



## CIRCULAR HEAD COUNCIL

33 Goldie Street  
SMITHTON TAS 7330  
ABN: 43 826 151 424

PO Box 348  
SMITHTON TAS 7330  
DX 70706 SMITHTON

Phone: (03) 6452 4800  
Fax: (03) 6452 4861  
Email: [council@circularhead.tas.gov.au](mailto:council@circularhead.tas.gov.au)  
[www.circularhead.tas.gov.au](http://www.circularhead.tas.gov.au)

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Council Moving Forward with new Pool

### **Can't we just rebuild on the current site?**

*The current Circular Head War Memorial Swimming Pool is beyond repair and has been closed since October last year. To comply with current standards the building would need to be demolished and rebuilt from scratch. This would require a much larger footprint that requires an estimated additional \$1 million to \$1.5 million in site preparation before construction could begin in comparison to the Nelson Street site.*

### **How much will it cost?**

*It is estimated that the construction of stage 1 of the 25 metre indoor heated pool, with indoor change rooms and associated infrastructure will cost \$8 million. Additional funding will be sought for stage 2 of the project, which would be a further \$4 million for a program pool and other facilities.*

### **How will this affect my rates?**

*Council would be contributing \$4.5 million to the construction of the pool, which would mean an overall 3% increase of rates. However, this could be introduced in stages over a number of years and would be minimised by all Council staff focusing on finding efficiencies in other areas of Council's operations.*

### **Can Council afford it?**

*Through a combination of a loan and cash reserves, Council can afford to contribute \$4.5 million towards the project. Council needs help to gain the balance of the funds required for the project. The NSRF funding application will be followed up with requests for assistance from all levels of government for other funding.*

### **Ongoing costs?**

*While the final design of the new facility is yet to be determined, it is intended that it will operate using modern plant and equipment and more efficient energy use, which will help ensure ongoing costs are kept down.*

### **What will happen to the ANZAC Park site?**

*This is yet to be determined and Council would ask for the community's input into the future of the ANZAC Park site. Everyone is welcome to attend the information session, which will provide more information on what is proposed.*



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### **Will the old pool be sold?**

*There is no intention to sell the existing site, as per the question about the future of ANZAC Park Council would ask for the community's input into the site.*

### **What is the name of the new facility?**

*This is yet to be determined.*

### **When will it be built? How long will it take?**

*Pending successful funding, construction could commence in January 2017, with works complete by June 2018.*

### **Why is Council making this decision now?**

*Firstly the NSRF funding deadline is 11 March 2016, which means Council needs to have a firm position on the location and size of the facility. Council is also in the process of working on an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Plan, which has indicated this location as ideal for the new facility. The closure of the pool in October has meant that Council has focussed heavily on making this decision in a timely manner.*

### **Why that location?**

*The Smithton Sport Centre offers a number of potential linkages to other recreational facilities in the area and is close to a number of schools, the centre of town and has ease of access for both vehicles and pedestrians. The site offers a number of opportunities for management of the site to be consolidated with other facilities.*

### **Why not at the Smithton Recreation Ground?**

*There is inadequate space at the ground for the development of a facility that meets current standards.*

### **Why not on the CBD site?**

*The CBD site was ruled out when a previous consultation by Council found that this site would not be supported by the community. Community support for the proposal is essential to help ensure funding.*

### **Will fundraising be needed?**

*Council needs assistance in funding the entire proposal and is hopeful that its funding submission will be successful. Additional fundraising is required and offers of assistance are welcome.*



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### **Why not a 50 metre pool?**

*The addition of another 25 metres to the pool would add significant cost and size to the proposal, which is an uneconomical approach.*

### **Why not a 33 metre pool?**

*Modern pools are constructed to competition standards, being either 25 metre or 50 metre pools.*

### **What if the funding application is unsuccessful?**

*It is likely there will be another round of applications for the NSRF, but Council will continue to lobby all levels of government for other funding. If this application is unsuccessful this will delay the timeline of constructing the facility.*

### **What will the new facility look like? How big is it?**

*The design of the new facility has not been finalised other than that it will be a 25 metre indoor heated pool, with indoor change rooms and associated infrastructure.*

### **What is the traffic plan for the Smithton Sports Centre site? Can I see the plans?**

*Concepts were shown at a public meeting on 15 December 2015 as part of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Plan. Revised concept plans are being prepared which better reflects Council's consideration of a staged facility – it is hopeful these can be released by the end of February. The design concepts include:*

- *that the facility will be on the northern side of the Indoor Sports Centre (taking up Teddy Bear Park) with maximising sunlight entry to proposed pool.*
- *there will be connections between the pool and indoor sports centre for better management and use of the facility.*
- *new access arrangements and parking facilities will be provided to cater for increased parking needs for the pool.*
- *the site will retain space which allows for both the additional stage of the pool facility and future improvements and additions to the indoor sports centre.*

*The concept plans are being prepared to show this, but the final design and layout would be subject to further deliberations once the project is funded.*

### **What will happen to the basketball stadium?**

*The plan is to have the two facilities together and combine some services such as toilets and perhaps have a combined management structure, which will allow for future improvements and ensure the long term sustainability of the site. This may in the future also include the construction of a second court (dependent on further funding). In the short term the combined management of facilities will mean a more permanent site presence for the indoor sports*



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*centre and greater opportunities for casual use of the indoor sports centre than what Council can currently provide.*

### **Why so expensive? We just need a basic facility.**

*The initial funding application will be for stage 1 of the facility, which at this stage is estimated to cost \$8 million. Additional funding will be required to complete stage 2, which would include an additional program pool (used for warm to swim, aquafit and other activities) and other facilities. The estimated costs are in line with facilities of similar sizes across Australia, including the most recent construction of the new indoor 25m Burnie pool.*

### **What happens to Teddy Bear park?**

*The Teddy Bear Park/playground at the Smithton Sports Centre would be removed as a result of this facility being built at the Nelson Street site.*

### **What can we (the community) do to help?**

*This has been a process that has had a number of contributions from the Pool Reference Group and the wider community through the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Plan and other avenues. The community needs to be supportive of this decision in order for the funding application to be successful. Your support is appreciated.*

### **Has Council made its decision?**

*Council considers the Nelson Street site as the most cost effective to deliver a 25 metre indoor heated pool. Council will need to hold a Special Meeting on 23 February 2016 at 5.30pm to formally adopt this position.*

### **Is there enough parking at the Nelson Street site**

*Initial studies have indicated that there would be adequate parking on the Nelson Street site for the proposed facility.*

### **Why has this taken so long?**

*Prior to the closure of the Circular Head War Memorial Swimming Pool in October last year Council has been working with members of the community, the Pool Reference Group, the Circular Head Recreational Advisory Committee and others to work on a replacement option. Since the pool's closure, Council has been undertaking further consultation as part of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Plan, which has recommended this site as an ideal location for a new facility.*

***For further information or discussion please make an appointment at Council by Telephoning 6452 4800.***