



Aquatic Centre Project

The updated plans, as shown here, for the proposed Aquatic Centre are ready for further public consultation and feedback over the coming five weeks.

Timaru District Councillors and the Council stakeholder group have reviewed the concept plans, which take into account more than 300 submissions and suggestions from public consultation earlier this year.

Council is now calling for your input on the updated concept plans. Five weeks have been allowed for you to review, ask questions, and make a submission on the latest plans by Friday 12 December.

The outcome from this consultation is to guide Council on the final stages of its decision-making process.

The impact on rates

Timaru District ratepayers have rightly asked what will be the cost to them of the Aquatic Centre proposal, if it goes ahead (all costings and estimates are in 2011 dollars).

Council has carefully considered how to fund the proposed Aquatic Centre in a way that is sustainable and fair to existing and future ratepayers and residents. This has included taking a long-term view, as the Aquatic Centre will have an expected life of up to 50 years. The project will be funded from Council reserves and loans, with between \$8 and \$9 million coming from external sources.

The total cost, including a fitness centre, is estimated at \$23.5 million (in 2011 values).

Council is proposing an ongoing annual charge, levied as a Target Rate, for all rate-payers to cover the cost of building and operating the Aquatic Centre.

In year one (2011/12) the impact on rates will be around \$102 per property, or \$2 a week. This annual charge is predicted to reduce over time and in 2017/18 is forecast to be \$83 per year.

User costs

Council has proposed a modest entry charge of \$5 per adult and \$3 per child. There will also be membership charges for the Fitness Centre, as well as concessions available for multi-swim users or for those taking advantage of both the swimming and fitness facilities.

The income from these fees and charges has been included in the financial modelling for this project. These fees have been set at a level to encourage residents to use the proposed Aquatic Centre, while reducing the impact on rates.

The Fitness Centre

The proposal has now been costed with and without a fitness centre – as requested by a number of submitters. The Fitness Centre cost will be around \$1.7 million.

The projected income generated by users and members of the Fitness Centre has been included in these calculations. This revenue is projected to offset capital and operating costs and therefore the Fitness Centre will not be a charge on rates.

Wellness facilities

The proposed Aquatic Centre has a real focus on wellness and catering for all members and age-groups of the community.

The proposal includes, in the area adjacent to the passive hot pool, a generous spa facility, as well as a separate steam room and a sauna.

Features and benefits

The proposed Aquatic Centre will include a number of pools with different temperatures and depths, catering for a range of uses, and people of all ages and abilities.

The main 25 metre lap pool will be heated to a comfortable 27-28 C and feature an aqualift at one corner, to provide access for disabled or less mobile people.

The leisure pool area has been extensively redesigned and now includes a large fun pool (750 mm deep), a smaller toddlers pool (400 mm deep) and a wet-deck area with fountains and water jets for children to play in. One end of the leisure pool will have a beach-type access, with a glass screen at the end closest to the lap pool for safety reasons.

The Aquatic Centre will also include two hydro-slides which are very popular.

A good-sized passive hot pool will provide a therapeutic and relaxing environment, and will feature a ramp to allow easy access for all.

A café will provide a resting and waiting place for all, allowing parents or caregivers to watch their children while sipping a latte.

A crèche has also been included in the design, so parents with young children can take advantage of the swimming and exercise facilities without having to supervise toddlers.

Operation of the Aquatic Centre

Around 40 staff will be required to run the new Aquatic Centre, and the four other Timaru District Council pools.

Existing pools

The existing Maori Park 50 metre pool, adjacent to the proposed Aquatic Centre, will continue to operate during the warmest four months of the year.

Council has commissioned a report, expected to be completed in early 2009, on the options for the Century Pool facility.

Construction

Detailed design, drawings and documentation will take at least one year. Building and commissioning the proposed Aquatic Centre will take around one and a half years.

Completion, if the project is given the green light by Timaru District Council, will be in 2012.

For more images

Please visit www.timaru.govt.nz

Consultation timeline

8-21 November

- Release of updated plans for public review (this advertisement); and call for questions

22-27 November

- Answers to questions published

29 November – 12 December

- Call for public submissions

Early 2009

- Council will make a decision on whether or not to proceed with the proposed Aquatic Centre



Hydroslides



25 metre swimming pool

Your questions

If you have any questions on the updated plans, costings, the impact on rates, or any other matter to do with the proposed Aquatic Centre, please contact us at:

Email: enquiry@timdc.govt.nz **Phone:** 687 7200

Questions will be collated, and answers printed in this publication on Saturday 22 November.