

# A rejuvenated aquatic centre

We are seeking

**To rejuvenate Warrnambool's aquatic centre, AquaZone, which is approaching end-of-life and struggling to meet the demands of a growing city.**

## Warrnambool's much loved and well utilised community aquatic centre is reaching end of life.

With the outdoor facility opening in 1962 and the most recent inclusion of indoor pools, a gymnasium and other fitness class spaces now 22 years old, the outdoor pool has significant maintenance issues and the indoor spaces do not meet the needs of a growing city nor contemporary accessibility requirements.

AquaZone receives more than 200,000 visits annually and is used not only by many of Warrnambool's 36,000 residents but also by residents in neighbouring Moyne Shire.

Essential learn-to-swim classes are delivered in the indoor and outdoor pools while a swimming club, schools and those recovering from injury also rely on AquaZone.

In 2024 Warrnambool City Council adopted a new Aquatic Strategy that identified a staged approach to providing a fit-for-purpose aquatic centre for Warrnambool. The strategy, which received strong community support, indicated a preference for a redeveloped facility on the current site along Botanic Road, a geographically central city location.

## Benefits of the upgraded facility include:

- Provision of facilities that respond to the identified needs of the community, current and future.
- Increased patronage, participation and health and well-being outcomes. An increase in visits per head of population of 2.9 to 8.6 visits per head of population.
- Access to a competition level 50m pool in South West Victoria which will strengthen the capacity of sporting and swim clubs to increase participation and boost opportunity for competitive swimming success.

- All-abilities access to the region's premier aquatic facility.
- Enhanced efficiency and financial performance. Projected net performance improvement of \$532K per annum.

## Stage 1 - \$32 million

Upgrade the 50m outdoor pool with a partial cover, additional change rooms, spectator seating and a plant room.

## Stage 2 - \$27 million

Improve access between the centre and the car park, expand the gym and fitness program rooms, add a warm water pool with sauna, spa and steam, relocate swim club rooms and replace with a multi-purpose community space and upgrade amenities.

A Council-funded business case will be completed in 2025-2026 for a redeveloped AquaZone.

Funding is sought to deliver this much-needed social infrastructure for our city and region. While the redevelopment can be staged, Council is keen to limit construction cost escalation and progress the full redevelopment as soon as possible.



**Goal:** *efficient, accessible aquatic facility.*

## Contact

Andrew Mason  
Chief Executive Officer  
Warrnambool City Council

✉ [amason@warrnambool.vic.gov.au](mailto:amason@warrnambool.vic.gov.au)  
☎ 5559 4800