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Introduction
Why we need a new Strategy?
Aquatic facilities are unique community assets that provide significant health, fitness and social benefits to Tauranga’s population. The 2001 Aquatic Strategy was developed to guide the provision of swimming pool facilities in Tauranga. The development of Baywave TECT Aquatic and Leisure Centre was one of the key actions of the Strategy.

Reviewing the 2001 Aquatic Strategy has provided an opportunity to reflect on the existing vision and objectives and to assess the community’s aquatics needs over the next ten years and to explore how these can be best met given the current budget constraints. The review process involved extensive consultation with key stakeholders and users, assessment of the current aquatics network, research on aquatic participation trends and population projections and consideration of Council’s budget constraints. Together this information has resulted in the 2012-2022 Aquatic Networks Strategy. The Strategy provides:

- A vision and principles for the provision and use of Council owned aquatic facilities in Tauranga
- An understanding of the unique characteristics of aquatic facilities and use and the challenges these present
- A clear plan for the aquatics network - this will enable Tauranga City Council to prioritise the allocation of resources to best meet the community’s needs.

The 2012-2022 Aquatics Network Strategy will help guide Tauranga City Aquatics Limited in managing the aquatic network. The operational management structure of the Aquatic Network is set and is not considered through the Strategy - the focus is on the provision and use of aquatic facilities.

A Joint Initiative
Tauranga’s aquatic network is owned and operated by Tauranga City Aquatics Limited (TCAL). Accordingly the development of the Strategy has been a joint initiative between TCAL and TCC.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement
Given the unique nature of aquatics and the diverse range of stakeholders were engaged with stakeholders very early in the review process. During September 2010 two surveys were conducted - one to gauge the general public’s response and one targeting users of the aquatic network. A High User Groups Forum1 was also held to gain input from these groups. This information fed into a Discussion Document which was released for consultation in March 2011.

Feedback on the draft Strategy was received via the 2012 Ten Year Plan public submission process.

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1 Tauranga City Council Aquatic High User Groups Forum held 29th September 2010, Sport Bay of Plenty offices.
The Vision

‘Active in the Pool for life... healthy, physically active communities’

The aquatics network contributes to developing and supporting physically active and healthy communities. Water safety education is promoted through the development of confidence and skills gained from both recreational play and learn to swim programs.

The essence of this vision is for Council to provide aquatic facilities to the community because of the significant health and social benefits that come from being in the pool. The focus however is on meeting the needs of the diverse range and age of users and encouraging lifelong participation - active in the pool for life. The age range of users’ spans from 6 months to 80+ years and the vision reflects this. The vision also pursues the promotion of water safety and confidence.

The Principles

The following principles underpin the Aquatic Network Strategy. Our aquatics network will provide:

1. **Health and well being:** Participation in aquatic activities has major benefits to the physical and mental health of the individual and hence to the community as a whole. Aquatic facilities promote social interaction and act as a hub for community activities.

2. **Participation:** Promote high levels of participation in aquatic activity to ensure that the benefits are enjoyed by as many people as possible.

3. **Safety:** The Aquatics network provides a safe environment to participate in aquatic activities. All pools are certified Pool Safe and meet New Zealand water quality standards.

4. **Diversity:** The aquatic opportunities available in the city recognise the diverse preferences and needs in aquatics for Tauranga’s residents.

5. **Sustainability and efficiency:** The community’s aquatic network will be operated in an environmentally and financially sustainable manner. The priority is maximising what we currently have.

6. **Well maintained and fit-for-purpose:** The aquatics network will include well maintained and fit-for-purpose swimming pools relevant to the community’s needs.

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2 In accordance with the Council’s Revenue and Finance Policy this does not mean totally ‘financially independent’. The principal beneficiaries of the Aquatic activity (and those contributing to the need for the activity) are the users if Council’s aquatic facilities. Council recognizes that there is also a wider public benefit provided by the activity by providing the opportunity for all people to be able to learn to swim.

- The majority of operating expenditure will be funded through user fees and charges. The proportion is expected to be 60% to 80% of total operating expenditure.
- The balance of operating expenditure will be funded through rates.
Strategic Fit

The key drivers for the development of this strategy are:

**Smart Growth**
A growth management strategy to ensure that, as the western Bay of Plenty grows it will continue to be a great place to live, work and play.

**Smartspace Principles**
That built facility provision and location contributes to building and maintaining sustainable communities and environments.

The provision of open space and leisure opportunities will enhance the western Bay of Plenty sense of identity and build on the unique features of, and activities that occur within the western Bay of Plenty.

Through the provision of open space and facilities, provide for a range of sporting and active living opportunities and that the built and open space environment encourages and motivates people to be active.

Let’s get Active: Tauranga's Sport and Active Living Strategy

The vision of the Sport and Active Living Strategy is to increase participation in sport and active living opportunities by getting *more people more active more often*.

All six goals of the strategy are relevant to the Aquatic Network Strategy discussion:

**Goal 1:** A wide range of sporting activities and opportunities available to all.

**Goal 2:** Creating pathways to enable groups and individuals to reach their potential (includes players, coaches, officials, administrators and volunteers).

**Goal 3:** Participation in sport is recognised and valued

**Goal 4:** People are aware of sporting opportunities available in our area.

**Goal 5:** Our programmes and events motivate and educate people on the value of being active, and encourage participation.

