

TAIRAWHITI

AQUATIC FACILITIES PLAN

2018





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Aquatic Facilities Plan is one of a suite of plans prepared under the Tairāwhiti Community Facilities Strategy.

The development of the Strategy was guided by a governance group of regional stakeholders including:

- ▶ Eastland Community Trust
- ▶ Gisborne art community
- ▶ Gisborne District Council
- ▶ Hiruharama School
- ▶ Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti
- ▶ Tairāwhiti Cultural Development Trust
- ▶ Te Runanganui o Ngāti Porou
- ▶ Te Runanga o Turanganui a Kiwa
- ▶ Tolaga Bay Area School

Many other organisations and individuals have generously contributed to the Plan through focus groups, meetings and submissions.

Many thanks to all of these people for the time and energy they volunteered to ensure Tairāwhiti has a clear path for our community facilities.

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PLAN ON A PAGE

The Plan on a Page summarises the key parts of the Aquatic Facilities Plan – the key issues and opportunities, the objectives and the actions. Details are in the body of the document.

KEY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Fit for purpose facilities
- ▶ Ageing aquatic facilities
- ▶ Capital and operational costs
- ▶ Affordability for the community
- ▶ Accessibility for the community
- ▶ Environmental sustainability
- ▶ Water safety.

OBJECTIVES

Network planning and provision

By 2030, Tairāwhiti will have a network of aquatic facilities across the region that is fit-for-purpose, affordable and accessible, i.e. that:

- ▶ meets community needs where there is a compelling demand
- ▶ is provided in the most cost-effective way
- ▶ meets the needs of the whole region regardless of socio-economic status and ability.

Management

Aquatic facilities in Tairāwhiti will be actively managed to:

- ▶ encourage high levels of use and enjoyment for the community
- ▶ ensure sound management including asset management that optimises operational and maintenance costs
- ▶ meet best practice health and safety requirements.

Water safety

There are aquatic facilities to support learn to swim and water safety programmes:

- ▶ regional facilities are available year round for leisure, learn to swim, fitness and training
- ▶ sub-regional and local level facilities are available for summer learn to swim within a 30 minute drive for 90% of residents.

Key actions	Partners	Costs (est)	Timing (est)
1. Work with funders to prepare a robust funding programme	GDC/ Funders	Internal	By Jun 2018
2. Establish a Community Facilities Relationships and Partnerships position responsible for partnerships with facility providers, corporate partnerships and alternative funding arrangements	GDC / SGT / ECT	\$90k pa	By Jul 2018
3. Develop partnership agreements for provision of sub-regional aquatic facilities for 6 weeks in summer 8 hours per day. (Links to resourcing of Relationships and Partnerships position)	GDC / Facility providers	\$60k pa	By Nov 2018
4. Redevelop Olympic Pool complex to meet current and future community needs for a regional aquatic facility	GDC / Funders	TBC	By 2022

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Plan is to enable holistic and innovative thinking around affordable and effective future provision of aquatic facilities within the Tairāwhiti-Gisborne region.

SCOPE

The plan provides the strategic direction for aquatic facilities in the Tairāwhiti region for the next 20+ years. It is a tool to assist decisions on planning, funding, managing and operating aquatic facilities. This Plan does not replace the need for more detailed site-specific research and analysis during project development.

For the purposes of this Plan, the term 'aquatic facilities' means public swimming pools and aquatic centres that have been constructed for the purpose of swimming. It is acknowledged that rivers and beaches play a fundamental role in the overall network in providing opportunities for swimming activities. However, this Plan does not include facilities related to natural water bodies such as rivers and coastal waters. Activities and facilities such as dive-bombing platforms, lifeguards at beach and inflatable water parks are considered in Parks and Open Spaces Plan.

LIVING DOCUMENT

The Plan has been developed based on current information available. But communities aren't static. The way we view facility provision shouldn't be static either. The Plan needs to be able to 'bend and sway' as information is updated and planning evolves over time. Regular reviews are important.

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

The document is organised into the following parts:

PART A: Context of aquatic activities and facility provision

PART B: Issues and opportunities

PART C: Objectives and policies

PART D: The network

PART E: Actions



IMPORTANCE OF AQUATIC FACILITIES

Aquatic facilities are important for our Tairāwhiti-Gisborne community.

- ▶ They provide spaces for families and friends to play and interact in a fun and safe environment.
 - ▶ They provide places and services for our community to learn safety and confidence in and around water. Swim and survival skills are a fundamental skill for our children.
 - ▶ They provide for our recreational swimming that promotes health and relaxation. Research identified swimming as one of the best activities for prolonging life, with swimmers having a 28% lower risk of death from any cause and a 41% lower risk of death from cardio vascular disease.
- Swimming can also help with mental health, improving mood, and with joint ailments.
- ▶ They provide for training needs of sports people for a range of sports from swimming to surf lifesaving to multi-sport.
 - ▶ Water-based exercise has multiple advantages over land-based exercise including: low impact; creates more resistance training; and water disperses heat more efficiently.

DEMAND FOR AQUATIC FACILITIES

NATIONALLY

In New Zealand, swimming is one of the most popular activities, along with walking, cycling and jogging. An estimated 1 million people participated in swimming in New Zealand in 2013/14.

Across New Zealand, swimming is consistently in the top 10 leisure activities for all demographic groups.

- ▶ Swimming is the fourth most popular leisure activity (27% participation) for men, and the second most popular activity for women.
- ▶ Swimming is most popular with younger age groups, with participation gradually declining with age although, relative to other activities, it retains its popularity.
- ▶ For both Māori and Pākehā, swimming was the second most participated in leisure activity.

About 91% of New Zealanders have used a built facility such as a swimming pool in the last year. Older people, particularly 75 and over were more likely to choose a built facility rather than a natural setting. At built facilities 18% of all participants used an indoor pool or aquatic centre and 10% an outdoor pool. Māori, those from rural areas and those in medium to high deprivation areas were less likely to regularly use indoor pools and aquatic centres.

Participation in traditional aquatic sports such as swimming and lifesaving are experiencing slow growth across New Zealand. However alternative aquatic sports such as water polo and underwater hockey have experienced rapid increases in popularity.

REGIONALLY

There is evidence that similar patterns of demand exist here in Tairāwhiti-Gisborne. Figure 1 below shows how often Tairāwhiti people participate in a range of activities.

Figure 1 shows that swimming and aqua fitness is the third most popular activity people take part in at least three times a year. It also shows the popularity of other water-related sports (water skiing, water craft sports, multi-sport, surfing sports, surf lifesaving, sailing and boating, jet skiing and fishing) where water skills are important.

Regionally, swimming is consistently in the top leisure activities for all demographic groups and participation

in water-related sports is fairly consistent across demographics. Exceptions are:

- ▶ More women participate in swimming and aqua fitness (51%) than men (37%) – Figure 2
- ▶ More men participate in fishing (42%) than women (34%) – Figure 2
- ▶ More Māori participate in fishing (46%) than non-Māori (34%) – Figure 3
- ▶ Participation in most water-related activities declines with age – Figure 4.

Figure 1: How often people participate in recreation activities (n = 709) ★ = activities where water skills are required

