitlam which is not convenient especially if we need to catch a bus there. Squash courts. Karate/Tae Kwon do/Self Defence classes at Michael Wenden. Badminton, Martial Arts Classes. An indoor soccer program for school aged kids.

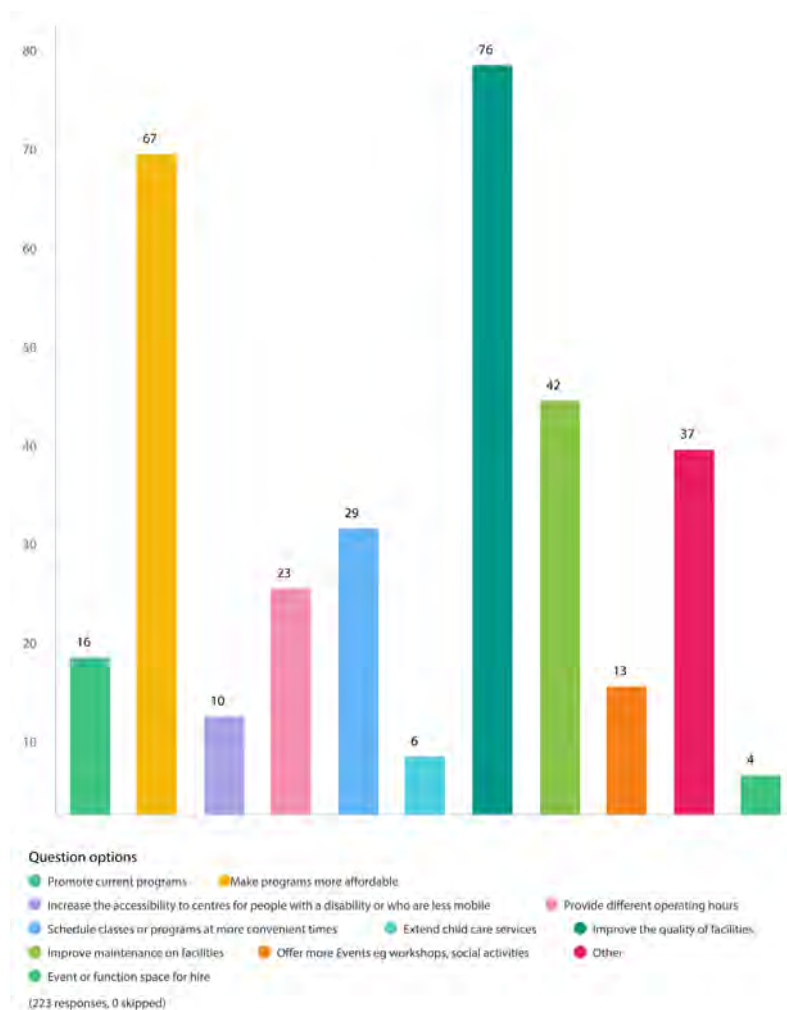
	Other activities/programs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor netball during the summer months (in an air-conditioned facility). UFC. Scuba diving. More outdoor basketball hoops / half courts. Karate and self-defence. Activities to include are skating, soccer fields, parks and activities for kids. Yoga.
Social/community facilities and activities (11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pools at Campbelltown Council and Fairfield Council have great facilities for families' e.g. great BBQ and outdoor shelters & water parks. Nothing for families to do in school holidays apart from splash in the pool. Still get charged for swimming lessons in Christmas holidays even though they don't run them at this time. Kids get free entry during the holidays to compensate but there's nothing really for them to do. For family fun in the summer we have to travel to Sutherland or Macquarie fields for water play. Parties throughout the year for the community. Movies at the pool. Holiday event days. Social events to promote aquatic centre. Better outdoor events or family facilities for birthdays etc. Featured pool parties with inflatable jumping castles and or inflatable toys. More availability for community areas to use facilities rather than all in house programs. Our community is really limited to places that can be hired. Something outdoors in winter. Large space in Miller on grass. Activities for adults with physical disabilities. Music.
Arabic dance (11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arabic dance (2) Arabic belly dancing (9)
Children swimming facilities (10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young children swimming classes. Children's swimming classes. Baby and toddler swimming facilities and classes. Swimming lessons for kids. Aquatic Centre with kid's water play activities. There is no swimming pool in Carnes Hill. Hence, we are struggling with travel with kids to a pool after work. It will be great if a pool can be added to Carnes Hill. Toddler swimming pool/splash park at Michael Clarke Recreation centre. Better learn to swim classes, very average what is currently offered. Also, nowhere in this area does learn to swim for kids. We have to drive to Miller or Liverpool, and they are overbooked.
Water play facilities (9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outdoor water park close to my area would be amazing. We don't have anything to go to around West Hoxton. I would like to see a children's water park play area. (3) Splash parks with slides. I would love an aquatic play area like Prairiewood pool has. Remove the skate park at Carnes hill and replace with water play. Outdoors splash pad/water play for the kids, as there is already kids participating in learn to swim. Swimming pools with water park option.
Arabic translator (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arabic translator.
Separate programs (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's only swimming sessions. Fitness program for kids. Council run program for kids with risks of obesity so they can come along each week and do some exercise classes and learn about

	Other activities/programs
	<p>exercise. Most families can't afford sports especially when Whitlam centre charges nearly \$20 per child per week for swimming or gymnastics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More children and youth activities. • Family karate or family yoga.
Facility upgrade (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This facility needs a complete update. • Needs an upgrade of water play area. • Whitlam Centre play area in the pool has been a mess for years. The facilities are never clean. It is old and run down.
Free activities (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free activities
Parent facilities (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre and postnatal classes. • Mum and bubs classes.
Senior programs/amenities (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More senior's classes. Fitness and water aerobics classes for seniors. Over 60 and trained instructors for that age group. • More classes to support seniors.
Other (8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsure, haven't used Liverpool council centres for approximately 3 to 4 yrs. It's not just the centre and staff but also the type of people whom use the centres. We go elsewhere because different things are on offer and it's something different, there is also more shaded areas and indoor pool areas don't smell like bleach or hot. • The skate park has brought the worst type of hangouts around what you intended to be family friendly. Not sure why anyone would think a skate park was a good idea. • A council provided fitness centre nearby Hammondville. • Lower charges for council provided leisure facilities, more centres to be available in more locations. • There is plenty of unused land available at Holsworthy, which is possible for many opportunities for expansion, but improvements in using what is currently available would result in more profit right now. Holsworthy only really caters for learn to swim, which is fantastic, but there needs to be more offered. I would purchase a yearly pass if this were offered. • There are also no gym facilities in the area, which is a huge opportunity. • A crèche would be a benefit once adult fitness classes were offered. • A spa or sauna added. • Free. • More parking.

Question 3: 'Would you like to visit an aquatic, indoor sports or fitness centre more often?



Question 3a "Of the options below, what could Liverpool Council do to encourage you to use centres more often?



