



Aquatic Development Strategy



Volume 2: Background & Consultation Findings

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About this document

This document is a draft Background and Consultation Findings presented to Southern Grampians Shire Council as part of the Aquatic Facility Development Strategy and Strategic Technical Assessment. This Draft Report has been produced for the purposes of further discussion before a Final Report is issued.

There are two other volumes that are to be read in conjunction with this Volume 2: Background and Consultation Findings. They are as follows:

Volume 1: Technical Assessments and Probable Capital Costs; and

Volume 3: Summary, Issues and Actions

Note: This Report has not been submitted to, or formally adopted by the Southern Grampians Shire Council.

1. Introduction and background

1.1 The project

The brief

Key requirements of the project brief are separated into two parts. Part A is the Technical Assessment of the six facilities and includes:

- Review the six outdoor aquatic facilities of the Southern Grampians Shire and determine the structural condition of facility components, together with anticipated life expectancy of existing components
- Assess the existing facilities against current standards of adequacy for aquatic centres
- Determine contingent and future maintenance liabilities expenditure required to maintain the aquatic facilities to the required standards
- Determine a five year refurbishment program for the components of each aquatic facility, including costs
- Recommend the types and models of equipment to be used where upgrading or replacing components is required
- Recommend redevelopment options, including costs, implementation time table and the provision of a Master Plan for each facility, taking into account environmental considerations

- Where a facility is recommended to be re-engineered, designed or consolidated prepare the Master Plan in line with recommendations outlined in Council's Leisure Services Strategic Plan

Part B is a Strategic Review of the aquatic centres and includes:

- Reviewing the technical assessment information, previous audits and Council reports to advise Council which strategic approach is most highly recommended
- Make recommendations on the short and long term viability and operations of all facilities and Council's potential to maintain, upgrade, consolidate or refurbish to meet the future community need
- Examine funding sources for recommended options
- Undertake benchmarking with other facilities to determine the best option for Council
- Determine if facilities are being used to their potential and recommend ways to better utilise the facilities
- Determine if all sectors of the community have fair and equitable access to aquatic facilities
- Recommend and provide rationale for a set of prioritised recommendations and implementation schedule outlining how Council can best plan strategically for the future to meet the current and future requirements of the residents of the Southern Grampians Shire
- Review and make recommendations regarding Council's pool management arrangements, current facility usage, membership costs and organisational capacity

- Collect and review key aquatic performance indicators for the period for each facility to ensure recommendations are holistic
- Determine if the relationship between the facilities and the opening hours of each is optimal and make any recommendations that could maximise the enjoyment of residents while maintaining financial stability

The Shire's outdoor pools

The outdoor pools being considered as part of this aquatic assessment and strategic review are highlighted in the following table.

Table 1: Description of Southern Grampians Shire's outdoor pools

Facility	Infrastructure Description
Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool (HOSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built 1955 • T Shaped 50m, L Shaped 25m, Babies • Chlorine Gas Chlorination • Gas Heating and Pool Blankets (50m) – Currently inoperable. • Filtration: 50m – Open Gravity Sand Filter, 25m – High Pressure Sand Filter • Kiosk and Amenity Building • Access Ramp • Depth 3.05m (deep), 1.27-1.57m (intermediate), 0.915m (shallow)
Coleraine Memorial Swimming Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built 1967 • 50m & Toddlers • Chlorine Gas Chlorination • Gravity Filter • Pool Blankets with Auto Slave • Semi Open Aired Amenities • Kiosk

Facility	Infrastructure Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Heating Panel (on a cement compound) • Depth 1.8m (deep), 1.2-1.5m (intermediate), 0.90m (shallow)
Balmoral & District Swimming Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built 1970 • L Shaped 25m Pool & Toddlers Pool • Sodium Hypo Chlorination • Solar Collector • Access Ramp • Open Gravity Filter • Semi Open Aired Amenities • Depth 3.00m (deep), 1.5m (intermediate), 0.6 – 0.9m (shallow)
Penshurst Swimming Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built 1958 • 25m Pool & Toddlers Pool • High Pressure Sand Filters • Hypo Chlorination with Auto Dosing • Semi Opened Aired Amenities • Pool Blankets • Pool Blankets Depth 2.7m (deep), 1.4m (intermediate), 0.9m (shallow)
Dunkeld Memorial Swimming Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built 1966 • 25m Pool & Toddlers • Sodium Hypo Chlorination • Large Sand Open Gravity Filter • Water Slide • Pool Blankets Depth 2.6m (deep), 1.4m (intermediate), 1.0m (shallow)
Glenthompson War Memorial Swimming Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built 1975 • 25m Pool & Toddlers • Sodium Hypo Chlorination • Sand Pressure Filter • Enclosed Amenities • Depth 1.6m (deep), 1.0m (shallow)



The Shire

Southern Grampians Shire is located in south-western Victoria, about 290 kilometres west of Melbourne. Southern Grampians Shire is bounded by Horsham Rural City and Northern Grampians Shire in the north, Ararat Rural City in the east, Moyne Shire in the south, and Glenelg and West Wimmera Shires in the west.

Southern Grampians Shire is a predominantly rural area, of 6,800 square kilometers. The major townships are Balmoral, Branxholme, Byaduk, Cavendish, Coleraine, Dunkeld, Glenthompson, Hamilton, Peshurst and Tarrington. The major town is Hamilton, which accommodates about half of the Shire's population. The current population is estimated at 17,321.

Population

As illustrated in the following table, 82% of Southern Grampians Shire resides in towns with out door swimming pools. 4,615 (32%) of the residents of towns with pools are over 55 years of age while only 4,479 (31%) are under 25 years of age.

Table 1: Population of Southern Grampian Shire towns with outdoor swimming pools by age group

Locality	Age Cohorts (years)						Total
	0 - 4	5 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 24	55 - 64	65+	
Balmoral	36	98	48	209	70	82	543
Coleraine	49	173	159	480	168	355	1,384
Dunkeld	41	79	57	266	111	129	683
Glenthompson	21	33	22	108	26	62	272
Hamilton	591	1,428	1,393	3,857	1,290	2,054	10,613
Peshurst	57	110	84	274	107	161	793
Total	795	1,921	1,763	5,194	1,772	2,483	14,288

Source: ABS 2006 Census; Age, Population and House Data

In addition to the resident population, Hamilton has a high population of students who travel from the region and who board at schools in Hamilton.

As of August 2008, there were 1158 primary school students and 1655 secondary school students in Hamilton.

There are seven secondary schools (four private) and 1734 secondary school students and 17 primary schools and 1621 primary school students in and around Hamilton.

Distribution of outdoor pools

The following map shows the 10km catchment of each outdoor swimming pool and the 25km catchment of the Hamilton swimming pools. Very few towns or people living in the Southern Grampians Shire fall outside these catchments and therefore access to outdoor swimming pools by the community is relatively fair and equitable. The map also shows pools in other municipalities around the borders of the Shire.

While the outdoor swimming pools have varying levels of access for people with disabilities and mobility restrictions the quality facilities of HILAC ensure the entire Southern Grampians have access to swimming within the Shire.

Distance between towns with pools

The following table shows the distance between towns in the Southern Grampians Shire with swimming pools and other major towns in the region and their populations.

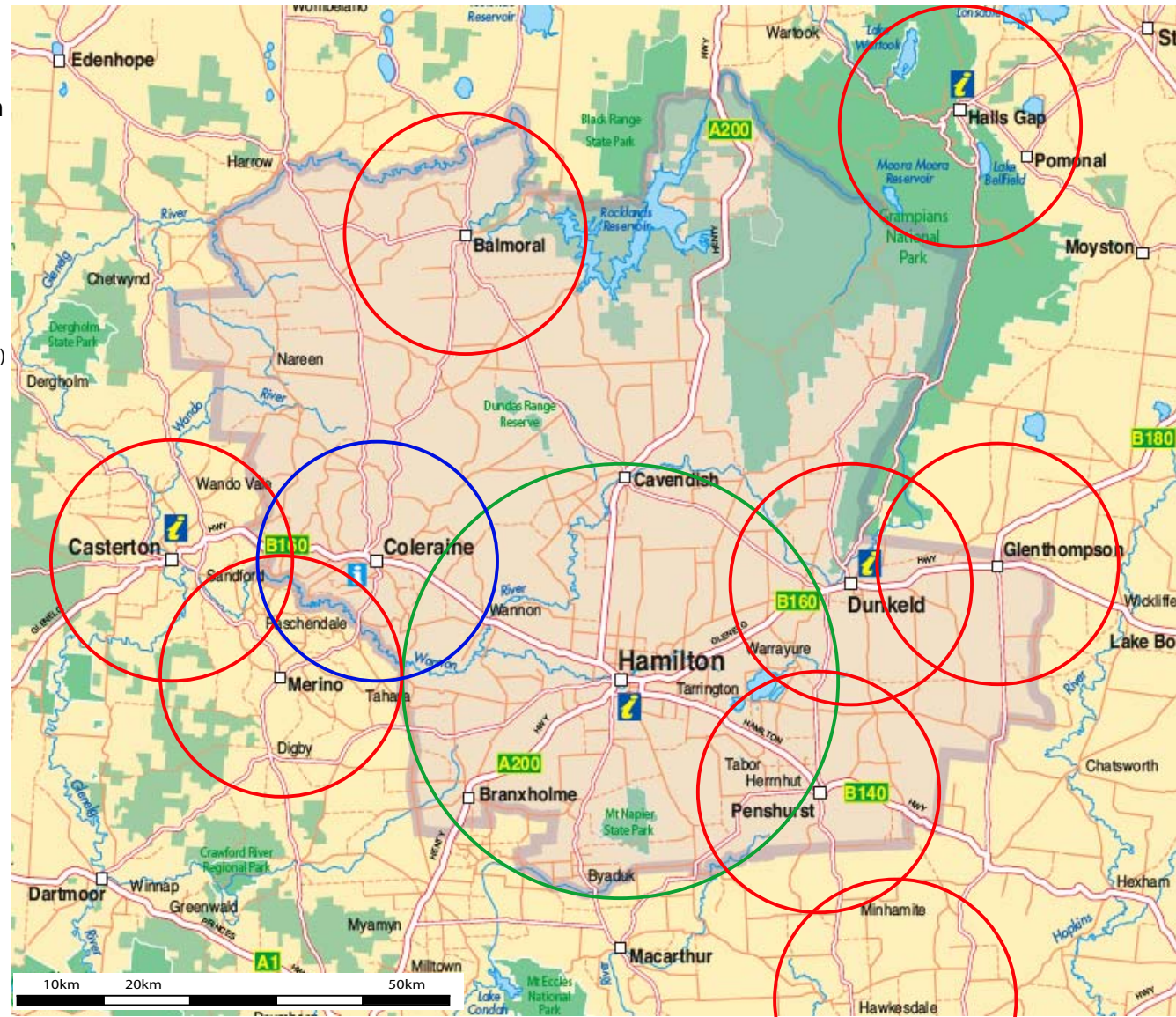
Table 2: Distance (kilometres) between towns in Southern Grampians Shire and surrounding region with pools, and their populations.

Towns	Population	Hamilton	Balmoral	Coleraine	Dunkeld	Glenthompson	Penshurst
Hamilton	10,614						
Balmoral	542	66					
Coleraine	1,383	35	48				
Dunkeld	685	32	72	67			
Glenthompson	274	51	91	86	19		
Penshurst	793	31	94	65	29	44	
Branxholme	236	25	89	30	57	70	55
Byaduk	N/A	28	92	62	60	79	32
Cavendish	454	26	38	53	32	50	54
Tarrington	193	9	75	43	27	46	22
Warrnambool	27,941	82	138	112	83	83	59
Casterton	1,962	65	75	30	97	115	95
Portland	9,361	86	150	93	118	137	104
Ararat	8,215	107	147	142	76	62	104
Horsham	13,479	131	77	143	131	156	162
Hawkesdale	399	57	124	89	56	67	27
Merino	400	47	70	22	79	98	78

Source: www.whereis.com

Location of Public Swimming Pools in Southern Grampians and Environs

-  50m Outdoor Swimming Pool & HILAC (25km Radius)
-  50m Swimming Pool (10km Radius)
-  25m Swimming Pool (10km Radius)



Staffing structure

Hamilton and Coleraine outdoor pools have at all times at least 2 staff, who are qualified lifeguards. The responsibilities of the two staff include lifeguard supervision duties, kiosk service and admittance attendant. Generally one staff member will service the kiosk and gate while the other undertake lifeguard supervision duties. They will rotate from time to time.

The number of lifeguards is determined by the Royal Life Saving Society Australia guidelines, which provide there should be a one lifeguard for every 200 swimmers actually in the water. Additional staff are provided where required by demand.

Coleraine offers unsupervised early morning swimming where no life guards/staff are present while one lifeguard is present for Hamilton's early morning swimming sessions.