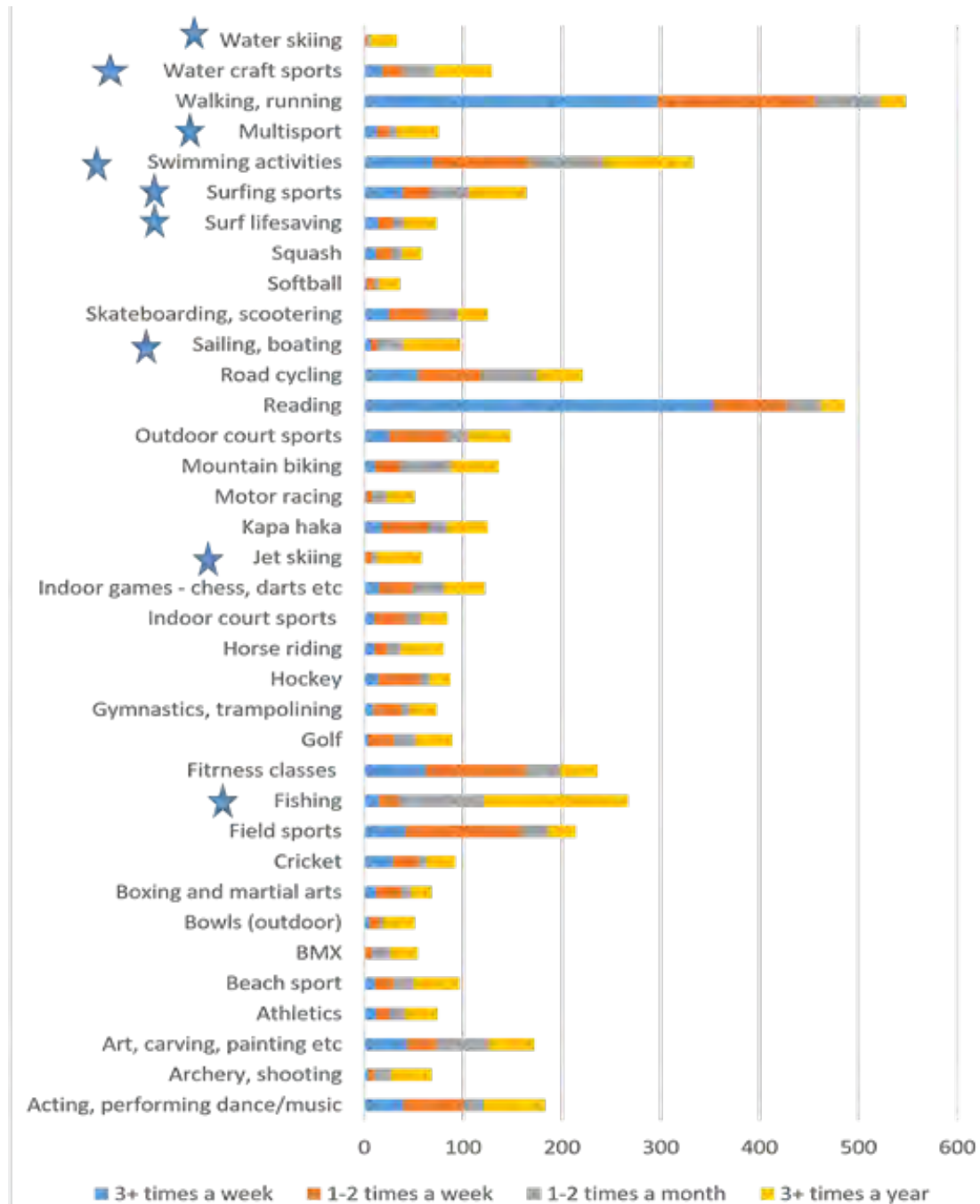


Figure 2: Percentage participation in water-related activities by gender 2017

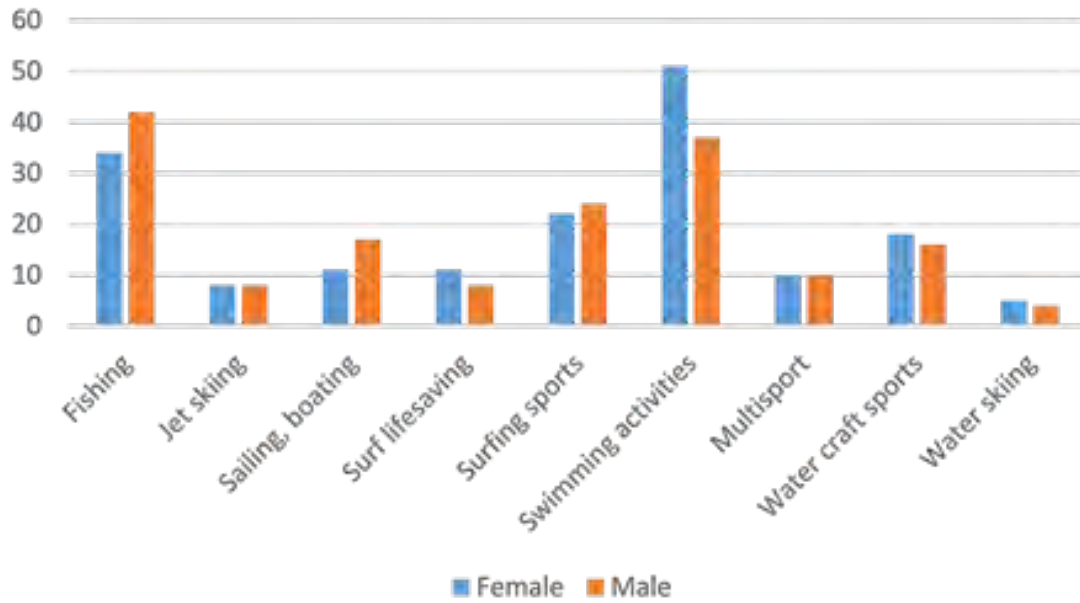


Figure 3: Percentage participation in water-related activities by ethnicity 2017

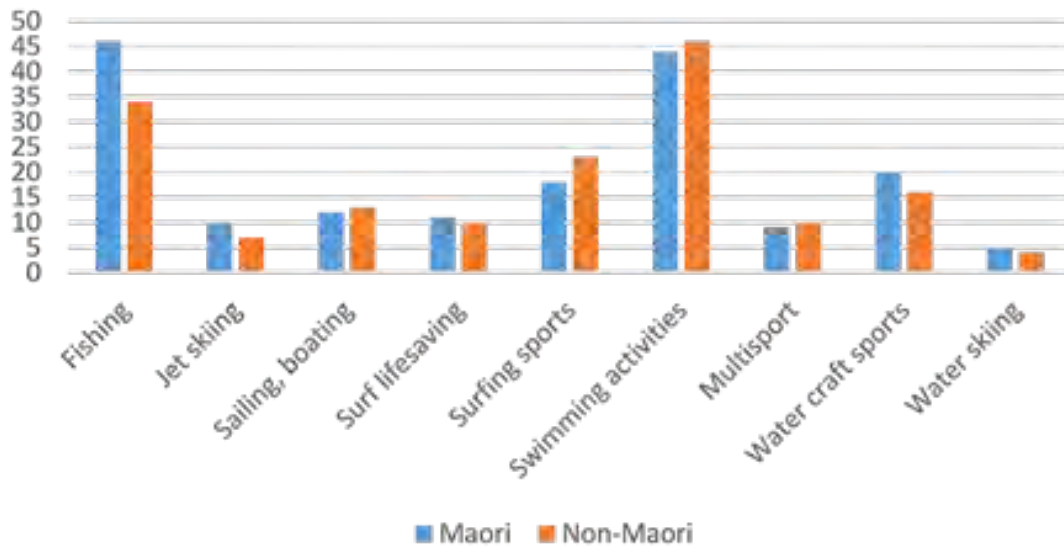
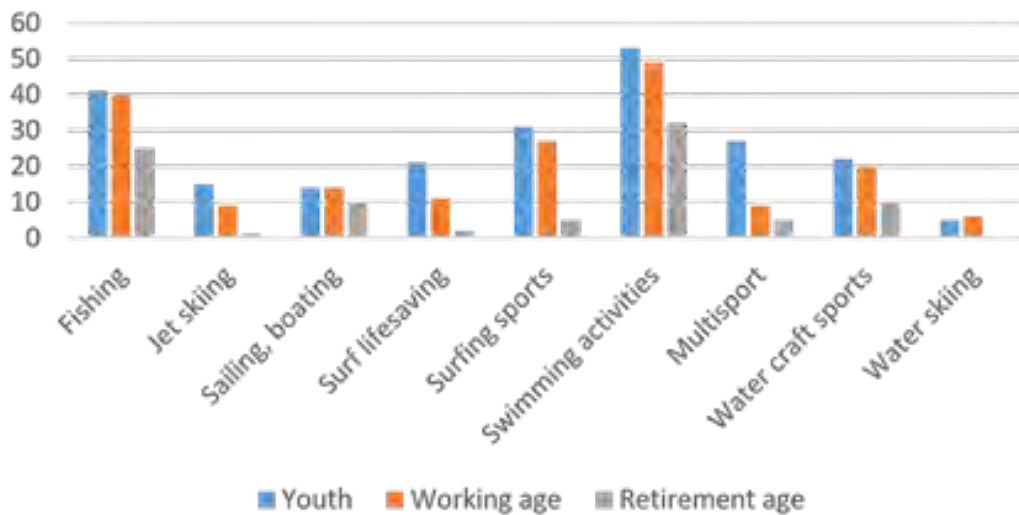


Figure 4: Percentage participation in water-related activities by age group 2017



People use aquatic facilities in a number of ways:

- ▶ Recreation – to get fit, cool off, have family fun time
- ▶ Learn to swim – to be water safe in pools and other water environments
- ▶ Competition – to train and participate in swimming as a sport.

Figure 5 below shows how important various facility types are to the Tairāwhiti community. Aquatic facilities are separated into the three types of activity: recreation, learn to swim and competition. People rated leisure pools in the top ten types of facilities that are important or very important to them. People also rated learn to swim pools highly with competitive pools the least important.

RECREATION

The recreational pool swimming needs of Tairāwhiti are met in a number of ways.

- ▶ The Olympic Pool Complex gets around 120,000 – 140,000 visits each year. About 94% of patrons use the facilities for recreation, ranging from a day out with the family to regular pool attendance for general fitness. Some people drive up to three hours to access the facilities given the lack of alternatives in the region.
- ▶ A number of school pools are available to the school community during the summer months. Many schools operate a “key system”. However there has been a significant reduction in hours of community provision with the tightening of health and safety regulations.
- ▶ Enterprise Pool is open to the public for recreational lane swimming from 6am - 3pm Monday to Friday. It is closed often for club events and potentially could not be relied on as a full public-use pool for the region.

The Council’s satisfaction surveys consistently show that the Olympic Pool complex is regarded as a community asset that provides value to a wide range of community users. In a survey of residents, 48% of respondents had used the Olympic Pool and, of those that had, 74% were satisfied with the experience. It is not just a swimming pool – it is viewed as a fun place to have a day out together with family or a group of friends, is a hub for social interaction, provides a venue for improving fitness and facilities for assisting with health and rehabilitation as well as meeting sporting needs.

LEARN TO SWIM

There are a number of learn to swim organisations and programmes in Tairāwhiti. They all use aquatic facilities due to the controlled and safe water environment for learning.

