

# Regional Northern Coastal Suburbs Swimming Pool

The City of Wanneroo is seeking estimated funding of between \$40m to \$60m to develop an aquatic and recreation facility between Alkimos and Yanchep. A business case will proceed following further consideration by Council at the 10 February 2020 meeting.

## Background

Alkimos Regional Open Space is proposed to be the centre for elite sports facilities serving the northern coastal suburbs of the City of Wanneroo. The proposed 50 -metre outside pool adds an important aquatic sports facility to the bigger picture. The facility is expected to accommodate;

- Local and regional recreational swimmers
- Students from nearby schools for a range of water-based sports such as water polo and competitive swimming
- Swimming clubs
- Elite sports such as competitive diving
- Opportunities for state, national and international competitions and events

## The Need

Council has identified that the pool is required for the region. There is no public aquatic facility north of Aquamotion (in the suburb of Wanneroo) within the City and the closest 50 metre pool is in Joondalup. These facilities are approximately 20 kilometres (approximately 30 minutes drive) from the planned facility.

The need had been originally identified in the Northern Corridor Community Facilities Plan with an implementation date of 2042. At the Council meeting held February 2018 Council agreed that this date needs to be brought forward.

### ALIGNMENT TO THE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

The provision of the Northern Coastal Suburbs Swimming pool and toddler pool aligns with the City's Strategic Community Facility Plan 2017-2027 as per the following:

#### 1. Society

##### 1.1 Healthy and Active people

1.1.1 Create opportunities that encourage community wellbeing and active and healthy lifestyles;

1.1.2 Facilitate opportunities within the City to access peak and elite activities

### RAPID POPULATION GROWTH

The City of Wanneroo population forecast for 2018 is 212,096 and is estimated to grow to 412,996 by 2041.

The following table using ID population projections shows the forecast population growth for the following northern corridor suburbs:

| Area       | 2016    | 2031    | 2041    |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Two Rocks  | 3085    | 9358    | 20,879  |
| Yanchep    | 9161    | 24,741  | 45,012  |
| Alkimos    | 6531    | 33,346  | 38,979  |
| Eglinton   | 1740    | 17,383  | 29,207  |
| Butler     | 13,748  | 17,776  | 17,556  |
| Clarkson   | 13,393  | 19,255  | 18,866  |
| Totals     | 47,658  | 121,859 | 170,499 |
| Wanneroo   | 195,252 | 325,470 | 412,996 |
| % of total | 24%     | 37%     | 41%     |



2018 POPULATION  
ESTIMATE

212,096



2041 POPULATION  
ESTIMATE

412,996

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## Current pools

### Examples of pools funded by Government

- Mount Barker Vic. \$10m.  
2018 Building Better Regions Funding.  
Pool refurb.

### Proposed Regional Northern Coastal Suburbs Swimming Pool 50 m.

#### HBF Arena - Joondalup (29.1km to Yanchep)

**25m. Indoor – 4 lanes**

**50m. Indoor – 8 lanes**

Includes a splash pool and slide. Managed by Venues West. Arena Swim Club based here.

#### Aquamotion (30.9km to Yanchep)

**25m. Indoor**

Small outside pool, water play and splash pool. Managed by the City of Wanneroo. Aquajets Swimming Club and Wanneroo Masters are both based at Aquamotion.

#### Craigie Leisure Centre (36.1km to Yanchep)

**25m. Indoor – 8 lanes**

**50m. Outdoor – 8 lanes (heated)**

Includes outdoor water play and an indoor lap and splash pool. Managed by City of Joondalup. Breakers Swim Club and Westcoast Masters Swim Club based here.



### SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

A petition has been started in the community and stands at 1836 signatures with a goal of 5000.

Associated and Catholic Colleges of WA (ACC) Organises and oversees one of Australia's largest school sporting programmes. Over 70 schools are members in WA.

Associated and Catholic Colleges of WA supports the City of Wanneroo to develop a 50-metre pool in what is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, not to mention its vicinity to the coast which promotes aquatic endeavours.

In considering the Department of Education figures for all schools expected to be built in the northern corridor up to (see above) and beyond 2025 the numbers are as follows:

- Alkimos - 3 (3 x Primary School)
- Eglinton - 7 (5 x Primary School, 2 x High School)
- Two Rocks - 18 (15 x Primary School, 3 x High School)
- Yanchep - 7 (5 x Primary School, 2 x High School).

It needs to be noted that information received from the Department of Education needs to be reviewed in light of population growth and school construction.

It is expected that the needs of current and future students to access aquatic facilities for a wide range of reasons will need to be accommodated.

Learning to swim is crucial for students given the coastal position of the City. Many students and residents choose to live in the City and may never have been had an opportunity to experience the sea or swimming in an ocean. It is important people know how to survive in the water. The Surf Life Saving National Coastal Safety Report 2018 reveals that 110 coastal drowning deaths occurred in 2017 which is above the 14-year average of 99 drowning deaths.

