Central Coast Council

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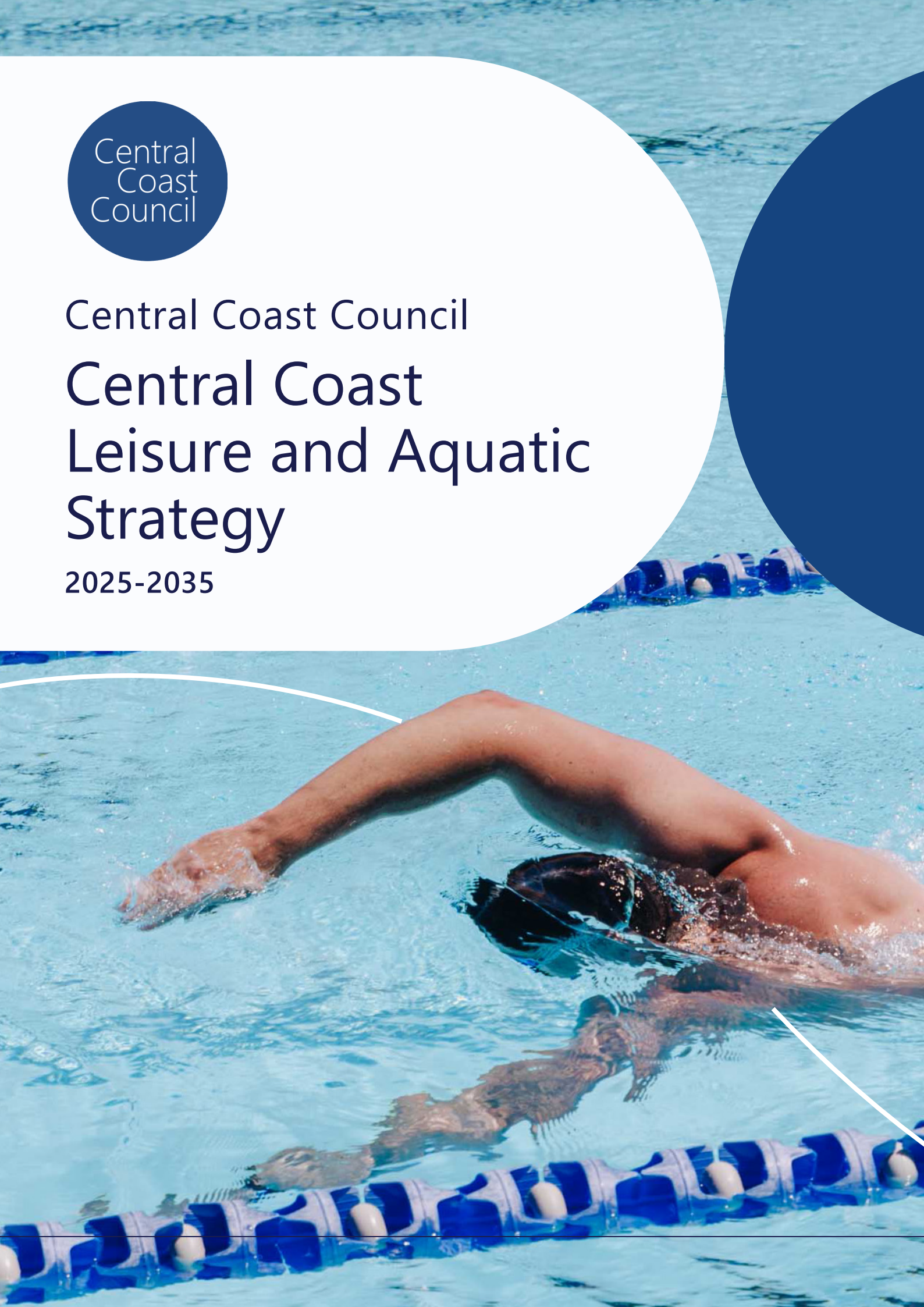
Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Strategy

2025-2035



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We pay our respects to Darkinjung country, and Elders past and present.

We recognise the continued connection to these lands and waterways and extend this acknowledgement to the homelands and stories of those who also call this place home.

We recognise our future leaders and the shared responsibility to care for and protect our place and people.

Mayors Message

Participation in sport and fitness has always been a big part of my life and it's an important part of community life on the Central Coast.

Our leisure and aquatic centres are more than places to swim or exercise, they're much-loved community hubs that support healthy lifestyles, provide opportunities for social connection and create a sense of belonging.

Council's Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 sets out our long-term vision to guide the future planning, development and management of our facilities across the region.

It provides a 10-year framework for our 10 leisure and aquatic centres, outlining priorities for improving infrastructure, expanding programs and ensuring our facilities remain safe, inclusive and welcoming for everyone.

This strategy also describes how we will fund important upgrades to existing centres and equipment and how we will plan for more fitness and leisure opportunities as our population grows.

The Strategy marks an important step towards strengthening the spaces that bring us together, promoting wellbeing and enriching community life for the next decade. It supports our shared vision for inclusive, active, and connected communities that reflect the interests of all ages and abilities.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in the engagement activities that contributed to the development of this strategy. As we plan for the future, we'll continue working closely with residents to ensure our leisure and aquatic facilities continue to meet community needs and expectations.

Lawrie McKinna
Mayor

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With a population of over 351,000, the Central Coast offers its residents a diverse range of recreational opportunities across the natural and built environment.

In addition to various sporting and recreational facilities, parks, gardens, open spaces and reserves, access to leisure and aquatic centres on the Coast plays a vital role in supporting the health and wellbeing of the community.

Council recognises the importance of these facilities in supporting physical and mental health within the community, by offering safe and healthy environments for people to come together to exercise and build social connections.

1. Introduction

Our Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 (the Strategy) provides a 10-year priority plan to guide the future of leisure and aquatic services and facilities across the Coast. With a focus on infrastructure upgrades, asset management and program expansion, the Strategy is designed to support active lifestyles, improve community wellbeing and maximise participation opportunities. By improving facilities and services, it aims to create inclusive, accessible and engaging spaces where people of all ages and abilities can connect, stay active and thrive.

Developed through in-depth research, operational insights and community consultation, this Strategy considers the upgrades and renewal of existing facilities while planning for future needs. It examines population growth, evolving demographics and emerging trends in participation and facility use to ensure services remain accessible and relevant. Additionally, the Strategy highlights the critical role these centres play in strengthening community wellbeing and social connections across the Coast.

This strategy provides a sound basis for decision making to deliver a network of fit-for-purpose leisure and aquatic centres that maximise liveability, health and wellbeing outcomes for the whole community in line with Council's vision and goals.

1.1 Why have a Leisure and Aquatic Strategy?

At Central Coast Council, our vision is to:

Promote healthy living and ensure sport, leisure, recreation and aquatic facilities and open spaces are well maintained and activated to support healthy lifestyles for a growing community (One – Central Coast, Community Strategic Plan – L1 Objective).

Central Coast Council currently owns ten leisure and aquatic facilities, in addition to Mingara Aquatic Centre, which was partly funded by the former Wyong Shire Council. The facilities provide important recreational swimming, lap swimming, aquatic fitness and water safety/learn to swim opportunities for residents on the Coast. The facilities also provide gym, fitness and sporting opportunities.

Central Coast Council has made substantial long-term investments in its leisure and aquatic centres, with over $19.2 million spent on renewals and upgrades of facilities since the amalgamation in 2016. Focusing on upgrading ageing infrastructure, expanding services and improving the overall quality of facilities, these improvements have been delivered through a combination of Council funding and external grants. Some of these facilities are nearing the end of their useful life and many do not meet the identified needs for contemporary facilities to support health and wellbeing outcomes. Significant investment is required in leisure and aquatic facilities to ensure facilities address the needs of a diverse and growing population.

Recognising that leisure and aquatic activities continue to evolve over time, this strategy has been developed to ensure that our future provision of facilities and the services offered address current and future unmet leisure and aquatic needs.

The development of the Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 focuses on supporting the physical health and mental wellbeing of residents while also addressing ageing infrastructure and future growth.

1.2 What does this Strategy cover?

The Central Coast community has leisure and aquatic facilities located across the Coast which provide a combination of indoor and outdoor pools and health and fitness services. An overview of these types of facilities as well as the facilities Council offers are included below.

Leisure and Aquatic and Facilities

A leisure and aquatic facility is a multipurpose venue combining fitness and aquatic amenities to offer a comprehensive range of recreational, exercise, and wellness activity catering to diverse community needs.

Aquatic Facilities

A specialised venue featuring swimming pools and water-based amenities that provide opportunities for recreation, exercise, swimming instruction and aquatic sports in a safe and accessible environment.

Leisure Facilities

A venue designed to support physical wellbeing and recreation through exercise equipment, sport, fitness classes and training spaces, promoting health, social interaction and an active lifestyle.

Council currently supports leisure and aquatic services through the provision of two leisure and aquatic facilities, four aquatic facilities, and five leisure facilities (three are owned by Council and managed with a community lease).

Leisure and Aquatic Facilities:

- **Peninsula Leisure Centre**
- **Mingara Aquatic Centre**
  (Operated by Mingara, partly funded by the former Wyong Shire Council)

Leisure Facilities:

- **Lake Haven Recreation Centre**
- **Niagara Park Stadium**
- **Breakers Stadium** (Council owned, operated under a community lease)
- **PCYC Bateau Bay** (Council owned, operated under a community lease)
- **PCYC Umina Beach** (Council owned, operated under a community lease)

Aquatic Facilities:

- **Gosford Olympic Pool**
- **Wyong Olympic Pool**
- **Toukley Aquatic Centre**
- **Grant McBride Ocean Baths**

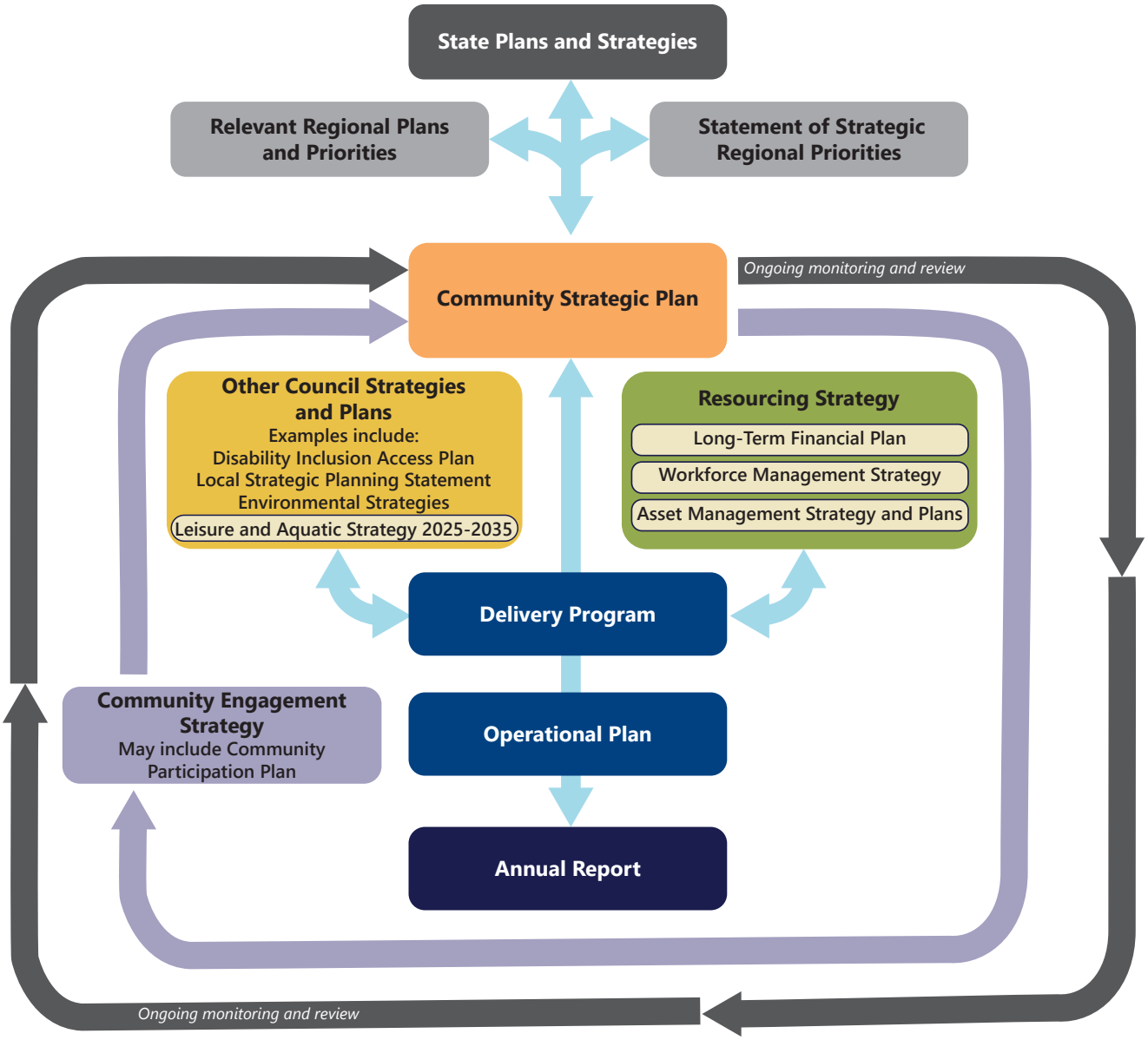
The strategy does not cover:

- Commercial pools
- Private gyms
- Operational models

1.3 Strategic context

Council has a number of service planning and strategic documents that are pivotal to the planning and delivery of leisure and aquatic facilities on the Central Coast. Working within the hierarchy of these ensures the Leisure and Aquatic Strategy is consistent with these adopted policies and plans.