All other pools have one lifeguard in attendance while there are less than 25 swimmers in the water. Where more than 25 swimmers are in the water additional staff are provided on a ratio of one guard per 25 swimmers.

There is no kiosk at Dunkeld, Peshurst, Glenthompson or Balmoral but the lifeguard does collect any admittance fees as well as supervise the pool.

Unsupervised lap swimming is also offered at Balmoral, Coleraine, Dunkeld, Glenthompson and Peshurst.

2. Literature Review

Council Plan 2009 - 2013

A number of directions and strategies are relevant to this plan.

The goals identified in the Plan are to:

- Provide the people of the Southern Grampians Shire with the highest standards of good governance
- Plan for and foster economic growth and prosperity
- Ensure a wide range of quality services are available to our community
- Help communities in our Shire feel strong and safe
- Pursue environmental sustainability in our Shire

Key directions relevant to this plan are as follows:

Economic Growth and Prosperity

We will plan for and foster economic growth and prosperity.

Strategies include:

- Investigating hospitality, tourism and leisure opportunities in the Lake Hamilton precinct
- Continuing to create opportunities for regionally significant recreation and leisure facilities and services

Quality Services

The aquatic facilities of Southern Grampian's Shire are specifically highlighted as a key component of the Quality Services objective, specifically:

"The aquatic leisure centres in our Shire are important to many people. We will undertake detailed assessments of the Shire's outdoor swimming pools to guide future investments in those facilities".

The Plan states, "completing a Master Plan for the Hughan Park swimming pool precinct and undertaking technical and strategic assessments of the Shire's six outdoor swimming pools."

Complementing this specific aquatic strategy is the overarching strategy of "Maintaining and extending our sporting facilities to meet the needs of our community".

To measure the performance of Council the Plan states the performance indicators to be used are:

- Satisfaction with Council's recreation facilities will increase
- Clear direction for the future of the aquatic leisure facilities will have been established

Other strategies of the Plan's Quality Services objective are:

- Continuing to provide an integrated range of health services for families, young people, the frail, elderly and people with disabilities
- Completing the planning and development of a multi-purpose leisure complex at Pedrina Park
- Building walking and cycling infrastructure to significantly increase these modes as commuter and leisure options

- Ensuring community infrastructure and services meet access and mobility standards

Strong and Safe Communities

We will help communities in our Shire be stronger and feel safe.

Strategies

We will foster strong, safe communities by:

- Continuing to provide support and services to our smaller towns which enables those communities to flourish
- Providing better support and recognition to the hundreds of volunteers in our communities who are indispensable elements of building social strength and cohesion

Environmental Sustainability

We must lead the way on behaving sustainably.

Strategies

We will progress towards environmental sustainability by:

- Adopting a local sustainability strategy to guide our actions
- Reducing Council's water consumption through a sustainable Water Plan
- Completing energy audits at Council facilities, reducing energy consumption and having an increasing proportion of our energy needs being met from renewable energy sources

Leisure Services Strategy 2006

Key outcomes and issues findings in relation to swimming were as follows:

- Predicted small population growth of the Shire is not likely to generate significant new demand for sport and recreation facilities
- Based on a comparison of the provision of facilities for selected sports in the Southern Grampians Shire with other rural Victorian municipalities, there appears to be Shire-wide there was an over supply of swimming facilities
- The current "old" demographic profile of the Shire combined with the continued aging of the population, will increase the demand for unstructured, passive leisure and recreation pursuits, particularly in selected rural towns
- Young people have an increasing interest in participating in unstructured recreation as an alternative to club based and formal sporting participation
- There is improvement needed in the provision of family recreation facilities at most recreation reserves

The Strategic Implementation Plan of LSS 2006 contains the following actions for both Hamilton Indoor Leisure and Aquatic Facility and aquatics generally:

- Research, after the first year of HILAC operations, client catchments and satisfaction levels of users
- Ensure promotion of HILAC is being undertaken in rural communities
- Target members of rural communities and older adults to become members

- Ensure HILAC tenant feedback mechanisms are in place
- Investigate the feasibility of running “come n try” and “social hour” sessions after school at HILAC to provide informal recreational opportunities for young people and to market the sporting opportunities available at the centre
- Undertake a comprehensive review of the future management and operation of the Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool at the conclusion of the 2006/07 season (to assess the impact of the opening of the HILAC on its patronage and operational viability)
- Review the need to retain the beach at Lake Hamilton as a formal swimming location
- Continue to implement the key directions in the *Audit of Swimming Pools and Master Plan Report (2000)*
- Undertake a condition audit and operational review of the outdoor pools to update the ten year plan identified in the current Master Plan report.

Leisure Strategy 2006 Consultation

The Household Telephone Survey of 350 randomly selected households, undertaken as part of the LSS 2006 consultation identified:

- Swimming (18%) was the second most popular activity overall, although it was identified as the most popular activity for those in the younger age groups
- Swimming was generally the most nominated activity when respondents were asked if there were any activities that they do not currently participate in, but would like to on a regular basis (was nominated as the most popular choice for 25-34 and 50-74 year olds)

The a meeting of the HILAC Users Groups, including the Hamilton Swimming Club, identified the following key themes:

- Club had 60 members and was still growing
- Club was not a strong regional competitor but this may change with year round training facilities
- Club strongly advocates the retention of the outdoor pool as it is a competition standard 50m pool and plays a significant role in attracting young people to the sport

Sustainable Water Use Plan 2006

This plan identifies current water use by the Council and ways for it to progressively reduce this water use, through the implementation of specific Council actions.

The Plan confirms Council’s awareness that water shortages have placed the community in a position where demand will shortly outstrip supply and that Council is in position to play an important role in curbing water use.

The plan identified that Southern Grampians Shire Council used 62,000 KL/a of water and was licensed to extract a further 90,000 KL/a of bore water used predominately for irrigation of gardens, sports grounds and open spaces. It also used water in facilities such as the saleyards, truck depot, swimming pools and public toilets.

The Plan identified that 8 per cent of Council’s water use was for swimming pools (behind public open space (25%), Council provided institutions (16%), sporting grounds (15%) and road reserves (12%)).

The Plan, adopted by Council, has adopted the following water usage reduction targets:

- 10 per cent by 2012 (the equivalent of 6,200 kL/a)
- 20 per cent by 2017 (a reduction a further 6,200 kL/a)

Water leakage from Southern Grampian Shire outdoor swimming pools

Although it is difficult to accurately measure the amount of water loss due to leakage from the outdoor pools (as the pools do not have their own water meters) it has been confirmed by HILAC Coordinator, that the pools are being topped up as follows:

- Peshurst – a tap is running into the pool, 24 hours a day, seven days a week throughout the season
- Coleraine and Balmoral is being topped up approximately 1cm per week
- Dunkeld is being topped up at least 1cm per week but the Dunkeld Pool Committee indicated that the losses could be even greater.

Audit of Swimming Pools and Master Plan 2000

Dennis Hunt & Associates Pty Ltd, on behalf of Southern Grampians Shire, conducted an audit and condition assessment of all buildings, and the Shire's six outdoor pools in 2000. In conjunction with Stratcorp Consulting a Master Plan for the future development of the Shire's six outdoor pools was prepared.

Major objectives of the audit were to undertake:

- condition assessment of each pool, its plant, buildings and surroundings
- demographic analysis of communities where the pools are located
- assessment of each pools management arrangements
- assessment of each facility's programming
- Preparation of a 10 year prioritised development program

The report contains a detailed condition report of each pool, its plant, buildings and surroundings as well as a projected likely ongoing maintenance requirements. Hunt identified \$844,000 capital improvements were required between 2000 and 2005 and the ten year maintenance projection between 2000 and 2010 would be \$927,710.

Hunt, with assistance from Stratcorp Consulting, reviewed the operations and management of each pool which identified that each pool is run independently of the Shire's other pools, with varying membership and entrance cost, opening hours, available programs and staffing structures.

An important learning was the management structure was different at each pool:

- Hamilton Outdoor Swimming Pool and Peshurst Swimming Pool is managed by Leisure Management and Marketing
- Coleraine Swimming Pool is managed by the YMCA
- Balmoral Swimming Pool, Dunkeld Swimming Pool and Glenthompson are managed by a committee of management operating under the terms of a Council appointed "Section 86 Committee"

This management structure makes it very difficult to generate any economies of scale or benefits of service centralisation.

Asset Management Strategy (revised 2006)

The Asset Management Strategy (AMS) applies to the operation, maintenance, refurbishment, renewal, upgrade, development and disposal of existing and new infrastructure assets that Council own or control.

The strategy contains a list of Council asset types, which does **not** include the outdoor or indoor swimming pools.

The AMS contains a strategic improvement plan with subsequent actions listed by asset type but again no specific mention of swimming pools.

Royal Life Saving Audit 2001

In 2001, Warwick Waters of the Royal Life Saving Society Australia (RLSSA), conducted a Swimming Pool Safety Assessment and Safety Improvement Plan for each of the Southern Grampian Shire's outdoor swimming pools.

Each pool was assessed against the RLSSA Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation. A Safety Score was then calculated and converted into a percentage, and recommended improvements subsequently made.

The Safety Score (%) for each pool was as follows:

- Balmoral 62.9%
- Coleraine 83.2%
- Dunkeld 64.5%
- Glenthompson 64.5%
- Hamilton 80.5%
- Peshurst 72.3%

Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, Southern Grampians Shire 2009

Southern Grampians Shire, for the 12th year in succession undertook a satisfaction survey to capture the views of the community and identify areas requiring improvement. 350 residents from the Southern Grampians Shire participated in a wide ranging telephone survey and their feedback in relation to recreational facilities highlighted the following:

- Community satisfaction of Council's performance in providing recreation facilities was the lowest rating of Council's key service areas
- The community indicated the performance of Council in providing recreation services has significantly declined over the previous 12 months
- 14% of 174 survey respondents indicated that "*More/ better/maintenance of pools*" was required

3. Demand for swimming

3.1 Trends in swimming

The Australian Sports Commission, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Aging, produce the annual Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) which identified, that since 2001, the participation of swimming has decreased on both a national and state level for adults aged 15 years and older.

Table 3: National and Victorian participation rates for swimming identified by ERASS for 15+ age groups, 2001 – 2008

Year	Participation rates in swimming	
	National	Victorian
2001	16.0%	13.7%
2002	14.9%	13.5%
2003	15.3%	13.7%
2004	16.5%	16.5%
2005	14.4%	13.9%
2006	13.6%	11.7%
2007	12.0%	11.3%
2008	14.5%	13.2%

Source: Exercise, Recreation and Sports Surveys, 2001-2008

The ERASS study found that swimming participation in Victoria has decreased by 8.85% between 2001 and 2008 while nationally for the same period the decrease is 25%.

The participation rate of children aged 5 – 14 in swimming, as measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics April 2006 Report titled *Children’s Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities*, is the opposite of the adult trend with participation rates increasing from 14.4% in 2000 nationally to 17.4% in 2006.

Table 3a: National participation rates for swimming of children aged between 5 and 14 years of age.

	2000	2003	2006
Participation rates	14.4%	16.6%	17.4%

Source: ABS, Children’s Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, April 2006

As the following table illustrates, the participation of children in organised swimming is higher for younger children and reduces with age.

Table 3b: National participation rates for swimming for children aged between 5 and 14 years of age for 2006

	5-8 years	9-11 years	12-14
Participation rates	24.6%	17.3%	8.3%

Source: ABS, Children’s Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, April 2006

3.2 Attendance at the Shire’s outdoor pools

Like the participation of swimming nationwide, the casual use of the South Grampians Shire outdoor pools has decreased by 37,116 attendees (68%) between the 2008/09 and 2002/03 swimming seasons. The table below highlights the annual casual attendances recorded at each of the outdoor swimming pools between the 2002/03 season and the 2008/09 seasons. It is important to note these figures do not include lap swimmers, usage by members, school groups, carnivals or events.

Table 4: Annual attendance of Southern Grampians Shire outdoor swimming pools

Outdoor pool	Annual attendances of Southern Grampians Shire outdoor pools						
	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2004/05	2003/04	2002/03
Hamilton	5,612	9,428	12,767	34,900	30,439	28,169	29,981
Balmoral	3,167	3,363	3,954	5,473	3,532	3,343	7,308
Coleraine	4,222	4,909	5,327	6,347	5,523	5,607	5,945
Dunkeld	2,015	2,350	2,189	1,356	3,195	2,687	4,224
Glenthompson	919	786	1,528	1,312	1,363	1,421	5,046
Penshurst	1,416	1,164	1,242	717	1,754	1,944	1,963
Total	17,351	22,000	27,007	50,105	45,806	43,171	54,467

Source: Southern Grampians Shire Council

Table 5: Percentage decrease of attendance at Southern Grampian Shire outdoor swimming pools between 2002/03 and the 2008/09 swimming seasons

Outdoor swimming pool attendance % change between 2002/03 - 2008/09 swimming seasons					
Hamilton	Balmoral	Coleraine	Dunkeld	Glenthompson	Penshurst
-81%	-57%	-29%	-52%	-82%	-28%

Source: Southern Grampians Shire Council

The decrease in attendances to Southern Grampians Shire’s outdoor swimming pools affected all pools with Hamilton and Glenthompson experiencing attendance decreases of 80% between the 2002/03 seasons and the 2008/09 seasons. Penshurst and Coleraine experienced the smallest decrease but still experienced nearly 30% decrease over the period.

