

# National Aquatic Facilities Strategy Supporting Document

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## Disclaimer

In preparing this strategy it has been necessary to make a number of assumptions on the basis of the information supplied to Global Leisure Group Limited in the course of investigations for this strategy. The recommended actions contained in this strategy are subject to uncertainty and variation depending on evolving events but have been conscientiously prepared based on consultation feedback and an understanding of trends in facility provision.

The authors did not carry out an audit or verification of the information supplied during the preparation of this strategy, unless otherwise stated in the strategy. Whilst due care was taken during enquiries, Global Leisure Group Limited does not take any responsibility for any errors nor mis-statements in the strategy arising from information supplied to the authors during the preparation of this strategy.

## GST

All dollar amounts in report are GST exclusive unless otherwise stated.

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# 1. Return on Investment

## 1.1 Social return on investment

Investment in appropriate facilities in the right locations will enable improved physical activity levels and improve the quality of the participant experience leading to increased utilisation and sustainability of facilities.

For more information, see [The value of play, active recreation and sport for local government](#).

## 1.2 Economic return on investment

In 2017 research showed that the economic value of the wider sport and recreation sector is estimated at \$4.9 billion per annum, which equates to a 2.3 percent contribution to our GDP.

For more information, see [The economic value of sport and outdoor recreation to NZ](#).

Further information: [Better Business Case](#).

# 2. New Zealand Spaces and Places Framework

Sport NZ is very aware of how important it is to have the right spaces and places in the right locations with facilities that meet community needs and enable quality experiences. To achieve this, there is a continued need for robust planning and decision-making about resources and investment in fit-for-purpose facilities and active environments.

The [New Zealand Spaces and Places Framework](#), has 10 Principles to guide all those involved in planning, developing, funding, and managing facilities and an overview of the seven stages in the lifecycle of spaces and places.

The aim is to ensure facilities are well-used, sustainable, and universally accessible and seen as good value investment by those who fund their development and ongoing maintenance and use.

The principles within the framework, whilst expressed as individual principles, do not work in isolation – they overlap and are interconnected.

## PRINCIPLES

### Te Tiriti o Waitangi informed approach

#### Intent:

The mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi is recognised when providing strategic guidance and planning, developing, and operating facilities and active environments.

Sport NZ recognises that each organisation may have different methods of applying Te Tiriti o Waitangi (for example, article-based) and acknowledge their mana motuhake (authority) in doing so.

#### Key considerations:

##### Mana Ōrite – Partnership

- Grow enduring relationships with mana whenua and relevant Māori organisations (Māori sport authorities, health organisations, commercial entities).
- Establish and agree the kaupapa (challenge you are seeking to solve) or the 'why' at the beginning of any planning process or project with all partners.

##### Mana Māori – Protection

- Ensure appropriate use of mātauranga Māori (traditional Māori knowledge) and mahi toi (Māori artwork) within the development of a plan or project.
- Mana whenua will guide what appropriate use of their knowledge looks like.

##### Mana Taurite – Participation

- Ensure that space is allowed for mana whenua involvement throughout the entire process and they are kept informed. Mana whenua involvement could include but is not limited to inclusion of cultural narrative, kaitiakitanga (environmental sustainability practices), commercial and employment opportunities, resource consent processes, spaces for Māori-based activity, and enabling by Māori, for Māori.

### Meeting an identified need

#### Intent:

An evidence-based approach to identifying need ensures fit-for-purpose solutions.

#### Key considerations:

##### Gain a deep understanding of the needs and priorities (rather than the wants)

- Be inclusive of all potential users. Consider the surrounding and wider community, emerging and established sports and activities (including non-sport), and the needs of tamariki and different/priority groups (for example, Māori, women and girls, rangatahi, disabled people, ethnic groups, and rainbow communities).
- Take into consideration who potential future users may be and their potential needs.

##### Explore all the options to meet the needs identified

- Are there non-capital solutions, such as changing the way you deliver your activities, or making use of existing assets such as school tennis courts for hockey, streets as play spaces, or playing junior sports across courts or fields?
- Are there potential collaborators or partners?
- Can we better use the wider network and connections?
- Can we repurpose or improve what we already have if necessary?

##### Strategic alignment of potential solution

- Proposed projects should align to national and regional plans and guidelines.
- Ensure those with the highest needs are a priority.

## PRINCIPLES

### Inclusive

#### Intent:

Valuing diverse groups by developing safe, welcoming, and collaborative environments where everyone can participate and thrive.

#### Key considerations:

##### Equitable opportunities regardless of age and stage, ability, ethnicity, gender, or income

- Clearly set out a commitment to achieving inclusion in the project strategy and brief.
- Apply universal design principles so that the design, activation, and operation of the facility or environment supports and enables use by everyone.
- Prioritise inclusion of amenities and operational approaches that support equitable access. For example, gender-neutral and family accessible changing facilities, discrete workout areas, targeted programming, quiet spaces, safe well-lit carparks, and friendly, well-trained staff.
- Ensure equity in the provision of quality facilities and environments to cater for different geographic and socio-economic communities.
- Consider what's needed to support intergenerational whānau participation in physical activity. For example, for outdoor spaces include lighting, seating, water, shade, shelter, level access, toilets/changing facilities, and accessible active transport connections.

##### Enabling social connections

- Incorporate spaces to practice manaakitanga and facilitate gathering and social interaction.
- Enhance the connection between indoor and outdoor spaces visually and making it welcoming to traverse through, linger or take part in informal activities.

### Accessible

#### Intent:

Truly accessible environments are created that enable the entire community to access and use a facility or space with dignity.

#### Key considerations:

##### Facilities are accessible for everyone

- Complement universal design with accessible design to ensure accessibility and use by everybody regardless of their ability. For example, step-free access to the facility main entrance so people of all abilities, as well as those pushing pushchairs and prams, can access and enter the building.
- Design above the [NZ Building Code Standard 4121](#), which is not adequate to meet many disabled people's access needs. For example, designing for sports-wheelchairs with larger dimensions and providing additional space in accessible changing rooms for caregivers and whānau.
- Use expert and 'lived experience' advice to identify simple interventions that can make a big difference to users with different needs, for example, consultants and local advisory groups.
- Address the 'whole-of-journey experience', starting with information, wayfinding, transport connections, and getting into and around and experiencing and exiting a space or place.

##### Affordability for the end-user

- Evaluate upfront how affordable the facilities or spaces will be for the intended user and what changes you can make to ensure greater affordability.

##### Accessible delivery model

- Ensure provision models (centralised, hub and spoke, locally or regionally distributed) are accessible and fit-for-purpose for the intended use. For example, a centralised model may be convenient and sustainable for deliverers but might not meet the needs of entry level participants who want lower cost, more welcoming spaces that are easier to get to.
- Think about accessibility for both members and casual users. For example, booking and access system, and pay-to-play.

## PRINCIPLES

### Co-design

#### Intent:

Communities and hapori<sup>3</sup> are involved in the planning, design, and operations of facilities and active environments so that their needs are met.

#### Key considerations:

##### Good practice when co-designing

- Co-design with mana whenua as determined by them (iwi, hapū, whānau), capturing their perspective and embracing the cultural narrative provided.
- Engage key people or organisations with connections and expertise to support community-led and co-design engagement processes.
- Co-design with the intended end-user, those with current lived experience, to ensure their needs are met. Support this with the right technical and operational advice.
- Think about what stages of the project life (if not all stages) are appropriate for co-design or locally led development, dependent on the type of project.

##### Responding to community-led approaches

- Be open to alternative community-led approaches (embracing social license) and fostering innovation.
- Provide resources to support community-led approaches to be successful.
- Support the community to clearly articulate the 'need' and appropriate solution.

### Environmental sustainability

#### Intent:

Facilities and active environments are developed and operated in a more environmentally sustainable way over their lifetime.

#### Key considerations:

##### Taking a holistic view

- Develop an environmental sustainability vision at the outset to guide decision making throughout the project's life.
- Enhance connections with the surrounding natural environment and protect and enhance the natural ecology/biodiversity, strengthening the relationship between tangata and whenua.
- Support mana whenua reconnecting to historic sites; protecting and enhancing these.
- Review whole of life costs to ensure environmentally sustainable operations (that is, materials, energy sources, digitisation, or renewals).
- The location of new facilities and spaces should consider climate resilience and be integrated into active and public transport routes and co-located with other facilities if possible.

##### Changing the approach to how we develop spaces and places

- Rather than build new, can we improve or redevelop an existing facility, to meet community needs?
- Review options to attain a low carbon footprint when redeveloping or building a new facility or space. Consider need, size, materials, waste, water, sharing of facilities/optimising use, and energy use to minimise embodied carbon.
- Establish baseline data and monitor over time.

<sup>3</sup> Kinship group, family, society, community

## PRINCIPLES

### Partnering and collaboration

#### Intent:

Partnerships and collaboration lead to well-used facilities and active environments that maximise the return (social and financial) on investment.

#### Key considerations:

##### Potential for partnerships and collaborations at the outset

- Seek opportunities to co-locate/integrate facilities in one locale, for example, pool, library, health centre, transport facilities, and civic infrastructure.
- Explore partnership opportunities before building standalone and/or single-use facilities and spaces.
- Explore partnerships with neighbouring Territorial Authorities (TAs).
- Facilitate multi-use or shared facilities to meet the needs of the expected primary users, yet flexible enough to cater to a variety of uses now and in the future (but not developed to try and fill all provision gaps – ‘multi-useless!’)
- Seek greater access to existing school and kura facilities and spaces and identify potential school/community partnership opportunities for new or expanded facilities.
- Look to where you can collaborate to access spaces used for other purposes as spaces for physical activity such as marae, RSAs, and community centres.

### Connected

#### Intent:

Networks of connected and complementary facilities and active environments creating physical activity opportunities and connected communities (rural and urban).

#### Key considerations:

##### Potential for strengthening wider connections

- What is the integration potential of the facility with existing and planned transport routes, urban or rural developments, health, education, cultural, and civic infrastructure?
- Where can you improve the connections to wider spaces and places (local commuting, parks, open space, town centres, marae, kura, schools) when selecting sites or redeveloping ‘brownfields’?

##### Potential for strengthening local connections

- Look at connections within neighborhoods and streets as an opportunity for play and active recreation, integrating them as an ‘everywhere activity’.
- Strengthen connections between local clubs and the community through small community facilities and spaces at the local level. For example, bowling clubs that act as a social facility for the local community, where people volunteer and do a variety of activities.
- Is there active, safe and accessible transport (walking, cycling, public transport, and wheel sport) enabling independent travel for everyone?
- Are there opportunities to connect with and enhance local economic activities, such as the connection between walking and cycle trail developments, local businesses, and economic development agencies?



## PRINCIPLES

### Financial sustainability

#### Intent:

Financially sustainable and viable facilities and active environments over the lifetime of the asset.

#### Key considerations:

##### Account for whole of life costs at the outset

- Model whole of life costs for all solution options to understand the long-term financial impacts and funding requirements before proceeding.
- Ensure all on-going operational costs are considered including compliance, amenity maintenance (for example, carparks and access roads), and renewals.

##### Multiple approaches to improving financial sustainability

- Appropriate scale of development to address the need whether this be in the hierarchy of provision (international to local) or the size of the catchment.  
For example, Albany Pool in Auckland as a local leisure facility complements rather than duplicates the AUT Millennium National Aquatic Centre, 4km away.
- Appropriate and efficient governance and operating models that optimise utilisation.
- Additional revenue streams such as gyms, cafes, laundromats, coffee carts, or other concessions.
- Consider multi-use, flexible facilities that can optimise use.
- Alternative funding models and potential partnerships such as offsetting operational costs through funders who support equity of access.

### Future-proofed

#### Intent:

Facilities and active environments can easily adapt to changing circumstances and emerging trends over time.

#### Key considerations:

##### Designing flexible, expandable, and adaptable spaces that can respond to future demand

- Consider how people will use spaces and places in the future and plan accordingly such as acquiring enough land for later development, building in design redundancy (for example, removable walls) and providing flexible spaces where use can easily change. Examples where use may change include:
  - tracks originally built for recreation are now being used as major commute routes
  - facilities with the ability to expand to deliver future major events.
- Plan for use of open space and parks to assist in flood management, heat reduction, and increasing the carbon sink such as creating water catchment areas, and native plantings.
- Can greater digital connectedness be supported in the future?

##### Developing a robust network

- Locate, design, and operate spaces and places to be more climate resilient to sea level rise and extreme weather events, such as storms, heatwaves, and heavy rainfall.
- Assess whether there is a complementary mix of facilities in the network ranging from entry to advanced level, local facilities, school facilities, marae, and active environments for everyday use.

## Bringing the framework to life

The seven stages in the lifecycle of a facility are:

### 1. Identify the challenge

Take the time to interrogate the challenge or opportunity.

### 2. Proof of need

Approach the needs analysis relative to the scale of the project.

### 3. Proof of viability

Critically analyse options to evaluate feasibility.

