

2

PAHIATUA SWIMMING POOL

Pahiatua’s making a splash with plans for a new indoor aquatic facility, and it’s decision time. Council’s gearing up to dive in – the big question is, how deep?

Context

Collaborating with Bush Aquatic Trust, Council has conducted a feasibility study and community survey, looking into a new indoor aquatic facility for Pahiatua. The current Pahiatua outdoor pool is nearing the end of its life cycle, has hefty maintenance costs, and is limited to a 10-week, weather dependent swim season which limits its capabilities.

The proposed indoor aquatic facility is seen as a long-term solution that could cater for future growth in our district. The proposed facility isn’t just a pool; the ‘Sprung swimming pool’ design is a year-round hub for swim education, from school programs to private lessons. Plus, it caters to club swimming and offers a therapeutic space for older members of the community. The pool will operate as a programmed swimming pool, which will also reduce the operating cost.

With community needs and future growth in mind, this project is an exciting opportunity for Pahiatua and its surrounding communities.

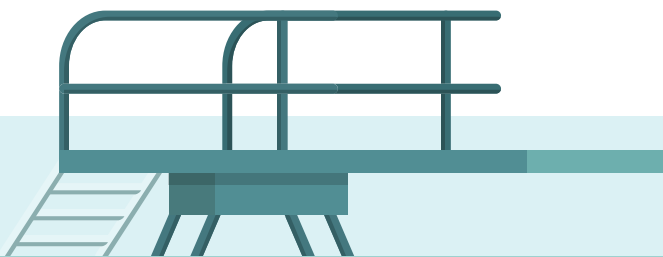
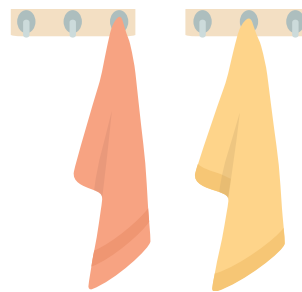
What’s happening now?

The new indoor aquatic facility comes with a \$6.1 million price tag. Bush Aquatic Trust have fundraised \$2.5 million. They are now asking Council for a \$2.5 million fundraising boost, which will leave them with approximately \$1.1 million to find.

Council has already contributed \$600,000 to get the project through the design and tender phases and now we need to consider whether we make the additional contribution of \$2.5 million.

The fundraising journey will also need to continue, and while the timeline remains uncertain, the vision for a new, future proof indoor aquatic facility is steadily taking shape.

It is intended that Council will take over the ownership of this asset upon completion.



Let's take a look at the options

OPTION 1 - Do nothing, status quo

No extra costs, no impact on rates

Ongoing funding for repair and maintenance on the outdated outdoor pool, prone to ageing issues

Limited usage of the current facility for the Pahiatua community

Pahiatua remain limited in hosting swim schools, meaning community members must travel for lessons

What is the cost?

Ongoing funding for maintenance

How does that impact rates?

No impact this financial year

What is the impact on debt?

No impact

Impact on level of service?

No change

In a nutshell, this scenario means we do not give the requested \$2.5 million and there is no impact to rates. Bush Aquatic Trust faces an uphill fundraising task, the community is left travelling for swim schools, and residents have limited local summer swimming options, and no options in winter.

OPTION 2 - Fund the \$2.5 million, and once complete the indoor aquatic facility becomes a Council-owned asset.

We prefer this option

A revamped indoor aquatic facility for our district, ready for future growth and community well-being

The funding supports a sustainable facility accessible to the community throughout the year

Pahiatua can have their own swim schools, alleviating pressure on other pools in the district

Maintenance from the outdoor pool stops and would go towards the new pool

Council will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the new facility, which will need to be funded by the ratepayer

Bush Aquatic Trust have committed to fundraising to help with the ongoing maintenance costs

It is not clear where the additional \$1.1 million in required fundraising will come from

What is the cost?

\$2,500,000

How does that impact rates?

\$53.36 per ratepayer (average 10 years)

What is the impact on debt?

\$2,500,000 (paid off over 20 years)

Impact on the level of service?

Increased level of service, from outdoor to indoor with increased operating hours