3.3 Attendance at Hamilton Indoor Leisure & Aquatic Centre

The Hamilton Indoor Leisure and Aquatic Centre (HILAC), costing \$9.7m, opened in March 2006, and received immediate public support with attendances averaging over 2,700 people a month for the first three months. The 2006/07 financial year average attendances levelled out to approximately 2,000 a month. These have increased steadily since.

The table below highlights the HILAC casual attendances but again it is important to note these figures do not include lap swimmers, usage by members, school groups, carnivals or events.

Table 6: HILAC annual attendances (financial year)

	HILAC Attendance Figures	
	Attendance	Monthly Average
March 06/June 06	10,939	2,735
06/07 Financial year	25,059	2,088
07/08 Financial year	27,590	2,299
08/09 Financial year	27,829	2,319

Source: HILAC Operations Coordinator, Southern Grampians Shire

3.4 Combined casual attendances at the pools

When the annual attendances of the indoor and outdoor swimming pools are combined there is still a total decrease in swimming participation across the Shire of 9,287 attendees or 17% between 2002/03 and 2008/09 financial years. While the attendances continue to increase at HILAC it is the decrease in attendances at the six outdoor pools that is driving the decline as highlighted in the following table.

Again, for consistency, these figures may not include lap swimmers, usage by members, school groups, carnivals or events.

Table 7: Annual swimming pool attendances for all Southern Grampians Shire swimming pools by financial year

Location	Annual swimming pool attendances (financial year)						
	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2004/05	2003/04	2002/03
Outdoor pools	17,351	22,000	27,007	50,105	45,806	43,171	54,467
HILAC	27,829	27,590	25,059	10,939			
Total attendance	45,180	49,590	52,066	61,044	45,806	43,171	54,467

Source: Southern Grampians Shire

4. Projected demand for swimming in the Shire

Population projections¹ issued by the Victorian Government, Department of Planning and Community Development has predicted that the Southern Grampians Shire will have a population growth of 378 between 2006 and 2021.

Table 8: Population projections by age cohort in Southern Grampians 2011 – 2021

Age Cohort	2006	2011	2016	2021
0-4	988	1,060	1,024	1,015
5-14	2,377	2,274	2,164	2,119
15-24	2,078	2,340	2,258	1,942
25-34	1,612	1,741	1,799	1,858
35-44	2,215	2,168	1,989	1,955
45-54	2,520	2,486	2,359	2,009
55-64	2,172	2,295	2,397	2,327
65+	3,223	2,986	3,432	4,338
Total	17,185	17,348	17,423	17,563

Source: Victoria in Future 2008, Population Projections, Department of Planning and Community Development

¹ The Victoria in Future 2008, Population Projections, Department of Planning and Community Development

Using the participation rates of the relevant studies, the estimated number of swimmers in the Southern Grampians will remain stable at approximately 2,400 people aged 4 and above. The actual figure could be slightly higher when children aged younger than 4 and school boarders in Hamilton are considered. The following table illustrates this calculation.

Table 9: Projected number of swimmers in Southern Grampians 2011 – 2021

	Participation Rate (%)	2011	2016	2021
Participation				
0-4²	Unidentified	Unidentified	Unidentified	Unidentified
Children - 5-14	17.4% ³	395	377	369
Adults – 15+	14.5% ⁴	2,032	2,064	2,092
Estimated participation		2,427	2,441	2,461

² No participation data is available for this age group

³ ABS, Children’s Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, April 2006

⁴ Exercise, Recreation and Sports Surveys, 2008, Australian Sports Commission

Table 10: Estimated percentage of swimmers in each age group in Southern Grampians 2006 – 2021⁵

Age Cohort	% of estimated swimmers per age cohort per year			
	2006	2011	2016	2021
0-4	Unidentified	Unidentified	Unidentified	Unidentified
5-14	21%	20%	19%	19%
15-24	12%	14%	14%	12%
25-34	12%	13%	13%	14%
35-44	17%	17%	16%	16%
45-54	17%	17%	16%	14%
55-64	11%	11%	12%	12%
65+	9%	9%	10%	13%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

The total population for the Southern Grampians Shire is expected to increase slightly by 2021, however the expectation is that the population will age significantly over this time. The above table shows that in 2011, it is estimated that 9% of the population will be older than 65 but is expected to grow to 13% of the population by 2021 or an increase of 44%.

⁵ ABS, Children’s Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, April 2006 and Exercise, Recreation and Sports Surveys, 2008, Australian Sports Commission

5. Core Services

To be viable and relevant, all swimming pools must have a core level of service and infrastructure. Without these core requirements the pools will not satisfy the basic needs of the community and therefore will not be patronised to a sustainable level.

Regional seasonal swimming pools must be more than “holes in the ground” filled with water. They should be the hub of social, family and community interaction in their respective towns.

5.1 Infrastructure

The minimum level of infrastructure for a viable outdoor swimming pool is the:

- pool and its surrounding environment be safe and compliant with all relevant legislation and safety guidelines
- provision of clean, heated water in a pool that does not leak
- functional pool blankets
- suitable change rooms with hot and cold showers
- designated BBQ, picnic and social areas within the pool
- clear onsite signage, pool name etc and from major roads
- extensive directional street signage, obvious pool name signage and indicators the pool is open
- aesthetically functional wind breaks

5.2 Services

The minimum level of service which should be provided by each pool is:

- minimum of two qualified staff at all times (with the exception of designated unsupervised lap swimming times)
- adequately staffed kiosk
- program of relevant competitions, events and activities
- learn to swim classes for all ages
- convenient lap swimming times
- lane ropes
- swim club (and potentially life club) access
- pool remain open until 8.30 – 9.00pm where the temperature is over 30 degrees at 6.00pm
- pool remain open on weekends, regardless of the temperature
- strong promotion of the pool, its activities and opportunities

6. Consultation Findings

6.1 Methodology

The following consultation methodology was undertaken to ensure that the community had multiple opportunities to provide input, while at the same time directly contacting specific people / groups for their direct input.

Steering Committee and Reference Group

In establishing this project, Council formed a Project Steering Committee and a Project Reference Group. These groups were responsible for overseeing the project and providing vital input and direction throughout. Both groups comprise internal and external stakeholders.

The majority of the members have been interviewed individually by telephone at length for more specific input.

Local Schools

The following schools were interviewed by telephone:

• Coleraine Primary School	• St. Marys Primary School - Hamilton
• Gray Street Primary School - Hamilton	• St. Joseph's Primary School - Peshurst
• Hamilton North Primary School	• St. Joseph's Primary School - Coleraine
• Peshurst Primary School	• Hamilton & Alexander College – Hamilton
• Good Shepherd College – Hamilton	• Balmoral High School
• Monivae College - Hamilton	• Hamilton Special Development School

Swimming Pool Committee of Managements and Advisory Groups

The President of each Committee of Management or Advisory group was interviewed.

The Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool User Advisory Group was formed during the consultation period and made a submission which has been included in Section 7.5 of this document.

Special Interest Groups

The following special interest groups have been interviewed by telephone:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South West Sports Assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamilton Primary Schools Sports Association
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamilton Secondary Schools Sports Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coleraine Tourist Information Centre
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dunkeld Tourist Information Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western District Health Service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coleraine District Hospital and Aged Care Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peshurst & District Health Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balmoral Bush Nursing Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamilton Swimming Club
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warrnambool Mayor 	

Southern Grampians Shire Council staff

Outside of Steering Committee and Reference Group meetings, representatives from the following Council departments were consulted:

- Leisure Services
- Community Development
- HILAC Operations
- Information Centres
- Building Services

Broader Community Consultation

To ensure the wider community had every opportunity to provide feedback the following was undertaken:

- A media release was prepared by @leisure and circulated by Council notifying the community of the project and inviting them to make a submission
- Council sent a Household Survey to 2,000 randomly selected households throughout the Shire. The number of surveys sent to each town and region of the Shire was based on the percentage of population that town or region contributes to the Shire's total population. Over 292 surveys were completed and returned (a response rate of 14.6%).
- Six Community Workshops were held over the weekend of the 8th and 9th of August at the following locations:

Location	Date and Time
Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool	8 th August, 10.30am
Coleraine Mechanics Institute	8 th August, 1.15pm
Balmoral Mechanics Institute Hall	8 th August, 4.00pm
Hamilton Performing Arts Centre	8 th August, 7.30pm
Peshurst Community Hall	9 th August, 9.00am
Dunkeld Memorial Hall	9 th August, 11.45am
Glenthompson Memorial Hall	9 th August, 2.15pm

Public Submissions

Six submissions were received from the general public before a draft document was prepared. These are summarised in section 7. Further submissions were received once the final draft strategy was exhibited for Public comment. These, and the response recommended are

6.2 Swimming pool users

There is a range of user groups accessing the indoor and outdoor swimming pools of the Southern Grampians Shire. Each group relates to the swimming pools differently and a crucial component of the consultation has been to understand these different usages and relationships. The following table identifies not just the different user groups of the swimming pools but also a wider group of stakeholders and the relationship to the swimming pools.

Table 12: Stakeholders of Southern Grampians swimming pools

Stakeholder	Comment
Southern Grampians Shire Council & its section 86 Committees	Owner of the swimming pools, responsible for the maintenance, management and their overall condition and improvement
Local schools	Run swimming programs which initially focus on teaching children to swim, progress to technique development and lead to competitions and carnivals
Families	Use the pools and staff to teach their children to swim, a venue to socialise and for entertainment
Those that use swimming as a means of maintaining fitness	Lap swimming and water exercise activities are undertaken by many, as a means of keeping fit

Stakeholder	Comment
Health services	May use the swimming pools as part of preventative or rehabilitation programs
Those who are pursuing swimming as a competitive sport	The Hamilton Swimming Club provides specialist coaching and a pathway to competitive swimming
Tourists to the area	During the summer months in particular tourists use the swimming pools as source of entertainment and a venue to socialise
Specific groups such as people with disabilities and older adults and those who provide programs for them	Swimming pools are often used within programs specifically for people from these groups
Hamilton Indoor Leisure and Aquatic Centre	Has operational responsibility for the management of many of the Shire's swimming pools, provision of staff and maintenance of the Shire's pools
School age children	Are major users of the swimming pools for a multitude of reasons, outside of school hours
The local community	May use the swimming pools for any of the above reasons. Importantly this group includes those who use the pools frequently, often, rarely and never and their opinions are all relevant
Pool committee's and advisory groups	Work with Council, in the best interests of their local swimming pool and users

6.3 Notes from Telephone Interviews & Submissions

The findings of the consultation process have been grouped by swimming pool and then into smaller, relevant headings for ease of analysis. Information from direct submissions has also been included in this section.

The results of the Household Survey are detailed in Section 9 Household Survey Findings.