- ▶ Swim for Life Tairāwhiti was set up in 2015 to deliver swim and survival education to primary school children

across Tairāwhiti, with an end goal of a consistent no drowning record. SFLT provides students on its school roster with 10 free learn-to-swim lessons each year throughout primary school. So far it has 2,000 students in the programme from 27 schools in the region. The programme makes use of the multiple school pools and other aquatic facilities in the region.

- ▶ Comet Swim Club is the largest water safety/learn-to-swim provider in Tairāwhiti. The not-for-profit is Swimming NZ approved and works with Swim for Life Tairāwhiti to provide over 22,000 individual lessons to school students across Tairāwhiti. The Club is based at the Elgin School pool and has an agreement for pool use in return for learn to swim lessons. From babies to adults, Comet delivers programmes and lessons to more than 1,000 students each week in Tairāwhiti.
- ▶ Enterprise Swim Club has a learn to swim programme. Enterprise Aquatic Centre services the school swimming programmes (learn to swim and school swimming sports) of several of the schools within the vicinity of the pool (e.g. St Mary’s, Riverdale, Te Hapara, Lytton, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Nga Uri a Maui).

There is no learn to swim at most school pools during winter (school terms 2 and 3).

COMPETITION

There are two competitive swim clubs in Tairāwhiti.

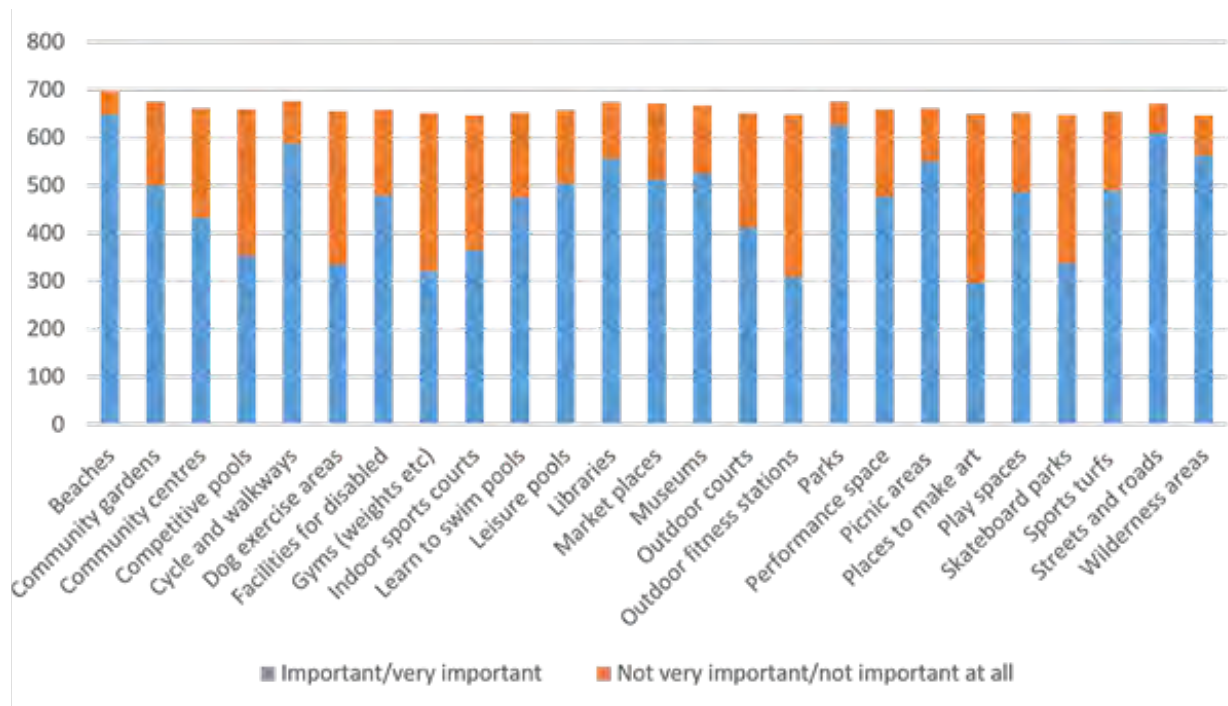
- ▶ The competitive arm of the Comet Swim Club caters for ages eight and above. It has over 600 members. It leases a number of lanes in the 50m Olympic Pool for defined daily hours for most of the year, moving operations to the Gisborne Boys’ High School in the summer school holidays.
- ▶ About 6% of Olympic Pool patrons swim competitively and most are members of the Comet Swim Club.
- ▶ The competitive arm of the Enterprise Swim Club operates from a purpose-built pool facility (Enterprise Pool) at Nelson Park in Gisborne.

The Olympic Pool is of sufficient standard to hold regional age-group swim meets and school swimming sports competitions. It does not meet standards for national or international swim meets (due to width) or for national grade competition for other aquatic sports such as water polo or underwater hockey (due to depth).

Enterprise Swim Club and Pool is used for club training and events and for local and regional swim meets and school swimming sports.



Figure 5: Importance of facility types



SUPPLY OF AQUATIC FACILITIES

NATIONALLY

New Zealand has a wealth of aquatic facilities. Figure 6 compares, by region, the number of people per square metre of water in all sized aquatic facilities. Tairāwhiti-Gisborne has one of the most generous ratios at 11 people per m² of water. This is substantial when compared with other similar centres: Southland (17); Marlborough (16); Hawke's Bay (15); Nelson-Tasman (13); and Northland (13). It is just slightly behind West Coast and Taranaki (both on 9).

The National Facilities Strategy for Aquatics identifies a 25m pool as a standard size to enable a range of activities from lap swimming to learn to swim to recreation. Figure 7 shows the ratio of standard sized (25m+) pools per person across New Zealand regions. Tairāwhiti has a low ratio with one standard sized pool for every 5,692 persons. This ratio is consistent with other similar provincial areas.

According to the National Strategy, there are currently 18 more standard sized pools (25m+) in New Zealand than required if using national benchmarks. However the Strategy acknowledges that the benchmarks are only a guide and may not be as useful for provincial areas, like Tairāwhiti-Gisborne where population density and distance are mitigating factors in provision. For these areas, there are generally enough pools for the scale of the population but there may be issues with inequitable distribution and opportunities to enhance facilities to provide for diverse uses.

REGIONALLY

There are 46 aquatic facilities of varying sizes in Tairāwhiti. Table 1 is an inventory of the aquatic facilities in the region. It shows who owns and manages them and

describes the key features of the pool (length, if covered, if heated and year built). It also shows if the pool is available to the community at all.

The National Strategy identifies that, to meet national benchmarks for aquatic facilities, Tairāwhiti-Gisborne would need three 25m pools available to the public.

Currently, the region has one main aquatic facility available to the community year round - the fully public Olympic Pool Complex in Gisborne. The Complex has a 50m pool that can be divided into two pools slightly under 25m. The 25m Enterprise Pool is also available to the public (for morning lane swimming only) when the facility is not being used for club operations. In the school holidays, the Ilminster School Pool (in Kaiti, Gisborne) is available to the public for use with Council covering costs of lifeguards. Several school pools throughout the region are available on a key system to a limited number of community members as well.

So the existing facilities are currently providing an appropriate network of facilities and, rather than investing in new facilities, ongoing provision, improved functionality and accessibility of existing facilities should be a key consideration for future planning.

Of the 46 facilities, 44 are school pools. These school pools vary in length from 6m to 30m. There are 10 school pools that are 25m+ in length.

Figure 8 shows the distribution of the ages of the school pools. The majority were built between 1950 and 1980. With the average life expectancy of aquatic facilities being 50 years, at least 76% of pools in Tairāwhiti are nearing their end of life.

Figure 6: People per m² water all aquatic facilities (by region)

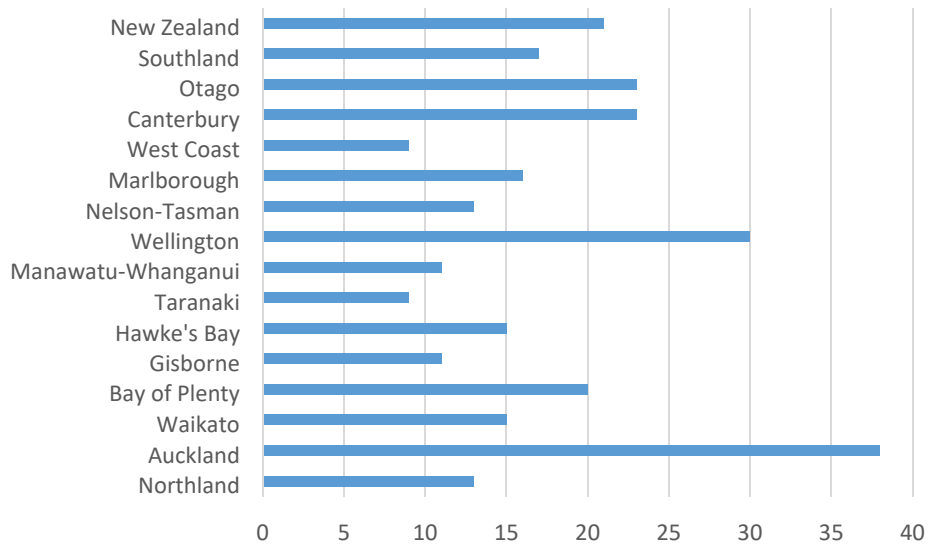


Figure 7: People per standard pool (25m) (by region)

