Introduction
Welcome to the second Aquatics Project newsletter issued by the Rural City of Wangaratta. The Newsletter aims to provide updates to the public, WISAC users, HP Barr sporting groups, Schools and transport groups on the progress throughout the construction phase of the project and other works.

The project will require cooperation and patience of all parties throughout the construction phase to minimise inconvenience and down time to the adjacent sporting facilities and to keep WISAC operating as usual.

The Project
The project is being funded through $4.4m from the Australian Government’s Building Better Region Fund, $1.5m from the Victorian Government’s Community Sports Infrastructure Fund and $100,000 from the Wangaratta Swimming Club.

Council has also been the recipient of a $6m low interest loan through Sport and Recreation Victoria’s (SRV) Community Sports Infrastructure Loans Scheme. The $6m will form part of Council’s $10.88m contribution to the project.
The newsletters will now focus on what is happening with each construction phase and what is about to happen over the next 3-5 weeks.

**PHASE 1**

**Builder’s Site Compound**

Phase 1- Browns Wangaratta site compound and site temporary fencing will have the largest impact on all users accessing Barr oval 1 and 2, the HP Barr Community Centre and WISAC from Park Lane.

There will be no public access within the hatched area on the plan below (within red boundary), whilst Browns Wangaratta have control of the site.

Pedestrian access from Park Lane to the HP Barr Community Centre will be constructed on Barr 1 side of the site compound to allow access to the HP Barr Community Centre. Once pedestrian access is completed, Browns Wangaratta will relocate the site fencing to allow the new shared pathway for public use.

The HP Barr Community Centre will remain operational throughout the construction phase with the exception of a few small shutdowns for changes of utility services, these works will be programmed when the Centre is not in use.

Browns Wangaratta have now established the site offices and amenities near the cricket nets. Temporary services have been connected to the amenities and will remain until completion of the project.

Council and Browns are investigating the issue of footballs entering the site over training and game day and is working on a solution for installing some temporary netting behind Barr No 1 northern goals. This should happen within the next week.
**Existing WISAC Demolition**
Over the past couple of weeks, Browns have removed all the concrete paths, external pergolas and external cladding of the south wall of the pool hall. This work is in preparation of utility relocation and footing installation for the new warm water pool structure.

**Site Clearing – Tree Removal**
It is always sad to see mature trees removed from any site to make way for new infrastructure, Council has worked closely with a number of organisations as to how best to utilise the trees that have been removed. Below is a snapshot of what will happen to the trees.

Council’s Bush Regenerator collected seed from trees prior to removal, 50% of the seed was given to Park Lane nursery with Council keeping the remaining seed. Both will grow seedlings from this seed with the view to replant the seedlings within the Barr Reserve and other areas within the near future.

All the trees were inspected for habitat prior to removal as per the conditions of the planning permit.

For a number of months, Council has been working closely with Northeast Catchment Management Authority (NECMA) around the use of tree trunks, root ball and large timber within their projects. The trees were pushed over with the root balls attached, then cut into 7-8 m lengths for transport to site of NECMA projects. See NECMA comments below.

The North East Catchment Management Authority (CMA), in partnership with landholders in the Markwood area, is undertaking erosion control works to address instabilities and improve waterway health along the Ovens River. Timber for the works has been generously donated by the Rural City of Wangaratta following its removal as a result of the extensive Swimming Pool development at the Barr Reserve in Wangaratta. The timber will be installed in combination with rock armouring and the sites will be revegetated to provide long term protection. Using rock and timber maximises structural integrity and protection of the bank whilst minimising environmental impacts, and has the added benefit of providing habitat for iconic fish species such as the Murray Cod.

Kelly Behrens, Manager Program Implementation with the North East CMA, said “The North East CMA will create valuable fish habitat using the salvaged trees. It is great when we can collaborate with our stakeholders within the catchment to achieve outcomes that are both economically and environmentally beneficial to everyone involved.”

The remaining tree heads were turned into mulch and used within the Barr Reserve area.

**Site Set-out**
Browns will now engage a surveyor to set out the pool location and the western carpark layout this week. Once this is done, they will then commence relocation of existing services to make way for the new buildings and pools.

**Utility Service Relocation**
When expanding any existing site, there is always a lot of underground services such as power, water, gas, sewer and fire services to be relocated prior to any works taking place.
One of the first items to be relocated for this project are the two large rainwater tanks that collect the rainwater from the stadium roof which is then used as irrigation over all the ovals within the Barr complex. It will take 3 to 4 days to dismantle, clean and reassemble the tanks to make way for the new plant room and underground pool balance tanks.

Partial dismantling of the two 125 kl rainwater tanks

Construction Phases

Below is a proposed phasing of the whole project. (Please note this is subject to change throughout construction process).

Council will advise of any changes through the Newsletter, Social Media, meetings with directly affected user groups (if required) and through Council’s website.

PHASE 1
Site possession, site clearing, construction of western carpark, construction of shared paths from Park Lane to HP Barr Community Centre, relocation of existing underground services.

PHASE 2
Construction of the Warm Water Pool building, alteration and extension to the existing plantroom.

PHASE 3
Excavation, construction, tiling and finishing of the three pools.

PHASE 4
Completion of the access road, landscaping, removal of site amenities, fencing and final sealing of the access road and carparks.
PHASE 5
Commissioning and training.

Works to be completed by November 2020.

OTHER PROJECTS

Western Carpark (Off Park Lane)
As part of the Aquatics project, Council will be constructing a 117 space sealed car park including 4 disabled spaces in between Barr 1 and 2 ovals.

Browns have engaged local subcontractor Bordignon Excavations to commence construction works for the western carpark. Bordignon will be onsite shortly to begin top soil removal, roughing in underground drainage and electrical mains for the future carpark lighting.

HP Barr No 2 Oval Refurbishment
Whilst this project is not funded through the New Aquatic project, Council has allocated separate capital works funding to refurbish Barr 2 Oval. The refurbishment of Barr 2 Oval will commence later this year, however the oval will remain available for AusKick and junior football use until September 2019. After September, Barr 2 Oval will close for the summer cricket season. Council will be liaising with affected groups and users about the closure and proposed works.

Council has engaged Sporteng to commence concept design and documentation of the new Barr 2 Oval. The design stage of the project will take 6-8 weeks to complete and then Council will advertise for tender in the new 19/20 financial year.

Solar Panels
Solar panels will be installed on the WISAC roof which will deliver 60kw, or around a third of the power to the facility.

Works will commence within the next 4-6 weeks to install the panels so Council can further reduce the ongoing utility running cost at this site.

WISAC Renewal Works
The existing WISAC pool hall and plantroom will receive some renewal works throughout the project and Council will advise and inform the public and users when the works are proposed to take place.

The works will consist of new epoxy surface to the existing pool hall floor, new sand filters, pumps and a more efficient heating system.
Consultation

Throughout the design phase of this project, Council have had numerous meetings with the key user groups directly involved or affected by the construction of the New Aquatics Facility. Council will continue to meet with these groups throughout the construction phase.

Council has installed an information notice board in the foyer of WISAC which will be updated on a regular basis with newsletters, images and information regarding the construction of the New Aquatics Facility.

Contact

If you would like an electronic copy sent directly to your email address please email council@wangaratta.vic.gov.au with your request.

Newsletters may be sent out on a fortnightly basis throughout the construction phase of the project or on an as required basis.

If you have any concerns with the construction works throughout the construction period please contact Project Managers, Allan Thrum on (03) 5722 0888 or Darren Macklan on (03) 5722 0888.