

KARDINIA AQUATIC CENTRE YEAR ROUND USAGE 2021



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

In 2020, the Kardinia Aquatic Centre opened under COVID-19 restrictions for an additional three months throughout the winter period (July, August and September). During this time the centre received a total of 5,742 visits, which was made up of approximately 1,000 swimmers.

During February 2021, the City commenced a community engagement program, over a three-week period, to help inform a decision on the potential year-round usage of Kardinia Aquatic Centre.

Using a dedicated Have Your Say project page, a quick poll and a detailed online survey was made available for the community to provide their feedback. Access to the survey via Ipads at Kardinia Aquatic Centre was also provided as an alternative method.

The key findings provide valuable insight into the projected usage of the facility. The feedback will be used to develop a briefing paper for the Councillors to address the anticipated visitations, cost and concerns received from the community.

RESPONSES

The City received a total of 946 completed responses through the survey, of which 96.2% voted in favour of opening Kardinia Aquatic Centre year-round.

A further 174 votes were received via the quick poll, of which 96.6% said they support Kardinia Aquatic centre being open during the winter season.



946

Completed survey
responses



1,515

Visitors to the
project's website



74

Suggestions (comments)
from the public left online
via social media



60

Letters
delivered to
local residents



1,972

Website views



96.2%

Voted to keep
Kardinia Aquatic
Centre Open

SSL SOCIAL MEDIA

21,580

Reach/Impressions



584

Actions (Clicks, reactions, shares, comments etc.)

COGG SOCIAL MEDIA

4,307

Reach/Impressions



77

Actions (Clicks, reactions, shares, comments etc.)

WHO WE HEARD FROM

- Casual swimmers made up 41% of respondents, followed by Swim Sport & Leisure members at 40%.
- The three key user groups during the winter months consisted of lap swimmers (75%), squad swimmers (13%) and recreational swimmers (5%).
- 556 respondents had used Kardinia Aquatic Centre last winter (88%)

WHAT WE HEARD

A summary of the key findings includes:

- Over the past 12 months the FINA pool (82%) was utilised most by the respondents, followed by the Olympic Pool (77%) and the children/learner's pool (9%).
- Most respondents used the facility more than 3 times per week last winter (38%), 32% used it twice a week, 17% once a week and 14% occasionally.
- The most popular timeslots for those swimming weekdays was 5.30am – 7.00. For those swimming on weekends it was 9.00am – 12 noon.

	5.30am - 7.00am	7.00am - 9.00am	9.00am - 12 noon	12 noon - 2.00pm	2.00pm - 4.00pm	4.00pm - 6.00pm	6.00pm - 7.00pm
Weekday	27%	19%	20%	10%	6%	14%	4%
Weekend	9%	25%	36%	10%	9%	8%	2%
Only attend during school holidays	21%	19%	27%	12%	8%	9%	4%

Of the 946 respondents, we received a total of 34 comments in response to concerns the community had regarding the year-round usage of Kardinia Aquatic Centre. Those concerns include:

- Parking issues, including permit zones and garbage collection.
- Noise and light complaints, surrounding the 5:30am opening.
- Overall cost to keep the facility open year-round.
- Dangerous driving behaviour.

We also heard from the community about the benefits of having a year round facility for their physical and mental health as well as the social benefit and increased access to such wonderful training facilities. An example of the many verbatim comments are below

- I haven't swam over winter for years as I only like swimming in outdoor pools. Having Kardinia open over winter was one of the best things last year and I was able to Swim 3 times a week. Thanks and please keep it open over winter
- I swim with Geelong Swimming Club and would like to train year round at Kardinia. I think I will be a better swimmer

- Swimming outside in winter is amazing for your health. Keeping Kardinia open reduces congestion at Leisurelink and employs many locals. A great community of residents swim at Kardinia, it is so important for mental health to socialise and have a sense of community. The facility is there. We should be able to use it!!
- desperately need this to sustain the growing communities & support, promote and engage community members for an active, healthy lifestyle.
- I would use the pool as a year round facility. I enjoy my swimming as it has many benefit its to my life. I use it for my physical fitness and as a nurse I use it for mental fitness to clear my head and switch off.

NEXT STEPS

- The data will form part of a Council briefing paper. The paper will also consider the anticipated costs, usage and benefits of the facility opening year-round. This paper will be provided for the councillors to consider and a decision on the opening hours and seasonal dates will be communicated to members, users and the public.
- The issues and concerns raised by residents and users will also be shared with the venue staff and City of Greater Geelong staff in units responsible for parking and waste services.
- Results will be shared on the Have Your Say page and those following the page.