This is a gateway decision point to proceed to design or not.

### 4. Design

Be innovative about alternative solutions.

This is a gateway decision point to proceed to build or not.

### 5. Build

Construction of facility or active environment.

### 6. Operate

Manage and maintain the facility or space to ensure it delivers an ongoing quality experience.

### 7. Improve

Evaluate performance of the facility or space against the project vision and outcomes including feedback from users.

The greatest impact on strategic outcomes is made in the **Identify the challenge, Proof of need, Proof of viability, and Improve** stages of the lifecycle.

### 3. A Te Tiriti o Waitangi-Informed Approach to Spaces and Places Provision for Physical Activity

#### A Te Tiriti o Waitangi-Informed Approach to Spaces and Places

#### 3.1 Guidance: Te Tiriti o Waitangi-informed approach to aquatic facilities provision

Embedding a mātauranga Māori approach into the process for planning, developing, operating, and improving<sup>1</sup> aquatic facilities is a shift away from a long-standing western approach into one grounded in cultural narrative and lessons of the land. If done well, aquatic facilities for physical activity can help realise the aspirations of mana whenua for their land and subsequently improved wellbeing outcomes for their people.

#### Framework to guide practice

Sport NZ's Futures Thinking<sup>2</sup> outlines five pou or characteristics of a preferred bicultural future, which align to the key principles that will guide a Te Tiriti o Waitangi-informed approach to spaces and places provision. This guidance will assist enablers and providers of aquatic facilities to give effect to the key principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The pou provide a framework to guide practice, an explanation of each one, key indicators of success, and recommendations for and/or examples of application, which are outlined below.

#### Pou/Principle: Mana Māori – Giving Effect to the Treaty

Description	In Practice
<p>Mana ōrite (partnership), mana Māori (protection), and mana Taurite (participation) are the key principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and thus correlate with the phases of planning, developing, operating, and improving spaces and places with Māori.</p> <p>Evidence of success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• projects undertaken in genuine partnership</li> <li>• tangata whenua determine their involvement</li> <li>• te reo Māori, tikanga, taonga, and mātauranga Māori are promoted</li> <li>• Māori workforce are supported to participate and succeed 'as Māori'</li> <li>• social, economic, and/or environmental aspirations of tangata whenua are evident in the kaupapa.</li> </ul>	<p>Engage early (when the facility challenge is first identified) with the right people, noting in the early stages of a project the preferred site may be unknown and therefore the appropriate mana whenua relationships will also be unknown in this instance. A good first connection is the local government Iwi Liaison or equivalent role.</p> <p>The kaupapa (the 'why' or challenge you are seeking to solve) is agreed with all partners from the outset and drives decision-making throughout, likely determining the involvement of mana whenua.</p> <p>Examples of application across project phases may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cultural expertise is included within the project planning team and governance structure</li> <li>• project team are culturally inducted to the site</li> <li>• integration of tikanga within the project team</li> <li>• mana whenua bless the site and name the facility</li> <li>• kaupapa Māori physical activity spaces</li> <li>• integration of tangata whenua narratives and values into the design.</li> </ul>

1 The New Zealand Sporting Facilities Framework | Sport New Zealand - Ihi Aotearoa (sportnz.org.nz)

2 Preferred Future 5 Characteristics | Sport New Zealand - Ihi Aotearoa (sportnz.org.nz)

**Pou/Principle: Mana Taurite – A Just Society**

**Description**

A values-based, inclusive, and equitable approach to spaces and places provision.

Evidence of success:

- spaces and places are developed with tangata whenua and are inclusive of and consider all ages, genders, cultures, and abilities
- consideration is given to equitable access for those that face the most barriers (that is, cost and location).

**In Practice**

Mana whenua cultural expertise is recognised and valued in the same way as other technical project expertise.

Examples of application across project phases may include:

- commercial activities and procurement practices consider opportunities for mana whenua
- inclusive procurement practices
- user subsidies for those facing the most barriers considered concurrently with planning and development
- training and employment pathways for rangatahi
- co-design process with mana whenua working as part of design team in new projects.

**Pou/Principle: Mana Tangata – Empowered Communities**

**Description**

Locally led solutions to facility challenges that create a complementary network of spaces and places in response to community need. Allowing for integrated actions across agencies/communities and collaborative, high trust working models with clear roles and responsibilities.

Evidence of success:

- communities working collaboratively for a greater good, focussed on the agreed kaupapa
- all parties feel trusted and empowered to contribute, communication is transparent
- design and operation of the space is whānau/ community-centred, responsive to the need, and can flex to respond to change
- expertise and resources are shared and optimised
- evaluation is used to continually improve.

**In Practice**

Mana whenua are engaged with early to assess the need and agree the kaupapa, this will determine how the project progresses and succeeds (as per Mana Māori).

Facilities are co-designed throughout the planning, construction, operation, and improvement phases with mana whenua, rangatahi, older adults, disabled people, and other key user groups including sports codes to ensure spaces feel safe, accessible, and owned by all users.

Examples of application across project phases may include:

- spaces to practice manaakitanga (gathering and connecting, pōwhiri, and the sharing of kai) considered in the design
- universal design and culturally inclusive practices are incorporated as standard
- application of toi throughout the development including the building façade.

**Pou/Principle: Oranga Taiao, Oranga Tangata – Our Relationship with the Environment**

Description	In Practice
<p>The intrinsic connection between the natural environment and wellbeing. The relationship between tangata and whenua is strengthened or restored and the environment is protected and enhanced.</p> <p>Evidence of success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• facility providers are focussed on being the guardians and protectors of the land and its history</li> <li>• experiences in the natural environment are accessible for all</li> <li>• people live in neighbourhoods that enable physical activity as part of daily life.</li> </ul>	<p>Environmental sustainability and climate resiliency are project drivers considered early in the planning stages (that is, energy, water, materials, design, habitats, access, location, connections, and operational practices).</p> <p>Environmental impacts are monitored in real time over the course of the facility life and used to inform future decisions and improvements.</p> <p>Reconnection of mana whenua to historic sites.</p> <p>Examples of application across project phases may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sites of significance to mana whenua are protected and enhanced, the associated narratives are shared with the wider public to grow cultural competency</li> <li>• sustainable energy sources and construction practices</li> <li>• restoration, enhancement, and protection of natural habitats</li> <li>• climate resiliency and active transport connections are prioritised in site selection process.</li> </ul>

**Pou/Principle: Mauri Ora – Wellbeing**

Description	In Practice
<p>A heightened state of physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and cultural wellbeing achieved through physical activity.</p> <p>Evidence of success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased Māori participation in physical activity offerings, including being supported to participate 'authentically as Māori'</li> <li>• informal, social, and intergenerational opportunities to be active are provided</li> <li>• societal wellbeing is prioritised in facility planning decision-making</li> <li>• barriers to being active are identified and reduced.</li> </ul>	<p>Flexible, multi-use spaces for play, active recreation, and sport.</p> <p>Spaces where all ages, abilities, genders, and ethnicities feel welcome and safe.</p> <p>Places to 'gather' are prioritised acknowledging social connection as an enabler of physical activity and wellbeing.</p> <p>A workforce that understands the importance of physical activity for wellbeing and is also supported to be active.</p> <p>Programming that is responsive to community needs.</p> <p>Examples of application across project phases may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• facilities that are easily accessed by safe active or public transport routes, particularly for schools/kura</li> <li>• facility workforce undertake cultural competency training specific to the site and embed tikanga into facility operation</li> <li>• authentically 'as Māori' activity leaders and activity offerings.</li> </ul>

## Glossary

**Mātauranga Māori** - traditions, values, concepts, philosophies, world views and understandings derived from uniquely Māori cultural points of view and knowledge.

**Tikanga** - the customary system of Māori values and practices that have developed over time and are deeply embedded in the social context .

**Taonga** - intangible treasures and/or prized possessions - applied to anything considered to be of value including socially or culturally valuable objects, resources, phenomenon, ideas and techniques.

**Kaupapa** - topic, policy, matter for discussion, plan, purpose, scheme, proposal, agenda, subject, programme, theme, issue, initiative.

**Tangata whenua** - indigenous people - people born of the whenua, that is, of the placenta and of the land where the people's ancestors have lived and where their placenta are buried.

**Mana whenua** - territorial rights, power from the land, authority over land or territory, jurisdiction over land or territory - power associated with possession and occupation of tribal land. The tribe's history and legends are based in the lands they have occupied over generations and the land provides the sustenance for the people and to provide hospitality for guests.

**Rangatahi** - to be young, younger generation, youth, not limited to a specific age bracket.

**Toi** - Māori arts and crafts, inclusive of traditional historical knowledge of customs and storytelling in the practice of Māori arts and crafts.

**Mana** - prestige, authority, influence, status, charisma - mana is a quality, energy harnessed and expressed in activities through acts of generosity and wisdom.

**Mana enhancing** - further improving the quality, value, or extent of people, places and objects.

**As Māori** - Authentic and culturally appropriate empowerment of Māori to participate as themselves (as Māori).

**Whānau** - extended family, family group, a familiar term of address to several people - the primary economic unit of traditional Māori society. In the modern context the term is sometimes used to include friends who may not have any kinship ties to other members.

**Manaakitanga** - hospitality, kindness, generosity, support - the process of showing respect, generosity and care for others.

**Pōwhiri** - invitation, rituals of encounter, welcome ceremony on a marae, welcome.

**Tangata** - person or individual.

**Whenua** - Land, country, nation, state, ground, territory, domain, placenta, afterbirth.

## 4. Sport NZ's Spaces and Places Environmental Sustainability Guidelines

Sport NZ has developed [guidelines](#) to help sport and recreation organisations navigate the range of issues relating to environmental sustainability that affect spaces and places for play, active recreation and sport in Aotearoa New Zealand.

There is a need to improve the performance of spaces and places to reduce negative environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions, and to create spaces and places that are fit for the future.

Four key sustainability concepts are conveyed in these guidelines:

- Sustainability First/Whole of Life/Needs Assessment/Context

These concepts are accompanied by a four stage project checklist:

- Project Concept and Planning/Design/Construction/Operations

A Needs Assessment can significantly affect the sustainability outcomes of a project by ensuring options other than a new facility are considered first. Options include:

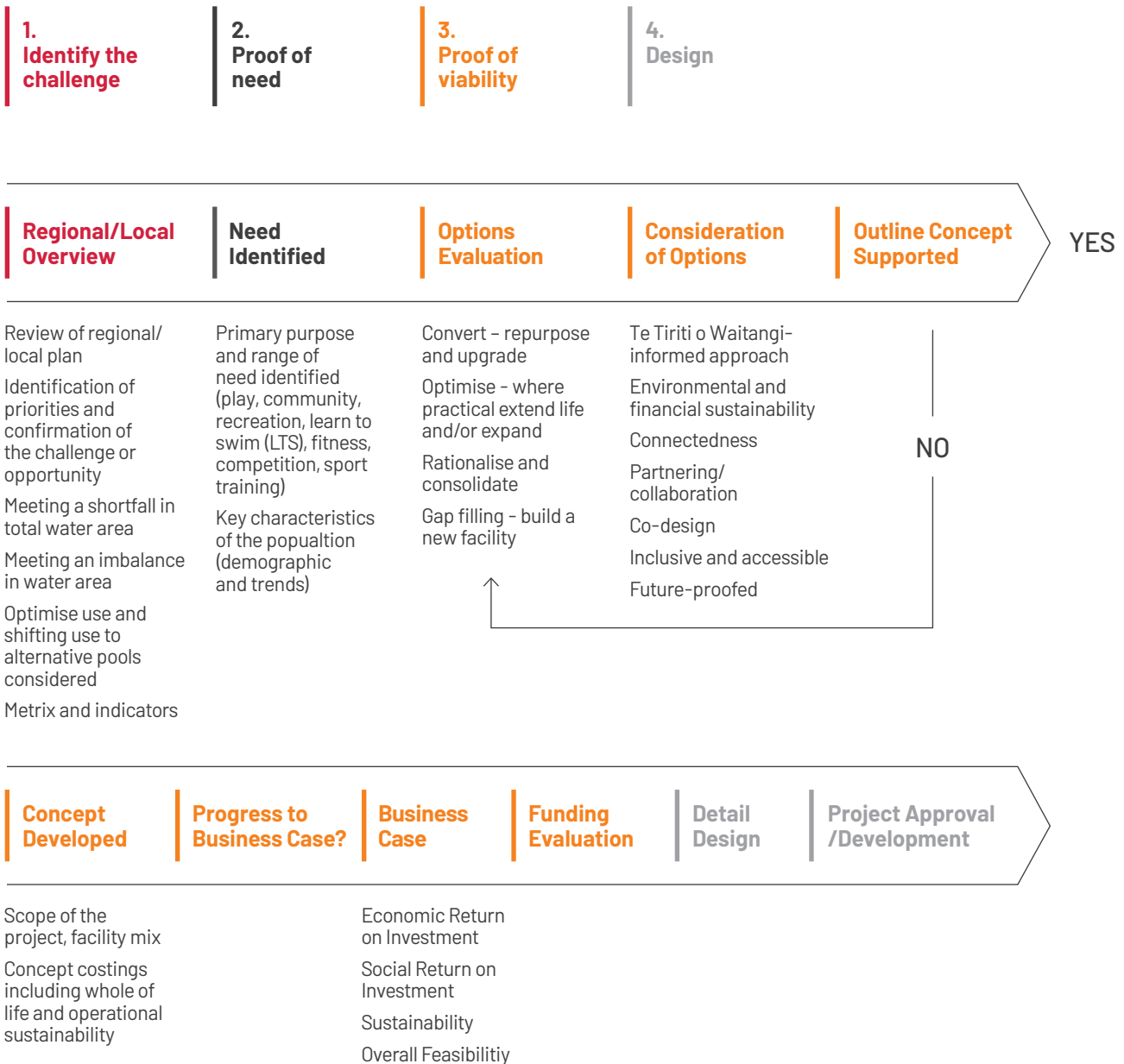
- 1 co-locate with nearby community facilities
- 2 refurbish the organisation's existing facility
- 3 re-purpose another existing facility
- 4 build new if there are no other adequate solutions.

