



Media Release
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Bay Venues and TCC Long-Term Plan

An investigation into the merits of a multipurpose aquatic and recreation centre in Tauranga has been given the green light by Tauranga City Council.

Bay Venues submitted the concept as part of Council's Long-Term Plan and heard today that \$150,000 has been granted to investigate the feasibility of such a centre. An initial assessment carried out by Bay Venues confirmed there is a need for further investigation and Memorial Park has been mooted as a possible location.

Furthermore, councillors have agreed to set aside provisional funding of \$30 million, dependent on the study outcome, to design and build the centre in four or five years' time.

The centre, or "leisure hub", would be a multi-purpose recreation facility that could potentially include indoor pools, courts, a fitness centre, a spa and hot pools complex and a community centre, the Bay Venues submission read.

Bay Venues Chief Executive Gary Dawson says the feasibility study will investigate a number of issues including whether the centre could replace Memorial and Otumoetai pools, which date back to 1955 and 1968, respectively. Both will require significant investment and increased operating expenses to continue to provide the current level of service.

He assured the feasibility study will involve a thorough community engagement process, particularly with existing pool users.

Bay Venues, which is a Council-controlled organisation and key provider of sport and recreation facilities, also made submissions to the Long-Term Plan regarding the establishment of a new events centre at ASB Baypark, rejuvenation of Baywave TECT Aquatic and Leisure Centre, and improvements to Greerton Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

The Long-Term Plan has attributed \$4.9 million in the 2019-2021 budgets for the development of a new multi-purpose exhibition space at ASB Baypark. The new area will relieve growing pressure placed on ASB Arena by both sporting and commercial events, due

to Tauranga's rapid growth. The funding is subject to a feasibility study to be presented during next year's Annual Plan process.

A total of \$1,695,200 has been targeted over the 2019-20 period to provide more fun activities and services for recreational swimmers at Baywave, while \$1,142,700 has been set aside for renovations at the Greerton Aquatic and Leisure Centre in the 2020/21 budget. The Greerton upgrade will include construction of a new entranceway, reception area and offices, and changing rooms and cubicles. The Baywave work will focus on more spectator seating, new changing rooms, and reconfiguration of the leisure pool to free up space for recreational users.

Gary says the enhancement and development of the city's recreation and leisure venues have been the focus of the Bay Venues submission to Tauranga City Council's Long-Term Plan.

"We are pleased that Councillors have shown confidence in our submission and the background work we have undertaken to get these projects to the next stage.

"We congratulate Councillors on the robust LTP process which has resulted in decisions made based on future-proofing our community facilities in an affordable way," he says.

Bay Venues operates 24 facilities in Tauranga which are primarily used to facilitate sporting, leisure and recreation, community and cultural activities. Bay Venues plays a critical role in helping to ensure Tauranga is an internationally competitive city and does this by improving the quality of life for residents and visitors through providing attractive venues, facilities, programmes and services.

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Bay Venues operates 24 leisure and event venues across Tauranga, Mount Maunganui and Papamoa. These venues incorporate multi-award-winning aquatic facilities, community centres, community halls, gyms, a sporting pavilion, the iconic ASB Baypark facility, renowned Mt Maunganui hot salt water pools, and leading-edge University of Waikato Adams Centre for High Performance Sport. A broad range of leisure and event products, services and programmes are offered by Bay Venues. This includes catering, event management, audio visual expertise, child care programmes, swim school, sports leagues and much more.