The graphic below illustrates the Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035 placement within the broader Council context:



The Leisure and Aquatic Strategy contributes to all five themes of the One – Central Coast, Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028: Belonging, Smart, Green, Responsible and Liveable. At the heart of One – Central Coast is the vision that we are one Central Coast – a smart, green and liveable region with a shared sense of belonging and responsibility. To achieve this, we must remove barriers to inclusion and equal opportunity, encourage community participation, and strengthen community health and wellbeing. These ambitions form the core mission of the Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035.

2. Our Coast

This section provides the population and demographic characteristics of the Central Coast community. These characteristics will influence the leisure and aquatic services and facilities needed for the community into the future.

Our Population

400,878
Estimated population in 2041

351,934
Central Coast population in 2023

18%
are less than 15 years of age

22.2%
are aged 65 years and older

Median age (years)

Central Coast	**43**
NSW	**39**

24.1%
of workers who live in the area travel outside of the Central Coast for work

Our Growing Communities

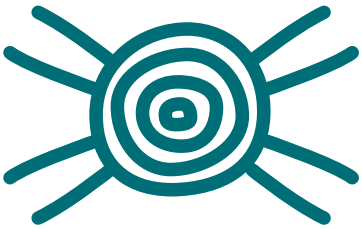
The largest growth is expected in age cohorts above 70 years, with the **70-84 years** cohort expected to experience an increase of 17,601 people between 2021 and 2046.

39.2% growth

This is followed by 13,370 people for the **85 years and over** cohort

128.3% growth

The largest population growth is estimated to be in the Tuggerah, Wyong and Warnervale planning catchments. This suggests there will increasing demand for additional services and facilities in these surrounding areas.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population

Central Coast	4.9%
NSW	3.4%

Born overseas

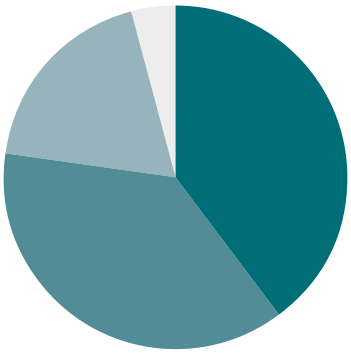
Central Coast	16%
NSW	29%

Speak a language other than English

Central Coast	7%
NSW	27%

84 different languages spoken at home – most widely spoken includes Mandarin, Spanish and Filipino/Tagalog.

Our Households



Household type

- Couples with children
- Couples without children
- One parent families
- Group household

94,861 families

Average household size **2.46 people**

22.6% of dwellings are medium or high density

33.3% of residents fully own their home

32.6% have a mortgage

26.4% are renting

Our Employment and Household Incomes

Income by households (per week)

- low income <$886
- lower to middle income $887 to $1,824
- middle to upper income $1,825 to $3,134
- high income earners $3,135+

Top 3 industries of employment

Health care & social assistance

Construction

Retail trade

140,478 jobs on the Central Coast

Median weekly household income **$1,534**

Unemployment rate **4.7%**

Our Leisure and Aquatic Centres at a Glance

9
Council owned Leisure and Aquatic centres

1
Ocean bath

14
Council owned indoor sports courts

On the Central Coast from July 2023 to 30 June 2024, we had:

1,248,700
Visitors across Council's six leisure centres and pools*

41,280
Learn to swim sessions conducted

3,536
Group fitness classes delivered

**includes Peninsula Leisure Centre, Gosford Olympic Pool, Wyong Olympic Pool, Toukley Aquatic Centre Lake Haven Recreation Centre and Niagara Park Stadium*

3. Benefits, Values and Trends in Leisure and Aquatic Facilities

3.1 Benefits of sport and recreation infrastructure

In 2021, Royal Life Saving Australia engaged Price Waterhouse Coopers Consulting (PWC) to investigate the value of the aquatic industry. The Social, Health and Economic Value of the Australian National Aquatic Industry report (July 2021) found the **industry's total benefit to be $9.1 billion annually in economic, health and social benefits.**

The following graphic provides a summary of the key economic, health and social benefits.

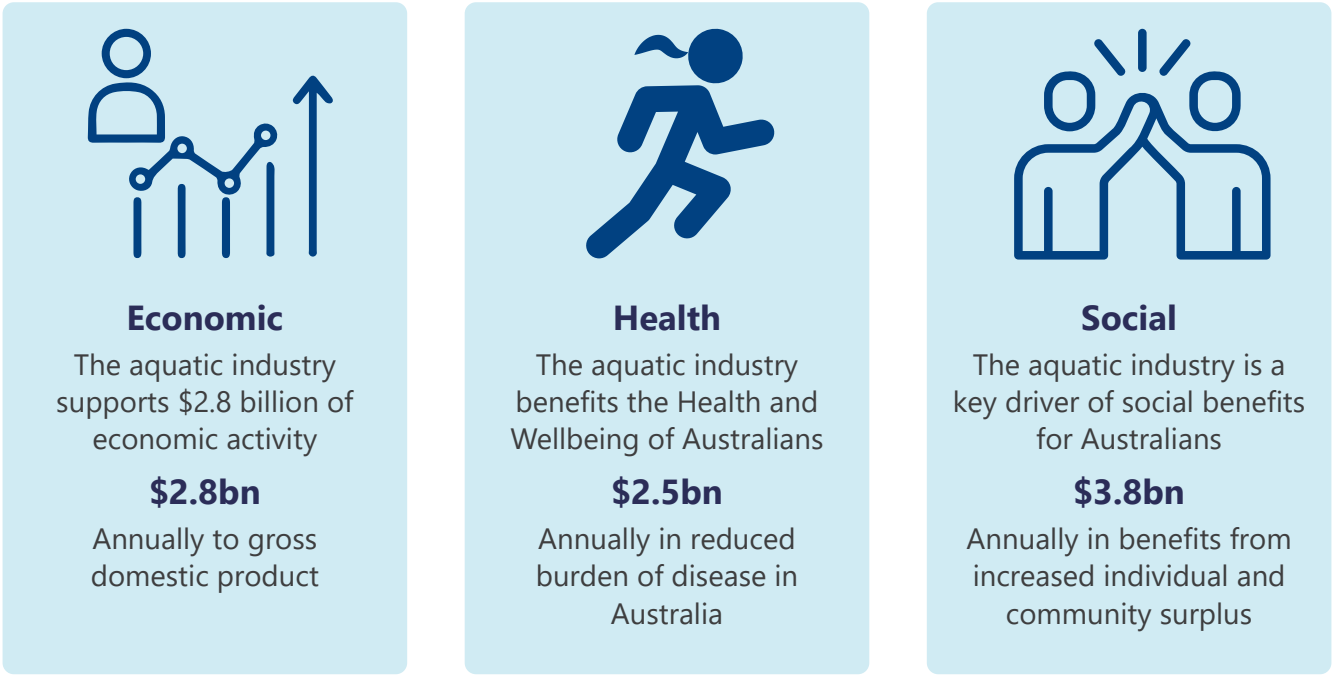


Figure 1: Summary of the Royal Life Saving Australia report into aquatic industry value

Source: The Social, Health and Economic Value of the Australian National Aquatic Industry (2021) by the Royal Life Saving Society Australia and PWC.

The aquatic industry provides a social return on investment of $4.87 for every dollar spent operating an aquatic facility in a capital city or $2.18 in regional Australia[1].

[1] *The Social, Health and Economic Value Of Aquatic Industry, Royal Life Saving Australia (Pricewaterhouse Coopers), 2021*

3.2 The importance of leisure and aquatic facilities

Our aquatic, leisure, parks, sport and recreation facilities are critical for community health and wellbeing, developing valuable social networks and contributing to the liveability of communities. Benefits of leisure and aquatic facilities include:

Improving Health and Wellbeing

Leisure and aquatic facilities encourage active lifestyles, helping to reduce the risk of obesity and lifestyle-related illnesses. An active lifestyle contributes to general wellbeing, productivity and performance. Research shows that the benefits of physical activity extend to mental health, community wellbeing and social capital.

Building Community Connections and Pride

These spaces strengthen community connections by promoting social interaction, inclusivity and a sense of belonging among diverse groups. By bringing people together they help strengthen social bonds, create a sense of identity and pride in the community.

Developing Water Safety Skills and Confidence

Leisure and aquatic facilities provide vital water safety education, helping individuals develop essential swimming skills and confidence in the water. These programs reduce the risk of drowning, promote safe aquatic recreation and equip people with lifelong skills for enjoying water environments responsibly.

Supporting Economic Growth and Lowering Healthcare Costs

Leisure and Aquatic facilities assist to reduce health care cost through reduction in disease and illness associated with lack of physical activity and social interaction and providing local employment and investment opportunities.

Enhancing Environmental Sustainability

Well-designed leisure and aquatic facilities support sustainable urban planning by encouraging active transport which helps to reduce temperature, mitigate urban heat island effects, improve air quality ecosystems and biodiversity.

3.3 Leisure and aquatic facility trends

Aquatic facilities are among the most popular locations in Australia for active recreation, across all age groups. Approximately 5 million Australians either swim or use aquatic facilities for aqua aerobics, hydrotherapy and other aquatic exercise[2].

Industry trends

As a whole, the leisure industry employs more than 50,000 people with a turnover of $1.3 billion and 263 million visitors per annum. There are approximately 1,900 leisure facilities in operation around Australia, most of which are owned and run by more than 650 local councils, managed in house or by external management organisations. Central Coast's eleven leisure and aquatic centres are a part of the leisure industry.

Users are focusing on group fitness and other group training mechanisms. Leisure and aquatic trends have continued with high participation for children in swim schools and adults are engaging in leisure swimming, aerobics and new types of emerging programs.

Sport and Recreation Trends

- A gradual ageing of the population.
- Flexibility in the times when people recreate.
- Increased variety in leisure options.
- Constraints to leisure participation.
- Changing employment structures, trading and work hours.
- Aquatic areas usually require financial subsidy whilst health and fitness usually profitable.
- Different people want different activities.
- Provision of high standards and quality of facilities and services.
- Desire for activities to be affordable.
- Recognition of strong links between physical activity and health.
- Expectations of equity and access.
- Technology developments and impacts.
- More sustainable and eco-friendly infrastructure.

Facility trends

Over the past decade, there has been a greater emphasis on the development of a variety of water spaces within aquatic centres, including:

- Program pools are designed for learn to swim and a variety of aquatics programs
- Warm water pools used for rehabilitation and therapy, have become one of the highest use spaces within public aquatic and leisure centres
- Water play including large, enclosed slides, water jets and other leisure play opportunities.
- Health and fitness programming have also advanced with a greater emphasis on programs for older adults and a much broader range of opportunities, including Pilates, Yoga and Boot Camp.

[2] *Clearinghouse for Sport, AusPlay: Sports and physical activity reports, 2020*

Facility trends indicate several common success factors for leisure and aquatic centres:

One-stop-shop

Reduce operating losses

Programmable spaces

Community/social hub

Successful and sustainable contemporary aquatic and leisure facilities are also community destinations and meeting points for various physical and social activities.