**Goal 6:** Our environment (built and open space) encourages and motivates people to be active in their daily lives.

One of the key principles behind the ‘Let’s get Active’ strategy is that sport and living contribute not only to the well being of individuals but create community cohesion and identity. The strategy is founded on the belief that there are a number of benefits from participating in regular sport and activity. These benefits are well known and include:

- A range of health benefits such as reducing the risk of heart disease and stroke risk, helping combat osteoporosis, obesity and diabetes.
- Motor skills, social skills and intellectual capabilities in children are all learnt through recreation, sport and play.
- Physical activity and sport provide opportunities for adults to develop their full potential as well as providing opportunities for life long learning.
- The self-esteem and positive self image that result from active living and participating in sport.
Where are we now

Our current Aquatics Network

The aquatic network is owned and managed by a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) - Tauranga City Aquatics Limited (TCAL). TCAL have ownership of all facilities and make all the day to day operating decisions affecting the network based on an agreed annual Statement of Intent approved by Tauranga City Council (TCC). TCC retains ownership of the aquatics facilities’ land and makes funding decisions through the Ten Year Plan and Annual Plan processes and receives monitoring reports from TCAL.

The aquatics network is currently made up of five facilities:

- Baywave TECT Aquatic and Leisure Centre
- Greerton Aquatic and Leisure Centre
- Memorial Pool
- Mount Hot Pools
- Otumoetai Pool.

Baywave is the newest facility in the network - it opened in 2005. The other facilities are between 30 and 40 years old. Baywave is the central sub regional facility. The Mount Hot Pools because of its unique sit and soak nature also services the city and wider sub region. Greerton and Memorial Pool are local pools in Tauranga central while Otumoetai pool is the local pool for Tauranga West (Bethlehem, Otumoetai and Matua).

Memorial Pool is the oldest facility in the network - it opened in 1958. It is an open air pool and is only opened during the summer season. The pool is used by the Tauranga Swimming Club and flipper ball is also played at the pool.

Otumoetai Pool is the second oldest pool in the network - opening in 1968. In 2003 it was covered by a membrane structure to allow for all year use. An asset condition survey carried out on Otumoetai facility in February 2011 reports that the facility - with the exception of the changing rooms - is in an acceptable condition considering the age of the facility. After the recommended pool repair and maintenance work is carried out the facility is expected to operate satisfactory for at least the next 10 years. The changing rooms and toilets are currently being refurbishment.

Under existing contracts Otumoetai Swimming Club and Otumoetai College have access to the pool. The swimming club has year round use from 6am to 8am and 3.30pm to 8.30pm Monday to Friday. Otumoetai College uses the pool during school hours from 9am until 3pm. Both groups are allowed five of the seven lanes during these times and the two remaining lanes are available for general public use.
Table one below provides a summary description of the pools at each facility. The Greerton and Baywave facilities have a number of other features such as spas, meeting rooms and health clubs.

**Table One: TCAL Swimming Pools - Summary Description**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Indoor Pools</th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Outdoor Pools</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15m</td>
<td>18m</td>
<td>25m</td>
<td>25m Leisure</td>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>14m</td>
<td>25m</td>
<td>22.7m Active</td>
<td>22.7m Passive</td>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baywave</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greerton</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otumoetai</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Hot Pools</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The aquatics network is currently funded primarily by user charges with 70 per cent of required funding coming from user charges and 30 per cent from rates funding. User charges include the admission charges to the facilities, lane hire charges, and charges for other services offered at the facilities - such as use of a spa, gym membership and learn to swim lessons. Part of TCAL’s over riding directive from Council is to continue to reduce the funding contribution required from rates.

Swim squads and other water sport users - in addition to their entry fees also pay a lane hire fee for the exclusive use of lane space. However, two lanes are kept available for public recreational swimmers.

The Mount Hot Pools: An update

The redevelopment of the Mount Hot Pools was approved by Council in January 2009. However, in March 2011 the independent commissioner refused the land use consent application for the project. At this stage no redevelopment is planned but the Council and TCAL will continue to look for ways to maximise the value of the Hot Pools for users and the wider aquatics network.

Reviewing the 2001 Aquatics Strategy Objectives

In developing goals for the 2012-2022 Strategy we reviewed the objectives from the 2001 Aquatics Strategy. The 2001 objectives and a brief statement on each follow:

To increase the range of water based sport through establishing multi - use facilities

The opening of Baywave TECT aquatic and leisure centre in 2005 has provided additional space for water based sport. The following list represents the range of water based sport now taking place in the aquatic facilities:

- Aqua fit classes
- Canoe clubs
- Events
- Triathlon training
- Flipper ball
- Swimming club uses
- Learn to swim
- Surf life saving training
- Water Polo
- Synchronised Swimming

To increase accessibility of flat water space

The single biggest contribution to increasing flat water space was the development of Baywave. User visitors to Baywave make up almost half of all total visits across the network - with Baywave having around 400,000 user visits each year. The majority of Bayswim’s learn to swim classes are also held at Baywave. There are currently 1,500 students enrolled at Bayswim and around 1,000 of these have their lessons at Baywave. However, due to the growth in both population and aquatic use we are now at the point where access to water space at peak times is again under pressure.

To increase aquatic leisure use

Over the past seven years total visits to the networks’ aquatics and leisure facilities have increased by almost 100 per cent - from 438,958 visits per annum in 2002/03 to 867,078 visits in the 2009/10 year.
To ensure equity of access
Equity of access is about making pools accessible to as many as possible in our community. This includes issues of accessibility for those with physical or other disabilities. Many people with disabilities use the aquatics network. Baywave has sloped entry into the wave pool for ease of access for people with physical disabilities.

Another dimension of equity of access is how far away people live from a pool. Due to the number of pools in the network and their geographically diverse locations - the majority of the population live within ten kilometres of a pool. However, there are some pockets of new growth areas that are further away from a community pool.

TCAL offer a range of discounts to various user groups including discounted entry and membership fees to seniors and students. Disabled users are also eligible to receive free entry into the pools.

To consider the establishment of associated activities such as a gym, health and fitness centre and crèches
Both Baywave and Greerton Pools have health clubs. Baywave also has a crèche facility.

