

## Shire of Collie

### Indoor Pool Working Group Meeting

Notes from the meeting of the Indoor Pool Working Group held on 18 January 2023, commencing at 4.00 pm.

#### **1. Welcome and Attendance**

Cr Joe Italiano welcomed everyone to the meeting.

##### **Attendance**

###### Members

Cr Joe Italiano	Shire of Collie Elected Member – Meeting Chair
Stuart Devenish	Shire of Collie Chief Executive Officer
Beth Peters	Collie Heated Indoor Pool Supporters (CHIPS)
Rod Latham	Swimming Club
Pamela Anderson	Community representative (to 5.05pm)
Maureen Lasisz	Community representative
Natasha Putland	Research Officer for Jodie Hanns MLA (from 4.17pm)
Jodie Hanns	Collie Preston MLA (from 4:30pm)
Judith Towler	Community representative

###### Administrative Support

Nicole Wasmann	Shire of Collie Director Corporate Services
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###### Apologies

Scott Digney	Underwater Hockey
Silvia Chiera	Community representative
Cr Michelle Smith	Shire of Collie Elected Member
Ann Briggs	Collie Kids in Need

#### **2. Previous Meeting**

Notes from the previous meeting held 30 November 2022 were reviewed.

Beth noted that she had requested that the Shire seek an indication from the local member and the State as to whether the State would consider increasing their contribution.

4:17pm     Natasha Putland entered the meeting.

#### **3. Report**

##### a) Section 2 - Benefits

At the last meeting it was agreed to incorporate the additional information provided by Ann Briggs. The Benefits have been incorporated into the draft report as attached.

##### Outcome:

No further changes were made.

### b) Section 4 – Costs

The request for Council to seek the approval of the State Government to use part of the allocated pool funds for the purpose of further design and cost estimates was considered by Council at the December meeting and Council resolved:

“That Council defer making a request of the Local Member for the State Government to utilise further grant funds for design and costing work pending the Indoor Pool Working Group determining the affordability of a capital expenditure in the order of \$7.5M and associated operating costs.”

There was extensive discussion on the request to access the grant funding for the purpose of design and cost estimates of the proposed specification. Council was of the view that, at this stage, it would be preferable to proceed with a review of financial models based on an indicative capital cost of \$7.5m, rather than use the grant funding to undertake design and costing works for a pool which may not be affordable. Engaging a consultant for design and costs estimates would be reconsidered, should it be possible to identify variable funding sources that meet capital renewal and operational costs, while achieving affordable rate increases and improved financial health overall.

4:30pm Jody Hanns entered the meeting.

Discussion included:

- Council has been criticised for using grants funds for investigation and not pool construction.
- The potential cost and allocation of expenses for electricity transformer upgrade required to enable the facility to proceed.
- Alternative power sources.
- What alternative capital funding may be accessible.

Stuart Devenish provided a presentation of the Shire’s current financial position and future known needs and the impact that funding the construction and operation of an indoor pool would have on the finances of the Shire and rates.

Discussion included:

- The need to stay with the agreed specifications and to not compromise on the size and scope.
- Noting that if the State allocated funds were not spent on the proposed pool that they could be allocated by the State to other community priorities.
- That if the total capital cost could be funded externally, that the cost to operate the pool would be approximately 11% of rates or \$173-\$200 average per residential property per annum.

5:05pm – Pam Anderson left the meeting.

- Fees for use of the pool, i.e. user pays or season pass provided for ratepayers.

## Meeting Notes –Indoor Pool Working Group

18 January 2023



Jody Hanns explained that the State may not be able to tie any extra funding to the project. She could make a request, however given that it is mid election cycle it may be unlikely.

### Outcome:

- That the report propose that all capital funds be sourced through external funding providers and that operational and renewal costs be funded from the Shire, noting that this may result in an increase in rates of approximately \$200 for the average residential property in Collie.

### 4) Other business

A survey has been prepared by Pam Anderson with assistance from Sara Cole for distribution from mid January to end of February. The survey will be accessible from the Shire's website via invitation link only. Sara will email the survey link from the Shire email once the list of contacts is received.

### Actions:

Beth and Ann to work with Pam and Sara on finalising the survey and the email distribution list.

### 5. **Closure and Date for the next meeting and future meetings**

The next meeting will be held following the collation of survey responses and the completion of a draft report.

The meeting closed at 5.25pm.