There are many initiatives that can be undertaken to improve the environmental sustainability of a facility. Examples include:

- developing a facility that exceeds building regulations in terms of its thermal performance
- biophysical site conditions, that is, understanding the project's specific climate and environmental context
- highly energy efficient plant, for example, heat recovery
- use of photovoltaics (solar power)
- use of low carbon materials, for example, wood
- consideration of the supply chain for building materials
- low energy fittings
- habitat integration, that is, understanding the project's place in the wider ecological context
- landscape management, that is, sprays, and mowing.

## 5. Decision Making Process

Central to all decision making on aquatic facilities should be a network-based approach to ensure that investment is targeted to address the greatest areas of need and achieve the maximum community benefit. When considered in the context of this strategy, the process provides a pathway for good decision making, utilising the New Zealand Spaces and Places Framework:





## Roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders

### Territorial Authorities

- Recognise its role as a primary provider of aquatic facilities.
- Develop Aquatic Facility Plans that reflect their local communities and the strategy in partnership with their Regional Sports Trust (RST) and neighbouring districts.
- Coordinate with community pool owners, Ministry of Education (MoE) and School Boards of Trustees to provide a mix of aquatic facilities across the network.
- Engage with community partners and stakeholders.
- Work with the Regional Sports Organisations (RSOs)/ Regional Recreation Organisations (RROs) and National Sports Organisations (NSOs)/National Regional Organisations (NROs) to understand their needs.
- Advocate for the need to provide for play.
- Lead the preparation of needs analysis, gap and demographic assessments.
- Lead the preparation of feasibility studies and resultant business cases and work closely with community partners and stakeholders, RSOs/RROs and NSOs/NROs when relevant.
- Understand key measures of success including:
  - participation levels
  - financial sustainability (using benchmarks to provide a 10-year period to determine operational subsidy or surplus).
- Work with the project stakeholders to determine priorities and objectives for the facility including consideration of:
  - what is the purpose of the facility
  - what is the service mix required to meet community demands
  - identify the right site including consideration of land values, access, strategic planning policy, climate resiliency and wider connections
  - impact on other facilities in the network
  - impact on the natural environment.

### School Boards of Trustees

- Recognise its role as a provider of aquatic facilities within communities.
- Work with the TA to take a network approach to aquatic facility provision.
- Formalise community access agreements with TA, community trust, private operators, and/or specific community user groups.
- Formalise partnership agreements for potential investment, management and use.

### Sport NZ

- Provide leadership, guidance and advice throughout the planning process.
- Provide benchmarks and information against which proposals can be measured.
- Assess business case submissions against funding criteria.
- Remain strategic in the consideration of all new proposals as they relate to the strategy.

- Provide peer review service for facility provision planning and design.
- Advocate to MoE for consistent approach for community access to school facilities.

### Regional Sports Trusts

- Lead/support development of Aquatic Facility Plans that reflect local communities and the strategy in partnership with the TAs.
- Provide leadership, guidance and advice throughout the planning process.
- Activate the aquatic physical activity and recreation users to provide input to planning.
- Provide support to RSOs, RROs, sporting clubs and associations.

### Local community users (groups and individuals and advisory groups/organisations)

- Key informants for the purpose/s the facility will serve, they are often the silent majority but are the voice of leisure/play/relaxation/hydrotherapy pool users as well as ensuring the facility is accessible and inclusive.
- Ensure inputs are provided for the wide range of community users including disabled people and rainbow communities.

### National Sporting and Recreation Organisations

- Undertake strategic planning for the sport/recreation activity and engage with the TAs and this strategy.
- Ensure consistency with NSO/NRO planning (a consistent voice from the sport/recreation activity).
- Assist in the co-ordination of initial investigations and engagement between the RSO/RRO, and sport clubs, associations and recreation organisations to analyse the feasibility of the project.
- Provide advice on technical and design details to meet sport code requirements where relevant.

### Regional Sporting and Recreation Organisations

- Provide support to sporting clubs, associations and recreation organisations.
- Identify and articulate their issues to the NSO/NRO and TA.
- Ensure consistency with NSO/NRO strategic planning.
- Proactively engage with all stakeholders.

### Sporting clubs, associations, community and recreation organisations

- Focus on delivering their sports or activity.
- Identify and articulate their issues to RSO, RRO and TA.
- Assess the plans of the NSO, NRO, TA and this strategy.
- Consideration and engagement with other organisations/activities who require similar facilities.

## 6. Case Studies

These case studies are examples of multi-use aquatic centres that cater for a range of demand and are part of a wider network of provision. They outline the catchments, user breakdown and charges, operating revenue and expenditure and required operating subsidy.

### 6.1 Case Study 1: Coastlands Aquatic Centre Paraparaumu, Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC)

#### Purpose

The facility was built to provide programmes and services that meet the needs of the diverse community. It is a district level facility providing for:

- relaxation
- hydrotherapy
- aquatic competence
- leisure/play
- fitness/health/lane sports
- deep water sports (not diving).

#### Network view

The facility is the Kāpiti Coast's primary location for competitive swimming events and aquatics recreation.

The district also has pools in Ōtaki, Paraparaumu and Waikanae (the Waikanae Pool is a seasonal pool).

The closest pools with a similar capability are Porirua (PCC) – 36km to the south, and Levin (HDCC) 26 km to the north.

#### Description

Opened in 2013, Coastlands Aquatic Centre is owned and operated by the Kāpiti Coast District Council.

#### Pools

##### Lane pool 25 x 25m

- 10 lanes
- Competitive sports
- 28.5°C
- 50% Moveable floor 2.2m – 0m
- 50% 2.4m
- Removeable access ramp

##### Programmes' pool 16 x 9.5m

- 32°C
- Ramp Access
- 0-1.2

##### Toddlers' pool 7.5 x 8m

- 32°C
- 0 – 500mm
- Water features

#### Hydroslide

#### Spa pool

#### Sauna





## Features

- Variopool moveable floor (50% of the lane pool)
- Vector Foiltec translucent roof
- café, swim shop
- tenancy – physiotherapist
- multi-purpose room
- the facility holds a Platinum Accessibility accreditation.

## Catchment area

Most significant catchment is the KCDC District, Paekākāriki – Ōtaki Population 54,000. Median Age 47.9 – Older adults concentrated around Waikanae with several large retirement villages. Unemployment (June 2023) 3.6%. Refer Kāpiti Coast | People+Places (peopleandplaces.nz).

## Current utilisation

Usage: between 200,000 and 215,000 visits per annum.

### General public – 70%

- Lane swimming
- Classes (9 per week)
- Splash – programmed kids time

### Targeted programmes – 15%

- KCDC Learn to Swim Programme
- Aqua Move Programme
- Soundsplash – youth party nights

### Clubs and community lane hire – 15%

- 2 x swim clubs
- Masters swimming
- Water polo
- Surf lifesaving club
- Private swim coaches
- Kapakapanui SENCO (Disability groups)

Swim events – full closures – four per year – Swim Wellington events, and Surf Lifesaving.

Facility capacity limitations preclude national swim event hosting.

High demand for lane hire at peak times:

- reduces ability to provide aquafitness classes in the evenings.
- places pressure on hirers who compete for space.

Multipurpose room hire – to various community groups and commercial hirers.

## Fees

Fees are raised annually in line with CPI.

Adult per swim (16 years plus)	\$5.70
Child per swim (5-15 years)	\$3.40
Under 5 years old swim	\$1.90
Adult swimming with child under five years of age	\$1.90
Learn to Swim lesson price	\$13.90
Swimming pool complex hire - (peak)	\$453 per hour
Swimming pool complex hire - (off-peak - after 4.00pm Saturday and Sunday, after 7.00pm weekdays)	\$234 per hour
Lane hire	\$9.10 per hour per lane
School lane hire (lessons only - not using Kāpiti Coast aquatics instructors)	\$9.10 per hour per lane
School groups Learn to Swim - using Kāpiti Coast aquatics instructors (no lane hire charge and minimum numbers apply)	\$4.20 per child
Commercial lane hire (a commercial operator hiring lane(s) and charges customers for their service. They are for-profit, with proceeds going to the business)	\$13.60 per hour per lane plus per head entry at applicable rate (customers pay pool entry)



## Revenue streams

Revenue generated by operation/user charges \$1,200,000

Swim shop/Café	27.5%
Admissions (including spa, slide, sauna)	38.0%
Programmed activities (fitness, Learn2 Swim)	26.0%
Facility/lane hire - leases	6.0%
Other	2.5%

There is a focus on the profitability of retail activities café and shop.

KCDC will create and operate bespoke programmes based on market needs, often these are priced at more of a premium.

## Expenditure

Aquatics Financial Policy is to recover 25-30% of all overhead from fees and charges (including Depreciation, Interest).

	FY2023
<b>Operating expenditure</b>	<b>\$4,360,000</b>
<b>Pool opex total</b>	<b>\$2,570,000</b>
Operational Personnel 57%	
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>\$1,140,000</b>
Maintenance Build and Plant 15%, Facility Op's (incl chemicals) 7.5% Energy 28.0% COGS (Stock) 19.7% Insurance 19.2% Excludes interest and depreciation	
<b>Management overhead</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
Corporate Services	
<b>Council overhead allocation</b>	<b>\$450,000</b>
<b>Subsidy required</b>	<b>\$3,160,000</b>

## Capital investment

Initial build year (s) - 2011-2013 at a capital cost of \$22,295,000.

When built - naming rights sponsors (10 years) contributed approximately 1.5million.

Additional capital spends 2014-2015 - \$350,000 (accessible ramp, timing equipment and other).

## 6.2 Case Study 2: Moana Pool Dunedin City Council (DCC)

### Purpose

Moana Pool is a community facility. A national level facility providing for:

- relaxation
- hydrotherapy
- learn/education
- leisure/play
- fitness/health/lane sports
- deep water sports.

It accommodates swimming clubs, user groups such as diving, underwater hockey, canoe polo and waterpolo and has a large squad run by the Dunedin Swim Coaching Board. Moana Pool is used for national events in all sports. It has a gym and swim school and provides group fitness, such as, Aqua and Just Ride classes.

### Network view

The facility is Dunedin's primary location for competitive swimming events and aquatics recreation.

The city also has the new indoor Te Puna o Whakaehu (Mosgiel Pool) facility as a local facility and seasonal pools at Port Chalmers and St Clair.

Currently it is the only facility in the South Island with capability to host national swimming events.

### Description

Moana Pool was originally opened in 1964. A bulkhead was added to the 50m pool in the late 1960s. Waterslides were added in 1984 - they were privately owned until 2001, when DCC took over their ownership.

The new Leisure Pool opened around the end of 2000, followed six months later by the official opening of the Fina and Olympic standard diving facilities. Note the new diving facilities have no spectator seating.

In 2006 the gym was upgraded at a cost of \$1,300,000. The facility is owned and operated by DCC.