Please expand your answers from above

	Other activities/programs
Upgrade facilities (24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball court at Carnes Hill rec centre needs to be changed to meet safety standards as recommended by Basketball NSW. As mentioned previously the showers in the women's change rooms need locks, but I understand they get stolen. The Whitlam centre is getting very old, equipment often broken, shower taps, and door locks always broken. Clocks never changed. Edges and wall of pools sometimes chipped or broken. Whitlam centre is in very poor condition. Whitlam centre and Michael Wenden are both very run down. The pools, change rooms, toilets, facilities for gymnastics and other group exercises. Not inviting at all. Considering how big Liverpool is, these pools are just not adequate. Holsworthy Aquatic Centre is my closest option however it is run as a swim school only not a community resource. Improve change rooms and showers. Poorly maintained, with broken equipment and overwhelming stench of chlorine that left my family members struggling to breathe The outdoor pool needs a refresh. Whitlam centre pool is awful and in desperate need of maintenance and upgrade. Your centres are run down and uninviting. Would not go to Whitlam centre unless forced. Needs to be closed down and a complete renovation. All facilities in the Liverpool and especially Miller centres need an upgrade. Apart from taking down a big water slide and building a new grandstand; I haven't really seen much money spent on any of these facilities over the years. Maintenance of equipment. The Centre splashes some paint here and there to try to give it a facelift, but it is way beyond this being effective. When it comes to huge rust, leaking ceilings and degrading toilet and bathroom facilities, it's overdue for a complete overhaul. Out dated. It looks very run down. Even though you guys have been fixing up Michael Wenden it still needs a lot of work, you want to become the next CBD then I think you should have your leisure centres reflect that. It needs to be upgraded. The facilities are very old and dated; the centre is dirty and unhygienic most of the time. Needs more attention and work to bring it up to standard. Bathrooms struggle too. Clean modern facilities are more attractive. The heated pool wasn't working when we last went and turned us off from coming back. Bigger gym.
Swimming facilities – other (17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer more aquatic options. (2) Lap pool. More range of choice, definitely swimming and other aqua activities like water polo, diving etc. Make an aquatic centre closer to Edmondson Park. This area needs an Aquatic centre. Pool servicing Prestons. Have a pool closer to where I live. Swimming facilities. Baby splash pools are out-dated. There is nothing appealing to children to engage them in the water except for one water mushroom. Put in a pool. Have an aquatic centre near Edmondson Park. New swimming pools in Prestons.

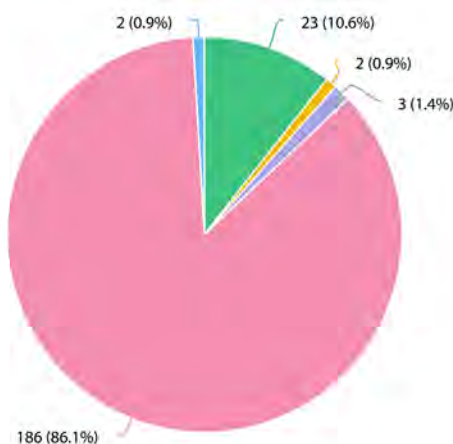
	Other activities/programs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another pool. Currently the small pools are overcrowded with learn to swim. • Improved water temperature - a heated pool. • There is an influx of house construction and we need a pool to take our children. • Swimming lessons.
Upgrade facilities (combine with below – improve facilities (16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outdoor pool needs a refresh. • Whitlam centre pool is awful and in desperate need of maintenance and upgrade. • Your centres are run down and uninviting. • Would not go to Whitlam centre unless forced. Needs to be closed down and a complete renovation. • All facilities in the Liverpool and especially Miller centres need an upgrade. Apart from taking down a big water slide and building a new grandstand; I haven't really seen much money spent on any of these facilities over the years. • Maintenance of equipment. • The Centre splashes some paint here and there to try to give it a facelift, but it is way beyond this being effective. When it comes to huge rust, leaking ceilings and degrading toilet and bathroom facilities, it's overdue for a complete overhaul. • Out dated. • It looks very run down. • Even though you guys have been fixing up Michael Wenden it still needs a lot of work, you want to become the next CBD then I think you should have your leisure centres reflect that. • It needs to be upgraded. • The facilities are very old and dated; the centre is dirty and unhygienic most of the time. Needs more attention and work to bring it up to standard. • Bathrooms struggle too. • Clean modern facilities are more attractive. • The heated pool wasn't working when we last went and turned us off from coming back. • Bigger gym.
Hygiene (14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more cleaning shifts throughout the opening hours. • Cleaning of gym areas, sauna room and bathrooms, floors and so forth. • Both indoor and outdoor pools at the Whitlam Centre are old and disgusting. Tiles are coming off the indoor pools and the outdoor pool is filthy. • The centres are very dirty looking and as I said run down. • Very dirty and dated. • Pool deck has chewing gum on it. • Change rooms are too wet, mould on ceilings and walls. • It smells and the water is not clean. • Improve cleanness, have hygienic water and the area around the swimming pool. Especially in summer time some people come as groups and use that area for picnics with food and drink close to water, which makes me feel very disgusting to put my kids inside the water. • We stopped going because of the cleanliness of the whole pool and facilities. Cracks and dirty tiles in family room, hot water supply not available during winter, showers and toilets in women's rooms dirty or not operational. • The Whitlam centre is always filthy. The facilities are not great. Showering and toileting with a toddler in tow is not a good experience. • The Whitlam Centre is an utter disgrace. It's falling apart at the seams and no significant investment has been made since it opened. The floors are scummy. The change rooms are gross. The floors are permanently wet and foster athletes' foot. The water quality is so poor that I've had ear infections. • Really dirty. • Floorboards are coming up and carpet is filthy which is a massive health and safety risk to the children.
Hours (12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Holsworthy pool on a weekend after swim classes and don't over book the pool do the public can always swim.

	Other activities/programs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variety for people with commitments at different hours The Holsworthy Aquatic Centre currently operates for its Learn to Swim Classes, so when it does not have classes, it is usually not open. When it was council managed, it was a public pool that was open in the heat of summer for the locals to play and cool down. On the weekends, classes finish about midday, so the locals have to travel elsewhere on a 35-degree Saturday afternoon. The other problem is that because they are only open when they have classes, there is normally very little room for public swimming. They also claim to be a low patronage pool and do not employ lifeguards. Would attend classes at the Michael Clarke centre at Carnes Hill but there is not enough variety in class types and times. Be open on weekends outside of swimming lesson to become a family environment on weekend. The operation hours need to be longer later evenings to allow workers to get in a complete swimming. The hours aren't good enough compared to comparable council facilities in other part of Australia or even Sydney. The pool is not open early enough in the morning to swim and then head to the train station for work. Many gyms and fitness centres offer 24/7 access. But the Michael Clarke Recreation Centre gym shuts at 6:30pm on weekends and too early on weeknights. All the doorways and passageways are already there to allow for after hour access, but just need willingness of management to make it happen. They have no public lap swim lanes when swim school is on and the public swim hours especially on weekends are very limited. More classes on Saturday and Sunday. Longer operating hours in the summer to at least 9pm. Swimming centres closing at 5 or 6 in pool areas is crazy.
Exercise instructions (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit professionals to give guidance on how to use sports equipment and the best ways to benefit from them.(4) Health advice on sport exercises especially swimming and how to use sport equipment. 4 Advice on training exercises. Health advice
Cost (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be special rates for people who live in the council area. Fairfield City council leisure centres offer great rates for their residents. Whitlam centre is overpriced and unaffordable. No special rates for pensioners or seniors to use the spa/sauna (for my father). Price is too high for a council swimming pool especially adult. Whitlam centre is fairly expensive considering how badly maintained the pools are. My child is learning to swim and is no good to us being sent to the deep cold pool. So, its cost me \$20+ each time to enter and then only stay for less than an hour. Everything is so expensive. The cost ends up driving people away and the centre ends up having to charge more to meet their costs. It's a rip off when you have 2 or more kids to have to pay \$20 each per week for swimming and the same for gymnastics. Families can't afford that much. Add the cost per adult for accessing the gym on top of that and you need a loan to afford any sort of recreational activities. The centre is very overpriced to just swim with the family. Other centres are cheaper with better facilities. There is no membership system that is affordable for residents.
Shared swimming lanes/space (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Segregate the lap swimming areas more so it is fair for all. Adults' only time. More lap swimming lanes. There is literally no lane space for general users at any time you want it and it's also never open. Our local pool is Holsworthy. The public generally get one lane to swim recreationally. Whitlam centre has one heated kid indoor pool which is always packed no matter what time you go. Half of it is roped off for learn to swim and the other half is full of all grown-ups who