To consider synergies with commercial centres, other recreational uses
These synergies with commercial centres and other recreational uses were considered during the development of Baywave resulting in Baywave being located along side Grenada Park and Bayfair shopping complex.

To raise aquatic standards to an international level
All of the pools in the community network have Pool Safe status. The ACC Pool Safe Quality Management Scheme is an independent assessment of a pool’s management and operation in accordance with established industry standards.

Council’s role in providing Aquatic Services
A fundamental starting question for the Aquatics Strategy was to re examine the Council’s role in the provision of aquatic facilities. In the discussion document - released in March - we asked people if they thought Council should remain involved in the provision of an aquatics network and if so what type of facilities should be provided. Of the 379 people that responded to the question on whether Council should continue to provide the city’s pools 334 (88 per cent) felt the Council had a role to play. The message was that swimming pools are very important and that Council should be involved in the provision of pools.

‘Absolutely they are a vital fitness source for the general public to use’

‘They are as important as sports halls and grounds and libraries’

‘Yes most definitely - the health and wellbeing of community members is essential for a happy functioning community’

The feedback indicates that there is a firm desire for Council to continue to provide an aquatics network. Tauranga City Council plays an important role in contributing towards the health and wellbeing of its residents through a vast range of sporting and recreation opportunities. Aquatic facilities provide the community with a healthy, low impact and socially interactive recreation activity.
The City of Sydney Aquatic Facilities Development Strategy 2005 reports that the benefits of participating in aquatic activities are wide-ranging and include a number of psychological outcomes - such as feelings of achievement and well-being as well as the benefits of challenge, risk, excitement, rest, improved health, contemplation and family togetherness. It reports that the benefits of recreation have been found to be greater from aquatics than for many other recreation pursuits. This is because aquatics can be pursued:

- by people of every age
- by people at every level of ability
- alone, in formal and informal groups or in teams
- at all times of the day, week and year if appropriate facilities are available.

Aquatic facilities are unique community assets which contribute towards benefits for a large spectrum of the community. The age range of users of aquatic facilities is very diverse, ranging from 6 months to 80+ years. The type of activities undertaken across the network is also varied. The core aquatic activities occurring across the network of pools are listed in the table below.

### Table Two: Core Activities occurring at Aquatic Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free Play</td>
<td>Unstructured water fun and play.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interactive Water Play</td>
<td>Water play that requires special interactive water features and equipment - wave pools, hydroslides, interactive toys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn to Swim</td>
<td>Learn-to-swim programmes, developing water confidence and safety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational Fitness</td>
<td>Fitness activities such as lane swimming, aqua-aerobics, aqua-jogging, aqua-walking and possibly dry fitness programmes and a fitness centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squad and Sports Training</td>
<td>Training for competitive swimming and other water sports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Events</td>
<td>Competitions and events for swimming, water polo, flipper ball and synchronised swimming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Therapy</td>
<td>Use of spas, saunas and steam rooms for therapeutic benefits. Undertaking exercises in water for water-based rehabilitation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Challenges

Aquatic activities are extremely popular. Swimming is ranked the third most popular sport and recreation activity for adults surpassed only by walking and gardening in the Active New Zealand Survey\(^3\). Over 12 months, 34.7 per cent of New Zealand adults participated in swimming at least once. Among these adults, the most common locations for swimming were ‘indoors at a sports facility’.

The most recent pool participation survey of Tauranga City’s Pools\(^4\) reports that just over half of all those surveyed used a Council pool within the last year. Of those that had not visited a pool the key reasons for not doing so were that they were too busy and not interested. The most popular pools to visit were Baywave and the Hot Pools.

The growth in aquatic activities is likely to continue as water sports continue to increase in popularity. The emergence of junior sports like flipper ball is likely to fuel the growth in other water sports such as water polo and swimming.

Tauranga’s Growing Population

Tauranga’s population is projected to grow by 15 per cent over the next ten years. With an extra 20,000 people estimated to live in the city in 2022 demand for aquatic services will also increase. Looking beyond the next ten years the population is projected to grow by a further 27,500 by 2031. Therefore in twenty years the aquatics network will be servicing another 47,500 people.

It is also important to look at the changing age profile of the future population. The population over 65 is projected to increase by around 10,000 over the next ten years. A further increase of almost 15,000 is expected by 2031. The ageing population signifies a likely increased demand for water therapy, physical fitness, injury rehabilitation and opportunities to socialise and interact at aquatic facilities.

Changing demand for Aquatics Facilities

In planning for Tauranga’s Aquatics network it is essential to consider the various factors impacting on aquatic facilities. The latest National Facilities Strategy for Swimming New Zealand\(^5\) highlights some of these key trends in aquatics facilities.

- The emerging drive from health authorities for increased physical activity is increasing demand for aquatic facilities. Aquatic facilities are an important part of the infrastructure contributing to health and well being outcomes.

- Significant growth in demand from the older adult market because water provides low impact physical activity options. This increased demand is requiring a change in the mix of facilities and services offered by aquatic facilities to meet the needs of older adults (i.e. indoor pool space with warmer water and changing rooms).

- The growing use by people with special needs which means facilities need appropriate amenities to accommodate them (i.e. ramped access and hoist access to pools).

\(^3\) SPARC Sport and Recreation New Zealand, Sport and Recreation Profile: Swimming Findings from the 2007/08 Active New Zealand Survey.

\(^4\) Tauranga City Council Aquatics Survey 2008 by Key Research

Increasing expectations of users regarding level of service, quality of facility and experiences when travelling away from their community or by new residents seeking similar experiences as available in their previous community

A general decline in available lap pool time for casual use in aquatic facilities and an increase in programmed use of pools for a range of activities. These include learn to swim, swim-squads, water polo, and triathlon and surf life saving training.