### Pools

#### Main pool (shallow) 50m

- Not able to be used for 50m events due to pool depths
- Competitive sports x 8 lanes
- 28°C
- Min. depth 0.91m
- Ladder/stairs/hydraulic chair lift

#### Main pool (deep) 25m

- Lap pool x 6 lanes
- Competitive sports
- 28°C
- Max. depth 1.7m
- Ladder/hydraulic chair lift

#### Dive/lap pool 16 x 9.5m

- 10, 7.5 and 5m platforms
- 28°C
- Min. depth 2m Max. depth 4.6m
- Ladder/stairs

#### Old dive pool 16 x 9.5m

- 2 x 1m and 1 x 3m diving boards
- 28°C
- Min. depth 3.8m Max. depth 3.8m
- Ladder

#### Leisure pool

- 32°C
- Min. depth 0m Max. depth 1.6m
- Beach entry/ladder

#### Learners' pool

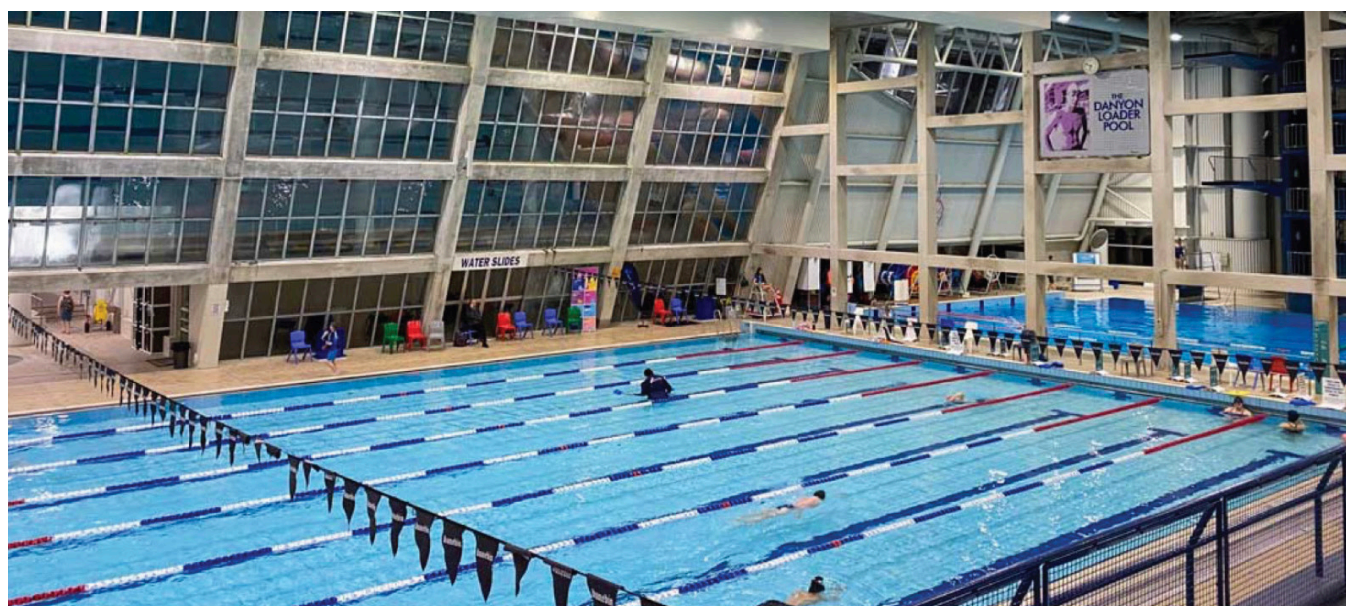
- 32°C
- Min. depth 0.8m Max. depth 1m
- Stairs/hydraulic chair lift

#### Spa pool

- 38°C
- Min. depth 0.5m Max. depth 1.1m
- Stairs/hydraulic chair lift

#### Water slides

- 28°C
- Min. depth 0.5m Max. depth 0.9m
- Ramp/stairs



## Catchment area

Located in central Dunedin, the facility with a direct catchment of 50,000+. The city as a territory has a population of 135,100.

## Current utilisation

The high-level overview of the 2022/2023 utilisation for the facility is:

Total facility visits:	579,868
Pool-related visits:	499,085
Gym-related visits:	80,783

## Fees

Adult per swim	\$7.60
Child per swim (anyone who has not left secondary school)	\$3.50
Learn to Swim lesson price (10 week) - babies and toddlers	\$7.83
Learn to Swim lesson price (10 week) - pre school, and school age	\$13.70
Learn to Swim lesson price (5 week) - adults	\$21.20
Lane hire for each lane over a total of 6 lanes	\$12.20 per hour excluding admission fee
25m pool group activity - use of whole dive/lap pool	\$12.20 per hour excluding admission fee
50m pool - pool hire	\$312.40 per hour includes admission fee
School swimming sports 50m pool (includes pool entry) - pool hire	\$156.00 per hour includes admission fee
Dive/lap pool - pool hire	\$118.70
Old dive pool before 8.00am - pool hire	Free per hour excluding admission fee
Old dive pool - pool hire	\$44.10 per hour excluding admission fee
Poolside meeting room per hour	\$25.20
Poolside meeting room all day hire	\$131.30
Birthday party room hire per hour	\$19.20

## Revenue streams

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<b>Operating revenue</b>	<b>\$2,939,455</b>	<b>\$1,891,016</b>	<b>\$3,219,379</b>
Learn To Swim	\$858,010	\$580,200	\$1,027,333
Group fitness casual	\$23,198	\$18,936	\$29,577
Swim memberships/passes	\$165,221	\$156,640	\$384,294
Casual entry	\$623,270	\$427,760	\$698,000
Gym casual	\$48,357	\$40,208	\$61,839
Gym membership/passes	\$688,951	\$309,021	\$521,628
Pool/lane hire	\$133,660	\$109,577	\$103,604
Waterslide	\$175,114	\$102,209	\$145,551
School revenue	\$9,841	\$5,419	\$5,393
Retail sales	\$209,122	\$124,339	\$225,399
Equipment hire	\$4,711	\$16,707	\$16,761

## Expenditure

Aquatics Financial Policy is to recover 45% of all overheads from fees and charges.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<b>Operating expenditure</b>	<b>\$5,510,182</b>	<b>\$5,421,744</b>	<b>\$5,865,130</b>
Staff	\$3,009,220	\$3,107,773	\$3,305,351
Utilities (energy/water)	\$1,060,364	\$872,128	\$1,090,607
Repairs and maintenance	\$321,000	\$321,000	\$321,000
Centralised overheads	\$1,119,598	\$1,120,843	\$1,148,172
<b>Subsidy required</b>	<b>\$2,570,727</b>	<b>\$3,530,728</b>	<b>\$2,645,751</b>



## Capital investment

Moana Pool was originally opened in 1964 at a cost of £450,000.

In 2006 the gym was upgraded at a cost of \$1,300,000.

Other capital projects that occurred over the years that capital value details are unavailable.

### 6.3 Case Study 3: Albany Stadium Pool Auckland Council

#### Purpose

The facility was specifically designed for:

- learn/education
- leisure/play
- relaxation.

“The Northern Aquatic Centre will be designed as a pool with a point of difference complementing the network. It is principally for recreation purposes, providing an exciting and stimulating experience which will encourage creative play, fun and enjoyment for all ages. There will also be a large learn-to-swim facility to deliver both water safety and learn- to-swim programmes, together with large health and fitness areas providing affordable health and fitness facilities/programmes.” - *Business Case Northern Aquatic Centre Albany, Auckland Council.*

#### Network view

The facility is the catchment’s primary location for leisure/play aquatic recreation. It provides learn to swim, and relaxation but is not a hydrotherapy or sport pool facility.

Sport is provided at the National Aquatic Centre 4.2 kilometres away.

Wider leisure opportunities are available at Glenfield Pool and Leisure Centre 8.2 kilometres away.

#### Description

Opened in January 2017, Albany Stadium Pool is a leisure facility owned and operated by the Auckland Council.

#### Pools

##### Leisure pool

- 380m<sup>2</sup> varied depth (0.8m to 2.5m deep)
- 30°C

##### Kids’ pool

- 185m<sup>2</sup>
- Beach entry to 0.5m deep
- Interactive play features
- 31°C

##### Splash pad with interactive play features

- 57m<sup>2</sup>
- Zero-depth

##### A separate but adjoined lap pool for ‘learn-to-swim’

- 20m x 15m
- Varied depth (0.8m to 1.5m)
- 31°C

##### Spa pool

- 38°C





## Catchment area

The high-level overview of the current use:

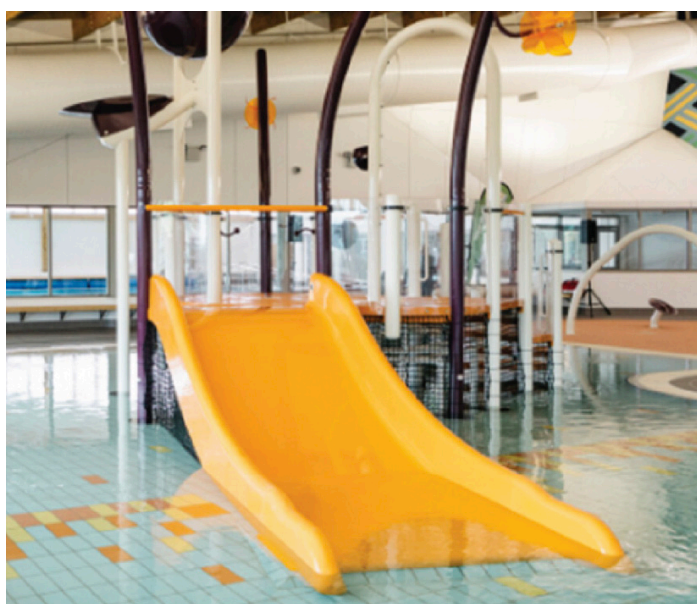
Visit type	FY21	FY22	FY23
Fitness users	155,490	96,515	174,792
Pool visits	197,611 including 79,005 visits of '16 and Under Swim'	129,890 including 55,036 visits of '16 and Under Swim'	232,777 including 89,636 visits of '16 and Under Swim'
Pool and Learn to Swim spectators	46,031	29,401	49,356
Learn to Swim	31,650	22,964	39,728
<b>Total visitation</b>	<b>430,782</b>	<b>278,770</b>	<b>496,653</b>

The booking activity context for the pool spaces is presented below:

Use	FY21	FY22	FY23
Event	93%	98%	95%
Sports	1%	1%	0%
Community	6%	1%	5%

## Fees

Adult per swim (16 years plus)	\$8.50
Child per swim (5-15 years)	Free
Under 5 years old swim	Free
Adult swimming with child under five years of age	\$1.00
Learn to Swim lesson price - babies and toddlers	\$14.40
Learn to Swim lesson price - pre school, school age, teens, and adults	\$15.40
Party, meeting or training room hire	\$151.60 for a two-hour session, includes pool entry



## Revenue streams

	FY21		FY22		FY23	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
<b>Operating revenue</b>						
Entrance fees - fitness	30,000	1%	20,000	1%	38,000	1%
Entrance fees - aquatics	415,000	18%	285,000	10%	490,000	18%
Membership fees - fitness	1,196,000	51%	752,000	52%	1,391,000	50%
Hireage	41,000	2%	25,000	2%	37,000	1%
Sales	112,000	5%	85,000	6%	130,000	5%
Learn to Swim	532,000	23%	271,000	19%	693,000	25%
Property rental revenue	7,000	0%	2,000	0%	0	0%
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>2,332,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,439,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,780,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Expenditure

<b>Operating expenditure</b>	<b>\$3,265,908</b>
Staff	\$2,181,800
Outsourced works and services	\$49,265
Utilities	\$756,439
Repairs and maintenance	\$278,404
<b>Subsidy required</b>	<b>\$485,724</b>

## Capital investment

\$19,000,000 construction cost opened in January 2017.