Balmoral and District Swimming Pool

Presidents comments

- The pool is used for recreational swimming, and learn to swim lessons are offered in January through the school. The “lap club” has approximately 35 children swimming twice a week.
- Groups who use the pool include the school, Bush Nursing Hospital, football club during pre season and the “swim with the stars”
- Not many children travel to Hamilton to join the swimming club so this could be an opportunity for the pool
- Attendances have fallen because there is nothing to attract children (diving board is no longer), the pool is also too cold before Christmas to attract many users

- To attract people back to the pool the entrance needs to be improved, access for people with disabilities improved, reintroduction of swimming lessons for toddlers, addition of a BBQ area and dry sport activity equipment such as volleyball nets and totem tennis
- Additional lap swimming for older adults and learn to swim classes could be introduced
- A Blue Light Disco is held at the pool each year
- The pool receives really good community support, with working bees well attended
- The committee undertakes many fundraising activities to improve the pool

Balmoral School (75 students Prep to Year 12)

- Year 7 students undertake water safety and stroke development classes, while water sports are an elective for Year 8-10 students
- The Physical Education teacher takes the swimming classes while a local women undertakes the Bronze assessments
- Swimming program has been halved in recent time due to athletics being held in the same term
- The high school do use HILAC for gym, aerobics and diving activities
- The change facilities need to be upgraded
- It would be beneficial for the pool to opened in November, which would offer more curriculum flexibility

- To improve attendances swimming programs need to be introduced, as many children of all ages are not very strong swimmers. Dry land activities should also be encouraged

Balmoral Bush Nursing Hospital

- Use the pool for water exercises as part of preventative and rehabilitation programs for patients. They also use the hydro therapy pool at the hospital
- Have increased their usage of the pool in recent years as they have now got more staff with the relevant water expertise
- They would like to run more programs, but are restricted by the temperature of the water (often too cold for their patients)
- Commencing a men's health program would be great and would attract more users
- Have discussed the use of HILAC but don't at this stage
- Definitely needs better disability access as is not currently suitable for their clients with limited mobility
- The pool has stairs at the entrance and a steep grassy slope which is difficult for wheelchair access and no disabled toilet

General Comments

- There are two families with members with a disability who regularly use the pool

Coleraine Memorial Swimming Pool

Presidents comments

- Pool is predominately used by school aged children, families with young children, and schools doing lap swimming. There is early morning lap swimming (Mon, Wed, Fri) and also a mid morning lap swimming group which attracts older adults
- President believes the pool could be utilised by the Hospital more
- Real potential to run learn to swim programs but has no volunteers to do so. Used to have qualified volunteers but not any more
- Attendances are driven by the weather as the local population is aging
- Good community support of the pool, recently raised \$30K to go towards the pool blanket
- Need more shaded areas, roof over the change rooms, hot water in showers and more seating around the pool
- Would like to use the inflatable slide owned by Council as this would attract children to the pool
- Other ways already discussed to attract people to the pool were the establishment of a life saving club, fun days, a triathlon and to ensure people know when it is open
- Ideally the pool needs heating, new pool blankets and new trees to grow to provide shade

Coleraine Primary School

71 students

- Learn to swim classes, active after school program, swim squad training conducted by teachers and volunteers
- Don't use HILAC
- Toilets and change rooms need to be upgraded and a BBQ and social area added
- Volleyball nets and inflatable toys could be used to attract people back to the pool

St. Joseph's Primary School

30 students

- Two week water safety program with a one day swim carnival on the last day
- Staffed by a qualified staff member and volunteers
- Don't use HILAC
- Toilet and change room facilities "pretty ordinary" with no roof. On bad days swimming is normally cancelled as there is no where to keep clothes dry or items safe

Coleraine District Hospital and Aged Care Services

- Have an onsite hydrotherapy pool which can be used by the public by appointment through the physiotherapy department
- No scope to use outdoor pool

Dunkeld Swimming Pool

Presidents comments

- Used by young families, the school (the principal is a qualified swim instructor), school aged children, a lot of tourists. They have a lap club with unsupervised swimming at night which is mainly older women
- School aged children are the main users of the pool
- Need to make the pool more attractive to older people
- Don't have any lane ropes so lap swimming can not be undertaken while the pool is open to the general public
- The pool is too cold as there is a leak in the pool that gets topped up each night with cold water so the pool has no opportunity to attract and retain heat
- This is the major reason it is not used by play groups, mothers and the senior aerobic club
- Way too cold for infants and toddlers
- Learn to swim classes were undertaken at the pool and a couple of novelty events have been held
- Could attract people to the pool by running a junior lap club, hold family fun days and run learn to swim classes although there are currently not enough swim teachers to service Hamilton, let alone the towns with pools
- Need to make sure the pool is open when there are events in Dunkeld during summer
- Really well supported by the community

- Have saved \$20K which they would love to see used for heating
- No automatic water controls so header tanks let go completely when the pool gets empty which has caused significant additional water wastage

Glenthompson Swimming Pool

Presidents comments

- Local children the main users, a group of 6-8 senior ladies use the pool each morning at 9.00am for unsupervised lap swimming
- Is a fairly shallow pool so it heats quicker than larger pools as it has a thermal blanket which is used regularly. Could have the pool warmer but not too much warmer
- There are no lane ropes but this is not a real problem
- The pool is also used by the local school, football and netball clubs
- Shire organises activity days but not really enough people to warrant the effort. The population has decreased significantly, especially school aged children
- Members of the community also use HILAC
- The surrounds of the pool are very attractive, mainly grass but could be made more pleasant
- Community very happy with the current arrangement

Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool

Presidents comments - Gray Street Primary School

- All programs run at HILAC

Hamilton North Primary School

185 students

- Annual 2 weeks of swim classes conducted at HILAC
- Program changes from year to year depending if teachers can be provided by HILAC which is the biggest issue
- HILAC fantastic

St. Mary's Primary School

180 students

- Swim program undertaken at HILAC during term four
- Previously used the outdoor pool

Hamilton and Alexander College (senior and junior)

535+ students

- Use HILAC for programs, as outdoor pool in poor condition

Good Shepherd Junior College

70 students

- Use Hamilton outdoor pool for swimming programs but have also started to use HILAC
- Instructors supplied by Council (HILAC)

Monivae College

650 students

- School has a 20m outdoor pool
- Use HILAC for specific programs such as water aerobics
- Use outdoor pool for school sports
- Have qualified teachers on staff
- Need to attract more teaching staff so more programs can be run at HILAC and the outdoor pool
- Cost of HILAC a little high (\$4.40) going in large groups

Hamilton Special Development School

31 students

- Use HILAC and Mulleraterong for programs
- A combination of staff, principal and HILAC employees are used to run the programs
- There are access issues at HILAC and it is expensive to use regularly
- If more HILAC staff trained to work with people with disabilities and more after hours programs would allow attendances to be increased at HILAC

Western District Health Service

- Run hydrotherapy classes at HILAC and Mulleraterong and there is definitely scope for expanding the services
- Mostly used by people with arthritis and post surgery rehabilitation

- Have increased the number of staff trained to use aquatic facilities

Hamilton Primary Schools Sports Association

- Water temperature a major issue, just too cold for children to stay in the water for extended periods (greater than 10 minutes)
- Tried to run junior school sports there but simply too cold and had to hold at HILAC, senior school and combined school carnivals held at the outdoor pool because the older children could handle the water temperature
- The pool requires a water slide or activity for the toddler pool, more seating and shade, more pool toys, a BBQ area, picnic and meal area and potentially a café
- Currently the outdoor pool is not servicing the community at all. It used to be open early October and close end of March and stayed open until dark. Not now.
- The current temperature policy is detrimental to attendances
- Used to have a diving board which was highly used and a terrible lose. Was considered a right of passage to dive off it for the first time
- Pool discos used to be held but not now
- If the pool was lit you could create night activities
- Much more shade and seating is vital

- The uncertainty of opening hours makes it impossible to schedule weekend activities at the pool as you don't know when it will be open. As Head of the Boarding School would take students there on weekends even if it was cold to run dry activities but uncertainty eliminates this option
- The towns children need to go somewhere and be relatively supervised
- It all used to happen when the pool was heated

Hamilton Secondary Schools Sports Association

- The outdoor pool is great for swimming sports both interschool and at school level
- It would be very helpful if the 25 metre pool was also available both for competitions and for school lessons
- Insufficient areas of shading is a problem at the outdoor pool
- Pool temperature is too cold
- Programs offered at HILAC are good but generally they are not conducive to secondary school classes because of the size of the classes and the lack of space at HILAC
- Accessing teachers and instructors during school hours can be difficult
- Generally there are only one or two lanes available to school groups which is not very useful given the number of students
- Accessing sufficient HILAC equipment can also be a problem

- Schools undertake whole school swimming sports carnivals, private lessons, school PE lessons, aquatic programs such as water aerobics, aquatic sports
- A restriction at HILAC are the already existing programs that run during school hours, which in turn restrict the use of pools and teacher availability
- From a quick ask around: local sporting clubs may be avoiding the resources due to the high cost for hiring the venue
- Improvements which need to be undertaken to make the outdoor pools more attractive or usable to schools and students include making available the 25m pool at the outdoor pool complex, more shading at the outdoor pool, more equipment available for swimming usage
- The outdoor pool's hours possibly restrict the level of usage by schools and their students
- There is a clear perception among the schools that there is a significant shortage of swimming teachers in the region

Ex President of the Hamilton Swimming Club

- Pool looks unloved with no quality grass, very grotty with things broken, not a vibrant place, staff don't know the regulars
- **Lack of heat is the biggest issue**
- Could get an adult swimming group together but has never seen anybody in a wheelchair access the pool
- Would like to see the playground upgraded and incorporated into the swimming area

- There is room to have lots of different experiences such as volleyball, cricket etc
- The restricted opening hours are a major issue at both ends of the day
- Need to have free BBQ's with shade and seating and upgrade the change rooms
- Should have the diving board reinstated or a separate dive pool
- The swim club should have their own club rooms within the pool area
- Would like to see the pool upgraded to an eight lane competition pool that could attract carnivals and events
- Never seen the large inflatable slide used
- Children need access to free drinking water

Hamilton Swimming Club

- Club has approximately 70 junior members, mainly aged between 5-15. Once children get to age 15 that is just about the end of their involvement. If you are a good swimmer you have to go to boarding school in Melbourne to progress
- Have difficulty in attracting coaches. Five to seven children are driven to Warrnambool and Portland because the non availability of a 50m pool and adequate coaching
- Club does not have a diving board or diving club which is real opportunity
- Have a Hamilton based assistant coach and a very experienced state level coach that travels from Portland and stays overnight in Hamilton (on Wednesday nights)

- Currently run four groups per week, stroke technique (6-8) intermediate (7-9), Championship Group (state level)
- Ten children swim at state level
- Need to create a business for coaches to attract quality coaches
- Trained at HILAC all year round. Tried to train at the outdoor pool but couldn't stay in it for more than 10 minutes before turning blue. Meant to train for 90 minutes at a time
- Get along well with HILAC but not a close relationship and not a feeder system into the HILAC life guard staff
- Look at attracting a top coach in partnership with HILAC that may combine coaching and swim teaching at HILAC
- If the outdoor pool was heated the club would be moved to the outdoor pool immediately
- Locally monthly competitions (in summer a little more regularly) in Portland, Hamilton, Mt Gambier and Warrnambool
- Would compete in Melbourne 4-5 times a season and one competition at Geelong
- Need shade structures for the timekeepers at each end and for spectators on the hill
- The swim club would like to work with the Council to establish club rooms. Have a store room but no social area especially for the club where they could display their history
- The fact it is a six lane pool is not a real issue to the swim club. If you were going to change the pool you would put in a eight lane pool
- The pool leaks badly and is very cold. Not even at room temperature, it is freezing and almost unusable
- If there was more availability of coaches would run a fitness group

- Pool has a huge amount of grass but no other activity is undertaken at the pool. Need a playground, diving board or something else to entertain children
- Running satellite training could be an option if there was available coaches
- Increase service to schools, swimming may not be part of the school curriculum
- Could run swimming events if the pool was updated, such as the South West Games
- The grass has been left to go to dirt even though there is a bore available for the water
- Need a BBQ and picnic area
- Vicswim used to run a two week program but now nothing

Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool User Advisory Group (Submission)

Objective: Broaden Community Access to a multifunctional outdoor recreational precinct in the hub of our Shire with, at minimum, a 50 metre 8 lane competition heated outdoor swimming pool and appropriate supporting surrounds.

The facility is to complement HILAC and provide additional services to the Shire that HILAC and the five other pools cannot provide.