3.4 Market attractiveness

Successful and sustainable contemporary aquatic and leisure facilities are also community destinations and meeting points for a range of physical and social activities. There are four distinct key user markets that need to be attracted to a facility if it is to achieve high use and sustainable operations. These are outlined in the graphic below:

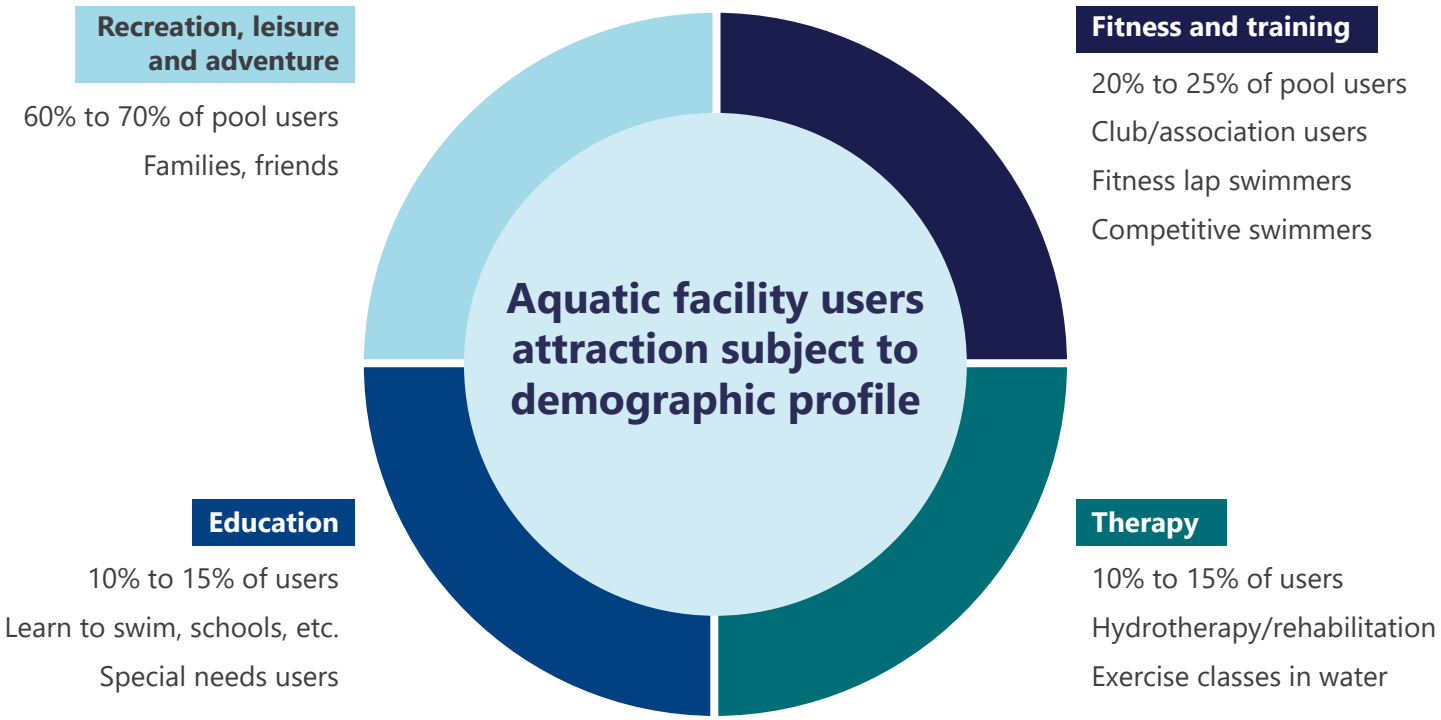


Figure 2: Main Aquatic and Leisure Facility User Markets

Business Drivers

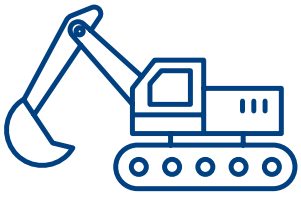
Industry trends highlight two key business drivers that contribute to the bottom-line operating performance of aquatic and leisure centres. These business drivers, match services provided by the commercial market, primarily because there is an operating surplus (profit) to be made. The two key business drivers are:

1. Health and Fitness memberships
2. Learn to Swim enrolments.

It is therefore critical to ensure facility developments, particularly the gym, group exercise rooms, learn to swim pools, warm water pools and supporting amenities, are correctly planned and sized to maximise the performance of these areas. This can offset operating deficits incurred by other activity areas.

Insights from Royal Life Saving Society Australia[1]

The research by PWC on behalf of the Royal Lifesaving Social found that:



The average Australian public pool was built in 1968

$8 billion is needed to replace these public pools

Forty percent of all public pools in Australia will reach the end of their functional lifespan by 2030

A further $3 billion will be needed to replace public pools ending their lifespan by 2035[1]

1 The Social, Health and Economic Value Of Aquatic Industry, Royal Life Saving Australia (Pricewaterhouse Coopers), 2021

4. Leisure and Aquatic Facilities on the Central Coast

4.1 Our leisure and aquatic centres

Council has a number of leisure and aquatic facilities located across the Coast which provide a diverse range of indoor pools, community spaces and health and fitness facilities. A summary of the leisure and aquatic centres and their facility components are provided below.

Peninsula Leisure Centre (Built in 2005 – 20 years old)

The Peninsula Leisure Centre, located in Woy Woy on the Central Coast, opened in October 2005, replacing the existing Woy Woy Memorial Pool, and offers a range of indoor aquatic and sports facilities. Peninsula Leisure Centre is the most southern aquatic, sports and fitness facility with the largest annual visitations of Council venues. Since 2016 $7.23 million has been spent on renewals and upgrades to Peninsula Leisure Centre.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	**Attendance**	**Facility components**	**Services offered**
43,000 (2021) 44,000 (2046) Low growth	450,000 - 550,000. Trend - increasing	• Indoor heated 50m pool • Leisure and warm water pools • Outdoor Splash Park and waterslide • Spa, steam room and sauna • 24-hour gym • Two (2) full sized indoor sport courts • Creche • Café and BBQ facilities • Hearing loop • Accessible toilet/ changeroom • Accessible platform lift • Submersible water wheelchairs for hire	• Learn to swim programs • Swim squads • Lap and recreational swimming • Water polo club • Hire for events and carnivals • Gym and group fitness • Basketball/ Netball/ Futsal

Current Limitations and Future Opportunities

Challenges:

- The facility is nearing full capacity for gym, swimming and sports court usage.
- Access to parking is challenging at peak times and may be impacting participation growth.
- The facility is now 20 years old, and infrastructure is starting to show signs of ageing.

Opportunities:

- There are opportunities for facility improvements and innovation including expanding Health and Fitness Centre to accommodate current and future demand.
- Enhancing energy efficiency presents a key opportunity for improvement.

Gosford Olympic Pool (Built in 1955 – 70 years old)

Gosford Olympic Pool was constructed in stages from 1954 and opened in 1955 and is one of the Central Coast's most used swimming pools with over 240,000 visits annually at its peak. As it nears end of life, a redevelopment of existing components will allow it to better serve the south and west of the Coast. A total of $1.43 million has been invested in renewals and upgrades at Gosford Olympic Pool since 2016.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	**Attendance**	**Facility components**	**Services offered**
66,000 (2021) 79,000 (2046) Relatively high growth	200,000-240,000 Trend - increasing	• Outdoor heated 50m pool • Indoor heated 25m pool • Indoor heated rehabilitation pools • Outdoor toddler pool • Modern change-room facilities • Grandstand • Cafe and swim shop • BBQ and picnic area	• Learn to swim program • Aqua fitness classes • Squad coaching program • Lap and recreational swimming • Pools and spaces for hire for events and carnivals

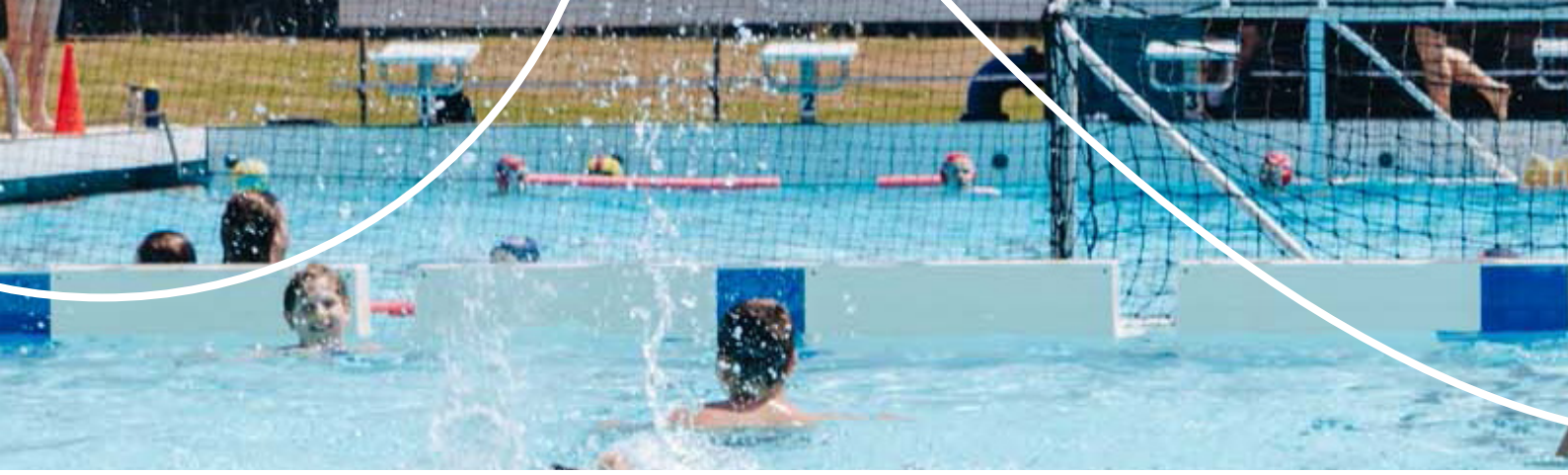
Current Limitations and Future Opportunities

Challenges:

- The facility requires ongoing maintenance due to its ageing infrastructure which may lead to increased costs and potential service disruptions with any extensive repairs.
- Accessibility remains a concern, particularly regarding parking, entry points and pool access, which may limit inclusivity for all users.

Opportunities:

- The development of a new facility as part of the Gosford Waterfront planning offers an opportunity to upgrade amenities and better meet community needs.
- Future improvements can be made to address accessibility challenges, ensuring a more inclusive and user-friendly experience for all visitors.



Wyong Olympic Pool (Built in 1960 – 65 years old)

The Wyong Olympic Pool, a 50-metre seasonal and unheated outdoor pool with a wading pool, is a community hub offering recreational swimming, squad coaching, and water polo. The northern region catchment has the highest percentage population growth (92%) through to 2046 than any of the existing pool locations with 44,000 people estimated to be in the 5km catchment. As it nears end of life, a redevelopment will allow it to better serve the north of the Coast, all year round with a contemporary service offering. Since 2016, over $906,000 has been invested in renewals and upgrades at Wyong Olympic Pool.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	**Attendance**	**Facility components**	**Services offered**
21,000 (2021) 41,000 (2046) High growth	4,000- 39,000 Trend - Increasing	• Outdoor 50m pool • Wading pool • Amenities centre • Tennis and netball courts • Sportsground	• Swim squads • Entrance and Wyong water polo clubs, games and training - club rooms • Lap and recreational swimming • Hire for events and carnivals • Swim wall

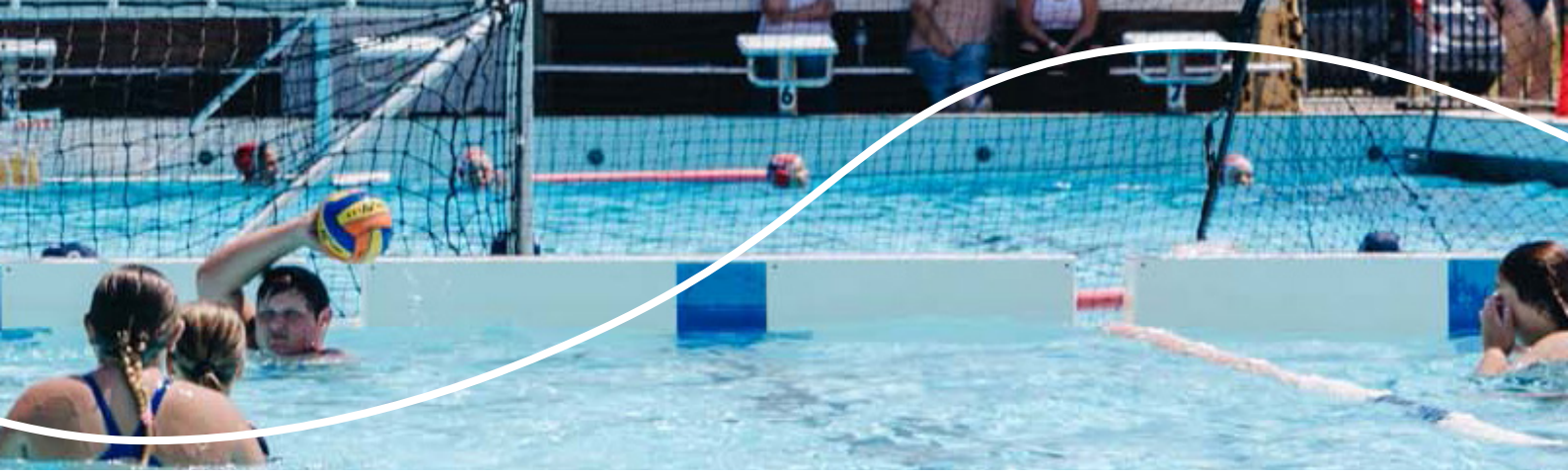
Current Limitations and Future Opportunities

Challenges:

- The facility requires ongoing maintenance due to its ageing infrastructure which may lead to increased costs and potential service disruptions.
- The pool's seasonal operation (October to April) and lack of heating limit its usage, reducing its appeal and accessibility for year-round patrons.
- Low current participation levels across programs and services, and is weather dependent.