Capital expenditure:

- 2021 - \$120,000
- 2022 - \$71,645
- 2023 - \$612,165  
(solar installation, accessible change facility)



## 7. Availability for the Community Full Time Equivalent Approach

Table 1 - Full Time Equivalent (FTE) assumption based on community availability

Availability	Description	FTE assumption for the national strategy
<b>Available for community access/use</b>	<p>A facility is considered available if there is a track record of casual public availability and/or has a booking system that is open to bookings by the community during core demand hours each week. Examples of an available facility would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council/community venue, or school facility with public access or a formal community use agreement/partnership with an open booking system for all core demand hours (6.00–9.00am and 4.00–9.00pm Monday–Friday, Saturday and Sunday) on a weekly basis.</li> <li>• This would include a school facility that has an established track record of community availability beyond the school community but may/may not have a formal community use agreement/partnership. Hours of use may be restricted, for example, after school or restricted number of days only.</li> <li>• This also includes private pool facilities that serve a community need, for example private swim schools offering their services and facility to the public.</li> </ul>	<p>Included as available.</p> <p>FTE capacity determined by FTE descriptions.</p>
<b>Not available for community access/use</b>	<p>A facility is considered not available to the community if there is limited/no regular community access during core demand hours each week of operation. Examples of an unavailable facility would include a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School facility that allows some community access however use is limited to the school community such as via a key-purchase system offered to whānau of students and staff. It is not available to the wider community, or not on a regular basis each week of operation. It may allow occasional access such as for one-off events via an informal arrangement made through a connection/personal relationship at the school.</li> <li>• Hospital hydrotherapy pool only available for in and out-patients.</li> <li>• Retirement village pool only available for residents and their guests.</li> </ul>	<p>Not included as available.</p>

Table 2 - FTE assumption based on community availability

Degree of community availability	Aquatic facility sub-type	Description for regional, district/city aquatic facility planning	FTE assumption in the national strategy
Fully available for community	Indoor public facility	A facility which is fully available for community aquatic activity. Usually owned by a council or community trust or incorporated society.	1
	Seasonal public facility	A seasonal facility which is fully available for community aquatic activity. Usually owned by a council or community trust or incorporated society.  Note: Depending on the duration of the season this FTE value will vary, for example a 1 December to 28 February (three month) season would be 0.25 whereas a 1 November to 31 March (five month) season would be 0.40.	0.4
Restricted community availability	Indoor school pool (with public availability)	A school-based pool which is available to the community during core demand hours each week of operation.  Note: this could range from 0.1 (some limited club access) to 0.75 (formal partnership with an established learn to swim programme or part of the community network) depending on the individual access arrangement.	0.5
	Seasonal school pool (with public availability)	A seasonal school-based pool which is available to the community during core demand hours each week of operation. Could be via a key system available to the wider community (beyond the school community).  Note: this could range from 0.1 (such as some limited club access) to in some cases 0.5 (formal partnership with an established learn to swim programme or part of the community network) depending on the individual access arrangement.	0.1
	Private swim school facilities	A commercial facility that was developed primarily for delivering learn to swim classes and in some cases has a swim academy. These serve a community demand that would otherwise require public facility provision or would not occur at all. Their customers include schools that lack suitable facilities during the school day and the wider community who use the pool including during core demand hours each week of operation.  Note: this could range from 0.25 (lesson delivery 2-3 days per week at peak times 40 weeks of the year) to 0.75 (lesson delivery 7 days per week at peak times 48 weeks of the year).  For the purpose of national level analysis, where the pool is outdoor with a seasonal operation it is considered as 0 FTE.	0.5
	Event capable facility (regional and above sport competition only)	A facility that has an event host purpose from time to time where the public/wider community is excluded from part or the entire facility for the duration of the event.  Note: this may range from 0.9 to 0.99 (the facility is available for the public/wider community for 90% (35 days a year restricted for events use) to 99% (3.5 days a year restricted for events use).  Note: For the purpose of the National Strategy, the event utilisation detail was not available for analysis so it was agreed to not apply a reduced FTE value, but during regional, district, Auckland local board area, city aquatic facility planning, the impact of hosting events needs to be considered within the territory's pool network.	1.0
No community availability	Facilities with no public availability	A facility which is not available to the community during core demand hours each week of operation such as school pools and private pools, for example, retirement village pool.  Note: these facilities have a role in meeting the water confidence skills and hydrotherapy requirements. These pools play an important role in the network and if these pools were to close this activity would be transferred into other community pools. For the purpose of national level analysis, FTE capacity is 0, however regional, district, Auckland local board area, city aquatic facility planning should consider this level of contribution.	0

**Key planning point:** When completing more localised and detailed planning the primary purpose of each pool must be determined alongside any other use. This could then have an FTE factor applied to provide an accurate picture of the pool's utilisation, for example 80% aquatic competence and 20% leisure/play/relaxation/hydrotherapy/school recreational access.

## 8. Aquatic Facility Level Definitions

### 8.1 Hierarchy

#### Local/sub-district

A local pool that is available for community use, which often facilitates people's introduction to water play and recreation, aquatic skills and swimming, primarily serves a small town and its surrounding area or suburb only. It is normally a single pool or double pool (lane pool and shallow pool) facility. For example, a small community pool, some school pools or a private learn to swim pool. A sub-district facility may offer water play and recreation and facilitates people's development of aquatic skills and swimming, it primarily serves a larger town or a ward/zone/cluster of suburbs in a city. It could be a single pool facility, or it may have multiple pools. For example, a community pool, a high school pool operating as a community facility, or a smaller council pool.

#### District/city/sub-regional (Auckland Local Board)

The main district/city facility. It is a destination facility with the ability to draw significant numbers of recreational users/whānau and sport participants/teams/competitors from a whole district or across adjacent TA or Auckland local board boundaries for a variety of purposes, including play and recreation, therapy, exercise, competition or training purposes, and facilitating people's development of aquatic skills and swimming. It will have two or more pools of varying depths and temperatures. For example, the main council facility in a regional city, district or Auckland local board area/s.

#### Regional

A facility with the ability to draw significant numbers of recreational users/whānau, sport participants/teams/competitors from a whole region or across adjacent regional boundaries for a variety of purposes, including play, therapy, exercise, competition or training purposes, and facilitating people's development of aquatic skills and swimming. It will have two or more pools of varying depths and temperatures. It will have a pool with the ability to host inter-regional and intra-regional club and school competitions and/or serves as a regional high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes. For example, a large council facility with a 8-10 lane 2 m (variable) deep lap pool and significant leisure provision.

#### National (International)

A facility with the ability to host national and inter-regional representative competitions and/or to serve as a national high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes. It will meet the national standard specifications of the aquatic sport. A facility could have the ability to host international competitions/events. It will usually have more than one pool to enable warm-up and warm-down for competitors. It may include a sport code compliant diving pool. In most cases it will also serve some of the needs of the local community such as fitness swimming and sports training. In some cases it will also have significant leisure provision and facilitates people's development of aquatic skills and swimming.

#### Pools by type

Knowing the types of pools and how much water space they contribute to the total network enables analysis to consider how the network serves (or not) the demand.

The Sport NZ Facilities Planning Tool (FPT) analysis has revealed the following:

- 382 pool facilities that are defined as lane/lap pools or dive pools
- 6 national capable pool facilities for swimming events (water polo and underwater hockey use these pools)
- 3 national and regional capable pool facilities for dive events plus one pool for junior events (artistic swimming use these pools)
- 22 regional capable pool facilities for swimming events (6 national and 16 regional)
- there were a further 294 sub-regional/district/local identified pools for swimming and 23 sub-regional/district/local identified pools for diving
- 105 private teaching and lap pool facilities offering services to the public/community
- 1,195 school pools.

## 8.2 Service requirement descriptions by purpose/type

The table below provides descriptions of the various user purposes and pool types. A key aspect is the water temperature to provide a quality experience for the user for the different purposes.

Table 3 – Service requirement description of pool purpose/type

Water temperature guide	Purpose	Description	Examples
36-38°C	Relaxation	To accommodate relaxation (spas or similar) – pool water space for users to soak and relax.	Destination hot pool facilities
32-35°C	Hydrotherapy	To serve aquatic movement therapy and mobility needs (excludes specialist medical therapy needs) – pool water space for users to complete the range of motion activities. Depth appropriate.	Council pool facilities
29-32°C	Aquatic competence	To enable development of water safety skills and swimming capability – pool water space for delivery of services in water skills capability. Depth appropriate to ability/age.	Private swim schools
26-29°C	Fitness/health	To allow for aquatic activity for health and fitness outcomes – pool water space for Aqua jogging, aerobics, reduced gravity walking, and lane swimming.	Community pool
	Leisure/play	To accommodate casual water play, and fun – pool water space and features that provide fun and safe aquatic experiences.	Zero depth water play spaces Shallow leisure pool Wave pools Hydro slides Lazy rivers Bombing pools
25-28°C	Lanes/court	To accommodate more serious lane swimmers and competitive squad/team training and competition – pool water space that has lanes and sufficient depth for dive entry and tumble turns.	Sport training and competition pools for swimming, surfLife saving, canoe polo, and triathlon
	Depth 1 (1.8m-2m)	To accommodate competitive deep water aquatic training and competition – pool water space that has depth appropriate to perform the skills for the deep-water sport activities and sufficient area for the sport specifications.	Sport training and competition pools for artistic, water polo, underwater hockey, and other activities such as scuba diving teaching
	Depth 2 (4.5m+) Deep water activities)	To accommodate competitive deep water aquatic training and competition – pool water space that has depth appropriate to perform the skills for the deep-water sport activities and sufficient area for the sport specifications.	Sport training and competition pools for diving and other activities such as scuba diving teaching

### 8.3 Pool proxy dimension assumptions

For the pools recorded in the FPT without length and/or width dimensions the following set of proxy dimensions have been applied to inform the supply audit.

Pool type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Rationale/assumption
Primary school	15	5	75	Average from 692 pools in the MoE database
Intermediate school	24	10	240	Average from 45 pools in the MoE database
Secondary school	25	11	275	Average from 183 pools in the MoE database
Retirement village pool	15	5	75	*Guidance from retirement village pools advisor 120-140 pools
Lido beach/leisure pool/splash pads	22.5	10	225	From FPT data of 102 pools
Dive/bombing pools	10	9	90	From FPT data of 29 pools
Hydrotherapy	15	7	105	From FPT data of 17 pools
Teaching pools	15	6	90	From FPT data of 181 pools
Toddler pools	8	5	40	From FPT data of 50 pools
Spas	6	4	24	From FPT data of 11 spas

## 9. 50m Pool Debate

There is often much debate about a 50m pool compared to a 25m pool and the community demand or desire for a 50m pool. While there is a need for 50m pools to meet the demand for national and international competition and training, they are not considered the most appropriate solution to meet the wider range of community aquatic demand.

To meet a wide range of community aquatic demand, provision of smaller, flexible water spaces (including a 25m pool) is recommended with the following benefits:

- reduced capital costs
- reduced ongoing subsidy (through lower operating costs and increased income generating activities)
- increased flexibility of water areas, depths and temperatures, increasing the ability to meet a wider range of free-play, leisure and programming activities.

### 50m pool complex (1,250m<sup>2</sup>)

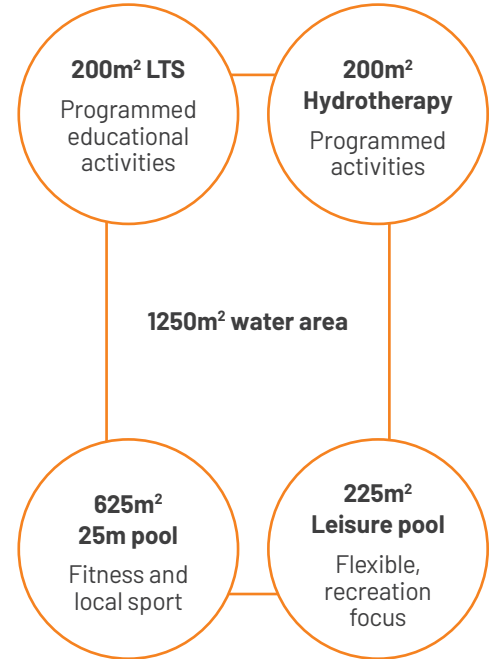
**1250m<sup>2</sup> water area**

Focus on fitness and sport with limited learning and leisure.

Movable bulkheads allow flexibility of spaces but not temperatures.

Provision of seating and event infrastructure increases building footprint.

### Community aquatic complex (1250m<sup>2</sup>)



Study	50m pool	25m pool	Opex implications
<b>Aquatics Study 2020</b>	50m, 10 lane pool 1500 seats LTS, leisure water, toddler pool, spa – 420m <sup>2</sup> Indoor court, gym \$70m – \$82m	25m, 8 lane pool LTS, leisure water, toddler pool, spa – 420m <sup>2</sup> Indoor court, gym \$49m – \$58m	\$300 – \$700k additional operating cost per annum for a 50m regional pool complex
<b>Aquatics Study 2017</b>	50m, 8 lane pool LTS, leisure water, hydrotherapy/programme pool – 580m <sup>2</sup> Gym facilities \$36m – \$37m	25m, 10 lane pool LTS, increased leisure water, hydrotherapy/programme pool – 775m <sup>2</sup> Gym facilities \$36m – \$37m	\$200 – \$300k additional operating cost per annum for a 50m pool complex
<b>Aquatics Study 2018</b>	1825m <sup>2</sup> allows for a 52m pool with two movable bulkheads with average 3m wide concourses. Additional consequential floor area – 925m <sup>2</sup> Capital cost – \$17.76 – \$20.83 (pool hall only)	975m <sup>2</sup> allows for 25 x 10 lane pool with average 3 m concourses. Extra concourse on one side allows for seating for smaller competitions. Capital cost – \$5.35 – \$6.35m (pool hall only)	\$358k – \$469k additional operating cost per annum



## Community Sport and Recreation Facility Development Guide: Sport NZ 2016

To identify the right mix of water spaces, assess who will be the predominant users.