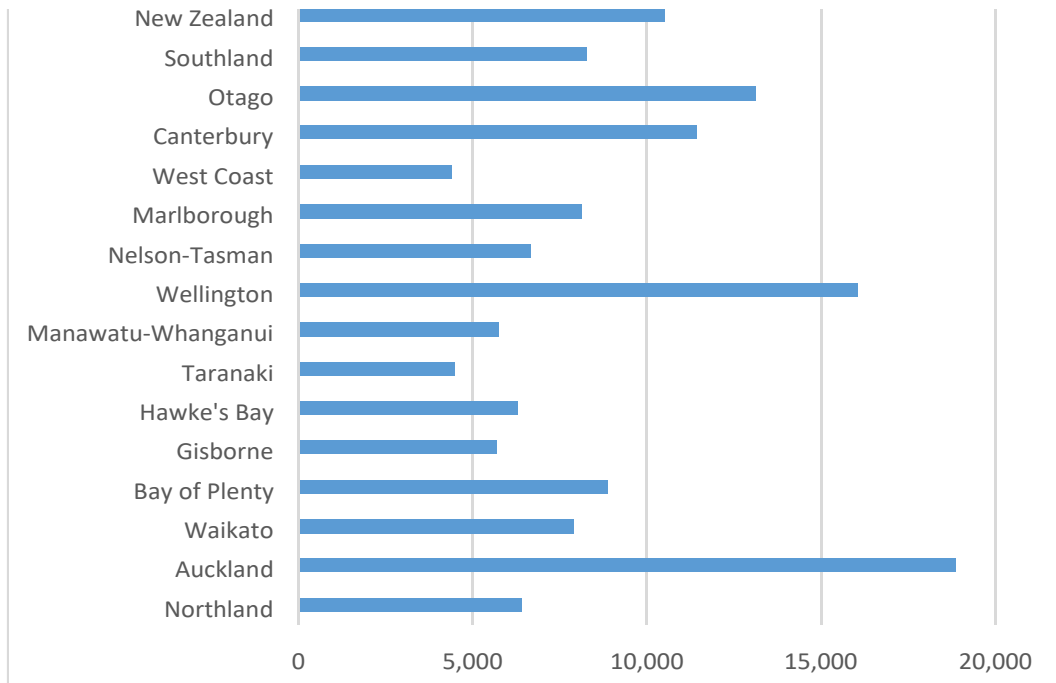


Figure 8: Tairāwhiti school pools built since 1920s

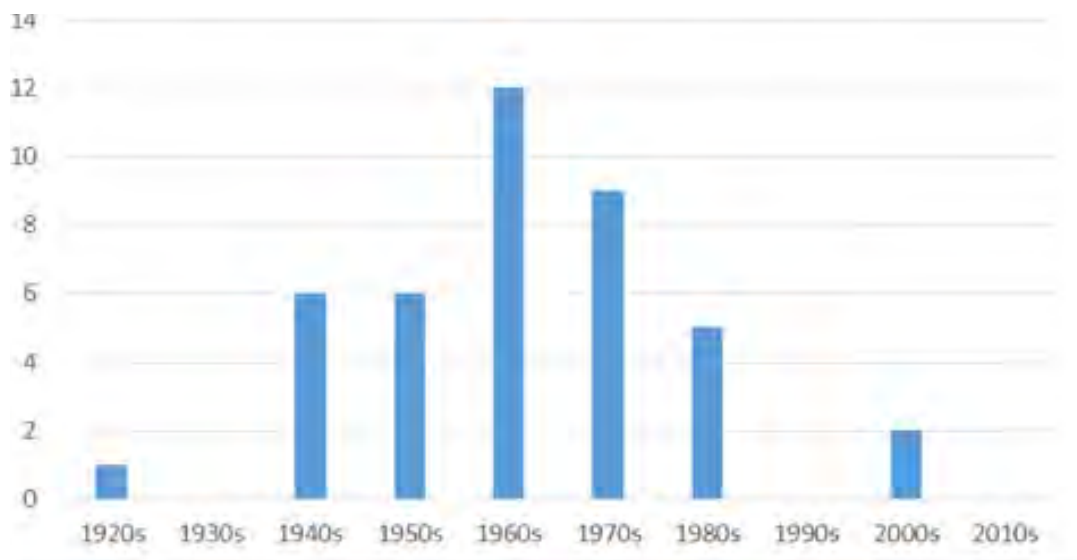


Table 1: Inventory of Tairāwhiti Aquatic Facilities

Facility	Owned/managed	Facilities	Covered	Heated	Built	Available	
Olympic pools	Gisborne District Council (public)	50m pool – 7 lanes (or 2 x 25m pools)	Partly	Y	1974	Y	
		33m recreation pool	N	N			
		98m hydro slide	N	N			
		Therapy pool	Y	Y			
		Diving pool	N	N			
		Toddlers pool	N	N			
Enterprise Pool	Enterprise Trust (private)	25m pool – 6 lanes	Y	Y		Y	
School pools East Coast	Potaka School	11 m pool	N	N	1978		
	Te Waha O Rerekohu Area School	20m pool	N	N	1983		
	TKKM o Tapere-Nui-A-Whatonga	12m pool	N	N	1962		
	Tikitiki School	15m pool	N	N	1946		
	TKKM o Te Waiu o Ngati Porou	25m pool / 6m pool	N	N	2005	Some	
	Ngata Memorial College	25m pool	N	N	1962	Some	
	Makarika School	9m pool	N	N	1966		
	Hiruharama School	15m pool	N	N	1925		
	Mata School	11m pool	N	N	1981		
	Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Waipiro	13m pool	N	N	1959		
	Hatea-A-Rangi	15m pool	N	N	1947		
	Tolaga Bay Area School	25m pool	N	N	2001	Some	
	Whangara School	12m pool	N	N	1958		
	School pools Gisborne city	Wainui Beach School	15m pool	N	N	1977	Some
		Kaiti School	12m pool	N	N	1965	
		Waikirikiri School	20m pool	N	N	1947	
Te Wharau School		12m pool	N	N	1972		
Iminister School		25m pool	N	N	1987	Some	
Gisborne Central School		25m pool	N	N	1980	N	
Gisborne Intermediate School		30m pool	N	N	1956	N	
Gisborne Boys' High School		25m pool	Y	N	1966	N	
Gisborne Girls' High School		24m pool	N	N	1964		
Te Hapara School		25m pool	N	N	1978		
Mangapapa School		12m pool	N	N	1955		
Awapuni School		12m pool	N	N	1951		
Cobham School		13m pool	N	N	1963		
Elgin School		15m pool	Y	Y	1961	N	
Riverdale School		12m pool	N	N	1969		
Makaraka School		12m pool	N	Y	1966		
School pools West district	Makauri School	12 m pool	N	N	1964	Some	
	Ormond School	12m pool	N	N	1983		
	Patutahi School	15m pool	N	N	1952		
	Manutuke School	15m pool	N	N	1976		
	Muriwai School	13m pool	N	N	1963		
	Te Karaka Area School	25m pool	N	N		Some	
	TKKM o Whatatutu	15m pool	N	N	1941		
	Tiniroto School	12m pool	N	N	1975		
	Rere School	11m pool	N	N	1940	Some	
	Ngatapa School	12m pool	N	N	1946	Some	
	Waerengaokuri School	12m pool	N	N	1977		
	Matawai School	12m pool	N	N	1970		
	Motu School	12m pool	N	Y	1970	Some	

In 2017 a Better Business Case was completed for the Olympic Pool Complex upgrade and renewal to respond to the facility's age and extent of issues that need attention. The Business Case concluded there was a positive case for investment in the project. It is the intention that the capital costs be part funded by Council with the remainder to be grant funded – funding has

not yet been secured. The upgrades will be supported by effective and efficient management of the aquatic centre activity; good reporting practices; appropriate management of planning processes; maintaining a positive workplace culture; liaising effectively with community groups and organisations and with the wider aquatic recreation industry.



The aquatic facilities are spread across the region as the following maps show.