	Other activities/programs
	want a heated pool. My kids have nowhere to swim. Plus, there is pole which gushes water that some people hog as soon as a kid gets a go an adult tells them to move on.
Women areas (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women only areas (5) I am interested in ladies only pool timings, which these centres, don't have.
Transport (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have buses for groups (4) Have buses or trains close bus. The Whitlam centre bus stops up on the highway.
Child minding programs (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baby and toddler friendly classes and playgroups offered on weekends to suit families who work full time during the week would be fantastic. Longer and more affordable childcare hours. I need crèche to do lap swimming but as a working parent it's inaccessible to me as I work over your crèche hours. Childcare facilities are very limited.
Swimming facilities - Hoxton Park (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquatic centre in the Hoxton park area.
Swimming classes (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently children's swimming lessons are at capacity and it's very difficult to get my kids into lessons actually on the same day Maintain current aqua size classes at Holsworthy throughout the year More children swimming classes in weekday evening and more classes on weekend.
Swimming squad (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wenden Centre is lacking the ability to run a year-round squad. The addition of either keeping the 50 Metre Wenden Swimming Pool open or building an indoor 25-metre pool at the centre would allow the squad to do this. Squad training unnecessarily take up lanes. Three lanes for six swimmers. Have the squad swim outside in winter.
Sports facilities (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Squash courts Squash courts Carnes Hill. We need a multi-purpose sporting facility in the Holsworthy/Wattle Grove area. This area includes many young families with school-aged children. We need access to better quality, multi-sport facilities, that encourage people to participate in sport and connect with community. This will allow aspiring talented athletes to compete at a representative level, instead of being left behind by councils/regions with better facilities. Like Sutherland.
Water play (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water play parks. I would love if you had better water play facilities like water slides. The kids' pool/splash area is pretty poor compared to other pools. There are no slides or many water play spouts etc.
Accessibility for people with disability (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More programmes for the elderly and disabled and the overweight category. Having had a family member with a disability use the Liverpool pools, I would never recommended to others - the assistance provided was minimal and the supervision by pool staff poor. Much higher standard in other LGAs. Obvious start would be someone from council to take a look at poor standard of disabled toilets the rear exit of the Whitlam Centre. This identifies how little worth Liverpool Council places on the vulnerable members of our community.
Location (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a local centre. Having an aquatic centre closer to the area with suitable parking and decent road access. Location is another factor.
Staffing (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full time employees who work in the CBD and or spend considerable time commuting are unable to capitalise on the schedules that work best for locally employed/unemployed people. Have better back up plans when instructors are unable to teach classes
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More parking.

	Other activities/programs
(2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Again, provide more parking space for the growing community around the area of Carnes Hill, West Hoxton, Prestons and Edmondson Park and surrounding suburbs.
Macquarie Fields (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy Macquarie Fields Leisure centre, they have BBQ's, kids outdoor water park, a playground area, lap pool and indoor pools. It's much cheaper than Whitlam and they have make-up days if your children miss a swimming lesson and they have discounted food prices within the last 2 hours of closing. This place is amazing. Liverpool surrounding swim centre areas should learn a thing or two from Macquarie fields. We often go to Macquarie fields instead as they also have an outdoor splash park.
Family and social outdoor areas (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above better facilities to encourage families like BBQ areas, picnic shelters. Outdoor equipment, BBQ, toddler pool would be nice.
Other (20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having trouble with making ends meet. The last time I was at the Whitlam centre there were large signs warning to watch your belongings but there were no lockers. There is too much chlorine used and the centre smells of it. I have been to other indoor pools where this does not occur. There are no council leisure centres in Middleton Grange in fact we don't have roads footpaths parks high schools or anything else. But we will be getting a ridiculous town centre with 912 low rent apartments to f*** up the suburb completely thanks for that. Ps but keep on charging me excessive rates anyway. Holsworthy pool is useless as a facility for the community. Have been twice a week for the past 4 weeks and have managed to stay there for an hour before being kicked out of the warm shallow pool for "cleaning". Holsworthy is awful. I would like to swim laps but again there is no security for my belongings. The Whitlam centre bus stops up on the highway I'm disabled I can't walk all the way around to the centre. I exercise then walk all the way back to the other side of the highway. That's just too much exercise I'd have a heart attack first day I did that. When I went, I went by car or taxi. I can't afford taxi and then high cost to swim and spa. Besides the spa would drain what energy I had left out of me. I would get home and crash. The Whitlam Centre pool is too far away, and Hoxton Park Rd is too busy with traffic when I might want to go. More locations Also, I found the computer system the reception staff used to resolve queries complicated (as I heard from staff) took long which made waiting in line longer to get in - on that we would sometimes wait long to get in as we waited for a staff member to finish to scan the card. No current adult classes. I am told Whitlam centre is only centre that closes outdoor pool. Also, no expiration on 10 visits cards. That is ridiculous, gift cards last longer than that. Closer to home, i.e. have one at Carnes Hill Rec Centre. Do not like going to Liverpool. Function space is very limited. Hiring a facility for a regular program is becoming more difficult - even long-term programs are being turned away as they are not "run" by the current company who oversee the provision of the centre's operations. Liverpool has minimal locations for any large events and the upkeep of the facilities is poor. Rooms available for Physio. Heated swimming pool. Offer better quality swim areas for kids. Accessibility - we live locally and can no longer access activities or shopping at Carnes Hill. Traffic congestion is horrific Whitlam centre needs a complete overhaul. It's still a lovely outdoor pool. Well done to council for having this great community resource.

Question 4: 'What transport do you use most often to travel to aquatic and leisure centres?



