

SUBMISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE NORTHERN RECREATIONAL AQUATICS FACILITY

Facilitated by North Harbour Sports Council (NHSC) on behalf of the attached Sports

Support statement

The NHSC supports option 1 of the Albany Community Facilities as per Draft City Plan 2009-2024:

- *Option 1*

Build the Northern Recreational Aquatic facility first in 2013-20015. Build second the Albany Community Board Area Library Facility in 2018-2020.

Why option 1:

- There is a significant shortage of aquatic facilities in the Albany community and Shore wide so the need now for public flat water space to provide opportunities for all aquatic sports from beginner through to elite;
- Currently membership growth in aquatics sports is limited due to:
 - Lack of pool space/time;
 - Lack of deep water facilities; and
 - The current facilities are unable to provide the aquatic needs of all community sectors – i.e. recreational, masters, special needs, elite; and
- The Albany community currently have an adequate library facility.

Current situation

The Capacity Statement states that:

“North shore City’s aquatic centres have been in steady decline for many years. This is a measure of a rapidly expanding population base and increased pressure on existing facilities.”

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The North Shore has two public pools (Glenfield and Takapuna) and one major private pool (Millennium Institute) which is insufficient to meet demand but with the input from the

Council to providing an additional swimming facility many of the outlined issues will be alleviated.

Currently the North Shore aquatic's community has no facility able to host national and international competitions and therefore attract new events to the North Shore area and make good use of the infrastructure already in place. The benefits of such a facility to the North Shore community and local businesses for hosting events are obvious.

This is supported by the ARPASS Aquatic Strategy which has endorsed a pool facility in the northern sector of North Shore City, which, if implemented, will provide needed public flat water space servicing learn to swim opportunities through to elite programmes.

"... the ARPASS Regional Facility Review Project has concluded there is a need for a 50m pool facility capable of holding regional, national and international events. Options for the siting of such a facility were North Shore City or Manukau City."

Module 1 – Summary – Pg11

The sporting community support the Northern Recreational Aquatics facility based in Albany. Whilst considerable consultation has occurred thus far, this has come with a cost to the city. However, if the Council is looking to alter the existing plans then further consultation by NSCC will be required with all North Shore aquatic sporting community to ensure their needs are catered for in regards to pool size, length, depth and spectator requirements to meet international standards and future proof the facility.

The Albany Tennis Park on the Shore is a good illustration of how a facility, if carefully planned from the outset, can be built to function to serve the needs of all potential user groups. Their courts are perfect for a fun "hit about" by beginners, but we also meet the criteria to be able to host top national and international tennis events, such as the recent Davis Cup, one of the largest international team's events in the world.

Recommendations:

- 1. The need for the North Recreational Aquatic Facility is now. Release the funding to allow the facility development to be brought forward to 2011;**
- 2. Increase budget to original level of \$14million;**
- 3. Northern Recreational Aquatic facility to be future proofed for regional, national and international (Commonwealth Games) events, including 50mtr deep water facility for the full range of aquatic sports; and**

- 4. If alterations or additions are made to the current plans, the NSCC needs to consult with North Shore aquatic sporting community.**

North Harbour Sports Council Members:

Auckland Athletics
North Harbour Badminton
Auckland Curling
United 1 Soccer
Gymsport Northern
Harbour Sport
Harbour Hockey
Netball North
Auckland Rowing
Auckland Rugby League
Harbour Rugby
North Harbour Softball
Auckland Squash
Auckland Swimming
Tennis Northern
North Harbour Touch
North Harbour Volleyball
North Harbour Table Tennis

Note: The above sports have a combined membership base of 60,000+ members within 132 clubs.