By providing:

- *Heating to a minimum of 24 degrees Celsius for the 2009/2010 season*
- *Lengthening pool opening times for the 2009/2010 season*
- *Heating to a minimum of 24 degrees Celsius for the following seasons*
- *Lengthening pool opening times for the future*
- *An appropriate depth for a 1.1 metre diving board*

- *A wet deck entry and wheel chair entry, removable starting blocks*
- *An appropriate toddlers pool regarding its location, depth, base*
- *temperature, and associated features*
- *A community function room/pavilion/entrance including:*
- *relocation of the triple archway facade acknowledging the heritage and community involvement from 1955*
- *a kitchen*
- *kiosk window with verandah, new toilets and showers*
- *unisex/disabled/family toilets and showers*
- *open indoor area for tables and chairs*
- *air conditioning*
- *first aid facilities*
- *storage shed attached*
- *crèche*
- *indoor play area or playground attached,*
- *dual access from the street car parking and precinct*
- *administration with telephone, computer, cash register,*
- *entry scanning facilities*
- *exit turnstile*
- *Shade, shade, and more shade throughout the precinct*
- *Groomed lawns*
- *Shade over portion of the main pool and the toddlers pool*
- *Conversion of the 25 metre pool to a diving pool capable of facilitating up to and including a 10 metre diving platform and a big water slide*
- *Triple A outdoor playground from the diving pool, street access, and precinct access*
- *Multiple BBQ facilities*
- *Updated PA system*
- *Cricket wicket on the perimeter*

- *Dual access outdoor netball/basketball court*
- *Utilisation of existing inflatable pool accessories*

Employment opportunities – multi-skilling

- *Pool Maintenance*
- *Grounds Maintenance*
- *Lifeguards*
- *Swimming instructors*
- *Swimming coaches*
- *Workplace trainers/Assessors*
- *Diving instructors*
- *Scuba instructors*
- *Front – desk admin*
- *Kiosk staff – food handling*
- *Booking co-ordinator*
- *Hospitality*
- *Catering*
- *Childcare*
- *Carers*
- *Massage*
- *Personal trainers*

Proposed activities

- *Recreational swimming*
- *Lap swimming*
- *Learn to swim classes*
- *School swimming lessons*
- *School swimming carnivals*
- *Swimming club training*
- *Swim club competitions*
- *Diving lessons*
- *Diving competition*

- *Scuba diving lessons*
- *Kayaking lessons*
- *Triathlon*
- *Biathlon*
- *Parties/Group Bookings*
- *Life saving classes*
- *Gathering for work groups*
- *Rehab*
- *Sporting club re-hab*
- *Specialist swimming clinics*
- *Water polo*
- *Water fun classes*
- *Family fund days*
- *Mother’s group meetings*
- *Playgroups*

Income sources

- *Memberships*
- *Casual admissions*
- *Lane hire*
- *Pool hire*
- *Learn to swim programs*
- *Holiday programmes*
- *Specialist classes/activities*
- *Family fun days*
- *School swimming lessons*
- *School bookings*
- *Hire of function room*
- *Kiosk sales*

Penshurst & District Swimming Pool

Presidents comments

- Pool used mainly by the local families, school aged children and a group of early morning lap swimmers
- Very bad leaking problem which makes the pool extremely cold as always being refilled with cold water
- Cold water takes peoples breath away when they jump in! Only the tough ones swim at present
- Facilities are not encouraging
- The school use the pool and provide their own instructors
- Learn to swim classes were run last year
- Need to improve the change room facilities and the pool is in need of a paint
- There is very strong support for the pool with Apex painting it a couple of years ago
- Ran an activity day last year but was effected by the weather but was a good idea
- Not a lot of directional signage around town directing people to the pool

Penshurst Primary School

9 students

- Learn to swim program undertaken each year at outdoor pool in summer and HILAC during the winter
- Instructors provided by Council (HILAC)

- More money needs to be spent on delivering swim programs
- Need to encourage children to use the pool more after school hours, possibly offer admission discounts to attract more children to the pool

St. Joseph's Primary School

27 students

- Two week water safety and stroke development course conducted at the Penshurst Pool run by the Principal and one qualified parent
- Major issues are lack of lane ropes, change rooms not being roofed and the cold water temperature
- There is definitely a demand for learn to swim lessons as some families have taken their children to Hawkesdale as these services are not provided at Penshurst

Penshurst & District Health Services

- Only a small nursing home and hostel with no need for aquatic activities

Southern Grampian Shire Council consultation

Information Centre

- Strong feedback from tourists that the pools should be open until 8.00pm
- Signage throughout the Shire directing people to the pools is poor
- Dunkeld pool is in the centre of town but entrance down the side with no signage

- Hamilton pool well located and very dated, does not match the quality of HILAC
- A way to increase patronage would be to link the entrance to other spending, eg spend \$XX at designated places and receive 50% of the entrance price of the pool
- Hamilton receives 40,000-45,000 visitors a year, Dunkeld 20,000 (usually via the Great Ocean Road or Grampians) and Coleraine 6,000

Community Development

- Clearly not enough swim teachers and of the current teachers, need to be trained to better support people with disabilities
- Could attract older adults through gentle aquatic exercise classes in warm water
- Pools are suitable in their current format for people with intellectual disabilities
- There needs to be a lot more reasons for people with disabilities to attend the pools. Casual swimming is unlikely to attract people, they need programs, support and to be made to feel welcome

HILAC Operations

- HILAC now confirmed as manager of all outdoor pools for 2009/10 season and beyond, after a successful trial last season

- HILAC will supervise cleaning, chemical dosage, staff recruitment, rostering, preparing pools at the beginning of each season, provide life savers and prepare the accounts for the non Section 86 managed pools
- Providing staff in March is a major challenge as many have returned to school or university
- Aging and differing equipment at each of the pools is a challenge, particularly for chemical dosing and water treatment
- Vicswim don't have enough staff to run programs at the outdoor pools. Last season held fun days at most outdoor pools but restricted to land based activities only as not enough life guards for water activities
- Have no specific Key Performance Indicators to grow attendances at the outdoor pools
- There is potential to run adult learn to swim, water aerobics, toddler learn to swim classes and life saving activities at the outdoor pools to expand their patronage
- HILAC provides no marketing services to the outdoor pools, this is left to the individual pool to organise
- Ideally focus should be placed on the potential activities that can be undertaken at each venue rather than just the water based activities.

Further discussions were held with Co-ordinator on 10 August 2009 to explore the consultation findings and are summarised as follows:

Link between Hamilton and HILAC

- There is no formal or strong link between the Hamilton Swim Club and HILAC
- Relationship with the swim club, hire the facility 2-3 nights a week, using their own coaches
- If any partnership was to be formed with the swim club there would have to be something in it for HILAC as they have had their “fingers burnt” previously. This would need to be in the form of qualified, trained staff that are retained for extended periods
- HILAC are getting only a 12 month retention from a big proportion of their employees but have refocussed recruiting to older people rather than simply relying on young adults
- HSC take up 2-3 lanes but request 4 but it is in peak learn to swim time at HILAC so the additional lane space is at a premium and required for public access?
- Currently have approximately 25 staff, predominately casual staff, have 3 full time supervisors, 1 full time equivalent for reception, 20 hours a week in admin, 32 in program co-ordination, co-ordinator full time, one lifeguard 12 and another 10 hours a week. Recently tried to recruit return to work mothers, mid 20’s – mid 30’s
- Staff with responsibilities at the outdoor pools: Lifeguards interchangeable, 3 supervisors, administration person and swim lessons are provided to schools who requested teachers

- Lifeguards – responsibilities at the outdoor pools – operate the kiosk, have a trolley they take on pool deck which is used to administer the gate takings, also a cordless phone. Also responsible for toilet cleaning,
- If there are no people in the pool the life guards will call the supervisors and seek guidance about shutting the pool

Outdoor swimming pool maintenance

- Done on an ad hoc basis
- Constant battle for chemicals – 2 pools use Chlorine gas the rest liquid, only trained people will change the cylinders, life guards do the readings, if it is not within range they will call the supervisor for instructor. Decision is the supervisors but the action is the life guards

Programs and activities

- Learn to swim classes are pretty full, teacher shortage reduces the amount of classes offered
- Demand is exceeding what can be offered due to lack of teachers
- Only have a program co-ordinator 32 hours a week, which is predominately HILAC focussed. Would be a challenge to program activities at the outdoor pools with existing resources
- Don’t have programs during summer school holidays – ran a couple of “fun in the sun” activities at the outdoor pools
- Have the pool committees focus on marketing and promotions and HILAC pick up the management and administration

- Inflatable needs additional staff to resource it as it attracts many people. Has a few logistics issues – stored at the outdoor pool. Need to do the risk assessment at the outdoor pools
- Pool hours – at the regional pools only one lifeguard working through the whole day so they are not keen to work extra hours. Conceptually the concept of extended hours subject to temperature and or patronage is fine but it is very difficult to staff. Short shifts are not ideal for attracting staff. If the community want longer opening hours they may have to help source the staff.
- Could have back yard cricket competitions, volleyball has also been suggested – important to understand it is not the job of the life guard to supervise these activities. Need an adult to come and set the equipment up

Advertising – Marketing

- Have newspaper and radio campaign if there are events on, membership drives with the gym
- Fun in the sun stuff had a radio campaign and posters in businesses
- Notices in the public notices area of the newspaper
- First day of the season is free and promoted in the newspapers and radio

There is an administration folder that goes to each pool that includes life guard manual (how to do a pool test, uniform requirements, pool opening hours, first aids forms, log books attendance statistics, emergency phone number.

HILAC Operations

Pool maintenance

- Go to each pool once a week for a couple of hours (takes 3-4 hours at Dunkeld). Try to make it worthwhile being out there. Aim for twice a week at each pool – backwashing and checking water quality and generally checking the centre was up to standard, including making sure the pumps worked
- The different plant is a challenge, especially teaching new staff.
- Currently no manuals but in the processes of writing the manuals. Operations Manager schedules the work with the Co-ordinator a week in advance and make sure the supervisors have the knowledge to undertake the delegated tasks.
- Chemical storage is a very large problem, some of the plant rooms too run down and small to be practical
- Life guards manually backwash the pools

Building Services

- This is an area that hasn't received considerable planning or adequate budgets in the past
- The Asset Management Plan does currently pick up pool building or pools.
- Budgets for building maintenance are likely to be in order of \$1,000 for each pool building per year
- There is a need to involve Building Services in redevelopment works in the future

- Agrees a % of capital value would be a good start to determine annual maintenance budgets
- In future, specification, contract administration and supervision of building works at pools, and the project management of those, would be best with building services.

Notes from interviews with Swimming stakeholders

South West Sports Assembly

- Need an education program to encourage people with disabilities to use the pools and for the general public to expect their presence
- In the recent community mapping exercise undertaken by the South West Sports Assembly, aquatic facilities and programming was not identified as a priority for people with disabilities
- Programming needs to be developed in the Shire and instructors trained to assist people with disabilities
- Staff also need hoist training
- Currently people with Multiple Sclerosis are travelling to Portland to participate in the SWEAT program
- Accessibility issues are significant at most pools and only get resolved when there is a loud driver of change
- As the population is aging, accessibility issues are going to increase and the potential demand for programs increase also
- Alternative ways to attract people to the pools, used in Warrnambool include movies at the pool, water park for the younger children which attracts families, themed

- activities, splash areas with water features. They don't go to the pool, they go to the program!!
- Parents like to have access to picnic areas
- Could consider playgrounds at the pools
- All of the Shire's outdoor pools are getting tired and uninviting
- Establish swimming clubs, or a satellite of the Hamilton Swimming Club operating at each of the outdoor pools. Worst case have a cluster of towns creating swimming groups
- Swimming clubs should focus not just on youth but on veterans also
- Hold swimming events at each of the outdoor pools to generate activity
- Need to have learn to swim programs at each pool that feeds into the swimming clubs at the pool with club members potentially becoming learn to swim teachers and lifeguards as a natural progression
- Run therapeutic programs for the older adults at each pool
- Could run dry activities such as backyard cricket, outdoor volleyball, junior life saving, frisbee etc
- The South West Sports Assembly could assist with capacity building and club development to facilitate the expansion of competition swimming to the regional pools
- Warrnambool has a swimming club called the "Inspiring Opportunities" which is open to everybody but focussed on providing opportunity for people with disabilities

Public submissions

Eight public submissions were received, the majority focussing on Hughan Park and the Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool. The key messages about the Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool were:

- Crucial for the Hamilton outdoor swimming pool to be retained as a heated, 50 meter competition pool
- The community are dismayed that Council has left the pool to go to “rack and ruin”
- Council has deliberately restricted the hours of opening to reduce attendances
- Existing attendance counting methodologies are poor and inaccurate, understating patronage
- Shelter, heating, seating, BBQ’s change rooms, toilets and kiosk all need to be updated to make it a successful family venue
- The pool advisory group is a positive step
- A number of people submitting submissions were present when the community dug the pool for the pool in 1951 and believe the pool is retained for the historical significance
- The pool has been used for generations as a community and family meeting place
- Great setting and outdoor environment
- Many families who are unable to holiday in the summer months use the pool
- Swimming and being at the outdoor pools are important activities for youth. Stops them congregating in the town centre with nothing to actually to do

- School swimming sports and carnivals are much better when held at the outdoor pool
- Affordable activity for low income families
- Future generations should have the same opportunities to use the pool that previous generations have
- Outdoor swimming is far more healthy than swimming at HILAC

Other general comments include:

- The 2001 “Hunt” report recommended the Penshurst pool be closed, why was this not done?
- Council waste a lot of money on consultants reports without using them
- Competition swimming is an important activity and one that must be retained in 50 meter outdoor pools
- Collect and use rainwater or sprinkler systems to ensure the grass is watered

7. Findings from Community Workshops and Submissions

Community Workshops were held over the weekend of the 8th and 9th of August and the feedback that was common to all pools as follows:

- all outdoor pools must stay open as they are vital for their local communities
- people want Council to make a long term commitment to the pools
- pools need to be open earlier and close later
- uncertainty around if a pool is going to be open is effecting attendances
- little or no organised programming is undertaken at the pools
- learn to swim lesson have ceased at just about all pools
- the cold water has dramatically reduced attendances
- pool water must be heated to a comfortable temperature
- leaks from the pools must be eliminated
- swimming pools are more than an activity, they are a very important social venue which connects the community
- pool attendees need access to shade, BBQ facilities, convenient seating, comfortable and clean change rooms including private showers with hot water