Figure 9: Map of aquatic facilities East Coast

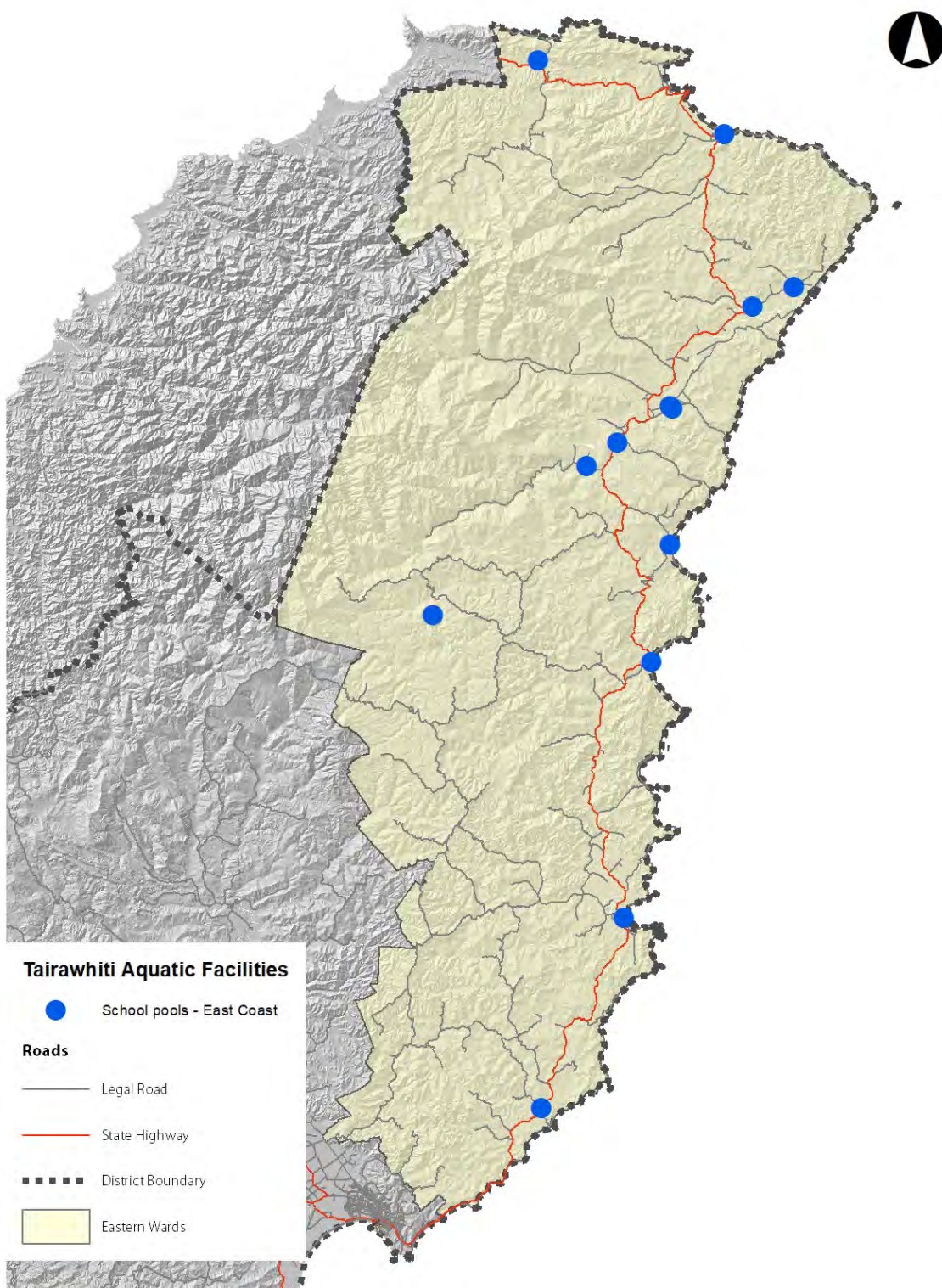


Figure 10: Map of aquatic facilities Gisborne

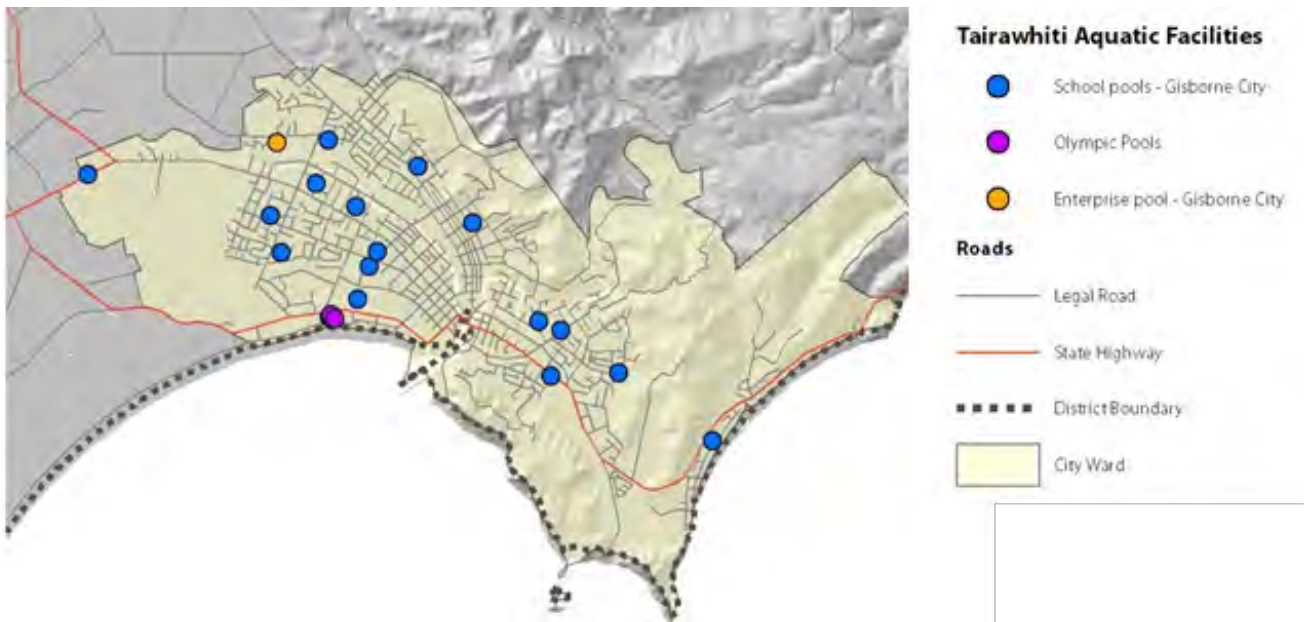
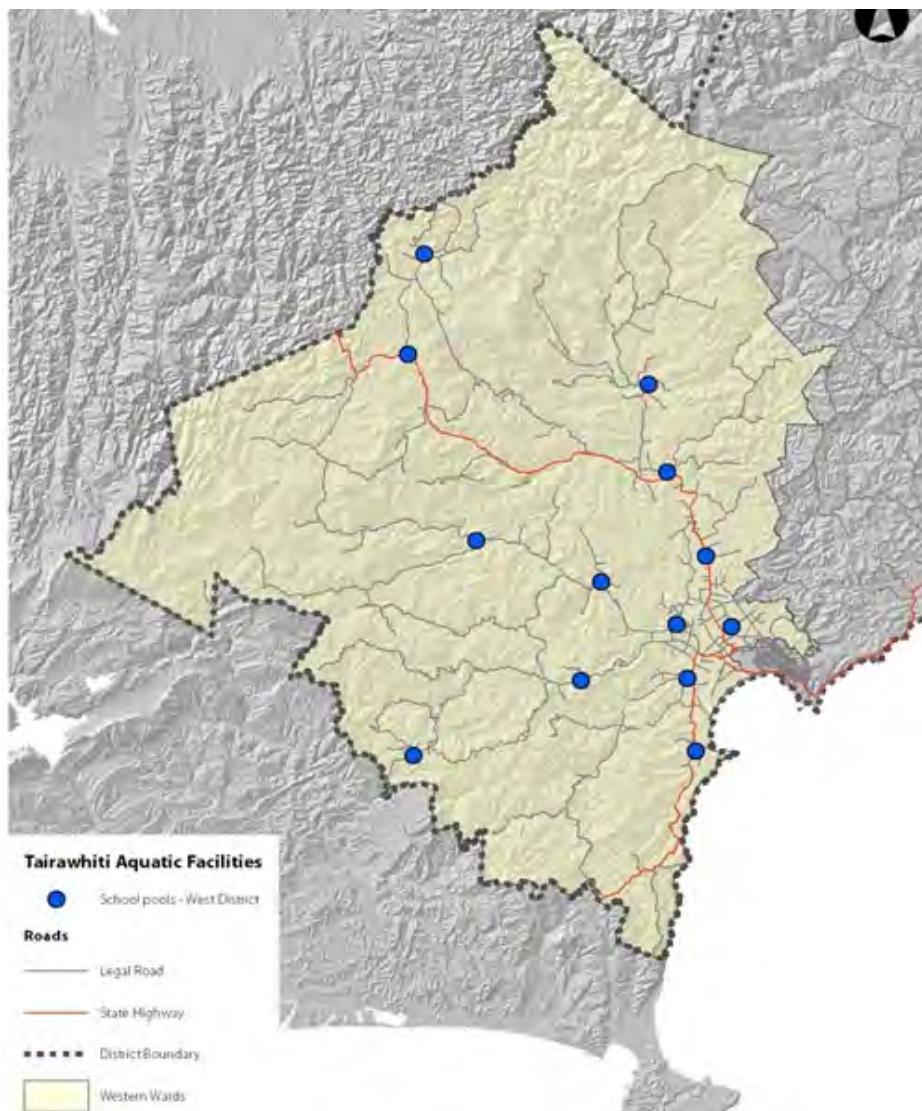


Figure 11: Map of aquatic facilities West District



ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

FIT FOR PURPOSE FACILITIES

- ▶ Community preferences for aquatic facilities are moving away from single use such as lane swimming and training, and shifting towards water play. Nationally, the main reasons people use pools are: 25% relaxation, 13% social and 36% youth/learn to swim programmes. Locally around 94% of visitors to the Olympic Pool complex use the facilities for play and recreational swimming.
- ▶ The current Olympic Pool Complex has completed minor upgrades over the years to provide for these changing preferences such as installing BBQ areas and play equipment and installing a mid-pool barrier to allow for multiple simultaneous uses. However the pool structure itself is not designed to provide for play needs while meeting other needs.
- ▶ Community members also have increasing expectations for enclosed, heated facilities. Older people (50+) have different expectations for aquatic facilities, including; temperature, access, covered and water depth. For many older adults, joint pain makes land based exercise difficult and water based exercise is beneficial. This supports Tairāwhiti's ageing residents who made up 18% of the population in 2013 and are estimated to increase to 27% of the total by 2028.
- ▶ The current Olympic Pool Complex is not able to provide adequately for some community needs. The facility needs improvement to cater for learn to swim programmes. The facility can't provide for emerging and rapidly growing water activities such as water polo and underwater hockey.