Opportunities:

- Replacing the existing centre with a modern, year-round facility in a more accessible location would attract a larger, more diverse demographic, increasing participation and sustainability.



Toukley Aquatic Centre (Built in 1979 – 46 years old)

Toukley Aquatic Centre offers a range of aquatic programs and amenities for all ages and abilities. Featuring a heated indoor swimming pool, swimming programs and group classes, the centre provides a welcoming space for exercise, rehabilitation and leisure. Toukley Aquatic Centre has received $1.3 million in renewals and upgrades since 2016.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	**Attendance**	**Facility components**	**Services offered**
28,000 (2021) 31,000 (2046) Low growth	115,000- 140,000 Trend - increasing	• Indoor 25m heated pool • Warm water/ swim lesson pool • Outdoor toddlers pool • Meeting room • Kiosk • BBQ	• Learn to swim program • Swim squads • Lap and recreational swimming • Hire for events and carnivals • Aqua fitness • Swimming club

Current Limitations and Future Opportunities

Challenges:

- The facility experiences high demand during peak times, making it difficult to accommodate all users, particularly for hydrotherapy and learn to swim programs.
- Due to its small local catchment area, the centre has a limited user base.
- The facility is ageing, and its condition requires ongoing maintenance, which can impact the experience for visitors and lead to higher operational costs.

Opportunities:

- Upgrading facility with modern design and amenities can improve its overall look and functionality, making it more appealing to the community.
- Enhancing energy efficiency presents a key opportunity for improvement.

Grant McBride Ocean Baths (Built in 1965 – 60 years old)

The Grant McBride Ocean Baths, formerly "The Entrance Ocean Baths," is a heritage-listed ocean pool complex at the southern end of The Entrance Beach, constructed between 1938 and 1965, and renamed in 2018 to honour Grant McBride. The ocean baths are free to use and open year-round (subject to maintenance and cleaning) and supervised with various patrolled hours throughout the season. Since 2016 over $140,000 has been spent on renewals and upgrades to Grant McBride Ocean Baths.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	**Attendance**	**Facility components**	**Services offered**
22,000 (2021) 24,000 (2046)	80,000- 100,000	• Outdoor 50m pool • Outdoor 22m lap pool • Wading pool	• Carnivals • Lap swimming/walking • Aquatic play • Winter and summer swim clubs

Current Limitations and Future Opportunities

Challenges:

- The facility has limited parking which can create congestion and make access difficult, especially during peak times.
- As pools rely on tidal movements for refilling, water levels and quality can vary, impacting usability.
- Without heating, the facility is mainly suitable for warm weather use, reducing year-round recreational opportunities.

Opportunities:

- As a free to use facility, it provides an accessible and affordable recreational opportunity for the community.
- Its unique coastal location enhances its appeal, offering scenic views and a natural swimming experience that differs from standard pools.
- As a heritage listed site, the facility holds cultural and historical significance.

Niagara Park Stadium (Built in 1999 – 26 years old)

The stadium catchment is forecast to grow from 55,700 to 67,700 by 2046 which will continue to increase the demand for court sports. There are approximately 700 Basketball NSW members using Niagara Park now, along with volleyball, futsal, indoor hockey, netball and table tennis competitions and significant school use. A total of $3.4 million has been invested in renewals and upgrades at Niagara Park Stadium since 2016.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	**Attendance**	**Facility components**	**Services offered**
38,000 (2021) 45,000 (2046 Average growth	115,000- 135,000 Trend - stable	• Four (4) basketball courts • Meeting rooms • Trampoline area • Dance studio • Martial arts studio • Cafe	• Basketball, Wheelchair basketball • Soccer • Martial arts • Roller derby • Netball • Volleyball • Table tennis • Trampolining • Dance

Current Limitations and Future Opportunities

Challenges:

- The leisure centre faces peak demand during the evenings and weekends, often reaching full capacity, which limits access for all users.
- The facility does not meet the requirements needed to host national sporting events, restricting its potential to attract larger competitions.
- Off-peak usage during the day is low, leading to underutilised spaces and resources.

Opportunities:

- The centre has the opportunity to attract more major events to the Coast, boosting visibility and revenue.
- Expanding the size and capacity of the facility could help meet both current and future community needs.

Lake Haven Recreation Centre (Built in 1986 - 39 years old, redeveloped in 2009)

Lake Haven Recreation Centre offers a variety of health and fitness opportunities. The Recreation Centre is serving the largest population base of the Council owned indoor court facilities with 91,000 people in the broader 10km catchment. Since 2016, $2.7 million has been invested in renewals and upgrades at Lake Haven Recreation Centre.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	**Attendance**	**Facility components**	**Services offered**
62,000 (2021) 71,000 (2046) Average growth	105,000-125,000 Trend - stable	• Two (2) Sports courts • Gym – 24 hr • Group fitness • Three (3) squash • Cycle studio • Meeting rooms	• Group fitness classes • Personal training • Pilates classes • Basketball/Netball • Badminton • Volleyball • Squash • Judo • Dance • School holiday activities • Hire for events and carnivals

Current Limitations and Future Opportunities

Challenges:

- As the facility is situated at the back of a shopping centre, visibility and foot traffic is reduced, making it more difficult to attract new members and casual visitors.
- Accessibility remains a concern, particularly regarding the second floor of the facility and parking, which may limit inclusivity for all users.
- Strong competition from numerous low-cost local gyms and fitness centres makes it difficult to differentiate offerings and retain long-term members.

Opportunities:

- Future improvements can be made to address accessibility challenges, ensure a more inclusive and user-friendly experience for all visitors.
- Expand facilities to accommodate a wider range of programs can attract a broader audience and encourage repeat visits.

Mingara Aquatic Centre - One by Mingara (Partly funded capital investment)

The Mingara Aquatic Centre plays a key role in meeting demand around Tumbi Umbi and Berkeley Vale. The previous Wyong Shire Council contributed to the capital costs of the Mingara Aquatic Centre indoor swimming pool, although Council has no involvement in the operating of the facility.

Facility Summary

Site and Facilities	
Facility components	**Services offered**
• 50 metre pool • Heated leisure pool • Hydrotherapy pool • Creche • Café • Swim shop	• Learn to swim program • Squad program • Adult fitness and swim classes • Gym and Fitness (One Mingara)

PCYC Bateau Bay – Council owned, operated under lease (Built in 1978 - 47 years old)

The stadium services 60,000 people in its 10km catchment and currently offers court programs mainly aimed at youth, beginners and social competition.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	**Attendance**	**Facility components**	**Services offered**
43,000 (2021) 45,000 (2046) Low growth	13,000 per annum approx.	• Two (2) Sports halls • Gym - upstairs • Music room • Tennis courts • Program room	• Basketball, Wheelchair basketball • Outdoor Netball • Pickleball • Gym • Fitness classes • Boxing • Outdoor tennis

Breakers Stadium – Council owned, operated under lease (Built in 1993 - 32 years old)

With 2,622 Basketball NSW members at Breakers stadium and use by other indoor sports, Basketball NSW state the stadium is at capacity. Central Coast Basketball which operates from the stadium currently report up to 3,000 registered members playing on a weekly basis.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	**Attendance**	**Facility components**	**Services offered**
45,000 (2021) 49,000 (2036) Low growth	N/A	• Multi-purpose indoor venue with four (4) championship-sized basketball courts • Grandstand - up to 1,000 people • Air-conditioned mezzanine with kitchen facilities • Café	• Basketball • Referee training and pathways • Volleyball • Netball • Pickleball • Events - expos, computer markets, book fairs and trade shows

PCYC Umina – Council owned, operated under lease (Built in 2001 - 24 years old)

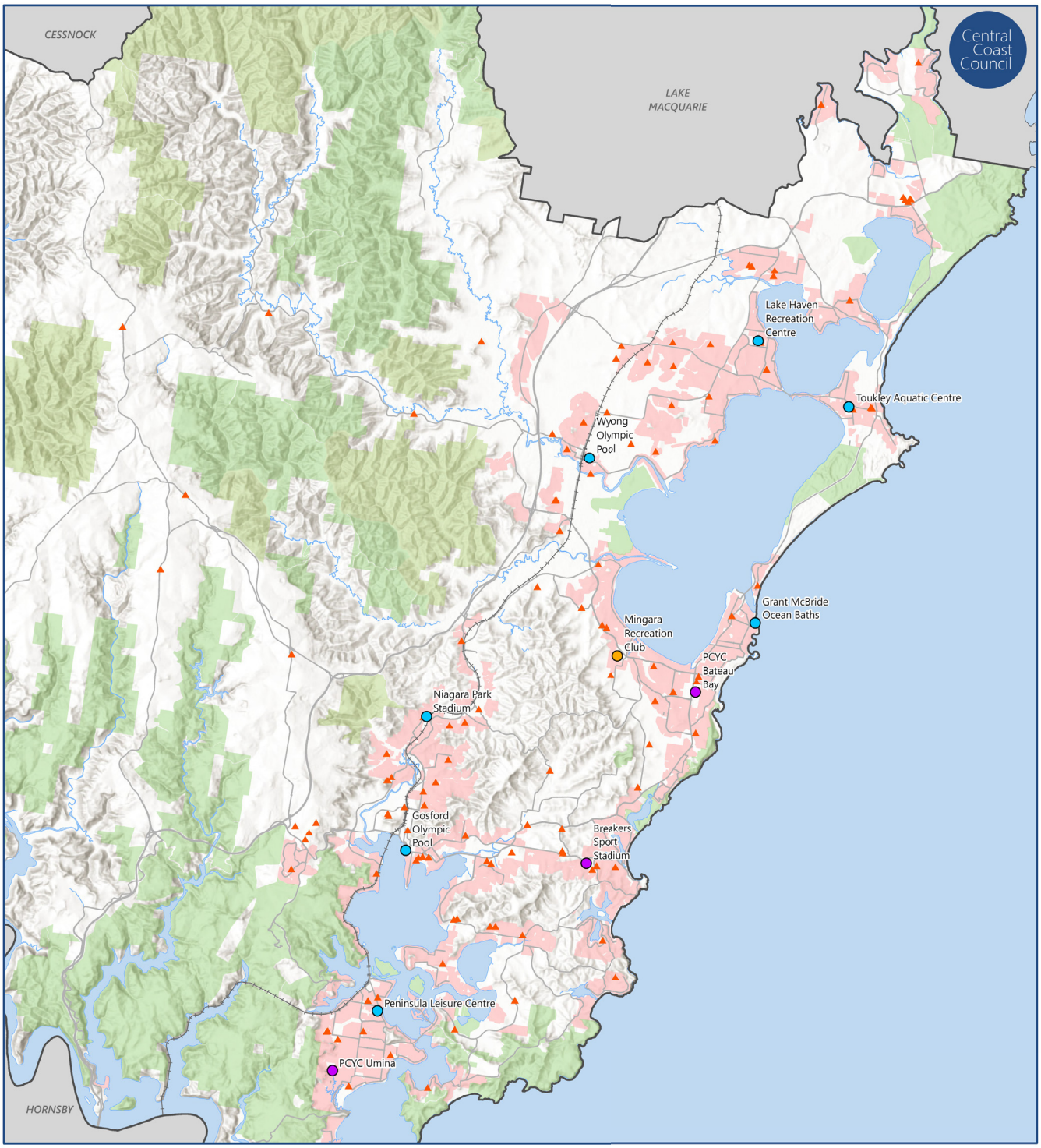
Umina Beach PCYC predominately operates as Gymnastics and Boxing venue with each activity in their own buildings.