High performance athletes are seeking the highest available quality of facilities.

Move away from the traditional outdoor rectangular swimming pools, which were developed throughout the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s, with more emphasis being given to meeting a wider range of aquatic participation opportunities by providing different bodies of water within one venue.

Creation of large complexes with several sport and recreation activity facilities (often both ‘wet’ and ‘dry’) sharing a common entry, reception and ancillary facilities to provide a high level of service, economies from sharing services, and sufficient critical mass to generate sustainable levels of patronage for retail activities such as a café.

An increasingly common feature is the provision of ‘dry’ exercise gym facilities both in new centres and in the retrofitting of existing aquatic facilities. This is in response to the demand for cross training opportunities within the single facility and their positive cash flow.

New aquatics facilities are being linked to other facilities i.e. libraries, parks and or shopping centres.

The Ministry of Education no longer fund maintenance of existing school pools and do not generally fund new pools or replace those that are no longer usable. So there has been a degree of rationalization of school pools which has increased demand for other aquatic facilities.

There is a growing awareness of risk management and ‘whole of life’ approach to facility development and asset management.

Making our Pools Accessible

The consultation process highlighted the importance and desire for accessibility. Accessibility is a multi dimensional concept. It includes:

- Physical access - having a pool close to home and being able to physically enter the pool regardless of age or disability.
- Visible access - people knowing where the pools are and how to access them.
- Affordability - ensuring that the cost of using the pool is not prohibitive to the wider community.
- Information access - knowing who to contact, where to go to get information and how to use it.

While the feedback from users touched on all these aspects of accessibility the majority of feedback received related to physical accessibility and affordability. Aquatic activities are of profound value to people with disabilities, those undertaking rehabilitation programs to overcome injuries caused by accidents and other sports, and people suffering from asthma and arthritis. There is a need for the Aquatics Strategy to address issues of accessibility.
Improving the network for today and the future

The feedback received in response to the discussion document identified many concerns that the current network was not meeting the demands of the community and various user groups. Many of the existing facilities do not reflect contemporary design elements and community needs due to their age or original design limitations. Many of the comments also reflect dissatisfaction with the allocation of pool space and the configuration of the network.

Aquatic facilities are expensive to build and operate. There is a clear conflict between the directive of the aquatics network to reduce its need for rates funding and the requirement to provide a community resource. It is beyond the scope of this review to examine the mandate of TCAL however these issues are currently being explored in the CCO Review.

The challenge for Council is providing a network and access for as many as is possible of the diverse users and activities within affordability constraints for both users and ratepayers.

Goals

The 2001 Aquatic Strategy objectives have been refined to put together a new set of goals. These revised goals reflect the aquatics requirements of the community over the next ten years.

1. The network of well maintained aquatic facilities across the city provides for a range of water based activities.
2. Our network of aquatic facilities encourages and motivates people to be active in the pool at every stage of their lives.
3. Aquatic facilities are accessible to all people regardless of their physical ability, age, ethnicity and physical location where practicable.
4. The aquatics network will be operated in a safe, environmentally and financially sustainable and efficient way.

Implementation Plan

The vision, goals and principles for the 2012-2022 Aquatics Strategy tell us where we want to be with the management and use of our aquatics network. The following section outlines proposed actions to be undertaken to achieve this over the next ten years.

The costs associated with each of the proposed actions are indicative only and may need to be revised as more detailed information becomes available. Indicative costings are needed to ensure that some level of budgeting can be included in the ten year plan.