Question options

Walk Cycle Bus Car Other

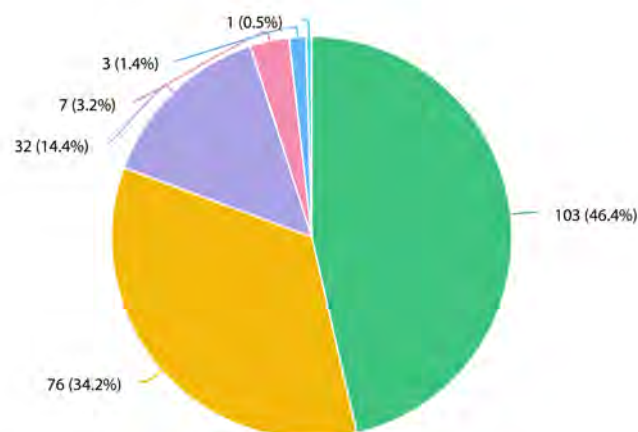
Optional question (216 responses, 7 skipped)

Please specify type of transport used to travel to aquatic and leisure centres

Other type of transport

- Minivan or private vehicle.
- Provide buses for groups. (4)
- Car or taxi. Not accessible by bus or train to Whitlam centre.

Question 5: ' What do you think is a reasonable travel time to an aquatic, indoor sports or fitness centre?



Question options

0-10 minutes 11-15 minutes 16-20 minutes 21-30 minutes 31-40 minutes Up to an hour

Optional question (222 responses, 1 skipped)

Question 6: 'What additional facilities or services do you think should be included if Liverpool Council built a new centre, or upgraded a current centre?'

	Facilities / services
Swimming pool (42)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming pool (7) 50 m pool (6) Lap pool (5) 25 m pool (3) I think the current centres are operating above their capacity for the population and more centres are needed with facilities for swimming, lessons and lap swimming. Would be great to see another 50m pool in the area. Make sure that a pool equivalent to the Holsworthy warm pool is provided for aqua size classes for people with arthritis. Indoors and outdoors pool. Cold and salt water pools. Pools area for aqua classes. An Olympic size pool, smaller purpose designed pools such as for diving and aqua aerobics. Learn to swim programs. Definitely an aquatic centre in the Hoxton park area. Heated pool, more pools. Hydrotherapy pool. Children's pool. 100-metre pool. Swimming / water facilities. Olympic size swimming pool at Holsworthy. New swimming pools in Prestons. Indoor heated pool. In this area it will be crowded so more than one pool would be amazing. An indoor pool would be perfect so it can be used all year round. Pool facilities. Increase size and number of pools at Holsworthy. Indoor heated pools with step access and not too shallow. 2 heated pools at least. One shallow for kids and one for older people and hydrotherapy. Competition pool so schools don't have to travel.
Water play (25)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water park (17) More water play parks and water activities like Aquatopia and the one at Sutherland pool. Indoors water parks Water play park similar to Silverwater one. Mini water park like Prairiewood leisure centre. Waterslides similar to Prairiewood pool. Water park like the one in Sydney Olympic park or Macquarie fields leisure centre. Water play for teenagers too. A more comprehensive splash park. The one the Centre recently installed is very little and minimal and does not cater for the whole family.
Swimming facilities at Michael Clarke Centre/Carnes Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming pool at Michael Clarke/Carnes Hill. (16) It would be great to have a 50 m pool at the Michael Clarke Recreational Centre. More kids' activities at Michael Clarke centre and also a swimming centre, this is the closest centre to me, but I have to go elsewhere for kids' activities including swimming and basketball competition. Outdoor water park near Michael Clark. New centre in Carnes Hill Water Splash Park closer to Carnes Hill as we travel to Macquarie Fields leisure centre most often due to fantastic facilities. Water splash park, playground, indoor-outdoor pool, and BBQ facilities, party hut areas. Many families could walk to a new aquatic centre at Carnes Hill. There are also bus services at Carnes

	Facilities / services
	<p>Hill as well as ample supplementary parking at the shopping centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With hydrotherapy, learn to swim, Aqua classes during the day as well as the evening. • We live at Edmondson Park and have no access to a close community Centre. We are struggling with travel with kids to a pool after work. It will be great to have a pool in Carnes Hill. • Upgrade Carnes Hill with 50m Swimming Pool and Squash Courts. • They should open a new centre towards austral Carnes Hill there is nothing out there the nearest centre is Liverpool and with the number of new houses and families no one wants to drive to Liverpool to swim and makes it hard with transport. • Pool facilities at Carnes Hill rec centre including more parking. • No one near Carnes hill travels out to Liverpool we all go to Fairfield's services so bring things closer to us. • Swimming pool at Michael Clarke. (5) • It would be great to have a 50 m pool at the Michael Clarke Recreational Centre. • Aquatic facilities at Michael Clarke. Learn to swim etc. • Aquatic centre added to Michael Clarke Recreation Centre. • More kids' activities at Michael Clarke centre and also a swimming centre, this is the closest centre to me, but I have to go elsewhere for kids' activities including swimming and basketball competition. • Outdoor Water Park near Michael Clark.
Food outlets (21)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy food outlet. (6) • Restaurant. (3) • Different food outlets/ variety in cuisines (3) • Kitchen/area to heat/prepare own food. (2) • Cafe with sufficient food selection and seating. • Canteen facilities. • Cafe would encourage families to stay there for the day. • Better food facilities. • Café. • Nice café.
Classes/programs (9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate group fitness studio so that more Les Mills classes can be added. • Aquatic classes. • Learn to Swim programs. • Baby and toddler classes and playgroup on weekends so parents whom work full time during the week can participate. • Definitely learn to swim programs for kids. • For kids. More swimming lesson time slots to cater for all the kids. • Functional/heavy cardio classes. • Pilate's sessions. • Indoors swimming classes.
Gym facilities (8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gym (4) • Gym group room after the upgrade seems to be lacking attention in terms of mirrors and fans. • Gym and weight training facilities as there is none close by. • Gym equipment in parks would be handy. • Modern gym.
Sporting courts/facilities (8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build more basketball courts with accessible area. • Squash court. • Extended sporting complex at Whitlam site, possibly multi-purpose stadium that could be used for football, soccer, concerts etc. • Indoor netball in the Holsworthy area (with air-con). • Soccer area or some athletic area for run. • Skate park. • Multipurpose wooden floored courts.

	Facilities / services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More free outdoor basketball courts like McLeod park.
Steam room/saunas/spa (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sauna. (4) Spa. (2) Steam room.
Social outdoor area (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BBQ area, picnic sun shelters. After hour's entertainment for families with young children, picnic BBQ areas that light up at night which are secure and safe for families. Playground, party areas. We often travel to Macquarie field's pool because they have great facilities for all the family. Table and chairs and barbecue facilities in case for a party. BBQ and picnic area. Entertainment area. Meeting spaces for general meetings and entertainment.
Separate women's areas (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women only areas. (7) Separate women and men's saunas. Segregated men and women's pools. Please add ladies only swimming timing Picnic area.
Provide for diverse age groups (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services to cater for three generations (Granddad's. Dads, kids) (3) Current facilities are targeted at young kids, what about teenagers or young adults. The older kids as well as I prefer to go to the beach instead. Atmosphere isn't the same too many people in the pools causing too many issues between the kids. Big kids playing area.
Meet demands of population growth (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently only covering the town side not the outer section, which is growing daily. Whitlam centre is too busy now that there are a million units around. All the pools are far too small for the population. A city of this size should have a good quality indoor 50m pool at a minimum. Swimming pool access to cover the whole council area.
Hours (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24-hour facility. (2) Extended hours. Longer hours. Big kids playing area especially during school holidays.
Child minding (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child minding services. Play group, playground, and child minding for free. Extended childcare hours. Child minding options for parents. Crèche.
Hygiene (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amazing hygienic toilets that aren't disgusting. Cleaner amenities. None really just the hygiene, cleanliness & water quality. Clean indoor pool area. Maldonado checks done on cleanliness of equipment.
Parking (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More parking spots. Provide more parking spaces for the growing community around the area of Carnes Hill, West Hoxton, Prestons and Edmundson Park and surrounding Suburbs. Function space is very limited. Hiring a facility for a regular program is becoming more difficult. More parking at Carnes Hill.
Locker facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working lockers