Sports such as water polo and competitive swimming are currently outside the opportunities offered to students in the northern corridor without travelling vast distances.

### EVENT ATTRACTION

With the completion of a regional facility such as this there is the opportunity to not only accommodate community-based aquatic and recreational activity, but also attract sporting and recreational events and training camps at a state, national and potentially international level. Given the envisaged proximity to a university, there is also the option to explore collaboration with the university and their graduates in the areas of sport science, recreation and leisure and facility management.

### OTHER IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Other issues that demonstrate the need for a new facility include:

- There is no swimming club north of Arena Swimming Club (Joondalup HBF Arena) and Wanneroo Aquamotion. Many swimmers are travelling from Yanchep and Two Rocks to be involved in aquatic fitness and competitive swimming clubs.
- Several swim clubs (Arena Swim Club and Breakers Swim Club) in the northern regions currently have club members from as far north as Gingin, due to lack of facilities in nearby locations.
- No school in the northern corridor has a pool that can be accessed either by students or residents.

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## The Benefits

### HEALTH

The City's Public Health Plan outlines in detail the advantages of having easy access to facilities that promote healthy exercise.

### EDUCATION

- Water sports for schools
- General swimming
- Water safety training

### SPORTS INVOLVEMENT

- Diving WA and Water Polo WA have expressed interest

### EVENT ATTRACTION

- Triathlons both State and National as well as potential international events.

## Consequences of Non-Delivery

For the Northern Coastal Corridor (NCC) of the City of Wanneroo there are some distinct characteristics that support the need for an enhanced access to recreational and health-based activities including a pool.

Most residents in the NCC are between 25 and 49 years old with 40.2% of households in Alkimos made up of couples with children. The NCC has a higher proportion of pre-schoolers than the rest of the City of Wanneroo and Yanchep also has a higher number of post retirement people than the rest of the City. This pre-school group as they grow are driving future services including the number of primary and secondary schools required.

Communities in the NCC also have a percentage of residents from non-English speaking countries now calling Australia home. For example, 9% of residents in Alkimos come from non-English speaking countries.

The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) takes into account factors such as income, educational attainment, unemployment and jobs in unskilled occupations to determine an index with 1000 being the median. The City of Wanneroo sits at 1015, with numbers above 1000 indicate less disadvantage and numbers under 1,000 indicating more disadvantage. For the communities in question they rank as follows; Two Rocks 980, Yanchep 1001, Alkimos 1059 and Eglinton 1062.

Home ownership is above 66% in all four communities and as high as 70% in Yanchep and Two Rocks. As the economy changes this places pressure on these households which impacts on quality of life with any future changes in employment levels and interest rates making a negative impact.

Despite this, people are still moving to the City and the northern corridor in particular. In 2017/18 1038 residential building approvals were given. This will be mostly families with young children including school age children.

## Current Project Status

The Need and Feasibility Study is currently being undertaken.