Many of the proposed actions involve the development of options to improve the aquatics network. This process of developing options will provide more detailed information on the implementation costs associated with different options. When more information on the cost and benefits have been assessed - decisions can then be made on whether to pursue the implementation of the options.
| Goal 1: The network of aquatic facilities across the city provides for a range of water based activities |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| **What will we do?** | **Why will we do it?** | **Who will do it?** | **What will it cost?** | **When will it happen?** |
| 1.1. TCAL (and/or successor) will continue to ensure that regular aquatic user group forums are conducted. These will be held in conjunction with Sport Bay of Plenty as is consistent with all other sports and recreation facilities. | To enhance communication with user groups so as to continue to develop efficient and transparent lane allocation processes. | TCAL (and / or successor) and Sport Bay of Plenty | Within TCAL’s operations budget. Under existing relationship agreement between TCC and Sport Bay of Plenty. | On going |
| 1.2. Investigate the location and potential partnerships with existing non Council owned swimming pools. The investigation will consider the needs of the future population, the current provision of swimming pools in the area and access required. | To provide additional community aquatic capacity at locations where required by maximising existing facilities. | TCAL (and / or successor) and TCC | Within existing resources (TCAL and TCC staff time) to carry out investigation however implementation of potential partnerships will incur costs. | 2013 - 2014 |
| 1.3. Investigate a fully retractable roofing system for the Memorial Pool facility. | To increase capacity of the current network. A retractable structure could retain the open air aspect during the summer months but also allow for year round use. | TCAL (and / or successor) | Within existing resources (TCAL staff time) to carry out investigation. The implementation costs of such a structure are estimated at $1,000,000. | Investigation to begin in 2013 and implementation to occur in 2016 |
| 1.4. Investigate and develop concept plans for expanding flat water space at Baywave - Consideration of an additional 25m space. | To consider options for increasing flat water space of the network to cater for future demand. | TCC and TCAL (and / or successor) | Within existing resources - TCC and TCAL staff time to carry out investigation. Implementation initial estimate $2,700,000. | Over the 2016 - 2020 period |
| 1.5. Investigate and develop options for enhancing the water play area at Baywave. | To increase opportunities for children’s water play in Tauranga. | TCC and TCAL (and / or successor) | Within existing resources - TCC and TCAL staff time to carry out investigation. Implementation estimated to be $300,000. | Over the 2016 - 2020 period |
**Goal 2:** Our network of aquatic facilities encourages and motivates people to be active in the pool at every stage of their lives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What will we do?</th>
<th>Why will we do it?</th>
<th>Who will do it?</th>
<th>What will it cost?</th>
<th>When will it happen?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1. Work with Tourism Bay of Plenty and Sport Bay of Plenty to promote aquatic facilities.</td>
<td>To promote awareness of the network to both the local community and visitors to the region.</td>
<td>TCAL (and / or successor)</td>
<td>Within existing resources - TCAL staff time.</td>
<td>2012 - 2013 and then on going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2. Investigate possible partnerships for a specialist rehabilitation facility at Greerton - as part of the 2012-13 Disability Strategy. This investigation would also look at incorporating a community meeting room in any development at Greerton pool.</td>
<td>To encourage people to visit Greerton pool for rehabilitation and exercise purposes by providing a ‘flat floor dry’ space for activities alongside the pool. The current Health Club is not accessible by anyone with mobility issues.</td>
<td>TCAL (and / or successor) and TCC</td>
<td>The investigation would be within existing resources - TCAL and TCC Staff time. However the design and implementation will involve additional costs estimated at $120,000.</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3. Investigate opportunities to improve usage at Memorial Pool including;</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1 Investigate integrating Memorial Pool into Memorial Park. This would be done in conjunction with the park’s Management Plan action: ‘Enhance and formalise entrance to Swimming Pool to a more central point within the facility that connects the pedestrian focus of the park with the pool complex’.</td>
<td>To increase participation in aquatics and utilise the synergies of the park and location.</td>
<td>TCC and TCAL (and / or successor)</td>
<td>Existing resources to investigate - TCC and TCAL staff time. Implementation cost estimated at $50,000.</td>
<td>2015 - 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2 Develop options for a water play area and spa pools at Memorial Pool. This would also be linked to actions in the Management Plan.</td>
<td>To increase the opportunities for children’s water play in Tauranga and to develop the features of Memorial Park.</td>
<td>TCC and TCAL (and / or successor)</td>
<td>Existing resources to investigate - TCC and TCAL staff time. Design and Implementation cost estimated at $700,000.</td>
<td>2016 - 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What will we do?</td>
<td>Why will we do it?</td>
<td>Who will do it?</td>
<td>What will it cost?</td>
<td>When will it happen?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3 Provide some signage visible from Memorial Pool to increase the community’s awareness of Memorial Pool. This would be undertaken as part of a wider signage project for Memorial Park</td>
<td>To ensure the community is aware of Memorial Pool and to encourage use of the facility.</td>
<td>TCAL (and / or successor) and TCC</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>2013 - 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.4 Provide appropriate sun shade and shelter features at Memorial Pool.</td>
<td>To ensure adequate sun protection is provided at Memorial pool.</td>
<td>TCAL (and/or successor)</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>2013 - 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Goal 3:** Aquatic facilities are accessible to all people regardless of their physical ability, age, ethnicity and physical location.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What will we do?</th>
<th>Why will we do it?</th>
<th>Who will do it?</th>
<th>What will it cost?</th>
<th>When will it happen?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1. Undertake a disability access audit across all pools in the network.</td>
<td>To determine current levels of compliance and for physical access and endeavour to exceed the basic legal requirements ahead of the Council’s Disability Strategy to be carried out in 2012/13.</td>
<td>TCC</td>
<td>$4000 - $6000 for the audit. There will be implementation costs involved with providing better accessibility, if required.</td>
<td>2012- 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2. Undertake marketing initiatives to increase the community’s awareness of the physical accessibility features of Greerton Pool.</td>
<td>To increase the community’s awareness of the physical accessibility features of Greerton Pool to encourage greater participation of people with disabilities.</td>
<td>TCAL (and / or successor) and TCC</td>
<td>Within existing resources - TCAL’s operational budget and TCC’s communication budget.</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3. Design and construct a moveable floor in the learn to swim pool at Baywave.</td>
<td>To improve physical accessibility at Baywave Pool.</td>
<td>TCAL (and / or successor)</td>
<td>Total Cost $600 000 - some funding may be accessed from other sources such as the Lotteries Community Facilities Fund.</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Goal 4: The aquatics network will be operated in a safe, sustainable and efficient way.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What will we do?</th>
<th>Why will we do it?</th>
<th>Who will do it?</th>
<th>What will it cost?</th>
<th>When will it happen?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.4. Continue to monitor any particular cultural requirements for using swimming pools.</strong></td>
<td>To determine what actions are required to make the network more accessible to people of all ethnicities.</td>
<td>TCAL (and / or successor)</td>
<td>Within existing resources - TCAL operations budget.</td>
<td>On going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.5. Expand the parking requirements at the Greerton and Otumoetai facilities. These actions are included as part of existing Reserve Management Plan Projects of Morland Fox Park and Bellevue Park.</strong></td>
<td>To increase the accessibility of the Greerton and Otumoetai facilities.</td>
<td>TCC</td>
<td>Greerton Pool/ Morland Fox park: No additional cost to Council as already included in the open space capital programme for Morland Fox Park (due to commence in 2017). Bellevue Park: Work will be undertaken in 2011/12 to increase the amount of gravel car parking area available at Bellevue Park.</td>
<td>2012 - 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What will we do?</td>
<td>Why will we do it?</td>
<td>Who will do it?</td>
<td>What will it cost?</td>
<td>When will it happen?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4. Identify what other user groups could use the off peak time in the network – i.e. hospitals, special needs groups.</td>
<td>In accordance with TCAL’s Statement of Intent ensure the existing network is maximised by the community.</td>
<td>TCAL (and / or successor)</td>
<td>Within existing resources- TCAL operating budget.</td>
<td>2012 and on going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5. Investigate the costs and benefits and if appropriate provide a cover for Memorial Pool.</td>
<td>To capture any cost savings by preventing heat loss when the pools are not in use.</td>
<td>TCAL (and / or successor)</td>
<td>The investigation can be carried out within existing resources. However at this stage implementation is estimated to be $20,000.</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6. Explore two ownership options for Otumoetai pool, the first being retention by Council and the second being vesting to the Otumoetai Swimming Club.</td>
<td>To investigate ways of maintaining access and reducing rate payer costs associated with operating Otumoetai Pool.</td>
<td>TCAL (and / or successor) and TCC</td>
<td>Within existing resources.</td>
<td>2012 -2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monitoring and Review