	Facilities / services
(4)	
Multi-purpose rooms (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Rooms available to the public for hire for sporting activities. • More dance room spaces. • More multipurpose rooms. • Rooms for "Physie". • Function rooms for groups to use.
Toilets/change room facilities (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big enough showers and toilets. • Updated change rooms. • Improve change rooms. • Cleaner change rooms.
Shade (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shade. (2) • Shade around the outdoor pool. • Need more covered areas.
Upgrade facilities (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better maintenance of existing facilities as I find the outdoor 50 m pool always looks dirty and the heating not working at times. • General maintenance of current centre. They currently look a tad too shabby. • Upgrade Liverpool Whitlam centre. • Miller pools absolutely needs a little bit more a facelift.
Council run (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council run pools, not management companies. They do not know the area or community. They just want the money, and never fix anything. Just band aid any problems. Council is for the community, and the community funds the council. • Government or council funded family activities. • Council operated Centres that maintain the Centres with pride.
Accessibility for people with a disability (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheel chair access. • Another pool for the disabled. • Ceiling hoist for people with physical a disability for wheelchair to change table, change table to accessible pool chair and into the pool.
Parent rooms and amenities (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pram access, baby change/feeding room to Michael Clarke. • Multiple family change rooms. • More parent rooms.
Flooring (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build with parquet floors not multipurpose rubber. • Having seen the floors that are in the Michael Clarke and Michael Wenden Centres they are slippery, unsafe and hardly suitable for regular participation.
Senior programs and facilities (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs for the aged like exercise. • Seniors activities.
Costing (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The family package where you can utilise every part of the centre. • Cost effective.
Green areas (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More green space and natural trees shade around the outdoor pool. • Grass area.
Seating (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide seating to watch sporting events. • Seating for 500.
Other (32)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve traffic flow around Kurrajong Rd, Cowpastures Rd and shopping centre entrance. • Fix up Holsworthy, including the awful concrete bottom on the pool and the over chlorination. • Small shops bread shop, chemist, Thai take away, good restaurants we don't have any besides

Facilities / services

- kebabs all around this area. We need a nice community park.
- Clear signage with pictures in different languages.
- Anything because we currently have nothing.
- Better pa systems.
- I personally think that Michael Wenden has a lot of unused space. I would like to see an indoor 25m pool and a big water park like Fairfield city council has at Prairiewood.
- Destroy Whitlam and build a facility like Marion in SA or the proposed one for Parramatta.
- Current programs, current equipment and current promotions.
- Wenden Centre was great years ago and the 50m was open all year round. It's a tip now. Whitlam Centre pool is filthy.
- No additional service. Rather better planning, for example- having not to walk through the whole facility to use the pool.
- Look at blackwood pool.
- Honouring multi visit passes for 12 months.
- Toddler friendly activities.
- Parking is always an issue.
- The new outdoors waterpark is very dangerous. My baby fell over and both his knees were bleeding; there should be rubber underneath the waterpark.
- I would like to see Michael Wenden have massage facilities, dancing for senior classes, a much better cafe. It needs updating.
- Ensure the lifter is always working and probably have more than one.
- Having people who maintain the look and status of the facility. Physie are paying a premium price for absolutely sub-par return from the facility.
- Policies in place to recognise the needs of the most vulnerable members of our area. Policies in place to ensure private companies taking on leases to run our local gyms comply with the policies.
- Better database system and swipe card system for members instead of waiting in line.
- Fenced off play area for younger kids while their siblings have their lesson.
- Better transport connectivity from train stations to the new/upgraded centre.
- Upgrade Holsworthy and return it as a community resource and not a private enterprise.
- Shut them down sell the land and use the money to better maintain pavements etc. after all that's the Council's job, not providing entertainment but maintaining the essentials.
- Well with 19 million dollars it should have been already built by now. Thanks Liverpool Council and bulldogs.
- An aquatic centre in the western half of the Council area.
- Swimming pool for the local kids in West Horton to utilise swimming lessons. At the moment I have to drive 20 to 25 minutes for lessons out of the Liverpool Council.
- Equipment at the Whitlam centre is very tired and dated with parts of the equipment broken.
- Arcade.
- Casino/poker machines.

Question 7: 'How important are the following facilities to you?'

Facility	Not important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important	Don't know
Car parking	5	33	85	107	6
Well-designed entry and reception	29	88	75	37	7
Child care	102	55	48	18	13
Café	47	79	66	36	8
Well-designed change rooms	7	32	91	99	7
Gym/weight training facilities	53	61	68	40	14
Group exercise rooms/fitness classes	50	52	70	52	12
Facilities to allow separate swimming for women etc,	112	48	31	35	10
Indoor swimming lap/competition pool	17	45	64	99	11
Outdoor swimming lap/competition pool					
Spa	93	55	42	31	14
Sauna/steam room	103	50	37	33	13
Warm water/program pool	20	41	66	100	9
Leisure pool/water play area	30	26	63	106	11
Splash park in public space (e.g. Bigge Park, Macquarie Mall, Carnes Hill)	47	55	52	67	15
Indoor sports courts	57	64	58	42	15
Dry playground	44	62	67	52	11
Gymnastics facility	85	67	42	25	17
Room for relaxation classes	61	57	55	45	18
Event/function space for hire	69	73	54	29	21
Other	79	11	19	31	96

Provision of other facilities

	Other Facilities
Provide recreation/aquatic centres (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic Services to serve Middleton Grange side of Liverpool LGA. • Swimming pool at Carnes Hill. • Swimming. • Swimming pool Carnes hill area. • Make more centres out towards austral Carnes Hill Hoxton Park.
Sport courts (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Squash courts. • Tennis courts. • Athletic centre. • Skate park.
Water play facilities (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big water park for family fun and all age with water slides. • Fun things for kids to come to the pool, slides for kids. • Water slide Fun Park attached to swimming pools.
Change rooms/toilets (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lockers for safe storage of personal effects. • Maintenance of restrooms. • Hairdryers, air con in change rooms, hot and cold water for showers, no boys allowed in woman's change rooms, parents change and shower room.
Social areas/activities (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBQ picnic area with plenty of shaded seating areas. • Night-time activities. • Seating and table outdoor areas. Very important.
Accessibility/amenities for people with a disability (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheel chair access. • Heated Pools with steps for access for older people and those with physical disabilities.
Children classes (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids swim classes. • Dance classes for children and indoor children programs in winter.
Provide for increased population growth (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proximity of services with availability to suit the community. Whitlam centre is currently at full capacity with learn to swim and cannot possibly contain the entire growing region of Edmondson Park/Bardia/Horningsea Park. • Our area is already large and growing tenfold every year so make the facility large enough to cater for continued further growth.
Safety (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe facilities. • Not safe to teach kids to ride bikes and scooters on the road.
Other (15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more facilities to the ratepayers of the Council. • Parks and bike tracks. • Replace them with a solar farm to make money and reduce rates. • Well other facilities other than the existing facilities mentioned are incomparably not important the importance is to maintain and sustain reliability to the existing existence of the current facilities. • Big enough so that even on a hot day it's not extremely overcrowded and not enjoyable. • Cleanliness and maintenance of the facility. • Room for "BJP physie" • I have never been there as there are no women only classes. • Baby change and feeding room. • Provision of quality and affordable swimming lessons for kids. • Pool facilities available in winter season. Currently the only pool in our area that is opening over winter months is the indoor pool at the Whitlam Centre. This is not in our area and is frequently overbooked and crowded. It has insufficient lane space due to

