

## **Aquatics Services Service Delivery Review cover note**

The Aquatics Services review commenced in 2017 and was conducted by SGS Economics and Planning. The focus of the review was to:

- Gather and analyse key service data such as financials, delivery model options, comparative information, levels of service, service and asset utilisation, resourcing requirements and implications, risks and future opportunities.
- Benchmark facilities with other like facilities and similar local government areas.
- Develop detailed recommendations for future service delivery.

The review was placed on hold in June 2018 whilst asset condition, 10 year maintenance funding and capital replacement data was obtained, as well as a compliance review and an assessment of energy efficiency opportunities undertaken.

The review provides a series of options was provided for each swimming pool, with final recommendations for each as follows:

### **Moss Vale**

- Business as usual approach in the short-to-medium term, as well as an assessment of the capacity of this facility to meet increased demand in future years.

### **Mittagong Pool:**

- Further consultation with the WSC community should take place, and a longer term plan for the Mittagong Pool be prepared, taking into account financial implications and risks associated with development on the current site.
- If the new replacement facilities are impacted by flooding in the next 10 years, with impacts as significant as those that occurred in 2016, suggest consideration be given to replacing the 50 metre pool with water park and recreation activities that may be less impacted by flooding.

### **Bowral Pool:**

- More detailed work be commissioned to assess options for major renewal of the facilities on this site, or on an alternate site in the northern area of WSC. This should include consideration of a range of options including replacement of all the current facilities with an outdoor 50 metre pool plus an indoor facility similar to the Moss Vale Aquatic Centre.

### **Bundanoon**

- Options for further consideration take into account the need to reduce the current subsidy per visit for use of the pool. Assessment of the proposal for a retractable roof should also include provision for a major upgrade to the existing pool structure and amenities.
- To assess the potential for increased usage, consideration could also be given to trialling restricted access to the Bundanoon pool by adults only, when pool staff are not in attendance, and assessing the impact of subsidising travel or access to the Moss Vale Aquatic Centre when the Bundanoon Pool is closed.

The review was included in the Mittagong Pool – Options Assessment Report considered at the 28 July 2021 Extraordinary Meeting of Council, where it was resolved that:

THAT

1. Council endorse the temporary closure of the Mittagong Pool for the 2021/22 Season and undertake community consultation regarding the updated Aquatics Strategy and development of the Mittagong Community Precinct Masterplan.

2. Council notify key stakeholder groups (in writing) of this decision, and that notification be provided to all residents and users through Council's formal communication channels.
3. The Budget implications in relation to the temporary closure of the Mittagong Pool for the 2021/22 Season and the expected costs of updating the Aquatics Strategy and the development of the Mittagong Community Precinct Masterplan be reported to the September Quarterly Review of the 2021/22 Budget.
4. Council give consideration to funding mechanisms for the provision of a regional aquatic-leisure centre in the Shire, including infrastructure levies and or value capture mechanisms which can be imposed on new urban release areas (to deliver a material public benefit), as identified in the recently adopted Local Housing Strategy.

Recommendations of the review are to be considered in development of an updated Aquatics Strategy as well as a Mittagong Community Precinct Masterplan (giving effect to point 1 above), which is due to commence in 2021.