AGEING AQUATIC FACILITIES

- ▶ The Olympic Pool Complex and many of the Tairāwhiti school pools were constructed in the 1970s. Over 76% of these pools are now reaching 50 years of age, and require upgrades or increased maintenance.
- ▶ From 2014 to 2016, the Olympic Pool Complex had a decrease in annual attendance from 145,316 to 127,219. The reduction can be partly attributed to a decline in the quality of the facilities as they age. As an asset ages, the cost of repairs and maintenance increases and the condition of the asset deteriorates (see Figure 12). The operating deficit for the Olympic Pool Complex is increasing each year due to reducing visitor numbers and increasing maintenance costs – in May 2017 it was \$310,000 and climbing. There is a growing list of major maintenance issues for the complex that will need to be addressed to avoid soaring maintenance costs.

- ▶ Many of the school pools were built in the 1960s and 1970s. The oldest school pool is Hiruharama which was built in 1925, and the newest pool is Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Wai U built in 2005.

CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL COSTS/COMPLIANCE

- ▶ Aquatic facilities have high capital and operational costs relative to other types of community facilities (such as sports fields) including; maintenance costs, costs of water heating (particularly in winter), training staff to appropriate standards (lifeguard, health and safety, and water quality monitoring). Costs also increase with use during peak periods.
- ▶ As the school pool network ages these increasing costs will strongly impact the ability of the schools to afford to keep their pools open, and the provision of the school network will be affected. Similar to the rest of New Zealand, the number of school pools has declined in recent decades. Whether those schools that currently have pools will continue to do so in the future is uncertain. Nationally around 156 school pools have closed in the past six years and a further 130 are at risk of being shut down permanently due to replacement and maintenance costs. This is because the Ministry of Education does not automatically replace pools at the end of their economic life, nor do they meet the cost of running pools. In addition, the Ministry does not provide pools in new schools, which largely rely on the local community for funding. In Tairāwhiti eight school pools have closed since 2006. This trend is very likely to continue to impact the region over the next 20+ years.
- ▶ An ongoing issue for school provision (public access) is adhering to new health and safety regulations.

AFFORDABILITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

- ▶ Affordability is an issue for many Tairāwhiti families. Hauora Tairāwhiti area maps show high levels of deprivation in some urban and rural communities. It is critical to ensure the community can continue to afford to use aquatic facilities, particularly the Olympic Pool Complex, following its upgrade. Pool provision and access for outlying areas must be considered as a fundamental part of the network.
- ▶ There are opportunities to explore alternative funding mechanisms for aquatic facilities. Some of these include opening facilities up for hire for corporate events and philanthropic and business sponsorship for subsidised use of pool facilities.

ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

- ▶ Traditionally schools were recognised as the primary venue for learn to swim programmes. However this can no longer be presumed as fewer pools are being built and existing pools are not being renewed due to high operational costs.
- ▶ If there is no pool located on site, or within a reasonable distance students will miss out on vital swimming education. Accessibility will need to be considered as a fundamental part of the network.
- ▶ The benchmarks for provision in the National Strategy for Aquatic Facilities recommend provincial areas look at one standard 25m pool for 35,000 people. This equates to three publicly available pools of 25m size for Tairāwhiti. While three pools would be sufficient for Gisborne city (with a population of around 37,000), this does not adequately cover the rural parts of the region, some being three hours travel from the city by road. Currently there is only one full-sized 25m pool at the Olympic Pool Complex (or two that almost reach 25m when the barrier arm is installed) with Enterprise Pool available when not in club use and Ilminster Pool available only in summer to public. There is no formal public availability for the East Coast and western region. A strong case can be made for ensuring a broader spread of facilities and there is an opportunity to link with the school pool network to consider provision.

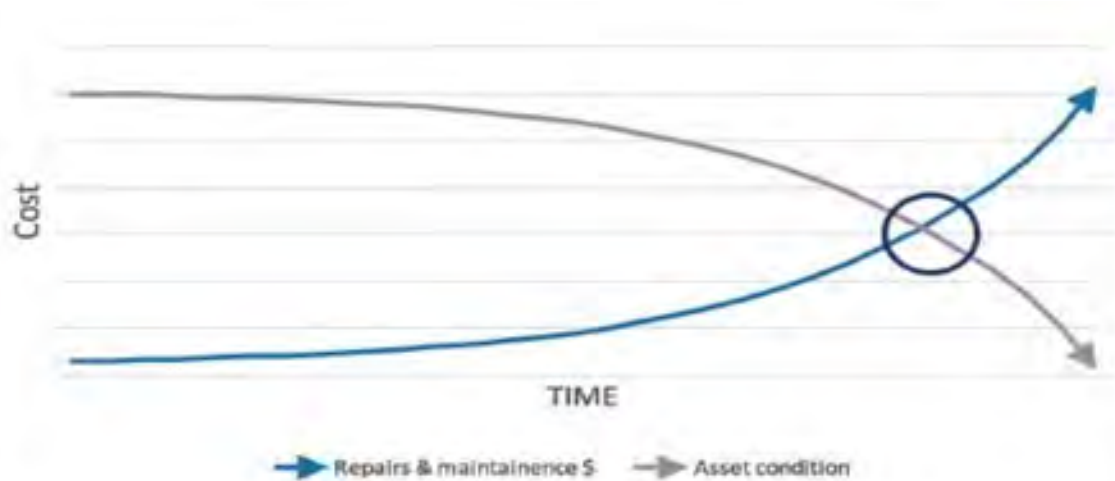
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- ▶ At certain times of the year, water is a scarce resource in Tairāwhiti. There are consistently water restrictions in Gisborne city over the peak summer period. Likewise, in summer many rural communities have to buy water for domestic purposes. Consideration of reusing pool and backwash water should be included in redevelopment plans.

WATER SAFETY

- ▶ In 2014 Gisborne had the fourth highest drowning rate in New Zealand and the third highest rate of hospitalisations. Being male, Maori and under 35 years old, particularly under four years old, means you are more at risk of being involved in water safety incidents in Tairāwhiti-Gisborne.
- ▶ Research from 2010 showed that 80% of New Zealand children could not swim well enough to save themselves if they found themselves in trouble in the water. Half of all 10 year old New Zealanders can't swim 25 metres, and 25% are unable to keep afloat. Research shows that past participation in formal swimming lessons was associated with an 88% reduction in the risk of drowning in 1 to 4 year old children. Aquatic facilities, especially school pools play a fundamental role in teaching children water safety. But only 54% of students in Tairāwhiti have access to a school pool.
- ▶ From 2012-2016 the number of people rescued by life guards on Gisborne beaches was 73 with 21 people being searched for. While a number of these incidents may have a primary cause of a challenging environment and/or risky behaviour, a lack of appropriate water skills will be a contributing factor. Public pools provide a mechanism for learning water survival skills either in a tutored or untutored way.

Figure 12: Asset maintenance costs over asset life



NETWORK PLANNING AND PROVISION

OBJECTIVE

By 2030, Tairāwhiti will have a network of aquatic facilities across the region that is fit-for-purpose, affordable and accessible:

- ▶ The network will provide for community needs, for social space and water play, learn to swim, recreational swimming and competitive aquatic activities, where there is a compelling demand
- ▶ The network will be provided in the most cost-effective way, considering the whole-of-life costs of facilities, so it is financially sustainable for the community and operators
- ▶ The network will meet the needs of the whole region, be available to the community regardless of socio-economic status, provide healthy and safe recreation space and be suitable for all physical and intellectual abilities.

POLICIES

Aquatic facility catchments

- ▶ Facility network planning is based on compelling and robust evidence and considers, first and foremost, the current and potential community needs within facility catchments and the resulting appropriate level of investment.
- ▶ Provision of aquatic facilities will be based on three tiers of aquatic facility catchments: one regional level aquatic facility; four sub-regional level aquatic facilities; and several local aquatic facilities.
- ▶ The nature of provision for each tier of facilities will take into account the community to be serviced, the needs to be met, geographic spread, access to transport networks (including walk and cycleways) and costs of provision.



Development of facilities

- ▶ Decisions on redevelopment of existing facilities and development of new facilities will be based on compelling and robust evidence and be informed by the community facilities investment principles and criteria. Requests for Council assistance will be required to follow the investment process outlined in the Community Facilities Strategy.
- ▶ Before considering investment in redeveloping facilities or developing new facilities, there will be careful consideration of alternative options including:
 - if changing governance, management or culture would address issues
 - if changes to rules and regulations would address issues
 - if better use can be encouraged through changes to pricing and hours of access
 - if minor capital works can be made to the facility to address the issues
 - if multiple or shared use of the facility or another facility would address the issues.
- ▶ So that aquatic facilities continue to meet changing community needs we will:
 - design facilities to easily and cost-effectively adapt to future potential needs and uses
 - monitor demand and use of facilities annually to enable timely action.