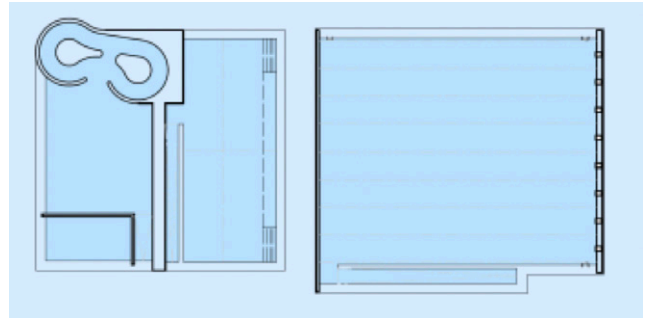
### Mostly families

#### Brief scenario A

- 25m lap pool (8-lane)
- LST pool
- Leisure water
- Toddlers' pool

Typical future expansion  
(in order of typical priority):

1. Spa pool
2. Warm water pool
3. Hydroslices



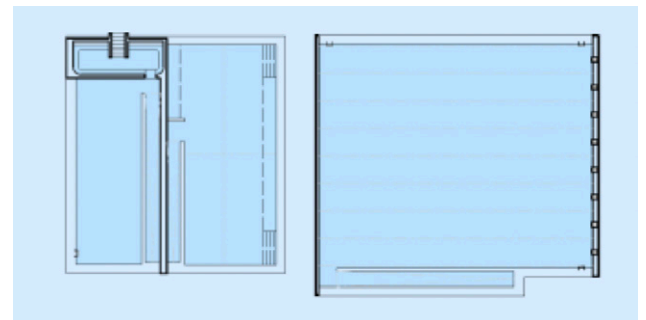
### Mostly retirees

#### Brief scenario B

- 25m lap pool (8-lane)
- LST pool
- Warm water pool
- Separate spa pool

Typical future expansion  
(in order of typical priority):

1. Leisure



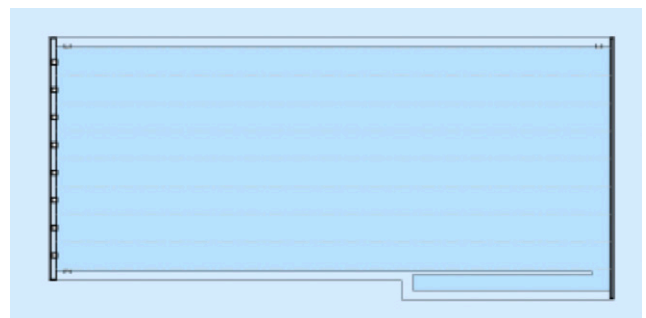
### Mostly elite athletes

#### Brief scenario C

- 50m lap pool (8-lane)
- Movable floor to cater to LTS

Typical future expansion  
(in order of typical priority):

1. Dedicated LTS pool
2. Leisure water
3. Warm water pool



## 10. Demand Calculation

Conversion of NZ sport participation data from 'Active NZ Sports and Activities tables 2021' (participation rates for individual sports) into a current combined national aquatic participation rate.

This required factoring in those who self-reported participating at different frequencies (that is, weekly versus annually) in order to establish a standardised overall estimate of use within one consistent timeframe.

Addressing gaps in pool use not included in the survey - using ActiveXchange's integrated data from aquatic facilities. To arrive at an estimated total aquatic activity demand person estimate (and visit estimate).

ActiveXchange integrates actual user and usage data from a range of aquatic facilities. This enables the creation of demand estimates that can be applied across any given population for learn to swim, aquatic membership and other aquatic programs including water polo (usages that aren't identified through other sources).

Forecast demand uses a segmentation model approach (Experian Mosaic data) to find population lookalikes who have a high propensity to undertake similar participation behaviours. This calculation removes the supply variable, so as to also include unmet demand that may exist due to accessibility, capacity and quality factors related to the existing supply of facilities.

Use of the FPT database to provide an up to date estimate on nationwide pools (m<sup>2</sup>) supply (factoring in access restrictions to estimate 'full time equivalents' (FTEs).

Participation (usage) capacity per m<sup>2</sup> was estimated using ActiveXchange's integrated data on actual pool usage levels and with a 'comfort factor' what pools can typically accomodate. This takes into account peak/off-peak usage patterns.

The supply was then assessed alongside the overall forecast demand levels to reach a per capita level of current provision and provide a gap assessment estimate.

# 11. Indicators to Support Regional and Local Analysis

Demand analysis indicates aquatic demand for 27m<sup>2</sup> of water space per 1,000 population. However, the demand benchmark number should not be accepted at face value.

Detailed assessment is required at a sub-national level to quantify gaps and consider options/approaches to meet the demand.

## 11.1 Provision benchmarking ratios approach

The approach to the aquatic provision ratio has been influenced by two factors:

- the nature (and associated limitations and risks) of the available data on the current supply held in the FPT
- the market demand analysis to consider the character of the catchment territory and its resident population.

In addition, national guidance on market demand will be included again based on ActiveXchange analysis of current participation patterns and data science expressed as the national percentage split between the various uses of water such as recreation (water play), water competence, learn to swim, therapy, relaxation and sport.

### 11.1.1 Caveats

The above provision metric provides an initial overview of the overall demand for aquatic water space provision. It is important to highlight that this provision metric should not be used in isolation and is a starting point in considering the overall supply and demand of facilities. Further detailed data collection and analysis as part of regional/city/district level planning is needed. This will improve the accuracy of the national benchmark ratio (held in the FPT database) and applying the benchmark ratio used for regional/city/district decision making. Additional factors should be considered including:

- detailed audit of the current provision to verify purpose, dimensions, water temperature, depth and accessibility to ensure an accurate assessment of capacity
- catchment areas, travel times and accessibility to facilities
- population demographics and participation trends to identify additional regional/local variances
- the range and suitability of facilities to meet a wide range of the types of activities demanded within the community.

## 11.2 Determination of a regional/district/local provision solution

The determination of the actual mix or balance of pool types (including depth and temperature to cater for different activities and aquatic sport) needed in the network is a judgement needing to be made at the regional/city/district level. This would be based on the character of the catchment territory and its resident population plus current supply, market demand analysis and expressed needs from community engagement.

It is recommended that the suite of indicators in this strategy, or a selection of those most relevant to the territory, are used to then inform the judgements about the quantity of the different types of space to be provided in the future. This will also reflect the regional/city/district market demand and the expressed needs.

### Urban/rural demand parameters

Current participation data and data science from ActiveXchange clearly highlight there are only marginal differences in the demand profile for aquatic activities between urban and rural contexts. While the approach to the quantum of demand for facilities per 1,000 population is considered the same regardless of urban or rural context, it is essential that a second level of analysis is undertaken. This will provide a more nuanced approach to realistic provision and enable informed decisions to be taken about current and future provision in the network.

### 11.3 Indicators to support regional/district/local analysis

A nationally standardised menu of indicators for regional and local analysis is proposed to provide greater consistency and comparability between territories. The indicators are:

Table 4 – Standardised menu of indicators for regional and local analysis

Local factor	Impact
<b>Current supply</b>	What is the total facility supply serving the identified catchment population? This includes all facilities, public, education, private within the overall and overlapping catchment with neighbouring TA and Auckland local board areas.
<b>Local validation of FTE capacity based on type of pool use</b>	The strategy provides a regional audit of available pool area by type of pool, but the specific levels of pool availability and for what type of use needs to be determined for each pool facility.
<b>One-way travel time (geographic accessibility)</b>	Is the catchment area sparsely populated with long travel times? Does the long travel time create a significant barrier to accessing facilities? Is access to additional local facilities required?
<b>Total catchment population</b>	<p>What is the total population within the catchment of the facility?</p> <p><b>Proportion/total tamariki and rangitahi in catchment population</b></p> <p>Is there a difference in total number or percentage of tamariki and rangatahi population within the catchment compared to the national average (current and projected in 2023 and 2048)? Is this sufficient difference to drive an increase in demand?</p> <p><b>Proportion/total 65+ in catchment population</b></p> <p>Is there a difference in total number or percentage of 65+ population within the catchment compared to the national average (current and projected in 2023 and 2048)?</p> <p>How is the 65+ population projected to change, how will this impact on the type of aquatic provision/water area demanded?</p> <p><b>Deprivation level of catchment population</b></p> <p>What is the level of deprivation in the catchment population? What percentage of the catchment population live in high deprivation areas? Increased deprivation can create increased barriers to participation including affordability and access.</p> <p><b>Ethnicity of catchment population</b></p> <p>Different participation rates in different ethnic groups can impact on the potential demand for aquatic facilities and ensuring that there are appropriate types of aquatic provision to meet community needs.</p>
<b>Current diversity of offerings/opportunities present in market (for participating in aquatic play, active recreation and sport)</b>	Is there a diverse range of aquatic opportunities at the current time, does this match the range of aquatic activities identified? Can existing facilities be modified to provide increased diversity of provision or are additional facilities (potentially leading to over supply if other facilities are maintained) required.
<b>Current participation in aquatic play, active recreation and sport (LTS, water competence, penetration rates of core aquatic sports)</b>	Are current participation rates significantly different to the national participation rates? Is there a high level of penetration rate for a core aquatic code?
<b>Future participation in aquatic play, active recreation and sport (whānau, recreation, age appropriate, programmed activity)</b>	What are the local priorities for investment in aquatic provision? How do these align to local community priorities, community outcomes?
<b>Average temperatures in cooler months of the year (April–September)</b>	What impact does the local climate have on access to the current network of facilities, especially considering the reliance on seasonal outdoor pools?

## 11.4 Distribution of deep water pools

Table 5 – Distribution of deep water diving pools

Facility	Location	Hierarchy	Type	Depth
Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre (part of 50m lap pool)	Wellington	National	Indoor	5m
Moana Pool	Dunedin	National	Indoor	2- 4.6m
West Wave Pool and Leisure Centre	Auckland	National	Indoor	5m
Waterworld (junior competition only)	Hamilton	National	Indoor	4.6m
Keith Spry Pool	Wellington	Sub-Regional/District	Indoor	3.4m
Moana Pool	Dunedin	Sub-Regional/District	Indoor	3.8m
Glenfield Pool and Leisure Centre	Auckland	Sub-Regional/District	Indoor	4m
Whangarei Aquatic Centre	Whangarei	Sub-Regional/District	Outdoor	3.8m
Todd Energy Aquatic Centre	New Plymouth	Local	Outdoor	3.9m
Lido Aquatic Centre	Palmerston North	Sub-Regional/District	Outdoor	4.65m
Kaitaia Memorial Swimming Pool	Kaitaia	Local	Outdoor	3m
Kerikeri Swimming pool	Kerikeri	Local	Outdoor	4m
Waitara Pool	Waitara	Local	Outdoor	4m
Timaru Boys High School	Timaru	Local	Outdoor	unknown
University of Waikato Pool	Hamilton	Local	Outdoor	4.3m
Matamata Sports Centre	Matamata	Local	Outdoor	2.74m
Nayland Park Pool	Nelson	Local	Outdoor	4m
Makino Aquatic Centre	Feilding	Sub-Regional/District	Outdoor	1.4-4m
Queen Elizabeth College	Palmerston North	Local	Outdoor	unknown
Te Puke Memorial Pool	Te Puke	Local	Outdoor	4m
Trust House Recreation Centre	Masterton	Sub-Regional/District	Outdoor	3m
Jellie Park Recreation and Sports Centre	Christchurch	Local	Outdoor	3m
Dilworth School (part of lap pool)	Auckland	Local	Outdoor	4m
Auckland Girls' Grammar School	Auckland	Local	Outdoor	unknown
Point Erin Pool	Auckland	Sub-Regional/District	Outdoor	3m
Lagoon Pool and Leisure Centre	Auckland	Sub-Regional/District	Outdoor	4m
Onehunga War Memorial Pool and Leisure Centre	Auckland	Sub-Regional/District	Outdoor	4m
Kiwa Pool	Gisborne	Sub-Regional/District	Outdoor	3.6m
Parakiore Recreation and Sports Centre (opening in 2025)	Christchurch	National	Indoor	5m

## 11.5 Implications of local indicators

Care will be required for local planning using the local indicators. The national demand and area guidance provides a context for localised planning. If analysis of the local indicators result in provision options with water area over the 27m<sup>2</sup> demand level, it could create a range of unfavourable implications. As an example, if the one-way travel time is set as 10 minutes it will determine a higher number of facilities and each of these will serve a smaller population, with the results:

- over provision of water area to meet demand
- facilities are not able to be utilised to their full potential/capacity
- higher level of capital investment required to provide additional facilities
- higher level of operational subsidy required due to over provision of facilities to meet demand.

## 12. Regional/Local Analysis Example

### 12.1 Regional application – region x with three districts

- Regional population of 200,000.
- The total pool area across the region is 20,000m<sup>2</sup> (100m<sup>2</sup>/1,000 residents).
- The available pool area is 4,000m<sup>2</sup> (20m<sup>2</sup>/1,000 residents).