Facility Summary

Demand		Site and Facilities	
Catchment population (5km)	**Attendance**	**Facility components**	**Services offered**
39,000 (2021) 40,000 (2046) Low growth	N/A	• Gymnastics hall • Seven (7) boxing rings • Gym equipment	• Gymnastics • Boxing • Trampolining • Martial arts • Archery

Map 1. shows the locations of Council owned leisure and aquatic facilities. This includes all ten facilities that are included in this strategy, as well as Mingara Aquatic Centre, which was partly funded by the former Wyong Council.

Central Coast Council - Location of Council Leisure and Aquatic Facilities



Legend

- Council owned and operated facilities
- Council owned, operated under a lease
- Privately operated - Joint venture with Council
- Schools
- Major Roads
- Railway Lines
- Residential Zones
- State Forests
- NPWS Reserves
- Waterways and Ocean

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Prepared by: Geospatial Information Team
Project: PRJ_000547 Map reference: Map1
Date: 25/03/2025
Scale: 1:155,670
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4.2 Non-Council owned leisure and aquatic facilities

In addition to Central Coast Council's leisure and aquatic facilities, there are a number of privately-operated swim schools and health and fitness centres that service the community. These privately owned facilities are located across the local government area (LGA) and are available to varying degrees to the general public. A list of potential competitors for each of the Council owned facilities is shown in Appendix 1.

Furthermore, there are leisure and aquatic facilities located outside of the Central Coast LGA in neighbouring areas which are also used by Central Coast residents, making up the regional network of facilities.

4.3 Demand for leisure and aquatic centres on the Coast

The importance of access to leisure and aquatic facilities for formal and informal recreation uses will only increase as population growth and changing demographic profiles drive greater demand for diverse and inclusive programs that promote health, wellbeing and community connections.

Population Distribution

The impact of the Coast's population characteristics on the future provision of leisure and aquatic facilities means:

- The large and rapidly growing population will place pressure on Council to ensure access to high-quality, modern and accessible leisure and aquatic facilities.
- The area's relatively older population profile, with age cohorts 70 years+ projected to be the fastest-growing group through to 2046, will lead to a greater demand for warm water pools to support hydrotherapy and rehabilitation-based programs and services.
- In areas with high population of young people, there will be an increased demand for access to learn to swim program pools, recreation swimming, and leisure/ adventure water facilities such as slides, inflatables, indoor and outdoor water play areas.
- Catchments with a higher level of disadvantage are likely to have a greater price sensitivity, leading to increased demand for affordable activities and greater need for access to learn to swim programs.
- A large proportion of residents (52.9%) are in the most active age group (5 to 49 years), suggesting ongoing demand for fitness swimming, health and wellness and all year-round facility access.

Future Population Growth

Between 2021 and 2046 the Central Coast population is predicted to grow substantially with 40,000 residents (an increase of 11.4%) expected to be living on the Coast by 2036 and a total population of 412,500 by 2046.

Growth in estimated demand for aquatic activities will be greatest in the northern region with an additional 5,280 participants in Wyong, and Gosford an additional 3,320 from 2021 to 2046. There is strategic justification for a new 'regional' aquatic and leisure facility in the Warnervale-Wyong Growth Area. The existing Wyong Olympic Pool is nearing its end of its useful life. With the northern region having the highest percentage population than any of the existing pool locations, Council will need to commence the long-term planning and design for a new facility in the growth area.

Potential participation for indoor court sports is estimated to grow in all catchments through to 2046. Basketball is projected to continue to have the highest potential participation of indoor court sports, and therefore new sport courts will be needed across the region.

Emerging sports

Participation in Pickleball is growing and there is some unmet demand for indoor courts for this activity. There is also significant growth in more social and modified sports for older adults and people with a disability living on the Central Coast, such as "walking" sports, soft tennis, table tennis and badminton.

Proposed Developments

Future leisure and aquatic facility developments would consider the catchment areas and influence the future and complementary role, service and facilities across the Coast. A range of facility development options were considered by Council to inform the strategic directions of this strategy.

Proposed new Warnervale Aquatic and Leisure Centre

The development of a new facility on the north of the Coast could service the north of the LGA with year-round swimming lessons, lap swimming, carnivals, therapy, aquatic play, and a range of indoor sports, to suit one of the youngest population profiles on the Central Coast. This facility was identified as needed in former Wyong Shire Council days and subsequently in Central Coast Council, with varying feasibility studies completed.

The Greater Warnervale Structure Plan 2021 –2041 includes an "indoor recreation centre with aquatic facilities and indoor sport courts "within the Warnervale Village precinct. The centre is noted as featuring aquatic, indoor sport, and health and fitness components. The plan states that the centre "will have broader regional demand beyond the Warnervale District." The project would be part funded under development contributions. The project has been identified as a key enabling project for the region in 2024.

Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex, Tuggerah – Stage 2 - New sports courts

The second stage of the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex proposes an indoor sports centre in the centre of the precinct. Stage 2 includes a six-court multi-purpose indoor facility. Previous business cases have been completed, and the project has been identified as a key enabling project for the region in 2024.

4.4 Our leisure and aquatic centre provision

Central Coast Council Aquatic Facility Provision

The southern area of Central Coast is serviced by two indoor aquatic facilities with Gosford Olympic Pool and Peninsula Leisure Centre attracting over 650,000 visits per year.

The north of the Coast is serviced by the relatively smaller Toukley Aquatic Centre and the seasonal outdoor Wyong Olympic Pool attracting a combined 136,000 annual visitations. Although high growth is expected across the Coast in the next 10 years, aquatic provision will be in high demand in the north which a facility in Warnervale can address.

Industry benchmarks suggest the outdoor 50-metre pools are at an age that warrants consideration for planning and scheduling of complete renewal (general lifecycle for leisure and aquatic facilities is 50 years). The current facilities' average age is over 42 years and ranges from 20 to 70 years. As a consequence, many of the facilities are not fit for the purpose of addressing community needs and reaching the end of their serviceable lives. As shown in Table 1 below, our leisure and aquatic facilities vary in age, with some serving the community for over 50 years, well beyond the outdoor pool industry benchmark.

Table 1 - Leisure and Aquatic Facilities with built year and age

Facility	Built Year	Years Old
Gosford Olympic Pool	1955	70 years (20 years over Pool industry Pool benchmark)
Wyong Olympic Pool	1960	65 years old (15 years over Pool industry benchmark)
Grant McBride Ocean Baths	1965	60 years (no industry benchmark for ocean baths)
PCYC Bateau Bay – Council owned, operated under lease	1978	47 years
Toukley Aquatic Centre	1979	46 years
Lake Haven Recreation Centre	1986 Centre redeveloped in 2009	39 years
Breakers Stadium – Council owned, operated under lease	1993	32 years
Mingara Aquatics/Pool	1996 Centre has received various redevelopment of gym/fitness/ recreation activities over the years	29 years
Niagara Park Stadium	1999	26 years
PCYC Umina – Council owned, operated under lease	2001	24 years
Peninsula Leisure Centre	2005	20 years

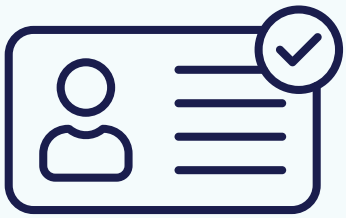
Facilities for warm water exercise, water polo and school swimming carnivals and full accessibility are required as they are less likely to be offered by private providers.

Map 2 shows that most of the Central Coast Council community lives within driving distance of an aquatic facility, but that there are key gaps in provision. These include Terrigal, Warnervale, Lake Haven, and northern areas such as Lake Munmorah. Although not a Council owned and managed facility, the Mingara Aquatic Centre plays a key role in meeting demand around Tumbi Umbi and Berkeley Vale.

Indoor Sports Court Provision

There are 14 Council owned indoor sport courts in the Central Coast, 2 commercial venues with 4 small courts offering social competitions and a number of schools with indoor courts providing limited public access. An additional 6 indoor courts are proposed for the Regional Sport and Recreation Complex in Tuggerah, which will bring the total of Council owned courts to 20.

It is important to recognise that the size, mix of facility components and associated capacity of any leisure and aquatic sites can vary significantly. When planning for future leisure and aquatic centres it is recommended to focus on the following key principles rather than simply a quantity-based provision standard:

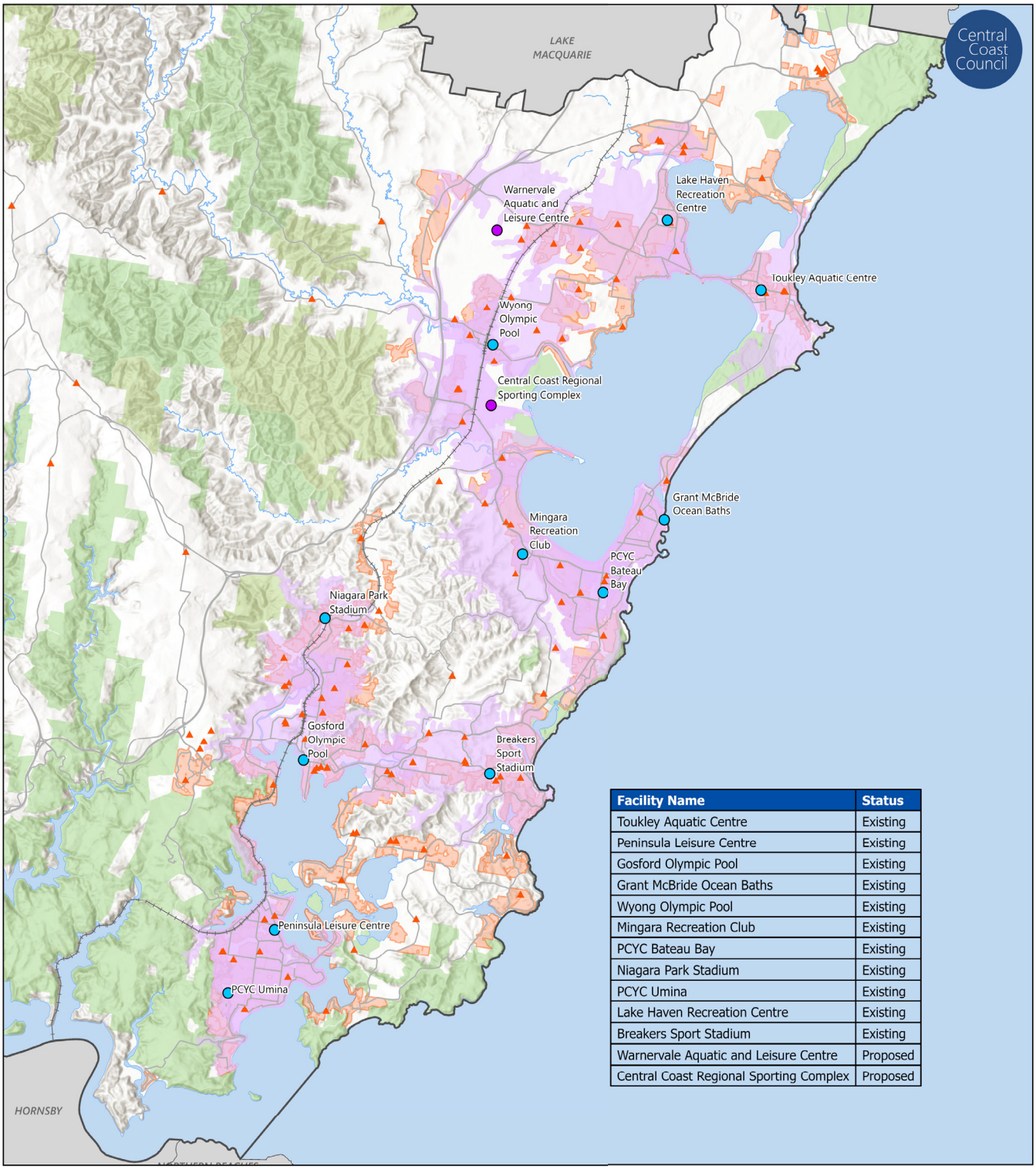


Distribution and Access

Quality and Function

Size and Capacity

Central Coast Council - Existing & Proposed Leisure & Aquatic Facilities, 5km catchment