Progress made in achieving the Strategy’s goals and working towards the vision will be measured against the following targets. These measures will be assessed on a three yearly basis - linking into the ten year plan process. This assessment will also indicate when a full review of the Strategy is required. A full review of the strategy is intended to be undertaken every 5 years following adoption - or when the need arises.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>What this measure tells us</th>
<th>Methods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The network of well maintained aquatic facilities across the city provides for a range of water based activities. | • Percentage of users who rate the aquatics facilities as either good or excellent.  
• Customer satisfaction rating -from customer satisfaction surveys.  
• Number and range of water based activities taking place at the pools. | If we are providing an appropriate - well maintained - level of service across the aquatics net work. | Annual Residents Survey.  
Centre for Education and Recreation Management (CERM) monitor customer satisfaction and business performance.  
TCAL booking schedules.  
Narrative. |
| Our network of aquatic facilities encourages and motivates people to be active in the pool at every stage of their lives. | • Level of awareness of the pools in the aquatics network.  
• Number of visits to the aquatics network.  
• Frequency of visits to the aquatics network.  
• Participation rates for each activity taking place at the pool. | This provides information on whether people are aware of the aquatics facilities and services they provide. It also tells us how often people are making use of the pools. | Annual Residents Survey.  
TCAL visitor data base.  
TCAL monitoring of booking schedule. |
| Aquatic facilities are accessible to all people regardless of their physical ability, age, ethnicity and physical location where practicable. | • Number of visits to the aquatics network by age, gender and ethnicity.  
• Percentage of people coming from each residential suburb.  
• Number of pools in network able to be accessed by people with physical disabilities. | Whether the aquatics network is accessible to as many people as practicable. Are people of all ages, ethnicities, physical abilities and from all over the city accessing the network. | Annual Residents Survey.  
CERM Survey for TCAL.  
Disability Audit - linked into the Disability Strategy.  
Narrative. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>What this measure tells us</th>
<th>Methods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The aquatics network will be operated in a safe, sustainable and efficient way.</td>
<td>• Number of accidents occurring across the network.</td>
<td>How safe our city’s pools are.</td>
<td>TCAL accident statistics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Pool Safe accreditation achieved.</td>
<td>How efficiently the aquatics network is operating - is there a reduction in the rate</td>
<td>Pool Safe Assessments and reports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Net operating cost of an aquatics visit.</td>
<td>payer funding contribution.</td>
<td>Annual Reports and TCAL’s Statement of Intent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Percentage of funding coming from general rates.</td>
<td>Whether the aquatics network has achieved a reduction in the amount of resources in</td>
<td>Resource use survey - TCAL.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Rate payer funding per head of population.</td>
<td>uses and waste it generates.</td>
<td>Narrative report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Resource use data - energy use, water use and waste generation.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Asset management plans are up-to-date.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Appendix 1: Strategy Development Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>Strategy and Policy Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Council approved the scope and approach of the Aquatics Strategy and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>identified key issues to be addressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July - October 2010</td>
<td>Project Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stocktake and research of existing aquatics data and needs analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2010 -</td>
<td>Community Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2011</td>
<td>General Consultation through City Views and forms at pools inviting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>feedback. High users forum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2010 -</td>
<td>Project Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2011</td>
<td>Analysis of public feedback to develop discussion document for public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>consultation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2011</td>
<td>Strategy and Policy Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adoption of Discussion Document for Public Consultation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2011</td>
<td>Community Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion Document sent to high user groups. Consultation through</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CityViews, Weekend Sun, online document and survey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April - June 2011</td>
<td>Project Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Developed proposed vision, principles, goals and actions based on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>community feedback and Council direction to date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>Elected Members Workshop on Otumoetai Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion with Elected Members on potential future options for Otumoetai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pool.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2011</td>
<td>Strategy and Policy Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Endorsement of vision, principles, goals and actions for inclusion in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the draft 2012-2022 Aquatics Strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2011</td>
<td>Strategy and Policy Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Decision to delay the adoption of Draft Strategy for community feedback.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2012</td>
<td>Strategy and Policy Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adoption of Draft Strategy for community feedback.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March - April 2012</td>
<td>Community Engagement - via the ten year plan process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community feedback on draft Aquatics Strategy 2012-2022.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 May - 1 June 2012</td>
<td>Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Submission Hearings and Deliberations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 June 2012</td>
<td>Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 2: What the community has told us

Funding our Aquatics Network

We asked people for their thoughts on the current funding split between user fees and rates for aquatics. The majority of respondents thought the current split of 70 per cent user fees and 30 per cent rates was reasonable. Others thought the split should be different - some thought a greater proportion of user fees and others wanted more rates contribution. There was a general feeling that the funding ratio must ensure that swimming was affordable to the community.

- ‘Pools must be an affordable facility for them to be used. All people (especially children) should know how to swim. Keeping it low cost will encourage swimming to become an everyday activity enhancing both greater safety and fitness (as it was before the computer age).’