The imbalance profile is:

Figure 1 - Region X's FTE area supply imbalance profile

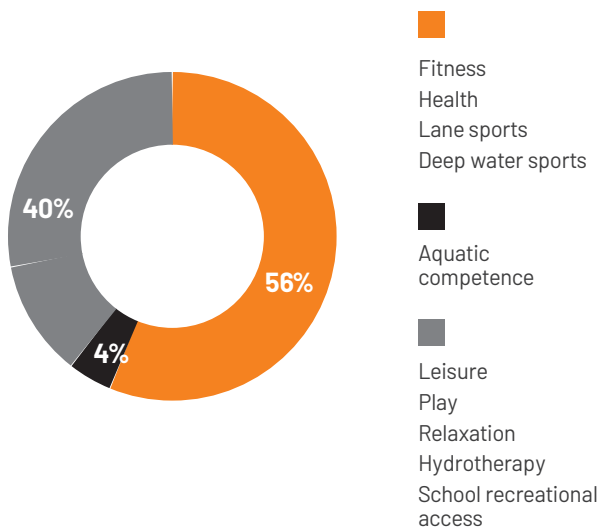


Table 6 – Region X water by type imbalance profile

	Leisure Play Relaxation Hydrotherapy School recreational access	Aquatic competence	Fitness Health Lane sports Deep water sports
<b>Demand benchmark</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>16%</b>
FTE supply	40%	4%	56%
<b>Imbalance</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>40%</b>

#### 12.1.1 Regional commentary

**Imbalance:** At a regional level there is an imbalance of type of water. There is a greater need for aquatic competence and leisure/play/relaxation/hydrotherapy/school recreational access. There is a greater proportion of fitness/health/lane/sport/deep water sports than the national demand benchmark.

**Available water space:** At a regional level there is a lack of available water space (20m<sup>2</sup>/1,000 residents).

More specific analysis is required to determine the district level provision.

## 12.2 High level analysis of the region x’s districts

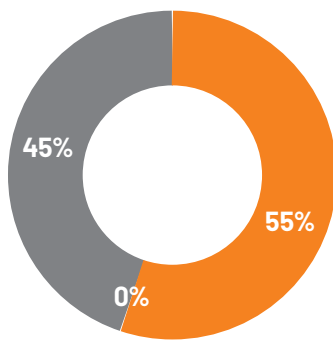
Table 7 provides an example of the necessity of district (city and community board) level analysis.

Table 7 – Region X district high level analysis

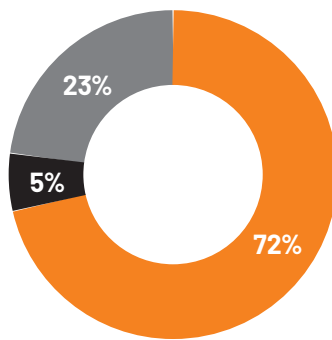
District 1:	District 2:	District 3:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population of 25,000</li> <li>Includes 1 council seasonal pool, 5 school outdoor pools (3 with community access)</li> <li>The total pool area across the district is 3,500m<sup>2</sup> (140m<sup>2</sup>/1,000 residents)</li> <li>The available pool area is 500m<sup>2</sup> (20m<sup>2</sup>/1,000 residents)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population of 50,000</li> <li>Includes 3 council seasonal pools, 10 school outdoor pools (3 with community access)</li> <li>The total pool area across the district is 10,000m<sup>2</sup> (200m<sup>2</sup>/1,000 residents)</li> <li>The available pool area is 2,000m<sup>2</sup> (40m<sup>2</sup>/1,000 residents)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population of 125,000 (includes a city of 50,000)</li> <li>Includes 1 indoor council pool facility, 23 school outdoor pools (6 with community access)</li> <li>The total pool area across the district is 6,500m<sup>2</sup> (52m<sup>2</sup>/1,000 residents)</li> <li>The available pool area is 1,500m<sup>2</sup> (12m<sup>2</sup>/1,000 residents)</li> </ul>

The imbalance profiles are:

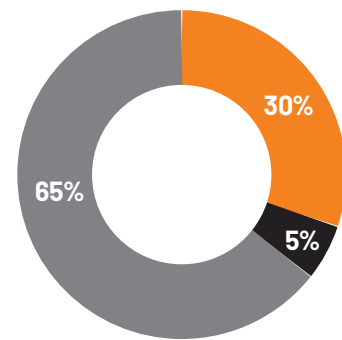
District 1 pool FTE area supply



District 2 pool FTE area supply



District 3 pool FTE area supply



- Fitness/health/lane sports/deep water sports
- Aquatic competence
- Leisure/play/relaxation/hydrotherapy/school recreational access

Commentary:

**Imbalance:**

There is no aquatic competence water and a high proportion of fitness/health/lane/sport/deep water sports space.

**Available water space:**

There is a lack of available water space (20m<sup>2</sup>/1,000 residents) but there is opportunity to increase this with access to more of the total water space in the district. Increasing pool space could include covering the seasonal council pool and adding learn to swim pool/component.

Commentary:

**Imbalance:**

There is a greater need for aquatic competence and leisure/play/relaxation/hydrotherapy/schools where there is a significant proportion of fitness/health/lane/sport/deep water sports.

**Available water space:**

There is more water space than the demand minimum (40m<sup>2</sup>/1,000 residents) but the majority of this is in fitness/health/lane/sport/deep water sports water. Consider what water space can be transitioned to another primary use.

Commentary:

**Imbalance:**

The proportion of leisure/play/relaxation/hydrotherapy/schools water is good, but there is a need to increase the aquatic competence.

**Available water space:**

There is a shortage of available water space (12m<sup>2</sup>/1,000 residents) so access to the other pool space (schools) would help to alleviate the shortfall. Increasing pool space could include covering select seasonal school pools making them all year round with community access out of school hours and improving LTS before considering building new.

There is every likelihood that a region will have district level differences. These need to be understood and considered at the local level to understand the provision picture. This requires the next layer of indicators to be analysed with planning based on localised considerations and taking account of any neighbouring districts overlapping catchments.

### 12.3 District 1 - implications of some of the indicators for planning

Additional layers of information that planning for this region and district will need to consider:

- district population of 25,000 (20m<sup>2</sup>/1,000)
  - Town 1 - 11,000
  - Town 2 - 8,000
  - Town 3 - 6,000.
- northern area of the country
- large geographical area, with a mountain range splitting Town 2 from the rest of the district
- Town 1 - 1 council seasonal pool, 3 school outdoor pools (1 with community access)
- Town 2 - 3 school outdoor pools (1 with community access)
- Town 3 - 2 school outdoor pools (1 with community access).

These factors all influence what the supply requirements might be:

- there is no year-round access to pool space
- there is not enough available water space
- being rural may cause drive time barriers
- given the district is in the north the season length may support the level of need for aquatic competence and leisure/play/relaxation/hydrotherapy/school recreational access
- the level of in-school aquatic competence delivery may or may not be sufficient to address aquatic competence.

Additional indicators:

- demographic profile for each town over time (proportion tamariki and rangitahi, proportion 65+, ethnicity profile, deprivation level, etc, of catchment population)
- the cross-regional pools network
- current aquatic activity offerings/opportunities
- current participation in aquatic activities
- future participation in aquatic activities.

### 12.4 Summary of region x example

The information provided in this example is not sufficient to make any specific recommendations for the future of the pools network. It does demonstrate that taking the high-level regional metrics of available water by type and area and then doing deeper research and analysis will provide a clearer picture of what the future supply needs will be.



## 13. Aquatic Sports Facility Specifications

Each aquatic sport or discipline of a sport has very detailed specification requirements that are designed by the international sporting body for official competition. When considering the design of an aquatic facility to accommodate aquatic sports, the source specification from the international sporting body is to be used.

This strategy has identified the key parameters to be considered as an initial guide for concept design. Any detailed design **must reference the international sporting body specification** (FINA, World Aquatics, CMAS) if the facility is to be used for official competition and the relevant NSO engaged to provide advice and validate the final design compliance.

The tables on the following pages provide the base guidance.

### 13.1 Community aquatic recreation and sport guidance

Table 8 - Base specifications for community level facility design for swimming, underwater hockey, and water polo

	Swimming	Under Water Hockey		Water Polo	
Key dimensions/ quantities/ services for aquatic spaces	Aquatic introduction/ competence space	Aquatic recreation space	Sport activity space	Aquatic recreation space	Sport activity space
Purpose of pool/s	Water safety and swimming competence development	Student have a go sessions 2-4 lanes	Mini underwater hockey/ competitive training	Flippa ball, water polo game, throwing a ball around (modified games)	Flippa ball, water polo
Minimum size of activity space (sqm)	60m <sup>2</sup> - 300m <sup>2</sup>	200 sqm	200 sqm	Variable	Variable
Minimum length of space	15m	20m	20m	10-12.5m	12.5-15m
Minimum width of space	4m	10m	10m	5-7.5m	7.5-12.5m
Depth (shallow and deep if graduated depth is preferred)	0.8m, graduated to deeper water to accommodate out of depth experiences	1.5m	1.8m	0.6-1m	0.6-1.8m
Water temperature (normal suitable range)	29-32°C	28°C± 1°C	28°C± 1°C	28°C± 1°C	28°C± 1°C
Seating for supporters/ participants	Seating to suit	Required	Required	Not required	Required

Table 9 - Base specifications for community level facility design for diving, artistic swimming, and surf lifesaving

Key dimensions/ quantities/ services for aquatic spaces	Diving		Artistic Swimming	Surf lifesaving
	Aquatic introduction/ competence space	Aquatic recreation space	Sport activity space	Aquatic recreation space
Purpose of pool/s	Coaching/training, competitions	Coaching/training, competitions	Have a go days, school entry programmes	Training for surf lifeguard swimming competency, ocean-based competitive sport and pool rescue racing
Minimum size of activity space (sqm)	150	180	150	
Minimum length of space	15 metres	15 metres	25m	25m
Minimum width of space	10 metres	12 metres	2-3 lanes	2-4 lanes
Depth (shallow and deep if graduated depth is preferred)	4 metres minimum	5 metres ideally	2m	1.8
Water temperature (normal suitable range)	27°C± 1°C	27°C± 1°C	27°C± 1°C	25-28°C
Seating for supporters/ participants	Required	Required	Required	Required
Diving Boards	Minimum: 1 metre, 3 metre as above	Minimum: 1 metre, 3 metre 5 metre as above		

The other base elements that are required in a facility across all sports are:

**Toilet provision:** A minimum of one each male and female and one accessible; it would be preferable to also have a staff toilet.

**Changing provision:** A minimum of changing space for 12 persons female and 12 persons male, all-gender changing space, and one male and one female accessible for each (cubicle showers). It would be preferable to also have a staff change space with shower/s.

**Drinking water source:** Required and is easily accessible, preferably filtered.

**Physical access compliant:** Required.

## 13.2 Regional level sport facility guidance

Table 10 - Base specifications for regional level sport facility guidance

Specification attribute	Lane/court water sports - swimming and surf lifesaving	Water polo, underwater hockey, and artistic swimming	Deep water sports - diving pool
Length of pool/court	50m or 25m	25m	25m
Width of pool/court	17.6M wide	15m	15m
Depth	Minimum 1.8m at one end graduating to 1.1m at the other end	1.8-2m	4 metres
Safety zone requirement	No	Space on poolside	Space on poolside
Water Temperature	27	28+	28+
Goals	N/A	N/A	N/A
Team areas or space surrounding pool (pool deck space)	1.5m - 3m	Yes for marshalling, seating	Yes for marshalling, seating
Scoreboard	N/A as manual system used for timing	Ideally	Ideally
Timing system	Manual recording	Supply own judging pads	Supply own judging pads
Warm-up pool	Not required	No	No
Lighting (LUX level)	Minimum 300 lux over pool surface	Minimum 1500 lux 1m above pool surface	Minimum 1500 lux 1m above pool surface
Sound system	Basic	Ideally but can provide own	Ideally but can provide own
Disabled - truly accessible venue	YES	YES	YES
<b>Spectator provision</b>			
Seating capacity	150	>100	>100
Public food facilities	Optional	Ideally	Ideally

Specification attribute	Lane/court water sports - swimming and surf lifesaving	Water polo, underwater hockey, and artistic swimming	Deep water sports - diving pool
<b>Ancillary spaces/services</b>			
Number of team change rooms		Two	Two
Number of change rooms for officials		Two	Two
Officials lounge room	No	Ideally	Ideally
Drug testing room	N/A	No	No
Medical/First-aid facilities	YES	YES	YES
Hot and cold recovery	NA	No	No
Media/communications facilities during games		Yes, if being livestreamed	Yes, if being livestreamed
Media/communications facilities post-game press conference	N/A	No	No
Sound and MC desk	For broadcast of public announcements	Yes	Yes
Event administration office/ green room		Ideally	Ideally
Additional meeting rooms	Ideal	No	No
Corporate/VIP spaces	No	No	No
Accessible by public transport	Optional	Yes	Yes
Bus parking	No	No	No
Car parking	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airport with Air NZ services nearby	No	No	No
Starting platforms	4 – 8 removable non-slip platforms at deepest end for use in swim training only	N/A	N/A
Bulkheads	Can be flush with water level and may have provision for temporary turning boards	N/A	N/A
Walls	Can be flush with water level and may have provision for temporary turning boards	N/A	N/A
Lanes	Lane width minimum of 2m	N/A	N/A
Lane ropes	Colour change at 5m from end walls	N/A	N/A
Turn indicators	Backstroke flags above water line and 5m from end walls	N/A	N/A
Pace time clocks	Pace clock at both ends or one end of pool to accommodate squad training activities	N/A	N/A
Concourses	3m at start end, 2m at turn end and 2m at sides	N/A	N/A
Clubrooms	Space of 80-100m <sup>2</sup> squared for club activities	N/A	N/A
Equipment store room	Provision of storage for pool deck training equipment, removable start blocks etc	N/A	N/A
Marshalling rooms	Concourse space of 25 m <sup>2</sup>	N/A	N/A
Diving boards - springboard			Minimum of One 3m and One 1m, However need two 3m if wish to do synchronised diving.
Possibly half metre for training purposes, As per World Aquatics Specifications.			
Diving boards - platform			Minimum of 5m, 3m, 1m. As per World Aquatics Specifications.

