



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

31 August 2021

Media Release

Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre in Mount Barker

The Mount Barker District Council has decided on its preferred scope for stage 1 of the proposed indoor Aquatic and Leisure Centre having now secured significant State and Federal Government funding.

The Council's investment into a new facility is being influenced by a number of key factors including the ageing Mountain Pool complex, population growth, the need to cater for diverse community needs and the opportunity to attract additional leisure and tourism investment.

The new facility, which will replace the existing Mountain Pool complex, is to be built on Council owned land within a precinct bordered by Bald Hills and Springs Road, Mount Barker. The site already contains Stage 1 of the Summit Sport and Recreation Park, linear trail and heritage barns.

Council will be seeking commercial proposals for the operation of the aquatic and leisure centre, and also for the development of other complimentary recreation and leisure facilities within the precinct.

"We're confident we'll get a great response from the market and are looking forward to sharing these exciting ideas with the community," says Mayor Ferguson. "This precinct has the opportunity to be a truly unique recreation and tourism destination, creating significant local employment and economic activity whilst also delivering improved open space and biodiversity outcomes across the site."

"Council advocated strongly for this facility and was shown great support with \$15 million committed by Federal Government and \$7.3m from State Government, a total of \$22.3m," adds Mayor Ferguson.

Council, having considered a range of community and technical advice, has now decided on its preferred stage 1 for the aquatic and leisure centre. It is proposed to include a combination of indoor learn to swim, leisure, therapy and 25m lap pool facilities along with gym, café and other supporting uses. The spread of facilities is influenced by the need to cater for a wide range of community needs and also ensure the financial sustainability of the project.

The facility will be designed to allow for expansion in the future, with additional elements such as water slides, outdoor 50m lap pool and indoor sports courts able to be accommodated.

“We’re excited to be moving closer towards delivering a centre that will benefit so many within our community,” Mayor Ferguson says. “We have an opportunity to build something that will cater for our whole community and, in doing so, create a facility that is sustainable and can grow with the region.”

To ensure that the aquatic and leisure facility meets the many needs of the community, Council will be establishing a Community Reference Group which will provide valuable input through the life of the design and construction phases of the project.

Council will shortly commence the detailed design phase in preparation for construction to commence towards the end of 2022.

For further updates on the project and FAQs, visit: www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au/aquatic

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