



INDOOR POOL WORKING GROUP

**4.00pm, 1 August 2023 4PM
at Shire of Collie Council Chamber
MEETING AGENDA**

1) Welcome and Attendance

Cr Michelle Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Attendance

Members

Cr Michelle Smith	Shire of Collie Elected Member– Meeting Chair
Stuart Devenish	Shire of Collie Chief Executive Officer
Beth Peters	Collie Heated Indoor Pool Supporters (CHIPS)
Pamela Anderson	Community representative
Scott Digney	Underwater Hockey (from 4.05pm)
Ann Briggs	Collie Kids in Need
Silvia Chiera	Community representative

Administrative Support

Nicole Wasmann	Shire of Collie Director Corporate Services
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Apologies

Jodie Hanns	Collie Preston MLA
Cr Joe Italiano	Shire of Collie Elected Member
Maureen Lasisz	Community representative
Natasha Putland	Research Officer for Jodie Hanns MLA
Judith Towler	Community representative
Rod Latham	Swimming Club

2) Previous Meeting

Notes from the previous meeting held 17 May were reviewed.

3) Business Arising Since the Last Meeting

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 13 June 2023 Council resolved to conduct a referendum on the provision of a heated pool in conjunction with the local government elections.

4) Question for Referendum

Comments from the Working Group Members on the proposed question are invited. The question as included in the Council decision was:

If the Shire of Collie was successful in raising up to \$8M for the construction of:

- i. a 25 metre, six lane, heated pool; and*
- ii. a 9 metre by 5 metre warm water pool*

Would you be prepared to pay an additional \$200 (average per residential property) each year for the ongoing running and maintenance of the heated pool and warm water pool.7*

Yes No

**annual charge would be subject to normal rises, as set by Council each year.*

Some potential changes for consideration provided by staff and discussed with Cr Italiano

If the Shire of Collie was successful in ~~raising~~ attracting/sourcing/acquiring funds of up to \$8M for the construction of an indoor pool facility with:

- i. a 25 metre, six lane, heated pool; and*
- ii. a 9 metre by 5 metre warm water pool*

(and?) if you pay rates on a property (or if you own property in the Shire of Collie), would you be prepared to pay an additional ~~\$200~~ 12% (average of \$200 per residential property) of rates each year for the ongoing running and maintenance of the ~~heated pool and warm water pool~~ indoor pool facility.*

Yes No

~~**annual charge would be subject to normal rises, as set by Council each year.*~~

Members of the Working Group indicated that they were proposing a smaller pool at a cost of \$4.5m to \$5m. Kids in Need and CHIPS had been considering option 3 from Feasibility Study.

Some group members recognised that a 6 lane 25m indoor pool may not be feasible.

Shire representatives confirmed that staff have always indicated that raising the capital required was ambitious and the rate increases that would be required to operate the facility.

Those present discussed whether the last meeting should have been the last meeting. Some members of the Working Group felt that the report was not ready to go to Council.

Whether the State would be able to provide further funding was questioned, noting previous advice that mid election cycle this is difficult to know.

Some members indicated that they understood from the start of meetings of the Working Group that they would identify a pool to suit needs of user groups and then then scale back to what would be affordable and suitable.

It was noted that the role of the Working Group included identifying the ultimate specification, and the associated capital and operational costs, with consideration for how the costs could be met whilst improving the financial health of the Shire. The report was the culmination of all of these matters.

Some members felt that the Working Group did not agree to the Report and that the work had not be completed.

The costing of \$7.6m was discussed and it was explained that this costing had been provided early during investigations of the Working Group.

Members asked that if the referendum goes ahead and the Shire can only raise \$4.5m – “will the Shire still proceed with building a smaller pool?”

Members noted that they wished to ensure that the community does not lose the existing pool.

Group members suggested an alternative question with the costs and financial implications included in the supporting information rather than the question itself.

Members were advised that their suggestions would be considered by Council, however ultimately it was up to Council to make the decision on the referendum question. Shire representatives suggested that reference to the operational costs should be retained in the question.

The Group tabled two suggested questions for the referendum. Either question 1 or 2.

1. If the Shire of Collie was successful in raising the full capital costs for construction of an indoor pool in conjunction with the 50 metre memorial pool would you vote for this pool?
2. Do you want an indoor heated pool built in conjunction with 50 metre memorial pool at no cost to the Shire of Collie.

Group members indicated that they would prefer no referendum take place if the question included in the June Council minutes is the one to proceed.

5) Other business

Nil

6) Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 4.54pm.