- there is little formal promotion and marketing of the pools
- there is a shortage of qualified staff which effects the pools' opening hours, ability to extend hours, ability to hold events, run programs and general capacity
- well maintained surrounding grounds and grassed areas are very important
- the lack of pool maintenance and attention during the off season causes significant problems and asset decline
- there is a lack of street signage promoting the pools
- there has been little ongoing, cyclical maintenance undertaken at the pools by Council

7.1 Coleraine Memorial Swimming Pool

- not sure they need hot showers
- regular maintenance has been overlooked
- have a BBQ trolley which people can use with a gold coin donation
- Used to have disco's at the pool
- Would like to the pool to open prior to the school children accessing it
- Would like to turn the venue into a place to come, to be more than a pool
- Would like bench seats around the pool and a roof on the change rooms

- Lifeguards are very young and more are required
- Just need the pool back to the condition it was
- Have a great working relationship with the Shire
- Would like Council to communicate their aquatic plan when it is completed

7.2 Dunkeld Swimming Pool

- Don't believe they need a kiosk as the local shop is directly across the road (side street, not a main road)
- Would like to have a lane rope to use for lap swimming
- Organised their own learn to swim program last season
- The large shade over the toddlers pool causes the water to be too cold
- Pool has concrete cancer
- Council run activity days were short notice and poorly advertised
- Older adults would like to swim before the pool is opened to the school children
- Could offer water aerobics as some are already driving to HILAC for the activity
- BBQ's in the surrounding park are fine and readily accessible
- No chlorine getting to the toddlers pool so chlorine is transferred by hand and then mixed with brooms

- Committee believe the pool should be managed and maintained by HILAC and they be responsible for social activities
- Need to retain the slide as children love it
- Would like access to the large inflatable slide regularly

7.3 Glenthompson Swimming Pool

- Don't want to ask for too much in case the Council try to close the pool, just want the pool open
- Would like lane ropes
- Change rooms rarely used but not an issue
- As long as shower is working and clean, there is no need for refurbishment
- Level of shade is acceptable
- The pool paint is flaking and needs a paint and the pool Committee is happy to undertake this role
- Not enough children for a learn to swim program
- Definitely believe only one life guard is required for the majority of days
- Don't believe they need a kiosk as the local shop is directly across the road (side street, not a main road)
- Lifeguards may leave early if there is nobody at the pool (eg at 4.30pm)
- Need more toys and inflatable's for the children to play with

- Background music would be great
- Could run aerobics for older adults but need the instructor
- Current pool memberships do not even cover the power bill and creates a significant burden for the Committee
- Explore the potential of changing from a Section 86 Committee to an Advisory Group

7.4 Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool

- The pool should be considered a venue and focus should be given to the whole venue not just the pool
- Would like a community facility at the pool that includes a café which could operate all year, even when the pool is closed
- Entrance gate often staffed (which means attendance figures are not accurate)
- Rehabilitation services could be run at the pool but need access to storage
- There are two ways to drain the pool yet staff currently only use one because they don't know the pool design
- No effort to water the grass
- The diving board was a huge loss and it needs to be returned
- Pool used to be open in October for early morning lap swimming
- Commercial opportunities should be explored

7.5 Penshurst & District Swimming Pool

- Community desperate for the pool to remain open, don't believe it is an option to shut the pool
- Hot water not necessarily required, just fix the leak and stop topping the pool up with very cold water
- Don't need kiosk, families take their own food to the pool or use the BBQ's in the surrounding park
- Many residents go to Hawksdale because their pool is heated and they offer learn to swim lessons
- Senior Citizens club would like to run water aerobics
- Used to have slides and diving boards and these were very popular
- Community believe the pool is in the perfect spot and is surrounded by beautiful parkland, the tennis (inactive) and bowls clubs
- Lines of the pool have faded
- Change rooms are not inviting and people use sparingly
- Need shaded seating
- There are a large number of days where the pool is not open due to lack of lifeguards
- Children are starting to swim in the spring when the pool is not open

7.6 Summary Of Submissions Made On The Draft Report

NUMBER	DATE	KEY POINTS RAISED IN SUBMISSION	@leisure's RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION, AND CHANGES TO THE REPORT RECOMMENDED
Community Respondent 1	06 October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saddened by @leisure's recommendation to close the Peshurst pool and do not want it closed Find the \$1.9m "mid boggling" and request Council seek other quotes Leak is a major concern but cheaper options should be explored If the pool was closed, children would swim in the spring which is dangerous 	<p>Although the preliminary Technical Report (Volume 1) recommended the Peshurst pool be closed, the Strategic Recommendations contained in Volume 3 clearly state the importance of all pools within the Southern Grampians Shire, and recommended that all pools, including Peshurst remain open.</p> <p>No change to the Plan required.</p>
Community Respondent 2	08 October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peshurst pool provides great social and fun activities and is a great source of exercise and should not be closed Children of Peshurst do not have much to do so taking the pool away would be devastating The grant received should not be wasted If you close the pool due to disabled access then nothing changes, they still have to go to Hamilton 	<p>The Aquatic Development Strategy Volume 3: Summary, Issues and Actions recommends major works at the Peshurst pool.</p> <p>No change to the Plan required.</p>
Community Respondent 3	08 October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peshurst pool should not be shut because it provides the district with a good opportunity to learn to swim Kids in Peshurst need their exercise 	<p>The Aquatic Development Strategy Volume 3: Summary, Issues and Actions recommends major works at the Peshurst pool.</p> <p>No change to the Plan required.</p>
Community Respondent 4	08 October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peshurst pool shouldn't be closed. 	<p>Volume 3: Summary, Issues and Actions recommends major works at the Peshurst pool. No change to the Plan required.</p>
Community Respondent 5	08 October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peshurst pool should not be closed because it gives exercise, relaxation and keeps them entertained 	<p>Volume 3: Summary, Issues and Actions recommends major works at the Peshurst pool. No change to the Plan required.</p>
Community Respondent 6	08 October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peshurst pool provides the community exercise and enjoyment and is a non-expensive way to relax. It should stay open. 	<p>Volume 3: Summary, Issues and Actions recommends major works at the Peshurst pool. No change to the Plan required.</p>

NUMBER	DATE	KEY POINTS RAISED IN SUBMISSION	@leisure's RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION, AND CHANGES TO THE REPORT RECOMMENDED
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It provides exercise, a social venue, employment, activities to do in Penshurst and the grant already received should be used on the pool 	
Community Respondent 7	08 October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't close the Penshurst pool as it is the only entertainment for Penshurst in the summer If it closes the children will swim in the spring with no supervision which would be dangerous It would be very sad to watch the doors close 	Volume 3: Summary, Issues and Actions recommends major works at the Penshurst pool. No change to the Plan required.
Community Respondent 8	08 October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Penshurst pool should stay open as it is entertainment for the locals, it is good exercise and would have to cool down using sprinklers if no pool in Penshurst It would be a high cost to learn to swim at Hamilton pool if Penshurst was to close 	Volume 3: Summary, Issues and Actions recommends major works at the Penshurst pool. No change to the Plan required.
Community Respondent 9	08 October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Penshurst pool should not be closed as it keeps people cool and is fun. It should stay open all of the time from the start of November to the end of February and not only on hot days Going to Hamilton would use money "we just don't have" 	Volume 3: Summary, Issues and Actions recommends major works at the Penshurst pool. No change to the Plan required.
Community Respondent 10	08 October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Penshurst pool should not be closed as it is a great venue for swimming lessons Going to Hamilton is a waste of money and time 	Volume 3: Summary, Issues and Actions recommends major works at the Penshurst pool. No change to the Plan required.
Community Respondent 11	30 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned the Penshurst pool is recommended to shut and hope 	Volume 3: Summary, Issues and Actions recommends major works at the Penshurst pool. No change to the Plan required.

NUMBER	DATE	KEY POINTS RAISED IN SUBMISSION	@leisure's RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION, AND CHANGES TO THE REPORT RECOMMENDED
	2009	<p>Council would do everything in its power to keep it open</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report suggests many improvements the community would consider luxuries and unnecessary • Pool would be much better and safer if the leak was located and fixed, the pool painted and the change rooms upgraded 	
Community Respondent 12	08 October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Penshurst pool should not be closed as it is integral to Penshurst infrastructure, the local children would swim in the spring • The pool does not realistically need disabled access to stay open • Pool is only open on hot days • No regular transport to Hamilton makes those pools unrealistic options for most people • Funding allocated to the pool should be spent on the pool 	Volume 3: Summary, Issues and Actions recommends major works at the Penshurst pool. No change to the Plan required.
Community Respondent 13	20 September 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorse the proposed work to be undertaken at HOSP • The priority is heating, plumbing and a safe chlorination and filtration system • Transformation of the wet deck edge would greatly improve safety, accessibility and visibility 	<p>No change to the report required.</p> <p>Wet deck comments referred to the architect for consideration in final design.</p>
Community Respondent 14	07 October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That DPCP population projections be considered to determine if spending such high amounts on a swimming pool is the best investment of the funds • Household survey not valid data is not reliable given the low response rate, especially for the small towns. 	<p>The pools can generate considerable community benefits that outweigh the cost.</p> <p>Decisions are not based purely on findings of the householder survey.</p>

NUMBER	DATE	KEY POINTS RAISED IN SUBMISSION	@leisure's RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION, AND CHANGES TO THE REPORT RECOMMENDED
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree it is unreasonable and unsustainable for local swimming pool specific committees to manage the operations and staffing of the local pools but do not want a Hamilton centric committee to oversee the pools, as it will threaten community involvement and opportunities. 	<p>The report recommends the continuation of the local committees to focus on maximising participation and liaising with Council staff.</p> <p>No changes to the report required.</p>
Community Respondent 15	6 October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Like to congratulate the Council and consultants on identifying the challenges and risks facing future aquatic facility development Balmoral Bush Nursing supports the strategy and recommendations as presented Balmoral Bush Nursing Centre request priority be given to outlying pools, acknowledging the significant investment in HILAC Acknowledge the benefits of relocating the existing Balmoral pool to address identified risks and accessibility issues 	<p>Comments supportive of the proposed Plan.</p> <p>The majority of funds identified in the Plan are for the development of outlying pools.</p> <p>No changes to the report required.</p>
Community Respondent 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “That Council and HILAC support the Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool User Advisory Group to develop and deliver effective community feedback on the Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool operations and facilities “That HOSPUAG supports Council in obtaining a Functional Design Brief at the earliest possible time with the specific aim of achieving a gas/solar combination heating of the Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool prior to the end of school term 4, 2009.” “That HOSPUAG recommends the creation of a wet-deck, possibly overlaying the existing concrete perimeter pool rim, to effectively increase the depth of the pool to satisfy FINA world-wide swimming standards regarding the minimum requirements to provide a 1.1 meter springboard diving board coupled with increased safety, accessibility, and visibility of all patrons whilst in the pool. 	<p>The project brief did not require an assessment of the Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool User Advisory Group activities.</p> <p>No change to report required.</p> <p>Feedback on redesign of the pool shell at Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool has been referred to the architects for consideration in the final design.</p>

NUMBER	DATE	KEY POINTS RAISED IN SUBMISSION	@leisure's RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION, AND CHANGES TO THE REPORT RECOMMENDED
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That HOSPUAG recommends that adjacent to the existing change rooms the Construction of a Dual Access community multipurpose function room/pavilion capable of comfortably seating a minimum of fifty people at tables and chairs, including a kitchen, kiosk window with veranda, new toilets, air conditioning, first aid facilities, modern technological communication connections, access to a fenced external play shaded play area, access to street car parking, and an attached substantial multipurpose storage shed.” • “That HOSPUAG recommends the Funding Priority Option A proposed in the Draft report Volume 3 with specific reference to the building works being undertaken in a single building contract and that HOSP be heated in readiness for the 2009/10 swimming season.” 	<p>Feed back on the design of support facilities at Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool has been referred to the architects for consideration in the preparation of a master plan for the site.</p> <p>This is supportive of the preferred funding priority.</p> <p>No change to report required.</p>

8. Household Survey Findings

Outlined below the key findings from the 292 responses received from the Household Survey.

