



MEDIA RELEASE

“Pools survey open as Community Pools Strategy advances”

Friday 6 October, 2017

Pool users are encouraged to share their views and opinions on aquatic facilities as part of the development of the Shire-Wide Community Pools Strategy.

A Community User Survey will be open to the public from October 9 –29 and builds on the information received from the initial pools survey carried out more than a year ago.

The findings of the community consultation, which also provides an opportunity to make a public submission, will play a key role in the development of the Community Pools Strategy currently being undertaken by Otium Planning Group.

Strathbogie Shire Mayor Amanda McClaren said it was important Council was able to gain a comprehensive understanding of the needs and expectations of the community when considering existing and future aquatic facilities for the Shire.

“It became obvious that as a Council we needed to consider the future of our pools,” she said.

“Council has engaged Otium Planning Group to develop a strategy which will guide future planning and decision-making for our four pools.

“We are asking community members and active pool users to take the time to share their views, preferences and typical usage habits as part of the consultation phase.”

The survey will be emailed to community members who completed the initial pools survey and who elected to be kept informed (this is also available online at Council’s website).

Hard copies of the survey are available at Strathbogie Shire Council’s Euroa office, the Nagambie Visitor Information Centre, the Avenel Newsagency and the Euroa, Nagambie and Violet Town libraries.

Community members also have the opportunity to make an online submission, which is a chance to raise ideas or issues about current and future needs in the area of aquatic facilities.

“In addition to user surveys and submissions, we have taken the opportunity to seek feedback directly from schools to better understand their specific needs and requirements,” Cr McClaren said.

Otium Planning Group will undertake interviews and focus group meetings with a range of stakeholders and community groups as part of the consultation phase which will continue throughout October.

“The Community Pools Strategy will be completed in early 2018 and will provide Council and the community with a clear vision for the longer term development of pools within the Shire.

“We acknowledge that our communities value the many benefits provided by a community pool, which include health and wellbeing benefits, social connections and opportunities for recreation, and in recognising this, are working to ensure the longer term sustainability of our pools,” Cr McClaren said.

Council has started discussions to source external funding to allow for the implementation of key outcomes identified in the strategy.

“We will continue to lobby State and Federal Governments for future funding and are realistic in the need for external funding in order to build on and enhance our existing facilities.

“As we move forward with the development of the Shire-wide Community Pools Strategy, I would like to acknowledge the role the Community Pools Working Group has played in the planning and development of pools both now and into the future,” Cr McClaren said.

-ENDS-