### 13.3 Zonal level sport facility guidance

Table 11 - Base specifications for zonal level sport facility guidance

Specification attribute	Lane/court water sports - swimming and surf lifesaving	Water polo, underwater hockey, and artistic swimming	Deep water sports - diving pool
Length of pool/court	50m or 25m with touch pads in place	18m	18m
Width of pool/court	20m - 25.4m wide	25m	25m
Depth	2m at one end graduating to 1.35m at the other end	2m	4m
Safety zone requirement	Pool deck width of minimum 3m, ideally 5m+	Space on poolside	Space on poolside
Water temperature	27°C	28°C	28°C
Goals	N/A	WP - Two at inner measurements: 3m W x 0.9m H (depth 1-1.5m)	N/A
UWH - 3m goal trays	N/A	Yes for marshalling, seating	Yes for marshalling, seating
Team areas or space surrounding pool (pool deck space)	3m	Yes for marshalling, seating	Yes for marshalling, seating
Scoreboard	Control room or pool side control area (Big Screen generally use 42" screens)	Ideally	Ideally
Timing system	Electronic recording, allowing water polo specific possession (shot) clock settings	Supply own judging pads	Supply own judging pads
Warm-up pool	25m 4-6 lane pool for swimmers to cool down	2 lanes of 25m	4 lanes of 25m
Lighting (LUX level)	Minimum 600 lux		Minimum 1500 lux 1m above pool surface
Sound system	Can be heard through out pool deck when venue at capacity.	Can be heard through out pool deck when venue at capacity.	>100
High quality air and in water speakers (UWH and Artistic - bring their own).	Can be heard through out pool deck when venue at capacity,	Ideally	Ideally
Disabled - truly accessible venue	YES	YES	YES
Spectator provision			
Seating capacity	200+	>400	>400
Public food facilities	Optional	Ideally	Ideally
Ancillary spaces/services			
Number of team change rooms/clubrooms	Space of 100-150m <sup>2</sup> squared for club activities	Two	Two
Number of change rooms for officials		Two	Two
Officials lounge room	No	Ideally	Ideally
Drug testing room	N/A	No	No
Medical/First-aid facilities	YES	YES	YES
Hot and cold recovery	NA	No	No
Media/communications facilities during games	Yes, if being livestreamed		Yes, if being livestreamed
Media/communications facilities post-game press conference	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sound and MC desk	For broadcast of results and public announcements	Yes	Yes

Specification attribute	Lane/court water sports - swimming and surf lifesaving	Water polo, underwater hockey, and artistic swimming	Deep water sports - diving pool
Event administration office/green room	Ideally	Ideally	Ideally
Additional meeting rooms	Ideal	No	No
Corporate/VIP spaces	No	No	No
Accessible by public transport	Optional	Maybe	Maybe
Bus parking	No	No	No
Car parking	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airport with Air NZ services nearby	No	Yes	Yes
Starting platforms	8 - 10 non-slip platforms at each end with deeper end fixed the shallower end removable	N/A	N/A
Bulkheads	Must be right angles to the pool length and water surface extending to 300mm above the water line	N/A	N/A
Walls	Must be right angles to the pool length and water surface extending to 300mm above the water line	N/A	N/A
Lanes	Lane width of 2.25 - 2.5m	N/A	N/A
Lane ropes	Colour change at 5m from end walls, reference points at 15m from end walls and reference point at centre of pool	N/A	N/A
Turn indicators	Backstroke flags at 1.8m above water line and 5m from end walls. Plug for false start poles at 15m from end walls	N/A	N/A
Pace time clocks	Provision of pace time clocks at each end of the pool with sight lines to all pool lanes	N/A	N/A
Concourses	4m at start end, 3m at turn end and 3m at sides	N/A	N/A
Equipment store room	Provision for storage of items including medal dais, movable timekeeper seating, back-up timing equipment, training equipment etc	N/A	N/A
Marshalling rooms	Separate room or concourse space of 60 m <sup>2</sup>	N/A	N/A
Diving boards - springboard			Two 3m, Two 1m, 3m need to be set up for synchronised diving, Possibly half metre for training purposes, As per World Aquatics Specifications
Diving boards - platform			10m, 7.5m, 5m, 3m, 1m, As per World Aquatics Specifications, including width for synchronised diving
Additional electricity points to accommodate device charge stations (cable covers required for hazard management)		Artistic (19 Tablets)	
Pool floor surface		UWH - Tiles (low coefficient of friction)	

## 13.4 National/International level sport facility guidance

Table 12 - Base specifications for national/international level sport facility guidance

Specification attribute	Lane/court water sports - swimming and surf lifesaving	Water polo, underwater hockey, and artistic swimming	Deep water sports - diving pool
Length of pool/court	FINA Approved 50m	18m	18m
Width of pool/court	FINA Approved 25.4m wide	25m	25m
Depth	2m no gradient.	3m	5m
Safety zone requirement	Yes (spectators can't access pool deck)	Space on poolside	Space on poolside
Water temperature	27°C	28°C	28°C
Goals	N/A	WP - Two at inner measurements: 3m W x 0.9m H (depth 1-1.5m)	N/A
UWH - 3m goal trays fixed in place	N/A	Yes for marshalling, seating	Yes for marshalling, seating
Team areas or space surrounding pool (pool deck space)	6m	Yes for marshalling, seating	Yes for marshalling, seating
Scoreboard	2 (Big Screen generally use 42" screens) connected to control room	2 (Big Screen generally use 42" screens) connected to control room	2 (Big Screen generally use 42" screens) connected to control room
Timing system	Electronic recording	Supply own judging pads	Supply own judging pads
Warm-up pool	50m 8-lane pool for swimmers to warm-up and cool-down	A minimum area of 25m by 25 or 30m by 20m, depth of 3m.	A minimum area of 25m by 25 or 30m by 20m, depth of 3m.
Lighting (LUX level)	Minimum 1500 lux where telecast is being conducted	Minimum 1500 lux 1m above pool surface	Minimum 1500 lux 1m above pool surface
Sound system	Can be heard throughout pool deck when venue at capacity.	Can be heard throughout pool deck when venue at capacity, High Quality air and in water speakers (UWH and Artistic).	Can be heard throughout pool deck when venue at capacity.
Disabled - truly accessible venue	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Spectator provision</b>			
Seating capacity	2,200	>1000	>1000
Public food facilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Ancillary spaces/services</b>			
Number of team change rooms/clubrooms	Space of 100-150m <sup>2</sup> for squad preparation and education sessions	Two	Two
Number of change rooms for officials		Two	Two
Officials lounge room	Yes	Yes	Yes
Drug testing room	Private toilet area with individual cubicles for two athletes to be tested	Private toilet area with individual cubicles for two athletes to be tested	Private toilet area with individual cubicles for two athletes to be tested
Medical/first-aid facilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hot and cold recovery	YES	Ideally	Ideally
Media/communications facilities during games	Yes, if being televised/livestreamed	Yes, if being televised/livestreamed	Yes, if being televised/livestreamed
Media/communications facilities post-game press conference	Media Room adjacent to pool concourse	Maybe	Maybe

<b>Specification attribute</b>	<b>Lane/court water sports - swimming and surf lifesaving</b>	<b>Water polo, underwater hockey, and artistic swimming</b>	<b>Deep water sports - diving pool</b>
Sound and MC Desk	For broadcast of results, presentations and public announcements	Yes	Yes
Event administration office/ green room	Yes	Yes	Yes
Additional meeting rooms	Yes	Yes	Yes
Corporate/VIP spaces	Yes	Yes	Yes
Accessible by public transport	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bus parking	Yes	Yes	Yes
Car parking	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airport with Air NZ services nearby	Yes	Yes	Yes
Starting platforms	10 non-slip platforms fixed at each end of the pool tank	N/A	N/A
Bulkheads	Must be right angles to the pool length and water surface extending to 300mm above the water line	N/A	N/A
Walls	Must be right angles to the pool length and water surface extending to 300mm above the water line	N/A	N/A
Lanes	10 Lane width of 2.5m	N/A	N/A
Lane ropes	In colour codes and marking styles to meet FINA standards	N/A	N/A
Turn indicators	Backstroke flags at 1.8m above water line and 5m from end walls. Plugs for false start poles at 15m from end walls	N/A	N/A
Pace time clocks	Provision of multiple pace time clocks, positioned to allow sight lines from all pool lanes	N/A	N/A
Concourses	7m at start end, 5m at turn end and 4m at sides	N/A	N/A
Equipment store room	Provision for storage of items including advertising devices, medal dais, movable timekeeper seating, back-up timing equipment, training equipment etc	N/A	N/A
Marshalling rooms	Two marshalling rooms of 40m <sup>2</sup>	N/A	N/A
Diving boards - springboard	N/A	N/A	Three 3m, Two 1m, 3m need to be set up for synchronised diving, Possibly half metre for training purposes, As per World Aquatics Specifications
Diving boards - platform	N/A	N/A	10m, 7.5m, 5m, 3m, 1m, Possibly half metre as well, As per World Aquatics Specifications, including width for synchronised diving
Additional electricity points to accommodate device charge stations (cable covers required for hazard management)		Artistic (19 Tablets)	
Pool floor surface	N/A	UWH - Tiles (low coefficient of friction)	



## 14. Key Themes from Stakeholder Engagement

### 14.1 The key themes

- Importance of an approach that is multicultural, gender diverse and inclusive of disabled people.
- Dignity in access to facilities from arrival to departure. This means truly accessible design and delivery of this using the Universal Access best practice rather than minimum building code standards.
- Appropriate standard of provision for the context of the facility and its designed use. Greater engagement of users at all key points in the specification, design and facility delivery journey.
- Affordability for the user, cost of access to larger 'regional' or higher-level facilities, especially for events is often prohibitive for smaller sports. Often forced to use alternative facilities.

#### 14.1.1 Disabled people feedback

- Limited or no consultation occurs with disabled people agencies in design journey. Results in many new facilities not fully fit-for-purpose.
- Delighted to be consulted for 2023 Strategy.
- Access with dignity - universal design is a philosophical approach - need the "lived disability experience voice" and technical skill resource collaborating.
- Building above code and standard is critical to achieve 'truly accessible'.
- Auckland is a region with both the greatest challenges and opportunities to make a difference.
- Community level participation - it is okay to adapt the activity to fit the space.
- Familiarity is critical - loyal to venue that delivers what they need.
- National network approach.
- At least one facility compliant with disabled people needs in the country for national events.
- Suitable and enough change facilities to deal with large numbers of physically disabled athletes at an event.

#### 14.1.2 NSO feedback

- Auckland is a region the greatest challenges.
- Limited engagement - only consulted at needs/specification phase of development journey. Results in many new facilities not fully fit-for-purpose.
- Availability for events leading to 'main trunking' approach by some due to affordability/workability (for example, air access, accommodation capacity).
- Availability to venues at affordable cost and timing to operate effectively.
- Domination of swimming in 2013 Aquatic Strategy, some others not even mentioned. Delighted to be engaged in 2023 process.
- "We [clubs] are part of the community, often portrayed as separate".
- Reserved lanes for public swimming commonly compromises effective use by most codes, especially pools with essential attributes such as deeper water for water polo, artistic swimming, underwater hockey and diving.
- Access to water time at times that suit participants is a big issue.

#### 14.1.3 Local government feedback

- Wellbeing/health and wellness focus.
- Recreation and play are bigger contributors than sport.
- Sport is organisation based and has stronger advocacy voice, however, recreation and play is now focus.
- More nuanced level of provision metrics and a clear matrix to inform decision-making wanted in strategy.

## 15. Pools Audit

The aquatic facility information extracted from the FPT was analysed by region and the analysis tables are available as presented in Table 13.

*Table 13 - Regional pool audit analysis tables*

[Auckland Region](#)

[Bay of Plenty Region](#)

[Canterbury/West Coast Region](#)

[Gisborne Tairāwhiti Region](#)

[Hawkes Bay Region](#)

[Manawatū Region](#)

[Northland Region](#)

[Otago Region](#)

[Southland Region](#)

[Taranaki Region](#)

[Tasman Region](#)

[Waikato Region](#)

[Wellington Region](#)

[Whanganui Region](#)



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