Council's role

- ▶ Council will provide one regional level aquatic facility for Tairāwhiti-Gisborne – the Olympic Pool Complex. The facility will service the Tairāwhiti region and, aside from providing for social, recreation and learn to swim needs, will act as a regional centre for aquatic sports. Levels of service for regional level aquatic facilities are outlined in this plan

Collaboration and partnership

- ▶ Council and other key stakeholders will partner with schools to deliver sub-regional aquatic facilities where:
 - there is compelling evidence of community need
 - public access is assured
 - health and safety standards are assured
 - the facility is unlikely to be available to the public without Council support
 - the location of the facility supports geographic accessibility by ensuring a spread of the network across the district
 - the facility owner demonstrates the facility continues to meet community needs.

- ▶ Council and other key stakeholders will support the four sub-regional facilities by actively pursuing partnership agreements with schools and the Ministry of Education to support appropriate public use (including, where reasonable, considering sharing technical expertise and some operational costs related to lifeguarding).
- ▶ Council and other stakeholders will advocate for the development, upgrade and operation of local level aquatic facilities where:
 - there is evidence of community need that cannot be met with another facility or option
 - health and safety standards are assured
 - the facility will be efficient in not duplicating facilities.

Facility design

- ▶ When considering upgrades to existing aquatic facilities or future development of new facilities, key design considerations will be:
 - the flexibility of the facility for multiple uses (as opposed to single purpose facilities)
 - the useability, comfort and accessibility of the facility for all ages, stages and abilities
 - health and safety for users and operators (including shade)
 - the whole of life costs of operating and maintaining the facility
 - the consistency with best practice urban design particularly around accessibility and reflecting local character and identity
 - the application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to promote health and safety and personal security
 - the consistency of design with NZS4441 – design of swimming pools.
- ▶ The addition of any more outdoor pools to the current Tairāwhiti aquatic facilities network is discouraged. It is not considered a sustainable investment due to the costs to retain heat, the limited seasonal availability and user preferences for covered facilities.

Funding

- ▶ There is a robust funding programme in place, through Council and non-Council funding, to develop, maintain and operate the aquatic facilities network.
- ▶ Potential facility funders collaborate to ensure funding for priority aquatic facility developments and services can be accessed in a streamlined way.

MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVE

Aquatic facilities in Tairāwhiti will be actively managed to:

- ▶ encourage high levels of use and enjoyment for the community
- ▶ minimise operational and maintenance costs
- ▶ meet best practice health and safety and requirements.

POLICIES

Demand management

- ▶ Council will promote maximum use of the regional level facility, Olympic Pool Complex (once redeveloped), through:
 - encouraging community use of the facilities to deliver programmes for targeted user groups
 - encouraging school use of the facilities for events and large swim meets
 - encouraging the hire of the facilities for events with potential to stimulate economic development
 - considering hiring out the facility for private use outside of standard public hours where user safety is assured and the risk of facility damage is low.
- ▶ Fee structures for use of aquatic facilities will be reviewed every three years and will reflect the ability of the Tairāwhiti community to pay. Targeted pricing strategies will enable all residents to access facilities and grant funding will keep access to programmes and targeted services affordable.
- ▶ Public opening hours for aquatic facilities will be reviewed every three years and will consider:
 - community use statistics and satisfaction with current opening hours
 - demand for aquatic space from specific interests particularly learn to swim and sporting interests
 - impact on operating costs of changing hours.

Asset management

- ▶ Decisions on asset management of aquatic facilities consider the whole-of-life costs. This includes identifying the appropriate timing for upgrades and redevelopment of facilities so ongoing maintenance costs do not start to soar as facilities age. Council will actively encourage other providers of sub-regional facilities to take the same approach.
- ▶ The safety, efficiency and environmental sustainability of aquatic facilities are important. Technologies that minimise water use and heat loss and that maximise

the use of energy will be considered where they prove affordable over the life of the facility. Innovation in these areas is strongly encouraged.

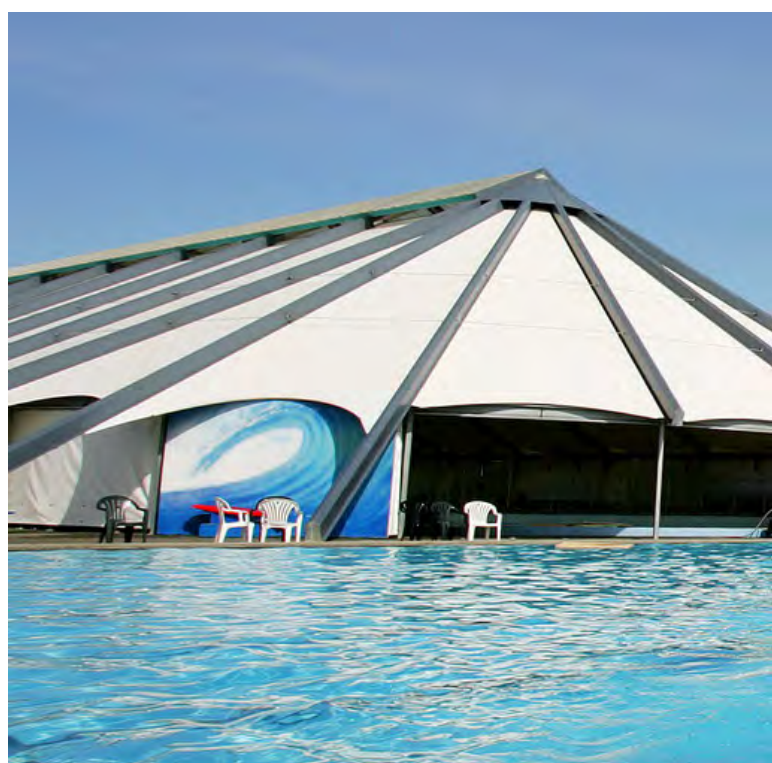
- ▶ Council will maintain, and frequently review, a comprehensive asset management plan for the Olympic Pool Complex and actively encourage and support other providers to do the same, particularly where Council is providing support for the sub-regional aquatic facilities network. Council will report regularly on the performance of the Olympic Pool Complex.

Health and safety

- ▶ Best practice health and safety standards are adhered to all times. New Zealand Standards for safe pool provision will be met for all regional and sub-regional facilities across Tairāwhiti. The benchmark is NZS 5826, which covers some essential aspects of operating and maintaining pools including pool water quality and methods of water treatment to ensure the risk to public health is minimised.

Collaboration

- ▶ Where there is a willingness from providers of aquatic facilities, Council will coordinate and administer a technical working group, consisting of regional and sub-regional aquatic facility providers, to ensure a strong, long term and joined up approach to facility management and to promote the sharing of technical knowledge and experience.



WATER SAFETY

OBJECTIVE

There are aquatic facilities to support learn to swim and water safety programmes:

- ▶ regional facilities are available year round for leisure, learn to swim, fitness and training
- ▶ sub-regional and local level facilities are available for learn to swim and water safety programmes in the summer months (from November to March) throughout the region, within a 30 minute drive for 90% of residents.