Other Facilities	
	<p>overbooking from squad training programs and learn to swim programs. The Wenden pool is closed over winter; it could be kept open, even for limited hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be great to have something close to home. • There are enough gyms in the area and weight places. We mainly need a good swimming centre. Carnes Hill has the gym fitness, wellness centre and hire venue options. We need an area for swimming. • Childcare facilities and facilities that are safe.

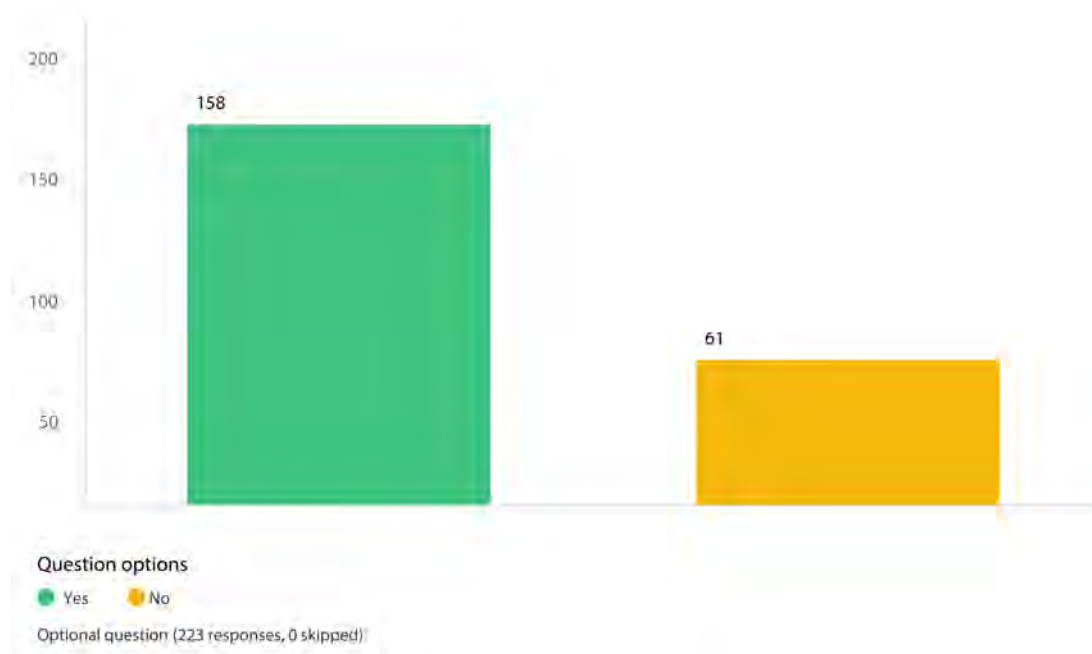
Question 8: 'How well do you think these facilities are provided at Liverpool Council Centres?

Facility	Extremely poor	Very poor	Don't know	Satisfactory	Very well
Car parking	21	62	28	110	13
Well-designed entry and reception	13	35	49	120	12
Child care	14	24	139	45	7
Café	14	44	70	83	17
Well-designed change rooms	42	55	62	64	4
Gym/weight training facilities	8	18	115	72	17
Group exercise rooms/fitness classes	12	19	113	75	11
Facilities to allow separate swimming/activities for women or other groups	24	25	148	18	11
Indoor swimming lap/competition pool	38	51	59	66	13
Outdoor swimming lap/competition pool	36	48	64	70	12
Spa	26	34	128	34	6
Sauna/steam room	26	34	127	34	7
Warm water/program pool	30	41	90	46	14
Leisure pool/water play area	41	48	86	47	6
Splash park in public space (e.g. Bigge Park, Macquarie Mall, Carnes Hill)	21	36	101	54	14
Indoor sports courts	10	15	103	74	25
Room for relaxation classes	12	26	160	26	5
Dry playground	13	32	90	73	19
Gymnastics facilities	9	28	154	30	6
Event/function space for hire	12	12	135	61	9
Other	25	7	134	13	8

Other important facilities

	Other Facilities
Toilet facilities (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bathroom facilities. Outdoor toilets very poor.
Carnes Hill (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking Needs to be improved, especially at Carnes Hill and Aquatic Activities should be available as well. I would like to see a pool for water playground area in Carnes Hill.
Water play (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water slides. No big water park like Fairfield city Council.
15 Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more facilities to the rate payers of the Council Whitlam centre was a disgrace. After many years there, I decided to move my kids to Mount Annan for swimming lessons best decision ever made however a bit of a drive. This is Australia we do not need separate swimming areas for women. These sort of facilities are expensive to maintain and encourage the spread of illnesses they are worse than all those parks you have created that parents will not let their children play in for fear of the perverts that target these places including I might add swimming pools. They are community facilities and should be available to all of the community - if you want women only facilities for swimming, buy a pool. Not enough centres in the Liverpool region especially with all the new estates. No BBQ facilities. No designated hydrotherapy pool in the area. Access to lap swimming/training over winter months is extremely poor. There is insufficient space available for swimming in peak hours. This could easily be solved by keeping the Wenden outdoor pool open over winter months, even if only during peak hours e.g. 4pm - 7 pm. Secure indoor bike parking/locker. Tennis courts - minimal in the area. Merely needs fixing. Cleanliness and maintenance of the facility. Whitlam Centre has good parking except during netball season when people park anywhere and including disabled areas without sticker.

Question 9: 'Is there anything that Council could do to further encourage you to use an aquatic, fitness or indoor sports centre?'



If you answered yes, what could Council do to further encourage you to use an aquatic, fitness or indoor sports centre more?