Facility Name	Status
Toukley Aquatic Centre	Existing
Peninsula Leisure Centre	Existing
Gosford Olympic Pool	Existing
Grant McBride Ocean Baths	Existing
Wyong Olympic Pool	Existing
Mingara Recreation Club	Existing
PCYC Bateau Bay	Existing
Niagara Park Stadium	Existing
PCYC Umina	Existing
Lake Haven Recreation Centre	Existing
Breakers Sport Stadium	Existing
Warnervale Aquatic and Leisure Centre	Proposed
Central Coast Regional Sporting Complex	Proposed

Legend

Leisure and aquatic facilities
- Existing
- Proposed
- 5km catchment
- Schools

- Railway Lines
- Major Roads
- Residential Zones
- State Forests
- NPWS Reserves

- Waterways and Ocean

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Prepared by: Geospatial Information Team
Project: PRJ_000547 Map reference: Map2
Date: 27/03/2025
Scale: 1:50,000
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5. Community Engagement

5.1 Central Coast Leisure Centres and Pools Customer Satisfaction Survey

Every two years, we conduct our Leisure Centres and Pools Satisfaction Survey as part of our commitment to continually improve our services delivered to the community. Our priority is to focus on what matters most to people on the Central Coast when it comes to the leisure and aquatic services Council provides.

Council continually reviews leisure and aquatic services to meet the changing needs of the community, including how people want to use the state-of-the-art indoor and outdoor facilities and enjoy a range of program experiences. The information that the community provides helps inform Council's operational plans to ensure our leisure and aquatic facilities are meeting the needs of our diverse community.

Council receives feedback from approximately **600 to 700 community members** of the Coast as part of the Leisure Centres and Pools Customer Satisfaction Survey.

What you told us

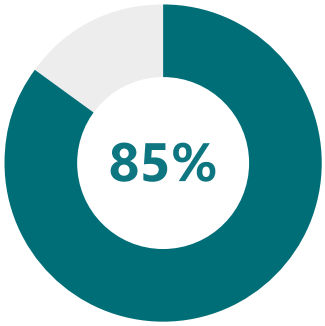
Leisure Centres and Pools Customer Satisfaction Survey 2024

To ensure our leisure and aquatic facilities pools are fit for purpose and meet community needs and expectations, Council conducted the Central Coast Leisure Centres and Pools Satisfaction Survey from 8 April to 13 May in 2024. Over 600 people participated in the community engagement process to help us shape the future of our leisure and aquatics facilities on the Coast.

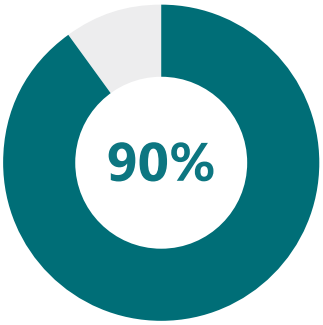
Key Findings

Leisure and Aquatic facilities are highly valued by the community, they are recognised as important community assets that support the health, wellness and recreation needs of residents.

Overall Customer Service Satisfaction



Overall Facility Customer Satisfaction



Main reasons people choose to visit our Leisure and Aquatic Facilities

Our facilities play an important role in contributing to the wellbeing of our community and supporting improvements in physical and mental health

What you like about our Leisure and Aquatic Facilities:

Convenient Location
Easily accessible for the local community

Diverse Amenities
Includes hydro pools, heated pools, outdoor pools and saltwater baths

Facility Usage Options
Recreational swimming, training, and learn-to-swim programs

Expert Instructors and Friendly Staff
Supportive and approachable team members

Group Fitness and Aquatic Classes
A variety of sessions for all skill levels

Family-Friendly Features
Toddler pools, child-friendly areas, creche

Opening Hours
Times to suit different schedules

Additional Services
Kiosk, café, diving blocks and other on-site amenities

"Availability of one stop shop... gym, swim, sauna, steam rooms and kids play"
(Peninsula Leisure Centre customer - Leisure and Aquatic Survey 2024, Central Coast Council).

What could be improved at our Leisure and Aquatic Facilities:

Facility Upgrades
Update ageing infrastructure to create a more modern and enjoyable space

Water Play Enhancements
Introduce or improve interactive water play features for all ages

Increased Maintenance
Ensure consistent upkeep and cleanliness of facilities

Extended Operating Hours
All year-round access and more evening classes for different schedules

Upgraded Amenities
Improve change rooms, toilets and other essential facilities

Better Parking
Expand or optimise parking spaces for easier access

More Seating
Additional seating areas for spectators and visitors

Improved Accessibility
Enhance facilities to better accommodate people of all abilities and backgrounds

General Refresh
Update aesthetics and infrastructure to create a more inviting environment

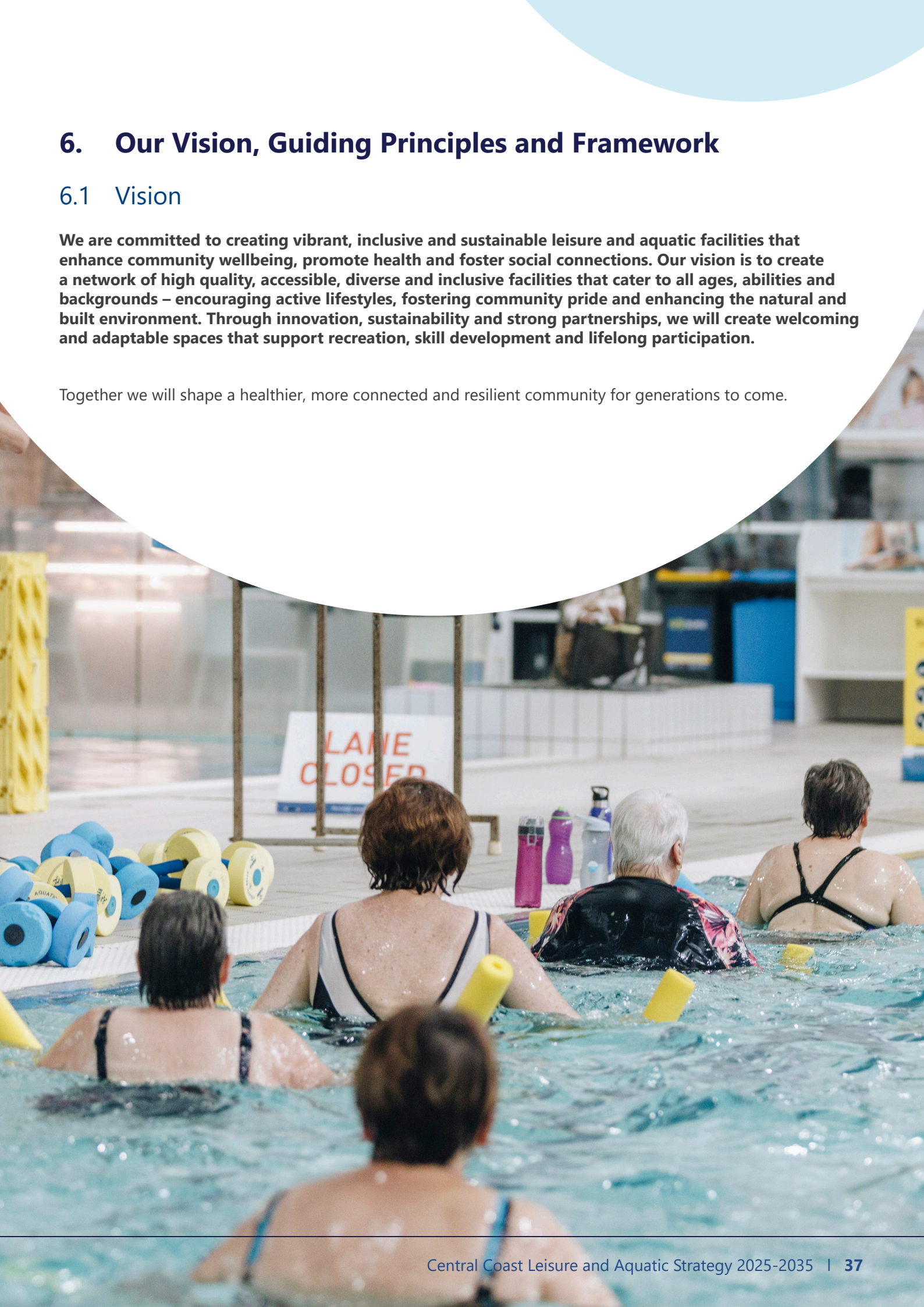
"The pool is showing signs of its age and needs some general maintenance and a serious update"
(Gosford Olympic Pool customer - Leisure and Aquatic Survey 2024, Central Coast Council).

6. Our Vision, Guiding Principles and Framework

6.1 Vision

We are committed to creating vibrant, inclusive and sustainable leisure and aquatic facilities that enhance community wellbeing, promote health and foster social connections. Our vision is to create a network of high quality, accessible, diverse and inclusive facilities that cater to all ages, abilities and backgrounds – encouraging active lifestyles, fostering community pride and enhancing the natural and built environment. Through innovation, sustainability and strong partnerships, we will create welcoming and adaptable spaces that support recreation, skill development and lifelong participation.

Together we will shape a healthier, more connected and resilient community for generations to come.



6.2 Guiding principles for leisure and aquatic facilities

Our guiding principles will ensure the future planning, provision and maintenance of aquatic, indoor sport, gym, leisure and recreational facilities across the Coast meet the needs of our community both now and in the future.

These principles will enable the creation of an active, safe, healthy, vibrant and liveable community.

Equitable

Create a network of leisure and aquatic facilities offering a wide range of programs and services to cater to the diverse needs of the community. These spaces will provide opportunities for recreation, fitness and wellness, ensuring accessibility for all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds.

Accessible

Ensure accessibility into, around and within activity spaces for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, with inclusive programs that meet the diverse needs of the community.

Responsible and Sustainable

Ensure future improvements are cost-effective and designed to maximise community use and long-term viability. Major upgrades to be carefully planned in alignment with Council's Asset Management Plan to extend facility lifespan and improve construction efficiency. Future developments will support ongoing reinvestment in community facilities and services.

High Quality

Facilities will be modern, well equipped and designed to provide high quality experiences that align with community expectations. Continuous improvements will be made to enhance safety, accessibility and overall user satisfaction, supporting both recreational and health focused leisure and aquatic activities.

Innovative and Adaptable

Differentiate our facilities by embracing innovation in design, technology and programming to offer unique and modern recreational experiences. Ensure that the spaces remain dynamic, adaptable and forward-thinking to meet evolving community needs.

Community-Focused

Leisure and aquatic facilities will offer a broad range of facilities and activities that encourage fitness, recreation and social interaction. Improvements to centres will enhance flexible programming and space usage, providing diverse opportunities for health and wellness.

7. Our Leisure and Aquatic Facilities Framework for the Coast

Best practice facility planning follows a hierarchical classification system for community infrastructure. The hierarchy considers what each facility is designed for, the level of service it should provide, the people it serves and how it connects with the broader network of community spaces.

A well-integrated network of high quality leisure and aquatic facilities is essential to providing complementary services in areas with the highest population growth and demand. The future network of Council owned leisure and aquatic centres will be based upon:

- Council's provision rate aligning with similar NSW local government benchmarks
- Maintaining a geographically balanced distribution of existing Council owned leisure and aquatic centres
- Fulfilling Council's obligation to support local aquatic facilities, programs and services that meet community needs
- Conducting extensive research and consultation

The Facility Hierarchy will support Council in directing investment toward the maintenance and renewal of the community assets and infrastructure. It will also promote equitable distribution and accessibility of various facility types across the Coast.

The following table outlines the service hierarchy for leisure and aquatic facilities on the Central Coast, aligning with industry standards for catchment sizes.