Table 13: Number of people attending Hamilton Indoor Swimming Pool by place of residence

Hamilton Indoor Swimming Pool							
Place of Residency	Rarely	Once a week	2-3 times	3-4 times	5-6 times	7+ times	Total
Balmoral	2	2					4
Branxholme	1	1					2
Cavendish	1	1	2				4
Coleraine	3	1					4
Dunkeld	2	1					3
Farm location			2		1		3
Glenthompson		1					1
Hamilton	28	18	8	3	2	2	61
Konongwootong			1				1
Penshurst			1				1
Strathkellar		1					1
Tarrington	3						3
Yulecart	2						2
(blank)		1					1
Didn't Answer		1					1
Total	42	28	14	3	3	2	92

Table 14: Number of people attending Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool by place of residence

Hamilton Olympic							
Place of Residence	Rarely	Once a week	2-3 times	3-4 times	5-6 times	7+ times	Total
Balmoral	1		1	1			3
Branxholme	3						3
Caraprook	1						1
Cavendish	1	2					3
Coleraine	3		1				4
Dunkeld	1						1
Hamilton	29	5	18	3	3	7	65
Konongwootong				1			1
Penshurst	2						2
Strathkellar		1					1
Tarrington	2	1	1				4
Yulecart	1						1
Farm Location		1					1
Total	44	10	21	5	3	7	90

Table 15: Number of people attending Coleraine Swimming Pool by place of residence

Coleraine					
Place of Residence	Rarely	2-3 times	3-4 times	5-6 times	Total
Balmoral	2				2
Caraprook	1				1
Cavendish	2				2
Coleraine	3	2	3	1	9
Hamilton			1		1
Konongwootong		1			1
Tarrington	1				1
Total	9	3	4	1	17

Table 16: Number of people attending Balmoral Swimming Pool by place of residence

Balmoral					
Place of Residence	Rarely	2-3 times	5-6 times	7+ times	Total
Balmoral	1	4	1	1	7
Caraprook	1				1
Cavendish	1	2			3
Farm location		2			2
Total	3	8	1	1	13

Table 17: Number of people attending Peshurst Swimming Pool by place of residence

Peshurst					
Place of Residence	Rarely	2-3 times	3-4 times	7+ times	Total
Cavendish	2				2
Hamilton	2				2
Peshurst	2	2	2	1	7
Total	6	2	2	1	11

Table 18: Number of people attending Dunkeld Swimming Pool by place of residence

Dunkeld					
Place of Residence	Rarely	Once a week	2-3 times	5-6 times	Total
Cavendish	2		1		3
Dunkeld		2		1	3
Hamilton	3				3
Strathkellar		1			1
Total	5	3	1	1	10

Table 19: Number of people attending Glenthompson Swimming Pool by place of residence

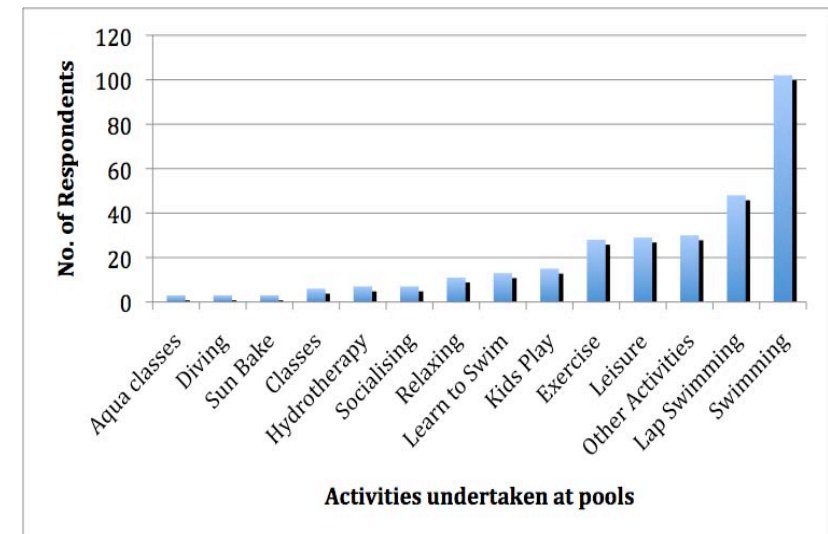
Glenthompson					
Place of Residence	Rarely	2-3 times	5-6 times	7+ times	Total
Cavendish	2				2
Glenthompson	1	1	1	1	4
Tarrington	1				1
Total	4	1	1	1	7

What activities do you undertake at the pools you use?

The most popular activities to undertake at the outdoor swimming pools were swimming and lap swimming, followed by a variety of leisure and exercise activities.

The small range of activities nominated by respondents as highlights the lack of activities offered at the outdoor pools.

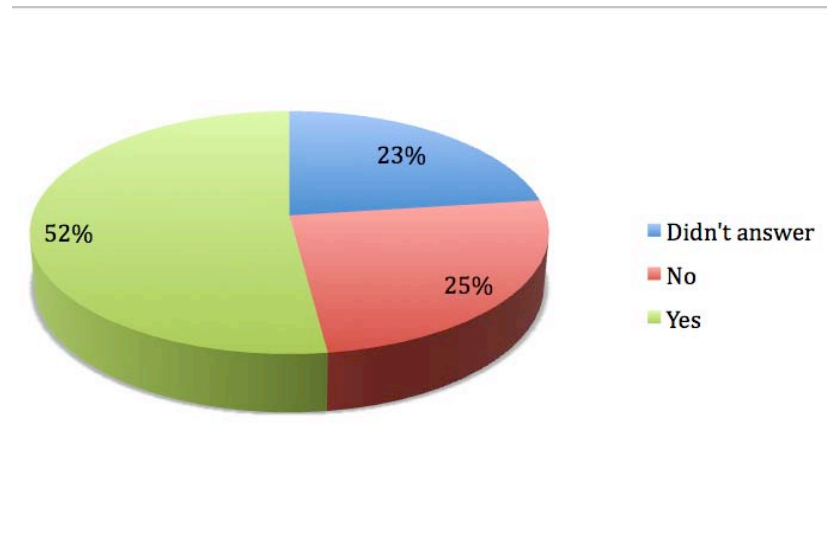
Table 20: The number of respondents undertaking each activity at the outdoor swimming pools



Do the services of the Shire’s outdoor pools represent good value for membership / admittance price?

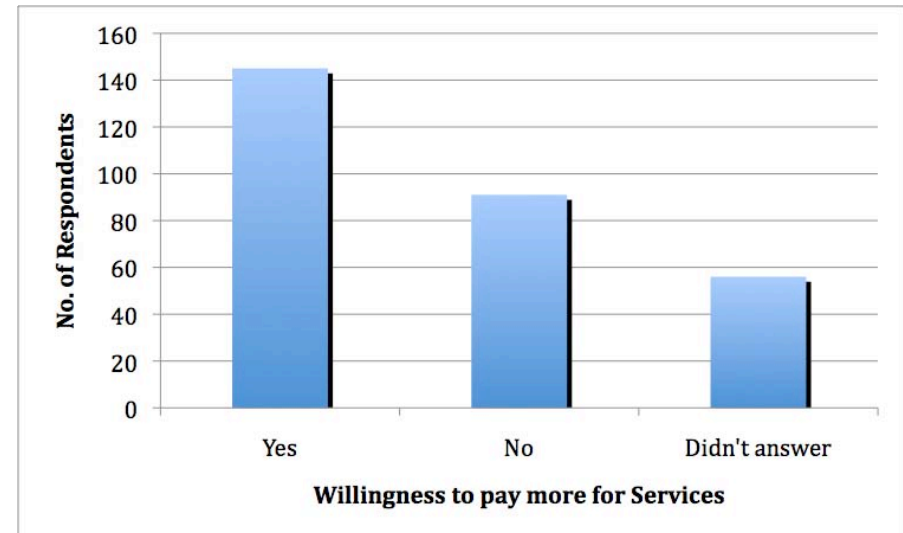
Only 52% of respondents believe the Shire’s outdoor pools represent value for money, while 25% said they were not and a further 23% did not answer the question.

Figure 1: The percentage of people who believe the Shire’s outdoor pools represent good value for money



Would you be prepared to pay for extended services at the Shire’s outdoor swimming pools?

Table 21: The number of respondents prepared to pay more if the pool offered extended services

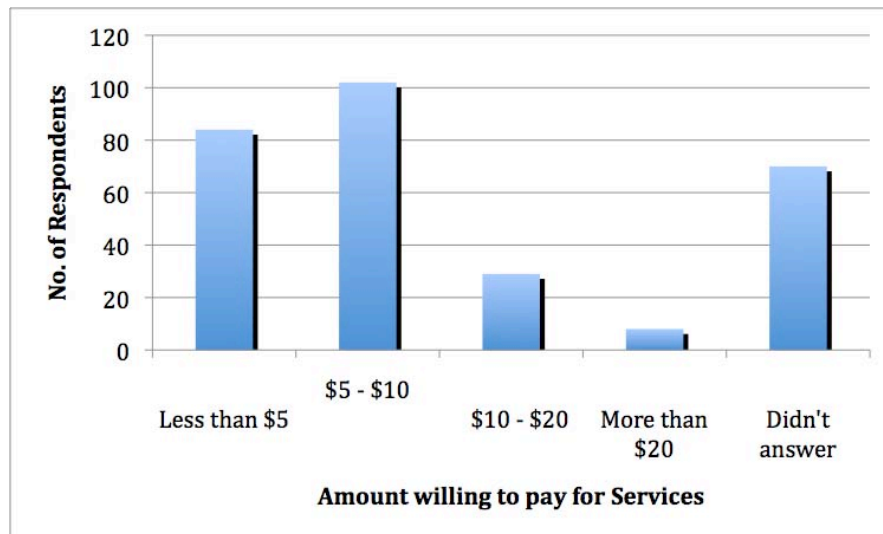


How much would you spend on extended services per visit?

Approximately one third of respondents (100 of the 292 respondents) indicated that they would be prepared to pay between \$5-\$10 for extended services at the outdoor swimming pools.

84 respondents nominated they would be prepared to pay less than \$5 (effectively the current pricing) while 37 indicated they were prepared to pay more than \$10 per visit

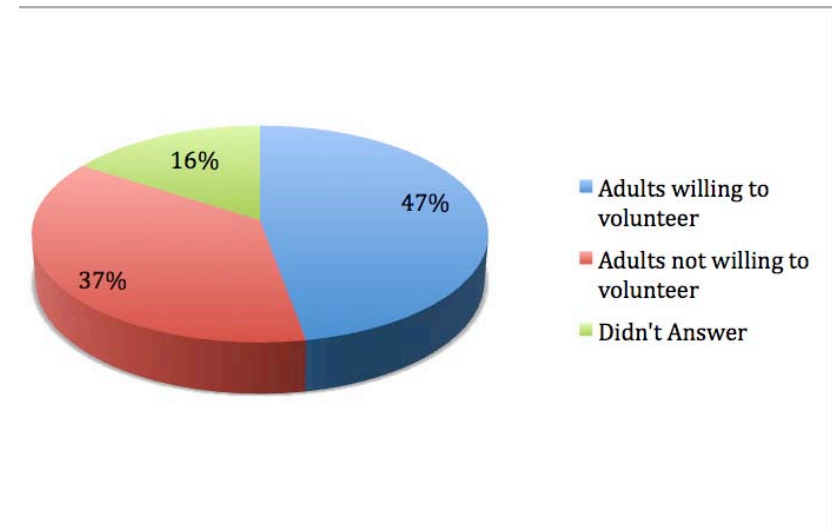
Table 22: The amount respondents are willing to spend per visit, if additional services were introduced at each swimming pool



If asked to volunteer time to improve the condition or services of your local swimming pool, would the adult members of your household do so?

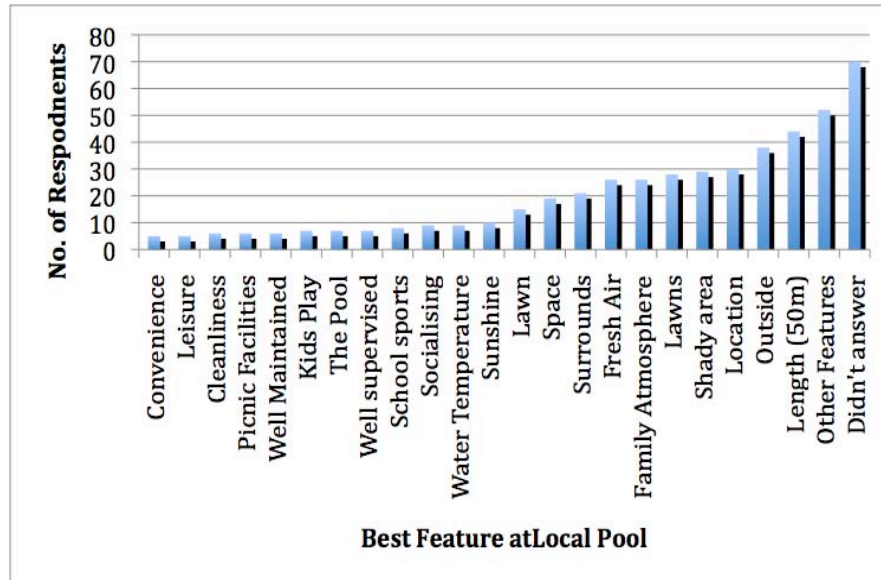
The table below highlights the willingness of the community to support their local outdoor swimming pool with 47% of adult respondents willing to volunteer their time. Just 37% would prefer not to volunteer their time.

Figure 2: Percentage of adult respondents, who if asked, would volunteer time to improve the condition and services of their local pool



What is the best feature of your local pool?