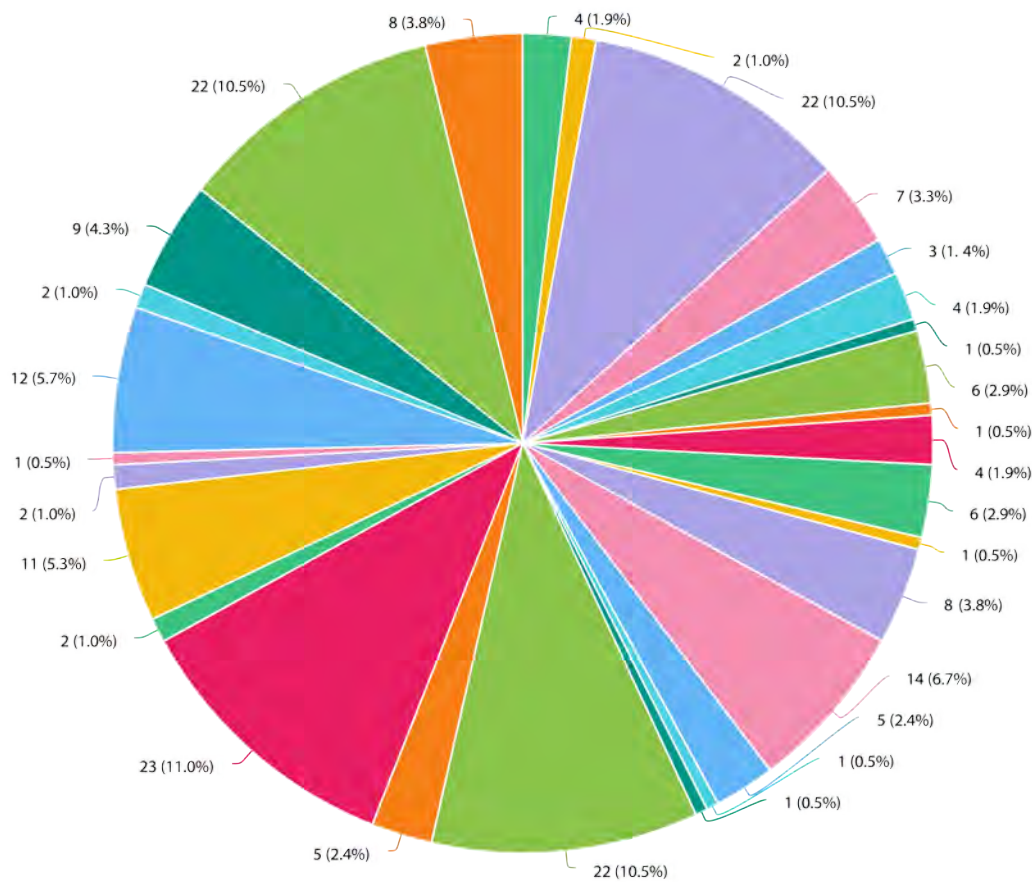
	Other Facilities
Affordability (23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower costs (18) Have discounts for families (5)
Upgrade facilities (22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade facilities. (18) Renovate them to be at a level that is quite high rather than the dirty appearances they have now although the Whitlam Centre is more of an entertainment venue than leisure venue. There needs to be a designated venue for sport if we are serious about the growth of participation in sports. Upgrade Whitlam centre and put money into staffing. Make them better. Improve the maintenance of facilities especially Whitlam Swimming Centre.
Michael Clarke/Carnes Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build an aquatic centre at Carnes Hill. (11) Build Aquatic services at Michael Clarke Centre. Build a 50m pool at Michael Clark recreation centre and make it affordable to use. Add aquatic facilities to Michael Clarke. Add better features to outdoor water play space; add proper pool facilities at Michael Clarke centre. Michael Clarke centre is great, although it needs swimming facility / pools. Have one at Carnes Hill so I don't need to drive so far with 3 kids and a busy schedule, it would help us. Build one in Carnes Hill. A pool should have been built at Carnes Hill when the Michael Clarke centre was built. Now it will cause a disruption for a busy area and roads need to be routed better for less congestion. Build a new centre with a pool at Carnes Hill. There isn't enough around for the increase of population in the area. Build an aquatic centre closer to the Carnes Hill area or surrounding suburbs.
Hygiene (15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hygiene and cleanliness (6) Maintain hygiene and maintenance. Maintain it better and provide cleaner facilities. We used to take our children to swimming lessons but left and went elsewhere as the pools became unsafe with people getting injured and bleeding due to sharp edges from tiling etc. Toilets are disgusting and not cleaned properly/enough times during the day. Am willing to pay a higher fee for a cleaner/better maintained centre. Maintenance of the facilities. Whitlam Centre swimming pool is so old and disgusting. Clean up the mess. Disgusting run down and old. Clean the facilities properly and regularly, the Whitlam centre is disgusting most of the time.
Proximity (10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closer to residence. (3) Consider that all the new estates around Carnes hill will not travel out to Liverpool CBD and to cater for them also. Build a centre closer to Middleton grange area. Build something closer to Carnes Hill Build and on at Carnes hill with facilities I would use. Build an aquatic centre closer to Carnes Hill, Hoxton Park and Middleton Grange. Build a pool in Carnes hill. It's a five-minute walk and we would use it every day in summer and if the pool is heated, we would use it in winter as well. Build one closer to the South West Growth area, which is not easily accessible by public transport.

	Other Facilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More locations.
Promotion (10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising. (4) Promote facilities. (4) Brochure in mail, email and telephone. Advertise directly into local areas. Most people in the Middleton Grange/West Hoxton Area are unaware of the pool at Michael Wenden. Possibly having a staff member join the local Facebook groups and do letter box drops. Many people have no idea that the pool even exists.
Classes (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More classes.
Hours (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer opening hours.
Areas for women (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate exercise areas for women. Separate male and female facilities, which are more culturally sensitive. Segregated gender pools.
Shared swimming areas (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More policing of the lap swimming areas Put one in the Prestons end of the city with enough lanes to cater for both swim lessons and adults who wish to use the pool in the 3-6pm timeslot. Keep swim squad separate from other lap swimmers.
Food outlets (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cafes with healthy menu options at affordable prices for pensioners. Better cafe that caters for kids.
Varying age groups (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make more family friendly to cater for varying age groups. Make one in Edmundson park.
Seniors (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of senior's classes within the local area to ensure they are well attended and remain viable. Policies in place that recognise the value of seniors and also the benefits of exercise and social interaction.
Indoor sports facilities (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parquetry flooring; not multipurpose rubber flooring Virtually no squash courts in the LCC precinct.
Other (37)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put on more functions, create a bigger outdoor exercise area and create an outdoor water park and aquatic centre. Pool at Michael Clarke. Engage with the community. Have the centre operate as a public pool with sensible opening hours (like during the heat of summer) with lifeguards and provide an acceptable amount of room for public play and lap swimming. The Holsworthy Aquatic Centre is not a place for recreational swimming under the current management. Make it closer to home. If there were one closer to West Hoxton, I would love to book for swimming lessons for four of my kids and take them to swim on hot days. Provide an adequate Olympic size (50m) swimming pool in the Holsworthy/Wattle Grove area. Liverpool is too far; the traffic is ridiculous, and the programs do not run at times compatible with school closing/opening times. There are four primary schools and three high schools in the immediate area (within 5km). Kids and families need closer options. Build it and they will come. Pool. Use less chlorine and more natural filtration and fewer chemicals. New swimming pools in Prestons. Add more facilities to Michael Wenden – an indoor 25m pool and/or big water park. Splash park that's fenced off, so my kids don't run in opposite directions and provide shade.