- ‘Whatever it costs to keep aquatics services affordable in Tauranga’

- ‘Pools should be for everyone and not have high entrance fees so some cannot afford to use them’

A few people noted that other facilities have a lower user fee component.

- ‘The same split should apply over sporting grounds, libraries and the museum’

- ‘Other recreation resources get more general rates funding’

- ‘Other recreational sports have less cost to users’

Features important to have in pool facilities

We wanted to know what features people thought were important to include in an aquatics facility. Table three presents the features reported during the feedback process.
Table Three: Responses on Important features of pool facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pool features</th>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Accessibility</th>
<th>Space Allocation</th>
<th>Other features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 metre pool</td>
<td>Clean changing rooms and toilets</td>
<td>Wheelchair access</td>
<td>More public lanes</td>
<td>Discount days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 metre pool</td>
<td>Reliable warm showers</td>
<td>Ramps and sloped entry into pools</td>
<td>Space for learn to swim</td>
<td>Swim programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dive well</td>
<td>Secure lockers</td>
<td>Sufficient parking</td>
<td>Space for play that does not impact on lane swimmers</td>
<td>Gym fitness facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water play area</td>
<td>Adequate dry seating for supervising adults</td>
<td>Reasonable entry fees</td>
<td>Sufficient lane space for community clubs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Different sized pools for all activities</td>
<td>Cafe</td>
<td>Located on main routes for ease of access</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydro slide</td>
<td>Shade in summer for open air pools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean water</td>
<td>Swim meet rooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervised by qualified staff</td>
<td>Outdoor area - bbq area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pools deeper than 2m for underwater hockey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spa pools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Network Use Configuration

Users of the pools appear to be divided on whether the city needs more facilities that are set aside for specific user groups. This may reflect the competing demands for aquatic resources. Some of the reasons put forward for having some facilities in the network set aside for specific user groups included:

- ‘Tauranga is large enough now to have specialised facilities’
- ‘As long as the specific user groups are willing to contribute more to fund specific use facilities’
- ‘It could reduce the crowding - some user groups take up lane space from the public’
- ‘Payback to the community would come in other ways by bringing people to the region for events’

Reasons for multi purpose facilities instead of specific use facilities included:

- ‘It may be more difficult to make specific use facilities profitable - and this may increase rates contribution’
- ‘Only a small number of people may be likely to use these facilities’
- ‘User groups are currently well catered for’
- ‘Specific use would mean the specific groups may end up travelling long distances to get to their facility’
- ‘Specialist sports are usually able to adapt a generic pool to their requirements with movable goals, barriers etc’.

Are additional Council Pools required?

When asked if there was a need for additional Council pools in the network - respondents had a variety of views. Some thought that further pools were not required for the following reasons:

- ‘Rates and debt are too high to think about building more’
- ‘We need to utilise what we have better’
- ‘Tauranga has a substantial amount of pools but not the correct quality and dimensions’
- ‘Each facility should be fiscally responsible. One facility should not subsidise another. If a facility cannot support itself with 30 per cent rate funding it is not wanted by the locals’
- ‘Not needed yet but need to consider as the city continues to grow’
- ‘Pools are very quiet when you place user numbers by opening hours’
- ‘Existing pools need to be modernised first - level of service raised’.

While others believed there was a need for additional pools - particularly in some areas:

- ‘Papamoa and Mount not as well catered for as other areas - Papamoa needs a pool as the population continues to grow’
- ‘Welcome Bay does not have a pool - there is a need for a local pool’
- ‘A pool is needed in Bethlehem partnership with Bethlehem College is an option’
- ‘Baywave is the only new pool since back in 1970’s - population has exploded since then’
- ‘Baywave met customer predictions very quickly, indicating that the need for pools is not keeping up with the population and leisure needs’
- ‘Water play seems to be a lacking feature in Tauranga’.
• ‘Not enough room for all clubs/organisations to get quality time’
• ‘Not enough learn to swim organisations because of lack of space - resulting in a monopoly and rising learn to swim costs’
• ‘Willing to pay for higher level of service - e.g. Baywave made to 50 meters which, using dividers to make 2 X 25 metres would double capacity’.

Baywave
The fundamental issue that has emerged from our engagement with users on Baywave is insufficient lane space during peak times. TCAL’s booking schedule provides further evidence of the capacity issue during peak times in the lap pool. Various user groups - squads, sports teams and general public - are competing for lanes in the lane pool at peak times.

• ‘The lap pool is packed, and many swim clubs are not able to take on more swimmers’
• ‘There is no availability for the general public to undertake lane swimming after work hours during the week, it is always dominated by clubs etc’
• ‘Extra space is urgently required’
• ‘There is a huge unmet demand from all of the aquatic sports’
• ‘Baywave is the only pool in the Mount to provide lane swimming and so naturally there is a big demand’

Much of the feedback highlights the difficulty of allocating lane space between a wide range of activities and users.

• ‘The development of our club is being stymied by access to pool space’
• ‘Not enough lanes for the public due to squad training and other groups training. I understand they need to train somewhere however.’
• ‘I would like to use the learn to swim pool for my kids but it is always being used by the swim school. It is the only warm pool suitable for small kids’
• ‘Never enough (lane space) in the mornings due to too many squads having apriority’
• ‘Understanding that the demand for squad use is high and provides a good return for the pool but as a ratepayer I find it very frustrating that I am unable to use this facility due to lack of lane space’.

It is important to note the capacity is only an issue at peak times - as many users recognise. At peak times the demand for water sports training, public access, programmes and casual water space is extremely difficult to balance, whereas at non-peak times there are large amounts of water space not fully utilised.

• ‘The lane space is probably about right, especially during the day, it is just "peak" user times makes things difficult’
• ‘You have to manage your swim times around peak times i.e. lunch times’
• ‘There is quite often enough lane space if you can choose to go between peak times’.