Table 2. Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Facilities Hierarchy

Service Hierarchy	Description	Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Facilities
Local 10,000 to 40,000 Catchment Population	Smaller in size and scale and intended to address local community needs. Key attributes: • Ability to provide limited program water combined with leisure water. • Limited dry/gym facilities.	Wyong Olympic Pool Grant McBride Ocean Baths
District 40,000 to 70,000 Catchment Population	Services a cluster of communities/suburbs from its immediate surrounding catchment, with a mix of local training or social use and inter-club competition. Key attributes: • Ability to separate program and leisure water. • Larger dry/gym facilities.	Gosford Olympic Pool Toukley Aquatic Centre Lake Haven Recreation Centre Niagara Park Stadium Breakers Stadium PCYC Umina PYCY Bateau Bay
City-Wide 70,000 to 100,000 Catchment Population	Services the entire city catchment and incorporates high quality and high capacity facilities, that support recreation, leisure and adventure, fitness and training, education and therapy activities. Key attributes: • More extensive program and leisure water. • Consideration of indoor 50m pool and complementary warm water pool. • Increased gym and program space. • Additional complimentary amenities, food and beverage.	Peninsula Leisure Centre Mingara Aquatic Centre Proposed new leisure and aquatic facility – Northern region
Regional 100,000 to 150,000 Catchment Population	Premier venue that has an important role in attracting and supporting events competitions, and elite athlete development that cannot be provided at the city-wide, district, and local level. Key attributes: • Extensive and varied program leisure water and attractions • Inclusion of indoor 50m pool and separate warm water pools. • Wellness/health club and extensive program room inclusions. • Complementary services and amenities, crèche, food and beverage.	Sydney Olympic Park Facilities

8. Our Plan

Our population is growing. By 2046, the Central Coast's population will grow by 18% and reach 412,502 people creating ongoing demand for leisure and aquatic services as well as expanded and new facilities to meet the increased number of users. The following strategic directions have been developed after analysis of the economic, social, recreation, community development and environmental opportunities presented by each site.

8.1 Strategic Directions

The strategic directions for leisure and aquatic facilities and services across the region provided by Council are outlined below.

8.1.1 Strategic Direction 1: Facility Upgrades – Compliance with Health and Safety Regulations

Ensure all leisure and aquatic facilities meet Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) standards through regular maintenance. This includes improving accessibility, addressing safety hazards and modernising infrastructure to create a safe and inclusive environment.

8.1.2 Strategic Direction 2: Asset Management Plan

Continue to implement a proactive approach to facility maintenance and operational improvements to ensure facilities maintain safe, functional and sustainable. Operational improvements to be highlighted annually with necessary upgrades incorporated into Council's Capital Program.

8.1.3 Strategic Direction 3: Sports Court Development and Upgrades

Enhancing and expanding sports courts to improve accessibility, functionality and community engagement. This includes upgrading existing courts, developing new multi-use spaces, improving lights and surfacing and partnering with local sports organisations to maximise usage and funding opportunities.

8.1.4 Strategic Direction 4: Redevelopment of Ageing Infrastructure

As leisure and aquatic facilities on the Coast approach the end of their lifecycles, the redevelopment of existing structures and the addition of new facilities will be essential to ensure increased community benefit and support continued community growth.

9. Our Leisure and Aquatic Centre Plans

Based on the consultation, key findings and strategic directions provided in this strategy, a number of actions for each facility have been identified, taking into consideration operational costs, maintenance requirements, renewal schedules and redevelopment options.

Our Leisure and Aquatic Centre Plans recognise the need for more contemporary offerings at each of the leisure and aquatic centres, with improvements and developments reflecting the Leisure and Aquatic Facilities Framework. These plans focus on achieving the best community outcomes for our leisure and aquatic centres, staging of works over a 10-year period, and modernising existing facilities as they reach end of asset life.

Enhancing Council-Operated Facilities

The key actions for Council operated facilities are summarised below and will guide site specific redevelopment plans and ensure a coordinated approach to facility management, improving accessibility, service delivery and alignment with community needs.

Renewal/Improvements

- A total of $10.594 million of Capital renewals are planned in the 4-Year Capital Program, across existing facilities to continue to provide high quality leisure, aquatic and recreation provision across the Coast. Depreciation in 24/25 for Council operated leisure, pool and recreation facilities is approximately $3.233 million per year.

New/Upgrade

- Significant redevelopment of Gosford Olympic Pool is proposed at the existing site to provide a new modern aquatic facility, with improved configuration of grandstand and pools (costings completed by Leisure Planners in 2019/20 was $30M, to be indexed annually. Council's Pipeline budget is $55M).
- New leisure and aquatic centre to be provided in the northern region, which will provide an indoor heated swimming facility and health and fitness facilities (costings completed by Otium Planning in 2018 was $40-42M, to be indexed annually. Council's Long Term Financial Plan budget is $48M).
- Wyong pool to be maintained until such a time as a replacement facility becomes available in the local area.
- An increase in the supply of sport courts across the Central Coast is required, with proposed six (6) new courts at Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex at Tuggerah (costings completed by MCG Quantity Surveyors in 2016 was $26M for Stage 2 proposal. Pipeline budget is $35M).
- Upgrade Toukley Aquatic Centre with new entrance, façade and outdoor water play as part of Toukley Community Facilities Master-planning (approximate cost $4.9 million, indexed annually. Costings completed by Civille Consultants in 2024, to be included in Council's Pipeline budget).
- Investigations into the feasibility of two (2) court expansions at Niagara Park Stadium (first priority) and Lake Haven Recreation Centre (second priority) to provide adequate court supply across the region in the future (business case dependent. Costings completed by Leisure Planners in 2019 was $14M for Niagara Park Stadium. Council's Long Term Financial Plan budget is $10M).
- Investigations into the extension of gym and fitness facilities (first priority) and car parking (second priority) at Peninsula Leisure Centre, to provide future supply (business case dependant).

Action plans

Each action plan identifies the key actions that will guide further work to be undertaken to implement the Leisure and Aquatic Facilities Strategy. The detailed implementation of the strategy will require additional work to address specific issues, including the preparation of business cases and feasibility assessments and more detailed planning and assessment at the local level to determine the best response to identified issues. The implementation of this strategy will be considered within the context of Council's overall priorities and the competing demands of other areas and strategies within Council.

All projects in the action plans are included in Council's Long Term Financial Plan/10-year Capital Pipeline, which is approved every four years as part of Council's Capital Program. Project costs provided, will need to be indexed annually, due to the expected Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases.

Priority Rating

Actions have been assigned a priority rating based on:

- **High:** essential actions that are critical to strategy implementation.
- **Medium:** important in responding to a future need, may include prerequisite work for a low priority action.
- **Low:** an identified future need that will improve aquatic facilities but is a lower priority overall.
- **Ongoing:** recurring actions that support implementation and continue throughout the life of the strategy.

Timeframes

The timeframes for implementing actions are:

- **Short –** 1-4 years
- **Medium –** 5-7 years
- **Long –** 8-10 years or more

9.1 Peninsula Leisure Centre

Future Direction

With the facility currently serving a population of 43,000 within a 5km catchment, the modernisation of existing support infrastructure and provision of creche, fitness and court space will continue to stay in high demand.

Given the location, strong population catchment, and the largest annual visitations of Council venues, the Peninsula Leisure Centre will be maintained with rolling renewal works and upgrades as outlined in the Council Capital Works Program to provide a fully contemporary leisure centre that offers the full spectrum of facilities to maximise market attractiveness.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Ensure the facility is proactively maintained and identify operational improvements for review on an annual basis.	Annual renewal works included in Council's Capital Program. Business improvements via customer surveys, industry trends and staff feedback, and funded via operational budget.	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Renew the main changing room amenities for the pool hall.	$1,400,000 – 2025/2026 Capital Works Program	High	Short
3. Renew and replace playspace equipment.	$225,000 – 2025/2026 Capital Works Program	High	Short
4. Replace and upgrade fitness and gym equipment.	$330,000 – 2026/2027 Capital Works Program	High	Short
5. Renewal and upgrade pools, spa, sauna, steam room.	$550,000 – 2026/2027 Capital Works Program ($125,000) and 2027/2028 Capital Works Program ($425,000)	High	Short
6. Renew the filtration system and equipment at the centre, implementing a rolling program of works.	$100,000 per year – Total of $400,000 included in 4-year Capital Works Program until 2028/2029)	High	Short
7. Include ongoing programmed renewals beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on need, asset condition and centre demand.	Program to be further refined and approved beyond Year 4	High	Short
8. Investigate the cost benefit analysis of extending the gym and fitness centre with an additional second floor-level.	Business case dependant	Medium	Short - Medium
9. Investigate the extension of the car parking at the rear of the centre.	Business case dependant	Medium	Medium

9.2 Gosford Olympic Pool

Future Direction

The Gosford pool's local catchment (5km) will grow by 21% through to 2046 with an estimated 79,000 residents. They are also forecast to have the highest likely aquatic participation by 2046. The high growth in middle years and the older population groups support a high level of programming, warm water activities, and group and individual fitness activities being provided.

Gosford Olympic Pool is already one of the Central Coast's most used swimming pools with over 240,000 visits annually. As the aquatic facility approached the end of its lifecycle, a redevelopment of its existing components will be undertaken to enhance its capacity to serve the south and west area of the Coast more effectively.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Prioritise annual renewal works, recognising that the facility is at the end of its lifestyle, and requires replacement.	Annual renewal works included in Council's Capital Program. Business improvements via customer surveys, industry trends and staff feedback, and funded via operational budget.	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Renew the existing carpark to improve access.	$200,000 – 2026/2027 Capital Works Program	High	Short
3. Renew the 50 metre pool through repairs and repainting.	$250,000 – 2027/2028 Capital Works Program	High	Short
4. Renew the filtration system and equipment at the centre, implementing a rolling program of works.	$50,000 per year – Total of $200,000 included in 4-year Capital Works Program until 2028/2029	High	Short
5. Include ongoing programmed renewals beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on progress of the new facility and asset condition.	Program to be further refined and approved beyond Year 4	High	Medium
6. Replace the existing facility providing equivalent components in a modern design, including reorientating the facility to allow the grandstand to overlook Brisbane Water.	Approximately $55 million. (figure to be indexed annually) Project has been identified as a key enabling project for the Central Coast. Reliant on external funding to deliver the project.	High	Medium – Long

9.3 Niagara Park Stadium

Future Direction

Niagara Park Stadium will be maintained and improved with rolling renewal works and upgrades as outlined in the Council Capital Works Program. A key priority will be improving the overall accessibility of the facility to ensure it serves all members of the community.

Additionally, an investigation into the potential for adding more courts to the site will be undertaken to accommodate growing demand. With the catchment area forecast to increase from 55,700 to 67,000, there will be a continued rise in demand for courts and facilities, making these enhancements essential for meeting the needs of the current and future population.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Secure National, State and Regional events for the facility following the completion of accessibility improvements.	Existing operational budget	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Ensure the facility is proactively maintained and identify operational improvements for review on an annual basis	Annual renewal works to be included in Council's Capital Program. Business improvements via customer surveys, industry trends and staff feedback and funded via operational budget.	Ongoing	Continuous
3. Renew the sport court flooring and power supply at the Centre.	$325,000 – 2025/2026 Capital Works Program	High	Short
4. Include ongoing programmed renewals beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on progress of the new facility and asset condition.	Program to be further refined and approved beyond Year 4	High	Short
5. Investigate the cost benefit analysis of further redevelopment of the Centre in line with Stage 2 plans, with an extension of two (2) new courts to provide further multi-purpose access for the community.	Business case dependent Approximately $14 million (figure to be indexed annually)	Medium	Medium

9.4 Lake Haven Recreation Centre

Future Direction

With a strong population catchment, the Centre will be progressively upgraded with rolling renewal works and upgrades as outlined in the Council Capital Works Program.

