



You might be wondering

Why are we looking at a new facility?

The Aquatic Strategy represents an opportunity for the Warrnambool City Council (the City or Council) to develop an aquatic and leisure 'road map' that responds to the ageing AquaZone asset. Based on the current levels of demand, the age of the centre and the current and likely maintenance issues, Council has identified the need for a strategy that will inform Council and community about options to maintain and improve aquatic facilities to meet the future needs of our growing city.

Where would the Centre go if it was a greenfield site?

Warrnambool City Council has made no decision regarding the possible location of a new facility.

Within the plans will there be additional disability access parking and improved access to the building?

Yes. Both options allow not only an increase in dedicated disability parking but improved access in general.

Will there be additional parking if staying on the current site?

Concept designs for the current AquaZone location include a remodelling of the carpark, with an extension down eastward along Botanic Rd.

Will there be improved/ increased family/disability change areas?

Both concepts will both improve and increase the amount of family/disability change spaces within the facility.

How would a new build or an upgrade to AquaZone be funded?

A new leisure centre would need to be predominately funded through the Victorian and/or Australian governments. A business case is a small step in a lengthy process.

What's the timeline on this project?

A project such as this could take up to 10 years or even longer. The new Warrnambool Library and Learning Centre was in planning for 10 years before Victorian Government funding became available. Due to time needed to plan these large projects it's important Council starts planning as early as possible.

Would AquaZone be closed during the time it takes to make improvements on the current site?

Council would make all efforts to minimise community impact, however a renewed and expanded Aquazone will require some disruptions. The concept for the existing site allows for staged redevelopment

Why would Council consider a project like this when there are other possible priorities?

Warrnambool is a growing regional centre and we need to plan for the future. By 2035 it is predicted that our population will grow to about 50,000. There is a risk that if Council doesn't plan for the future that Warrnambool will fall behind other regional cities in its liveability and ability to attract new investors, new industry and workers. AquaZone is an aging facility and Council will need to invest in the facility heavily over coming years if the service is to be maintained.

What will happen to AquaZone if a new facility is built?

As this is Crown land, AquaZone will need to be decommissioned upon the opening of a new facility, and the area will likely be returned to a green space.

Can AquaZone remain if we build a new aquatic centre?

Given the operational costs associated with aquatic centres it would not be sustainable for council to operate two facilities. AquaZone would also still require significant investment to meet future community needs and improve the asset's condition.