Table 23: The number of respondents by best feature nominated

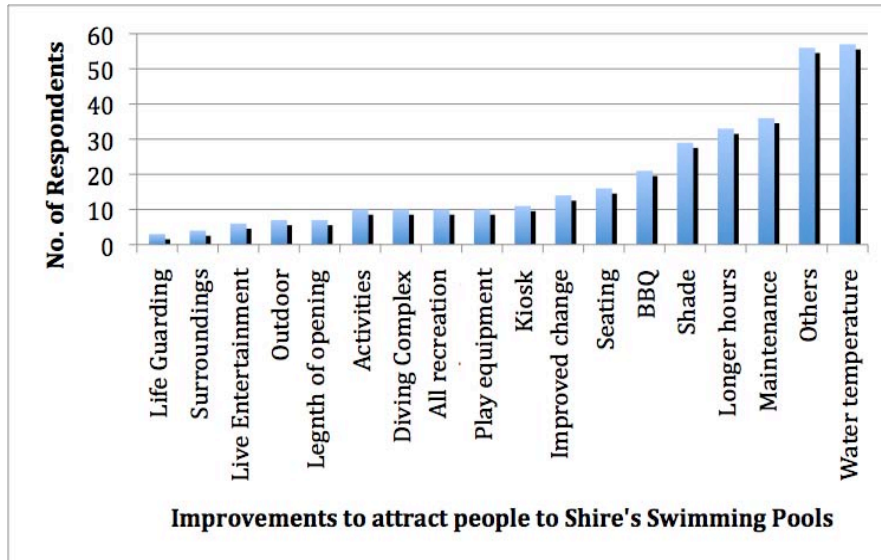


What improvements would attract people to the Shire's outdoor pools and improve their financial viability?

The feature nominated by most respondents that would encourage them to use their local swimming pool more frequently was to increase the water temperature at the outdoor swimming pools. Improving the general maintenance of the pools was second, followed by longer pool opening hours.

A wide range of actions that improve the experiences of visiting the pools, entertainment and social activities were nominated by respondents.

Table 24: The number of respondents by improvements selected that would encourage people to use their local swimming pool and improve its financial viability



In considering what would encourage your households members to use the Shire’s outdoor swimming pools more often and how important are the following services

The following three tables highlight service improvements and how important they are to adults. The major services that were considered very important by the largest majority of adult respondents were:

- Increased water temperature
- Longer opening hours, particularly on weekends
- Longer swimming season
- Convenient activities such as lap swimming
- Improved change room facilities
- Additional shade and seating
- Water play areas for young children
- Availability of BBQ and picnic areas

Table 25: Level of importance for adults, for potential service improvements

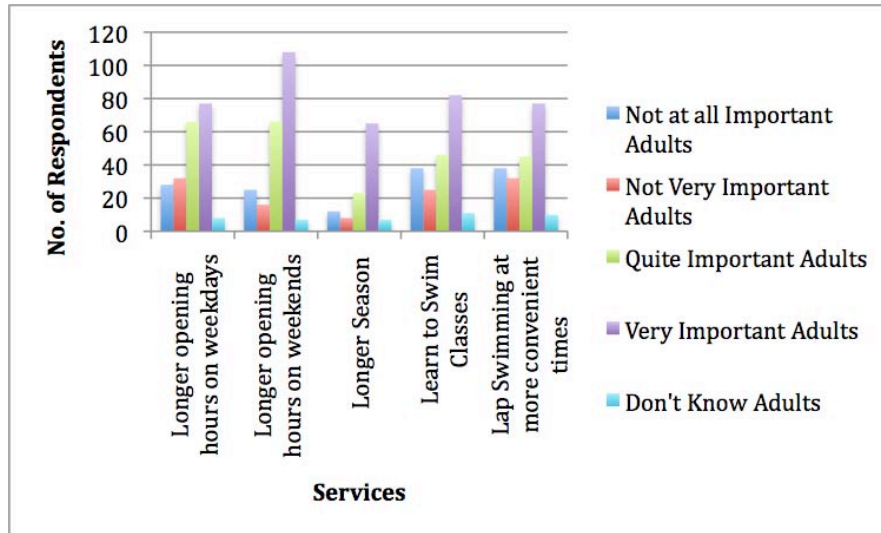


Table 26: Level of importance for adults, for potential service improvements (cont...)

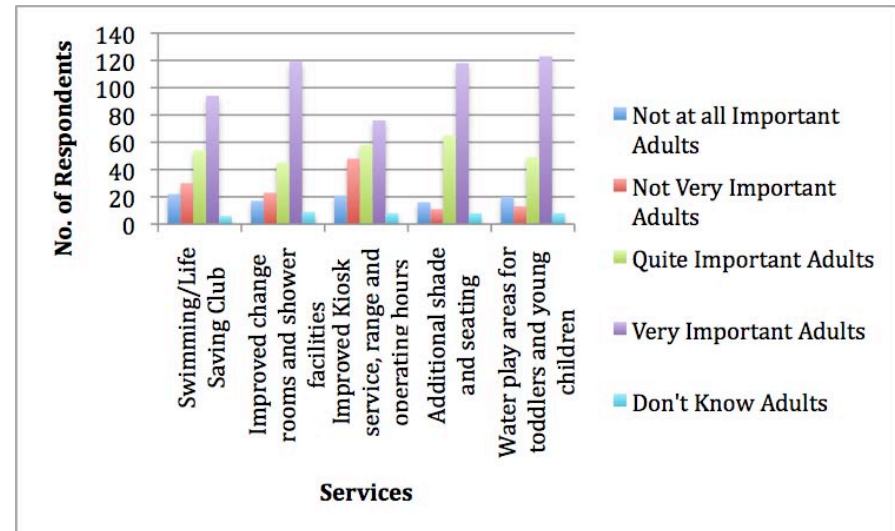
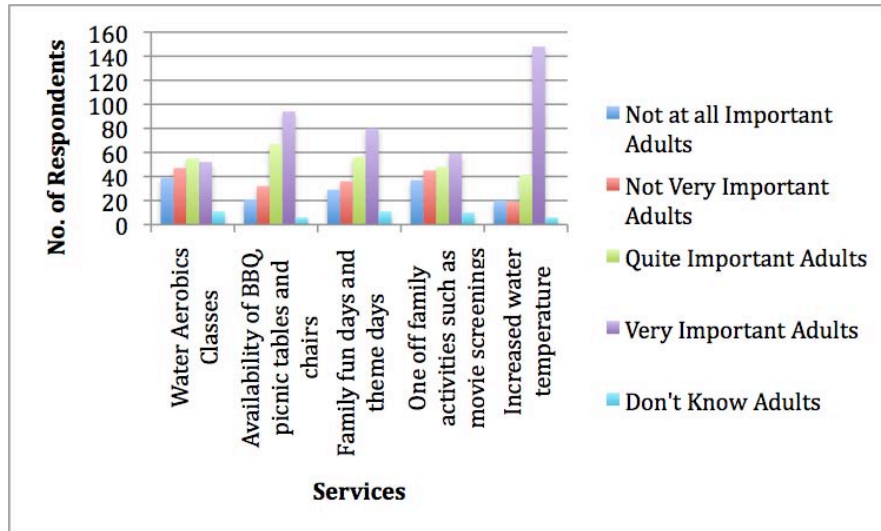


Table 27: Level of importance for adults, for potential service improvements (cont...)



The following three graphs highlight service improvements and how important they are to children. The services most important to children were:

- Increased water temperature
- Longer opening hours, particularly on weekends
- Longer swimming season
- Convenient activities such as learn to swim classes and swimming/life saving club
- Improved change room facilities
- Additional shade and seating
- Water play areas for young children
- Availability of BBQ and picnic areas

- Fun activities such as movie nights

Table 28: Level of importance for children, for potential service improvements (cont...)

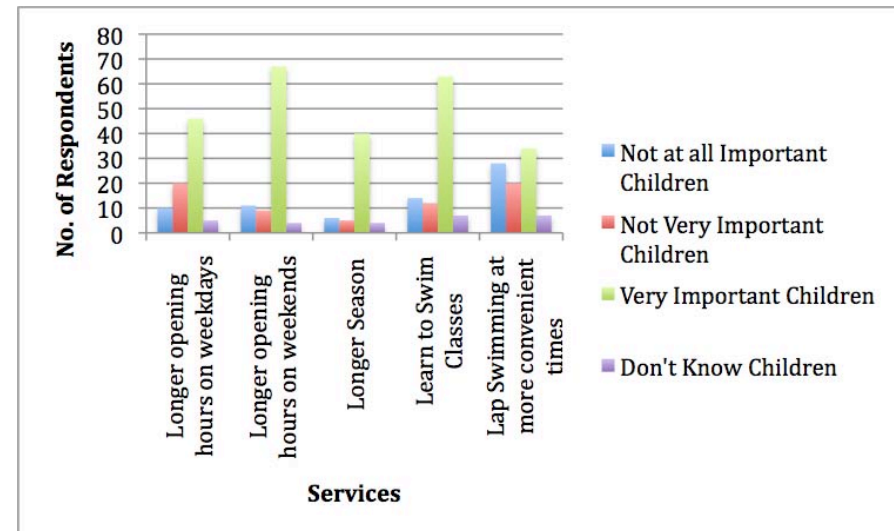


Table 29: Level of importance for children, for potential service improvements (cont...)

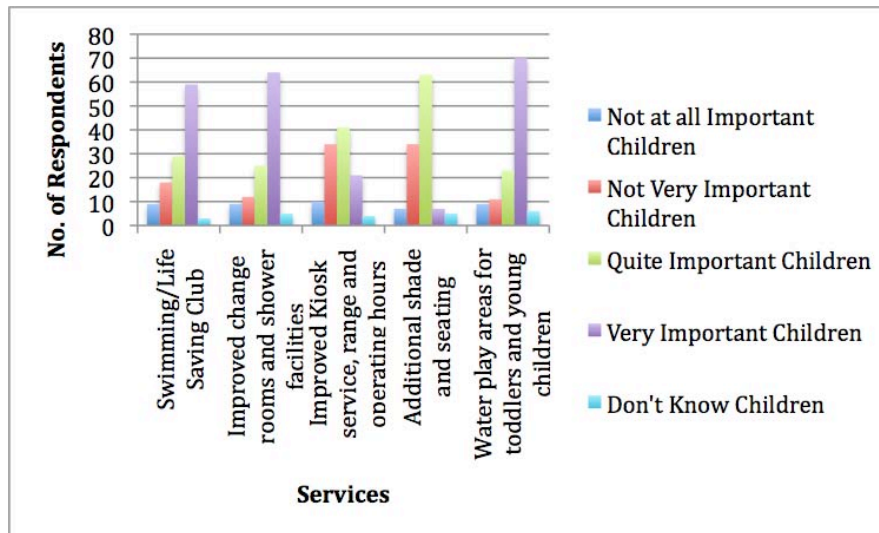
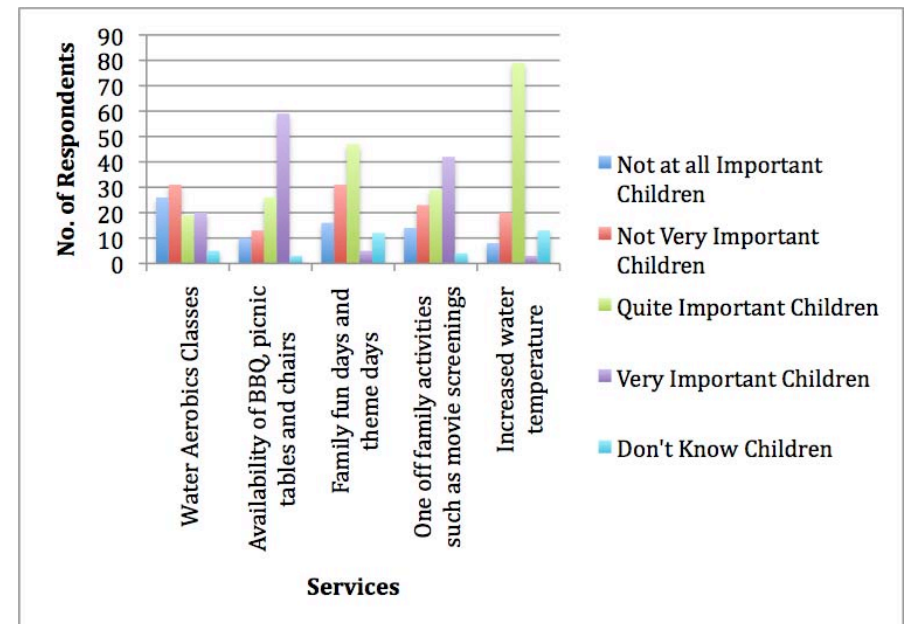


Table 30: Level of importance for children, for potential service improvements (cont...)





9. Consultation notes from workshops

The following pages contain the presentations and notes (in red) from the workshops conducted for this project.