

NORTH BELLARINE AQUATIC & LEISURE CENTRE STAGE 2 INITIAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The City, in partnership with the Federal Government, is delivering a new 50-metre outdoor heated pool at the Drysdale Sporting Precinct under stage 1 of the North Bellarine Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

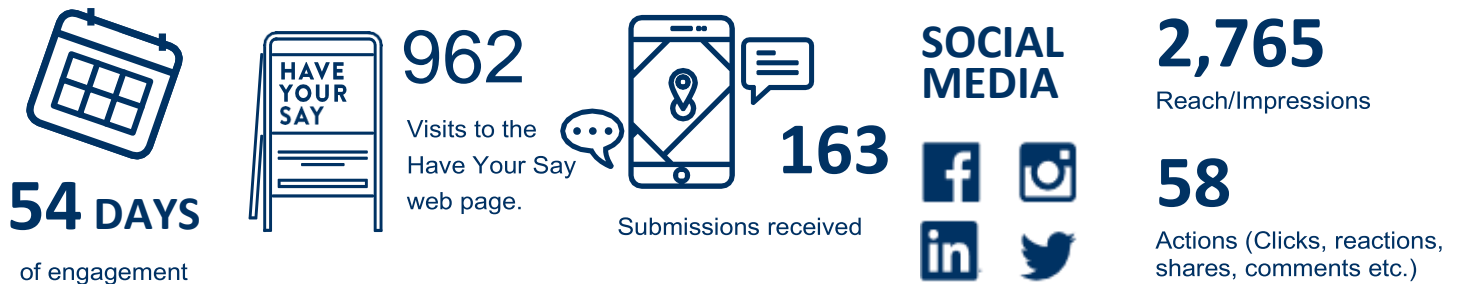
From 11 November 2021 – 4 January 2022, the City sought feedback on an indicative plan for the North Bellarine Aquatic and Leisure Centre stage 2 facilities to complement the stage 1 outdoor pool.

The indicative plan for a complementary indoor aquatic and leisure centre, was developed based on submissions made by the community to Council in April 2021 and further consultation with the North Bellarine Aquatic Centre Advocacy Group.

The purpose of this engagement was to seek community feedback on the indicative plan and level of support to advocate for State and Australian government funding to deliver stage 2.

During the almost eight-week engagement we received 163 submissions, including seven submissions from local and aquatic groups representing hundreds of members and connections.

A detailed engagement report is being collated and will be made available on the North Bellarine Aquatic and Leisure Centre Have Your Say page in the coming weeks.



WHAT WE ASKED

The survey asked the community about what they thought of the Stage 2 plans, their level of support for further advocacy based on the plans and likelihood of using the facility along with some demographic data.

We also asked for people's age range and where they lived to gain a greater understanding of who we were hearing from.

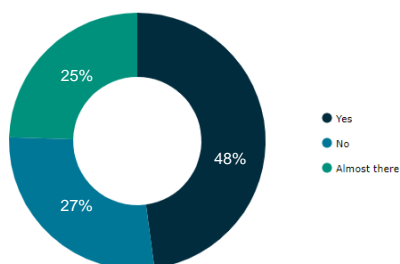
WHAT WE HEARD

"This facility is as good as it gets from my perspective (& experience) and I look forward to using it for my rehabilitation needs and to enjoy the water play area with my grandchildren."

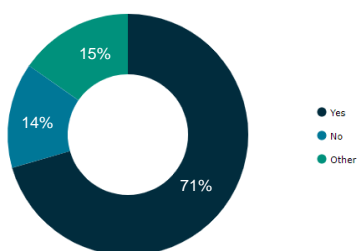
"An indoor pool for all ages in our inclement and varied weather is totally necessary"

We thank everyone for their feedback relating to Stage 1. Stage 1 scope and budget were confirmed by Council and tenders awarded in November 2021. The planning permit has now been issued for stage 1 with construction starting this month (April 2022).

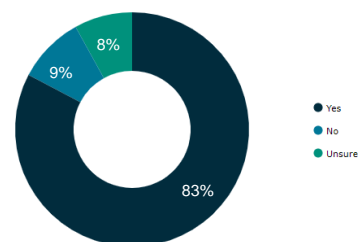
In total 73% of respondents indicated the stage 2 designs are what they had imagined or were almost there



71% of respondents indicated they would support the city advocating to the state and federal government to fund stage 2 based on these plans



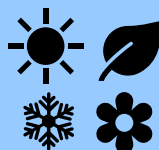
83% of respondents indicated they would use the stage 2 indoor aquatic and leisure centre



KEY THEMES

We heard from respondents that there is a community need for the aquatic facilities proposed in Stage 2, to allow for local access to services. The design was generally well received, with some suggestions for additional or alternative features. Respondents indicated the need for the design to be inclusive to all ages and abilities in all weather conditions.

Key themes we heard from the community



Facility design	Inclusive	Indoor Year-round	Local	Hydrotherapy
Key messages we heard from the community regarding the Stage 2 design				
Changes to design could make it more functional	The facility needs to cater for all ages and all abilities	Access to indoor aquatic facilities is important for use all year round, in all weather conditions.	Being able to access facilities close to home is important	Hydrotherapy facilities are important for access to rehabilitation services.
<p>“There is no-where near enough space for the amount of people that would use the indoor pool for swimming laps/ aqua aerobics/ general use and learn to swim.”</p> <p>“And in regards to parking it needs to have shade/weather proofing...”</p> <p>Having been a swimming instructor for many years, I don't think a 15 m learn to swim pool is long enough. 25 m would be better.</p> <p>“Perhaps also, maybe a 'kids play room' so mums and dads could bring young kids to go and play in while they exercise in the gym...”</p>	<p>“From an inclusive design, perspective this looks nearly ideal.”</p> <p>“I just wanted to say that I’m blown away by this plan, absolutely fantastic and inclusive.”</p> <p>“So fantastic that the plans include warm exercise pool, sauna and steam room, and accessible ramps. Great news for those with disabilities and their carers.”</p>	<p>“An indoor pool for all ages in our inclement and varied weather is totally necessary”</p> <p>“Need a year round pool.”</p> <p>“We need more indoor swimming facilities with this weather that we have here.”</p> <p>“What are the renewable energy options to run the pool?”</p>	<p>“Always needed a local pool for Drysdale and it looks to feature all the necessary amenities.”</p> <p>“As an elderly resident with health issues that respond well to warm water therapy I am looking forward to having the facility close to my home...”</p> <p>“It looks amazing and so needed in this location.”</p> <p>“Without an indoor pool, the pressure on Ocean Grove’s pool facility will remain and keep growing.”</p>	<p>“The inclusion of a warm water pool will be highly valued by the residents living in this area of the Bellarine.”</p> <p>“Very pleased to see a heated smaller pool (exercise pool) included. This is much needed for rehab and general elderly people...”</p> <p>“Having access alongside the warm water exercise pool to install a future-funded permanent hoist/ with adjacent wheelchair access.”</p>

NEXT STEPS

Community engagement is now closed. We are currently reviewing all of the feedback in more detail with consideration of how the concepts for stage 2 can best meet the community's needs.

The City will continue to advocate for the project and will release a final engagement report towards the middle of the year.