This Centre will focus on ongoing upgrades, facility expansion and enhanced accessibility, to meet the evolving community needs. Key priorities include optimising sports infrastructure, increasing membership and providing diverse recreational offerings. Aligning with the Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP), efforts will also aim to improve accessibility to provide an inclusive environment for all users. A long-term cost-benefit analysis will inform future redevelopment decisions.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Increase gym and fitness membership through targeted promotional campaigns and explore opportunities to enhance overall facility usage.	Existing operational budget	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Ensure the facility is proactively maintained and identify operational improvements for review on an annual basis.	Annual renewal works to be included in Council's Capital Program. Business improvements via customer surveys, industry trends and staff feedback, and funded via operational budget.	Ongoing	Continuous
3. Install a new lift to improve accessibility to the gym and fitness facilities in alignment with Council's DIAP	$250,000 – 2025/2026 Capital Works Program	High	Short
4. Replace and upgrade fitness and gym equipment.	$330,000 – 2027/2028 Capital Works Program	High	Short
5. Upgrade the sport court and surrounding wall.	$600,000 – 2027/2028 Capital Works Program ($300,000) and 2028/2029 Capital Works Program ($300,000)	High	Short
6. Include ongoing programmed renewals beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on progress of the new facility and asset condition.	Program to be further refined and approved beyond Year 4	High	Short
7. Investigate the cost benefit analysis of the redevelopment of the Centre, with the extension of two (2) courts to provide further multi-purpose access for the community.	Business case dependent	Low	Medium

9.5 Toukley Aquatic Centre

Future Direction

A focus for Toukley Aquatic Centre will be on maintaining high operational standards and ensure long-term sustainability. This will involve regular maintenance and annual operational reviews to drive continuous improvements with rolling renewal works and upgrades as outlined in the Council Capital Works Program. Key priorities include upgrading the filtration system, securing funding for the Toukley Community Facilities Masterplan and extending program beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on facility progress and asset condition.

The Centre's development will align with planned upgrades from the proposed Toukley Community Facilities Masterplan, ensuring it meets future community needs and maintains high operational standards for years to come.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Ensure the facility is proactively maintained and identify operational improvements for review on an annual basis.	Annual renewal works to be included in Council's Capital Program. Business improvements via customer surveys, industry trends and staff feedback.	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Renew the filtration system and equipment at the centre, implementing a rolling program of works.	$30,000 per year – Total of $120,000 included in 4-year Capital Works Program until 2028/2029	High	Short
3. Seek and secure external funding to progress Toukley Community Facilities Masterplan.	N/A	High	Short
4. Include ongoing programmed renewals beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on progress of the new facility and asset condition.	Program to be further refined and approved beyond Year 4	High	Short
5. Progress Centre upgrades identified in the proposed Toukley Community Facilities Masterplan (Zone 3) including improved configuration of the front entrance, new façade, outdoor plaza and waterplay equipment.	Total cost for Zone three (3) in Toukley Community Facilities Masterplan is $4,993,000. This includes indoor and outdoor upgrades. Currently unfunded, and reliant on grant funding.	Medium	Short - Medium

9.6 Wyong Olympic Pool

Future Direction

With the significant population growth expected over the next 20 years, maintaining the ageing aquatic facility will require ongoing repair and substantial investment. In the short-term, the pool will undergo rolling renewal work and upgrades as outlined in the Council Capital Works Program.

To meet future demand, a proposed development in the north of a regional sized venue would have a larger catchment than all existing sites (10km) with up to 33,000 aquatic participants by 2046. A facility in the Warnervale area will be crucial to meet unmet demand from North Wyong and surrounds, Hamlyn Terrace, as well as the large projected residential growth within Warnervale itself. Development of the proposed site will be prioritised in the short-term, with a new facility to be developed as part of the long-term capital works plan. Wyong pool to be maintained until such time as a replacement facility becomes available in the local area.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Prioritise annual renewal works, recognising that the facility is unheated, at the end of its lifecycle, over 60 years old and a requires replacement.	Annual renewal works included in Council's Capital Program. Business improvements via customer survey's, industry trends and staff feedback, and funded via operational budget.	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Progress with planning for a new modern aquatic and leisure centre in the northern region and Warnervale area. The future leisure and aquatic centre is proposed to offer indoor aquatic facilities, health and fitness facilities, amenities and changing rooms.	Project has been identified as a key enabling project for the Central Coast. Funding is initially sought ($2.5M) to complete business case, concept plans and feasibility study. Warnervale District Developer Contributions in place to partially fund (27%) new leisure and aquatic provision for: - Land ($577,307) - Works ($13.729M)	High	Short
3. Progress with site development for the facility in the northern region as part of Warnervale Education and Business Precinct	External funding will be required with the expected cost to be approximately $48 million which will also need to be indexed annually.	High	Medium
4. Renew the hardscape surrounding the 50 metre pool and toddlers' pool.	$60,000 – 2025/2026 Capital Works Program	High	Short
5. Renewal of filtration system and equipment at the Centre with rolling program of works in place.	$30,000 per year – Total of $120,000 included in 4-year Capital Program until 2028/2029	High	Short
6. Include ongoing programmed renewals beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on progress of new facility and asset condition.	Program to be further refined and approved beyond Year 4	High	Short
7. Wyong pool to be maintained until such time as a replacement facility becomes available in the local area.	N/A	Medium/ Low	Long

Deep Water
DANGER
NO ENTRY
eyeline

9.7 The Grant McBride Ocean Baths

Future Direction

The Grant McBride Ocean Baths provide the region's only year-round outdoor 50 metre pool, meeting the year-round swimming demand and serving as a key community resource. Ongoing maintenance and upgrades will be carried out in alignment with the Council Capital Works Program, ensuring the facility remains in optimal condition.

Key improvements, supported by Federal Government funding, will include facility upgrades, new equipment and improved infrastructure alongside other essential improvements to strengthen the facility's service. Additionally, ongoing programmed renewals will extend beyond the 4-year Capital Program, driven by asset condition and changing community needs.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Ensure the facility is proactively maintained and identify operational improvements for review on an annual basis.	Annual renewal works included in Council's Capital Program. Business improvements via customer surveys, industry trends and staff feedback, and funded via operational budget.	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Complete upgrades following Federal Government funding, including clubhouse renovations, installation of new pumps and a filtration system, addition of shade sails and other associated improvements.	$310,000 – 2024/2025 Capital Works Program	High	Short
3. Include ongoing programmed renewals beyond the 4-year Capital Program, based on asset condition and demand.	Program to be further refined and approved beyond Year 4	High	Short

9.8 Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex

Future Direction

Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex was designed to be built in two stages, with the first and major stage completed in 2019. Council is continuing to progress plans for the second stage of works which will see the development of a multi-purpose indoor complex. Once fully developed, the Central Coast Regional Sporting and Recreation Complex will be the first-of-its-kind facility for the Central Coast region and support key demand for indoor sports courts.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
1. Seek and secure funding to progress six new indoor sport courts at the facility.	N/A	High	Short
2. Progress stage 2 of the Central Coast Regional Sport and Recreation Complex to progress, to deliver six (6) indoor sport courts for community and event usage, amenities and grandstand.	Project has been identified as a key enabling project for the Central Coast. Currently unfunded, and reliant on grant funding, expected cost is $35 million (figure to be indexed annually).	Medium/ Low	Short - Long

9.9 Leased Facilities and Partly Funded Capital Investment

Given the presence of the PCYC in the Central Coast Community, Council will collaborate closely with the community organisations operating the leased recreation facilities, to ensure facilities are fully maintained and any upgrades provide improved facilities for the community and to help meet future recreation demand across the Coast.

Mingara Aquatic Centre provides residents who are members with an exceptional service offering, and therefore, similar private developments can complement public service provision. Council recognises that Mingara Recreation – One by Mingara plays a key role in providing leisure and aquatic services and meeting demand around Tumbi Umbi and Berkeley Vale.

Action Plan

Action	Funding	Priority	Timeframe
Breakers Stadium			
1. Work with the community association/organisation to maximise the Basketball facility, and partner with external grant funding opportunities to renew and upgrade the facility.	N/A	Ongoing	Continuous
PCYC Bateau Bay			
1. Work with the community association/organisation to maximise the multi-purpose facility, and partner with external grant funding opportunities to renew and upgrade the facility.	N/A	Ongoing	Continuous
2. Renew the netball court surfacing.	$400,000 – 2025/2026 Capital Works Program	High	Short
PCYC Umina			
1. Work with the community association/organisation to maximise the multi-purpose facility, and partner with external grant funding opportunities to renew and upgrade the facility.	N/A	Ongoing	Continuous
Mingara Aquatic Centre			
1. Collaborate with Mingara to support the provision of leisure and aquatic services and programs.	N/A	Ongoing	Continuous

10. Implementation and Review

The network of Central Coast leisure and aquatic facilities requires regular review to assess usage and performance against the Strategy vision, progress against Strategy objectives, and the ongoing alignment of actions to Council's objectives.

This strategy provides a well-planned approach to delivering leisure and aquatic services for the community. While Council acknowledges the social benefits of leisure and aquatic facilities, it also acknowledges the challenges of ageing infrastructure, rising costs and environmental impacts of these assets.

The Leisure and Aquatic Facilities Strategy 2025-2035 will be implemented on a priority basis over a 10-year timeframe within available resource allocations.

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation are required to understand effectiveness, identify areas for improvement and learning and enhancing the evidence-base for current and future work in this space.

A mid-term review of the Strategy will occur in year five, with annual implementation plan reviews to allow Council to adapt to changing community needs. This approach ensures the strategic direction for leisure and aquatic services remains responsive to the needs of the community.

Funding will be a critical factor in resourcing the strategy implementation, including, but not limited to, general revenue, developer contributions and grants. Ongoing partnerships and collaboration with a range of internal and external stakeholders will be essential to ensuring implementation of the strategy.

11. Appendix

11.1 Potential competitors to each facility

Action Plan

Facility	Type	Drive distance (km)	Travel time (mins)	Suburb
Gosford Olympic Pool				
Lou's Learn to Swim	Swim centre	4.2	9	Point Clare
5 Star Swim School Erina	Swim centre	6.4	11	Erina
5 Star Swim School Wyoming	Swim centre	5.9	12	Wyoming
Peninsula Leisure Centre				
Engineroom Gym & Temperature Therapy – Woy Woy	Gym	1.9	4	Woy Woy
Plus Fitness 24/7 Ettalong Beach	Gym	2.6	5	Ettalong Beach
Anytime Fitness	Gym	1.6	5	Woy Woy
FitLife AU - Woy Woy	Gym	1.6	5	Woy Woy
Umina Peak Physique	Gym	3.8	6	Umina Beach
First Class Fitness	Gym	5	9	Umina Beach
PCYC Umina Beach	Sport centre	4.3	8	Umina Beach
New Wave Swim Centre	Sport centre	2.6	5	Ettalong Beach
Finnz Swimming Centre	Sport centre	4.9	9	Daleys Point
Toukley Aquatic Centre				
Norah Head Water Fitness Centre & Swim School	Swim centre	2.9	6	Norah Head
Northlakes Swim Centre	Swim centre	5.4	8	Budgewoi
Grant McBride Ocean Baths				
Little Coasties Swim School	Swim centre	1.2	4	North Wyong
Wyong Olympic Pool				
North Wyong Aqua Centre	Swim centre	3.8	8	North Wyong
5 Star Swim School Tuggerah	Swim centre	4.3	12	Tuggerah
Breakers Indoor Sports Stadium				
CC Hoops Basketball Central Coast	Sport centre	7.1	9	Kincumber
Gosford Gymnastics & Erina Kindergym	Sport centre	5.5	9	Holgate
Lake Haven Recreation Centre				
Planet Fitness	Gym	1.3	4	Lake Haven
Anytime Fitness	Gym	1.5	4	Lake Haven
VibeZ 24/7 Fitness	Gym	4.1	8	San Remo
Charmy Indoor Sports	Sport centre	1.6	5	Charmhaven

Facility	Type	Drive distance (km)	Travel time (mins)	Suburb
Niagara Park Stadium				
Flip Out Gosford	Sport centre	6.9	11	West Gosford
Pulse Climbing Gosford	Sport centre	6.6	9	West Gosford
BK's Gymnastics Gosford	Sport centre	3.1	5	Wyoming
G-Force Pole and Fitness	Sport centre	5.6	8	West Gosford
PCYC Bateau Bay				
FBI Swim & Gym	Gym	4.1	7	Forresters Beach
The Rig 247	Gym	2.7	8	Long Jetty
One by Mingara	Gym	4.9	9	Tumbi Umbi
Anytime Fitness The Entrance	Gym	3.5	9	Long Jetty
Plus Fitness 24/7 The Entrance	Gym	4.6	10	The Entrance
PCYC Umina Beach				
Peninsula Leisure Centre	Sport centre	4.3	8	Woy Woy

Central Coast Council

Central Coast Leisure and Aquatic Strategy 2025-2035

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April 2025