POLICIES

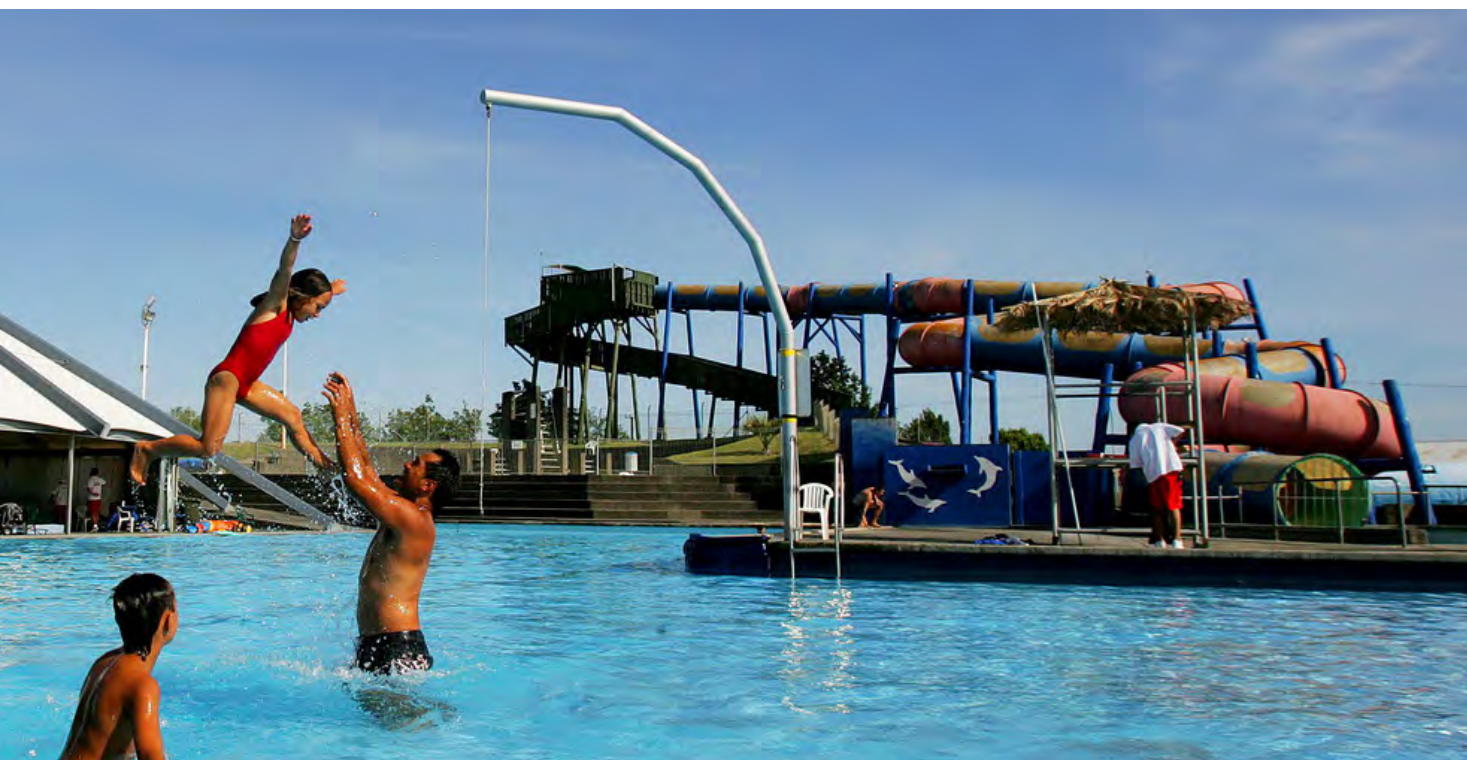
Facility provision

- ▶ Council will provide one regional level aquatic facility for Tairāwhiti-Gisborne – the Olympic Pool Complex. The facility will service the whole region and Council will encourage learn to swim and water safety programmes at the regional level facility – Olympic Pool Complex.
- ▶ Council and other key stakeholders will consider partnering with schools and other potential providers to deliver sub-regional aquatic facilities that support the delivery of learn to swim and water safety programmes where:

- there is compelling evidence of community need
- public access is assured
- health and safety standards are assured
- the facility is unlikely to be available to the public without Council support
- the location of the facility supports geographic accessibility by ensuring a spread of the network across the district
- the facility owner demonstrates the facility continues to meet community needs.

Advocacy

- ▶ Council and other key stakeholders will support learn to swim and water safety programmes at the four sub-regional facilities as this increases the opportunity for students to take swimming lessons and reduces barriers to accessibility and cost.
- ▶ Council is committed to improving water safety in Tairāwhiti through ensuring Tairāwhiti people have access to appropriate training. It will maintain a strong relationship with learn to swim providers such as Swim for Life Tairāwhiti and:
 - advocate for support for community providers to deliver learn to swim and water safety programmes
 - promote programmes that are available throughout the region whether in aquatic facilities or safe open water spaces.



PART D: THE NETWORK

Aquatic facilities have not always been placed strategically in the Tairāwhiti-Gisborne region to best meet the needs of the community. This is because decisions have historically been made in isolation, with little thought put into what other facilities exist in the vicinity that could be adapted to achieve the needs of that community.

The key to successful network is to viewing the full range of community needs for aquatic facilities across the region and the full gamut of potential providers. Decisions on investment in aquatic facilities can be taken with the big picture in mind and avoiding over or under investing.

HIERARCHY OF FACILITIES

The aquatic facilities network is considered based on the following facility tiers:

- ▶ Regional level facilities – Facilities with the ability to host inter-regional and internal regional competitions and serve as a regional high-performance training hub for several aquatic sports, in addition to providing general needs for recreation, social space and learn to swim.
recreational swimmers from across adjacent townships for local competitions, training and recreational/fitness swimming and act as learn to swim hubs.
- ▶ Sub-regional level facilities – Facilities with the ability to draw significant numbers of teams/ competitors and
- ▶ Local – Facilities with the ability to serve a local catchments basic recreation and learn to swim needs. This catchment will predominantly be drawn from within a single local community.

LEVELS OF SERVICE

Regional facility levels of service

The Olympic Pool Complex in Gisborne is the single regional level facility in Tairāwhiti-Gisborne. It has the potential to cater for local and regional swim meets, recreational lane swimming and fitness classes, learn to swim training and for social and recreational use. Once redeveloped, it may have the capacity to attract some events with potential economic benefits and will be a tourism drawcard year round.

The performance measures for regional facility provision (Olympic Pool Complex) are as follows.

- ▶ Open daily
- ▶ Pool dimensions – minimum of 25m long, 21m wide and 2m deep (to enable water polo, lifesaving, canoe polo, underwater hockey and synchronised swimming)
- ▶ Heated water
- ▶ At least partially covered for lane swimming and water play for all year use.
- ▶ Family friendly environment and 'destination' feeling
- ▶ Full time lifeguards



- ▶ High level of amenity and strong links to adjacent amenities for leisure/entertainment recognising the benefits of these facilities particularly their potential to contribute to the economy and the importance of showcasing them as part of their wider context
- ▶ User parking and spectator parking for 100+ spectators
- ▶ The facility is accessible via an existing land transport network that can cope with increases in traffic volumes that peak use of the facility (eg for events) may bring
- ▶ Access to the facility via main walkways and cycleways are well defined
- ▶ May have complementary services such as gym, storage for sports teams, swim club space, training rooms and admin space for sports/water safe trust
- ▶ Health and safety for users/operators ie sun protection and a healthy smokefree environment
- ▶ Consider creating a linkage with the beach, open park spaces and surf lifesaving club.

Sub-regional facility levels of service

- ▶ May be seasonal, but open in the summer months
- ▶ Lifeguards during public opening hours
- ▶ May be heated, likely outdoor facility
- ▶ 25m+ pool
- ▶ Safe and functional
- ▶ Low level of amenity
- ▶ Health and safety for users/operators ie sun protection and a healthy smokefree environment
- ▶ Potential for partial funding support by external agencies such as Council and philanthropic interests.

Local facility levels of service

- ▶ Provided/funded by surrounding community
- ▶ May be up to 25m length lane pool
- ▶ Pool supervision during public opening hours.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Table 2: Roles and responsibilities for aquatic activities and facility provision in Tairāwhiti

Area	Responsibility	Core players
Network planning Setting the strategic direction for aquatic facilities that meet community needs	Developing a plan for an aquatic facilities network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Schools/Ministry of Education • Sport Gisborne-Tairāwhiti • National/regional swimming orgs • National/regional water safety orgs
Funding Providing the investment to enable aquatic facilities to be provided	Funding capital costs to build and renew aquatic facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Schools/Ministry of Education • Local philanthropy eg ECT • National philanthropy eg Lotteries • Private/commercial interests
	Funding services to support use of aquatic facilities such as club operation, programmes, events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti • Clubs • National/regional swimming orgs • National/regional water safety orgs • Local philanthropy eg ECT • National philanthropy eg COGS • Private/commercial interests
Facility provision Providing aquatic facilities that meet community needs	Building, operating and maintaining aquatic facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Schools/Ministry of Education • Private/commercial operators
Service provision Providing services that enable the community to make the most of aquatic facilities	Providing programmes and events to support use of aquatic facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti • Clubs and community groups • National/regional swimming orgs • National/regional water safety orgs • Private/commercial interests • Hauora Tairāwhiti
	Supporting clubs and codes to operate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti • National/regional swimming orgs • National/regional water safety orgs



PART E: ACTIONS

ACTIONS

Table 3: Actions to implement Aquatic Facilities Plan

Key actions	Partners	Cost (est)	Timeframe (est)
1. Work with funders to prepare a robust funding programme	GDC / Funders	Internal	By Jun 2018
2. Establish a Community Facilities Relationships and Partnerships position responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships with facility providers Corporate partnerships Alternative funding arrangements 	GDC / SGT / ECT	\$90,000 pa	By Jul 2018
3. Develop partnership agreements for provision of sub-regional aquatic facilities for 6 weeks summer 8 hours per day. (Links to resourcing of Relationships and Partnerships position)	GDC / Facility providers	\$60,000 pa	By Nov 2018
4. Redevelop the Olympic Pool Complex to meet current and future community needs for a regional level aquatic facility	GDC / Funders	TBC	By 2022
Operational actions	Partners	Cost (est)	Timeframe
5. Develop and maintain a comprehensive asset management plan for the Olympic Pool Complex	GDC	Internal	By Jun 2018
6. Establish a technical working group for best practice management of aquatic facilities	GDC / Facility providers	Internal	By Jun 2018 (ongoing)
7. Maintain relationships with water safety education providers to facilitate programmes	GDC / Providers	Internal	By Jun 2018 (ongoing)
8. Review Olympic Pool Complex pricing structure	GDC	Internal	3-yearly (LTP)
9. Review Olympic Pool Complex opening hours	GDC	Internal	3-yearly (LTP)
10. Monitor and report on use, demand and satisfaction with facilities to inform planning and management	GDC	Internal	Use/satisfaction: (Annual Report) Demand: LTP (3-yearly)



Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti
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