	Other Facilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow non-members of Whitlam gym to participate in classes. • Provide additional facilities in the Western part of the Liverpool Council area, especially in growth areas of Edmundson Park and Middleton Grange. • Destroy the Whitlam Centre and start again. It's a total disgrace. • More space in pool at Holsworthy. • Get Holsworthy Aquatic Centre to support the swim club & to support swimmers, as they get older, so they don't have to move to a different facility. • I don't mind paying a decent price if I can actually use the facility. • Better kids/toddler areas and play areas. • Make the waterpark safer in Miller as it is a very rough surface for babies to be running around falling on concrete. • Put the tennis courts back in that were removed all those years ago. Provide more parking than is required by regulations. • Fix the current renters before going forward and spreading the resources even thinner by creating more spaces. • Put one in Prestons or Edmundson Park I would use daily as I am over weight and have injuries from an accident so would need a disabled pool I could walk into. That was only up to my butt in water and then has a deeper section that goes up to my waist. If it were any deeper, I would drown in anything else unless I had a buddy. • Upgrade Miller centre and utilise the grass space with something. • Provide more facilities to the ratepayers of the Council. • More facilities for more people. There are so many people now but there is no improvement in the services provided. • Council managed facilities for the community not a company that tries to squeeze every cent out of us who do not care about the Council rate centres. • Do not price the Council facilities out of the market. Ratepayers are subsidising this, you should not be charging more than private enterprise, otherwise something is wrong. • Maintenance needs to be done promptly and safety taken seriously. I reported multiple WHS issues repeatedly to Michael Clarke Recreation Centre staff and management and nothing was done for over 12 months. Hopefully, you are not just waiting for someone to sue you before starting to take the public safety seriously. • A clear contact person at Liverpool Council to contact for concerns about Liverpool Council Aquatic and Leisure Centres needs to be provided. The Council advertises in the local paper a number and email for the community to contact Council, but no one has responded to my emails or phone messages. • Tartan track in the area. All local schools and sporting clubs are going out of the Council area for major events. Wasted opportunity for our own community to support our youth. • You need more places to go. Something like Prairiewood leisure centre or Macquarie fields leisure centre, they're great. We go there instead of staying in our area. • Provide the facility. • BBQ facilities and an outdoor waterpark for Pearce Park or Paciullo Park in Lurnea. • Have more of the useful facilities. • Provide more parking when you have events that take up all the parking spaces. • Provide family change rooms for kids after swimming. • Adult only zones. • The capacity of the current centres is a huge issue. They are constantly full, with no room to swim in peak times (i.e. after school or weekends). Lessons are at capacity at Whitlam. Another centre is needed to cope with the growing population.

Demographics details (Optional)

Question 10: 'What suburb do you live in'?



Question options

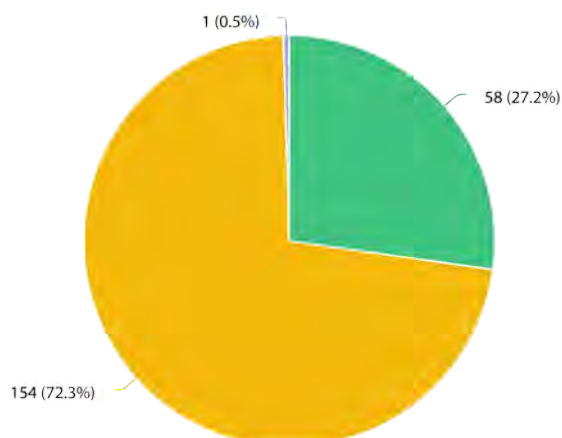
Ashcroft Austral Carnes Hill Casula Cecil Hills Chipping Norton Denham Court
Edmondson Park Elizabeth Hills Green Valley Hammondville Hinchinbrook Holsworthy
Horningsea Park Hoxton Park Kemps Creek Leppington Liverpool Lurnea
Middleton Grange Miller Moorebank Mount Pritchard Pleasure Point Prestons
Voyager Point Wattle Grove West Hoxton Other (please specify)

Optional question (209 responses, 14 skipped)

Other suburbs

Suburb	Frequency
Sandy Point	1
Blair Athol	1
Edensor Park	1
Cabramatta	1

Question 11: 'What gender do you identify as?'



Question options

Male Female Other (specify)

Optional question (213 responses, 10 skipped)

Question 12: 'What nationality do you identify as?'

Nationality	Frequency
Australian	160
Iraqi	4
Iraqi-Mandaeen	3
Vietnamese	3
Indian	3
English	3
Assyrian	2
South African Australian	2
Turkish	2
Greek	2
American Indian	1
Singapore	1
Middle Eastern	1
Australian/Croatia	1
Pakistani	1
Swedish-Finnish-English-Scottish-Welsh-Irish-Australian	1
Australian /Middle	1

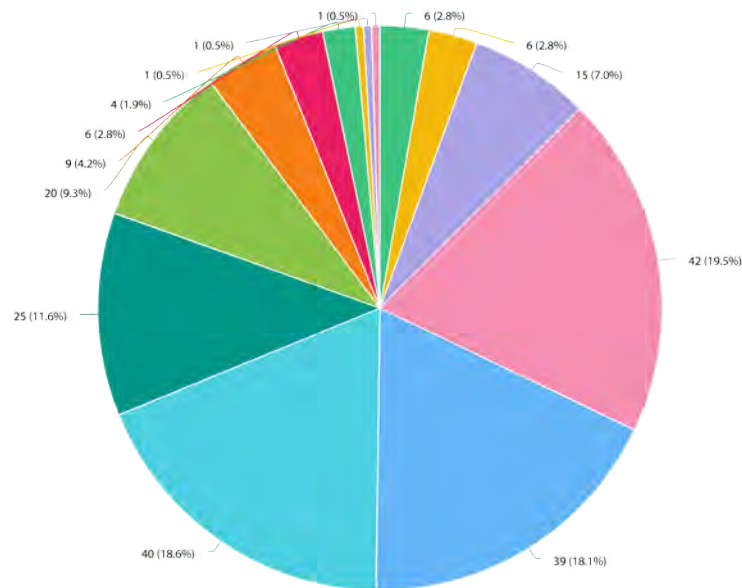
Nationality	Frequency
Eastern	
Greek Australian	1
East Timorese	1
Spanish	1
Bangladeshi	1
Australian (part Italian)	1
Hungarian	1
Chilean	1
Chinese	1
Maori	1
Italian	1
Polish	1
Serbian	1
South American	1
Lebanese	1
Macedonian	1
Greek	1
Kiwi	1
Croatian	1

Question 13: 'what country were you born in?'

Country	Frequency
Australia	151
Iraq	5
New Zealand	5
India	5
South America	5
England	4
Fiji	4
Serbia	3
Philippines	3
Vietnam	2
Chile	2
Pakistan	2
America	1
Croatia	1
Timor	1
Germany	1

Country	Frequency
Poland	1
Canada	1
Malta	1
Sudan	1
Yugoslavia	1
Papua New Guinea	1
Transylvania	1
Singapore	1
Syria	1
Mauritius	1
Italy	1
Bangladesh	1
Scotland	1
Hong Kong	1
Portugal	1
Bosnia	1
Total	209

Question 14: 'What is your age group?'



Question options

15-19 yrs 20-24 yrs 25-29 yrs 30-34 yrs 35-39 yrs 40-44 yrs 45-49 yrs 50-54 yrs
55-59 yrs 60-64 yrs 65-69 yrs 70-74 yrs 75-79 yrs 80+

Optional question (215 responses, 8 skipped)