Greerton Pool
At peak times lane space is reported as a key issue by users at Greerton Pool.

• ‘I used to do aqua aerobics and found there was not enough space for the people that exercised and the swimmers in the lanes’
• ‘Have been in numerous times to find it busy, so requested a refund on my entry’
• ‘At peak times all lanes are heaving. Public lanes are almost unswimable due to large numbers - and we’re not doing the same
training (so different strokes, speeds and rest periods) you can’t squeeze as many in as you can in squads’.

Again the problem is competing demands for the pool space at peak times. This is clear by many of the comments we received:

- ‘The problem isn’t necessarily that there aren’t enough lanes - its more with swim lessons and squads taking up almost the entire complex after school’
- ‘As it is such a popular school there are lots of group of people who all seem to come in about the same time. You either need more lanes, or maybe change some of the class times’
- ‘Not enough (lane space) at squad times, or times of aquarobics. School sports are a pain! I don’t want to swim there when the school sports are on’

Parking was also reported to be difficult to access for some users.

- ‘What parking? When ever I have been there it is for a swim meet and you have to park miles away as there are very few parks.’

- ‘You definitely need more parking. Mobility car parks in particular and maybe a bus park’.

**Memorial Pool**

A large number of respondents value the open air aspect of Memorial Pool.

- ‘It is a beautiful place to swim because it is outdoors’
- ‘I love how it is an open air pool. I always come out of the pool feeling fresh no tsmelling of chemicals. It is a fantastic spot and the open air swimming really feels like summer’
- ‘I think it is nice to have an alternative to the beach in summer when you want to swim outdoors, but not in salt water with waves’.

Some users suggested a covered option for year round use.

- ‘What about a retractable cover which could offer the best of both, open in summer and covered in winter and mean the pools could stay open all year round’
- ‘It is lovely to use the outdoor pool but obviously with lane congestion everywhere it may be more sensible to cover it’.

Other issues that emerged from the feedback were:

- Insufficient shade during summer
- Lack of seating and shelter
- Water Temperature
- Lack of community awareness of the pool.

**Otumoetai Pool**

The key message from the feedback was the importance of Otumoetai Pool to the local community. The reasons why the facility was valued included:

- Its central location - close for local users. The additional time and cost of travelling elsewhere would be prohibitive
- It is affordable
- Memorial only operates during summer months so Otumoetai becomes the pool for this area for winter lane swimmers
- A large number of children have lessons there
- It is essential for the learn to swim and squad training programme provided by Otumoetai Swimming Club
• A number of triathletes live in the area and the pool is a definite resource in the area.
• Important part of Otumoetai and Matua. With the growth of Bethlehem, and Te Puna these facilities are the nearest for an ever expanding sector of Tauranga City.
• Significant number of top level swimmers that come out of this area and they need to be catered for.

We also received feedback on the:
• condition of the changing rooms;
• the water temperature of the smaller pool
• parking and accessibility

• ‘The area has outgrown the facilities available and the facilities themselves are extremely outdated’
• ‘The state of the changing shed is pretty appalling’
• ‘Otumoetai Pool has the worst changing rooms I have ever seen at any pool, ever!’
• ‘I am happy with the existing facility, only downside is the small pool is quite cold for the kids. My 7 year old often comes out with blue lips and this is during summer.’
• ‘The current facility is old and tired and needs updating. Our Children are trying to learn to swim in a pool that is far too cold for them making it hard for them to concentrate.’

Users had different views about the parking and general accessibility of the facility. Many thought parking was difficult and that more parking was needed while others reported that parking was good.
• ‘The only thing I don’t like about it is the access from the car park to the pool, especially if you are alone at night, there are personal security issues’
• The parking is dreadful at the current time. The pool shares its parking with other users of Bellevue Park including the Otumoetai Tennis Club and the Playcentre. Prior to the Council’s cordonning off of part of the parking facilities (apparently due to concerns of dust(!) by adjacent residents), the parking was just bearable. Now at peak times users of Bellevue Park have to park a long distance down the road (a very busy road) - which is quite unsafe for users with small children. This needs immediate remedy

In looking at the needs of the wider Tauranga West some users reported that they believe a facility was needed in Bethlehem.
• ‘There is a large population in Tauranga West other than Otumoetai, the nearest pool is Memorial (which is quite a long way from Bethlehem and Matua)’.  
• ‘Bethlehem needs a community pool’.

We asked users if they would be willing to pay - either through user charges or rates - for a new aquatics facility in Tauranga West. Many people indicated they would be willing to pay. Some also had clear preferences of how they would like to contribute:
• ‘User charges are only way to go in this economic climate’
‘It should be covered by rates as swim skills and swim safety as well as tourists benefits from swim competitions benefit the whole community’
‘Through rates and not increased cost per swim’
‘Through user charges not through rates’
‘The 70:30 split is good’
‘Rates would be ok as it is needed and we are prepared to pay’
‘It must be 100 per funded by users’.

Those that signalled that they would not be willing to pay for a new facility stated the following reasons:

• Do not need another facility in Tauranga West
• Swimming is already expensive
• Pools should be self funding
• Council should not be involved in pools.

**Other Issues**

During the consultation process the idea of developing a tidal pool at Tye Park in Welcome Bay was put forward. Tye Park is a neighbourhood park with a reserve management plan in place for its development. A tidal pool could certainly be developed at Tye Park under the reserve management plan. The level of specification for such a pool would have a large bearing on how complicated and expensive it would be to build. Both TCC and BOP Regional Council consents would be needed. It is likely that some safety issues would emerge in placing a man-made structure into such an environment. Therefore mitigation measures would be required to avoid the risk of injury or drowning. The cost of building and operating a tidal pool is likely to be significant.