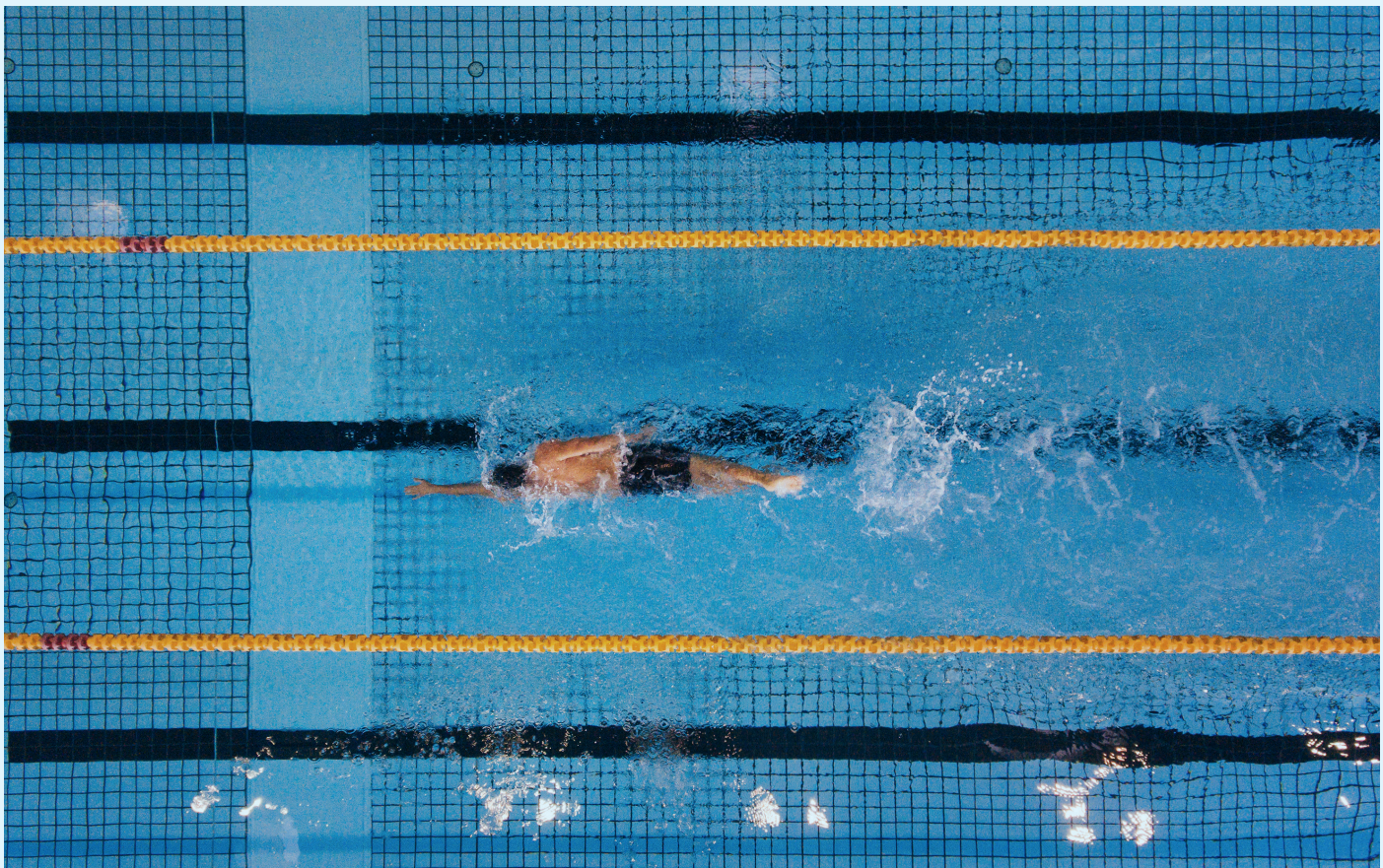
Further stages and detailed project costs will be determined as part of this study.

## Indicative Budget Implications

Approximately \$40 million is required to develop the facility. Detailed project costs will be determined following completion of Stage 1.

## What is Required

The City of Wanneroo is requesting \$40 million to develop a facility within Alkimos Regional Open Space (indicative location) including a 50 metre heated outdoor swimming pool and toddler pool.



## Facebook feedback from the Community

“

A pool in the northern suburbs would mean, myself, my husband, my daughter and son wouldn't have an hour round trip just in driving to do our swim training, for the **sport** we love of triathlon! Also having a pool up this way could mean we could start a triathlon club too as our closest is again 30min drive away, which would mean bringing a different sport to our community, **getting more people active** and enable the kids growing up to try something else that they may otherwise never have had the opportunity to do! Also, a diving facility within the pool would be an even bigger bonus!!!

Samantha

”



“

A pool up this way is essential for families. We have put our kids into **swimming lessons** since babies (an absolute necessity for all kids, in my opinion) and have always had to travel to Joondalup for it. Having a facility closer would take so much pressure off our family

Dorothy

”

It would definitely be awesome!  
A swimming pool is **great for everyone**, from family to singles, kids to elderly, athletes to non-athletes...for fun or training, fitness or leisure...There is no negatives of having a pool in the northern suburbs!! Looking forward to it.

Bruno

“

Everyone should have affordable access to a public pool and the opportunity to **learn to swim**. Perth is growing, let's not wait til it's too late to find the ideal location for a swimming pool in North Ward. Swimming is unique to other sports as being in water results in physiological responses, such as lowered heart rate, which helps us to relax and is great for mental health.

Gemma

”

A swimming pool would offer our community a fun place to socialise and be active whilst **attracting visitors** to our area boosting commerce. I can't believe that this is still being debated. It's high time the Wanneroo City listened to its residents and provided for their needs.

Neil

“

Oh it would make such a difference for family that way. Save traveling. Water is so **important for recovery**. A local pool is something to be experienced and enjoyed as a kid.

Georgia

”

Having a local pool would **save residents money on fuel**, car running costs and take cars off the road. At the moment it's a 25 minute drive from my house to Arena Joondalup. With the amount of new estates popping up and the rapid growth along the northern corridor it will definitely be a huge asset to the area.

Renee

“

At the moment I travel by car 20 minutes each way to Butler and back which is very off putting. This would be a lot longer if you had to use public transport.

Jane

”

A pool would also allow the **schools to easily provide swimming** lessons all year, without huge travel times. Definitely a great thing to happen soon!

Kerianne

Imagine how great it would be over the summer break to send our teens to the local pool to get them out of the house, off their devices and active!

As others have said, being able to use it for school **swimming lessons** would reduce the cost of transport for parents as well as reducing travel time giving students less time out of the classroom.

My daughter is a keen swimmer and would love a place **closer to home** so she can train more regularly.

Belinda

