

Bass Coast Aquatics



BASS
COAST

Bass Coast Aquatic and
Leisure Centre

Korumburra Rd, Wonthaggi

Phillip Island Aquatic
and Leisure Centre

Phillip Island Rd, Phillip Island



Acknowledgement of Country

Bass Coast Shire Council acknowledge the Bunurong as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and Lore. Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the opportunity to embrace and empower the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island Communities in their diversity. Bass Coast Shire Council will create opportunities for future recognition and respectful partnerships that will honour the Traditional Owners and Custodians, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Two aquatic centres for Bass Coast

Bass Coast has the fastest growing regional economy in Victoria. As more people choose to live in the region, two aquatic centres are needed to service the increasing population (including older adults), improve health and wellbeing outcomes, improve the liveability of the region and provide essential life skills such as learning to swim.

From surfing and cycling to wining and dining, and everything in between, Bass Coast provides the perfect balance of rural, residential and holiday lifestyles for all to enjoy – all with stunning backdrops of beaches, bushland and rolling hills.

Bass Coast is approximately 130km south east of Melbourne and is bounded by Western Port in the north and west, Cardinia Shire in the north east, South Gippsland Shire in the east and Bass Strait in the south.

Bass Coast's main townships are Wonthaggi, Cowes, Inverloch, San Remo and Grantville. In addition, Bass Coast comprises a further 28 towns.

Bass Coast has over 36,000 permanent residents and our population more than doubles during the peak summer season. Our proximity to Melbourne makes us very attractive to visitors and to people wanting to make a sea change.

Bass Coast is home to Phillip Island Nature Parks and boasts many beautiful beaches and unique nature reserves. Our major events attract more than 3.5 million visitors each year, such as the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix at the Phillip Island Circuit.

Snapshot

36,320 Estimated residential population

Over 80,000
Population during peak visitor periods

865km² Size of Bass Coast Shire

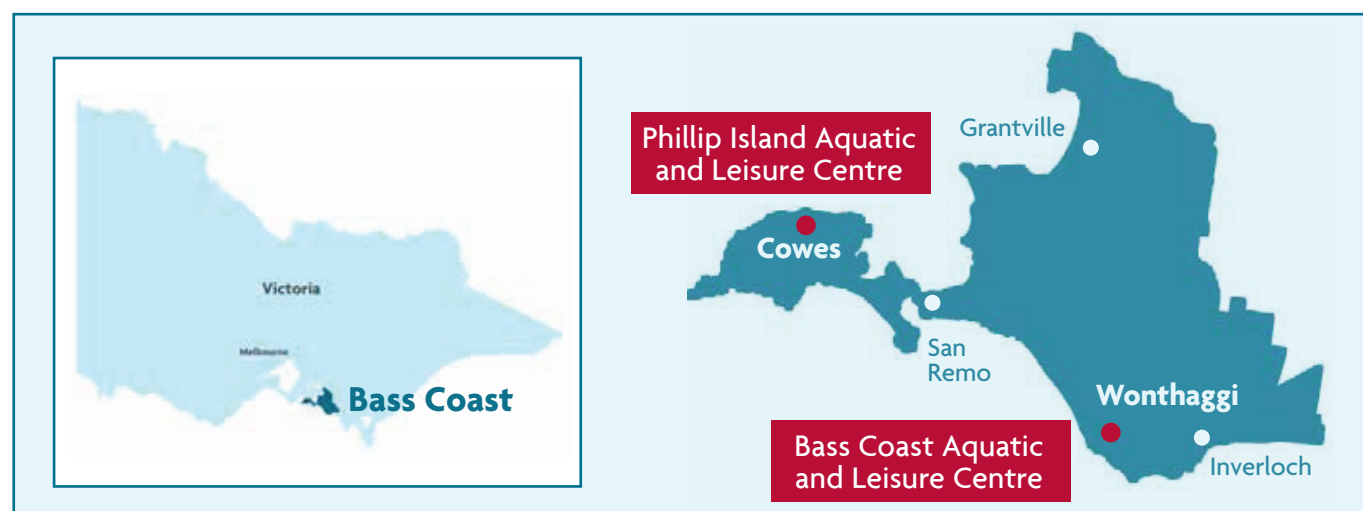
130km Approximate distance from Melbourne

46,429 Estimated 2036 residential population

47% of population will be over 50 yrs old in 2036

95% likelihood of one or more residents of Latrobe Gippsland SA4 drowning in any given year

Over 30 min
drive from Phillip Island to Wonthaggi



Why two pools?

The Bass Coast Aquatic Strategy (2015) is based on the premise that Council requires a regional facility in Wonthaggi and a new facility on Phillip Island for the following reasons:



The Wonthaggi facility is old and non-compliant. It is now at the end of its useful life and needs replacing



There are long stretches (approx. 180km) of coastline in Bass Coast. Learning to swim is an essential life skill



The facilities will be designed to complement one another, forming a network of services to meet the community's needs



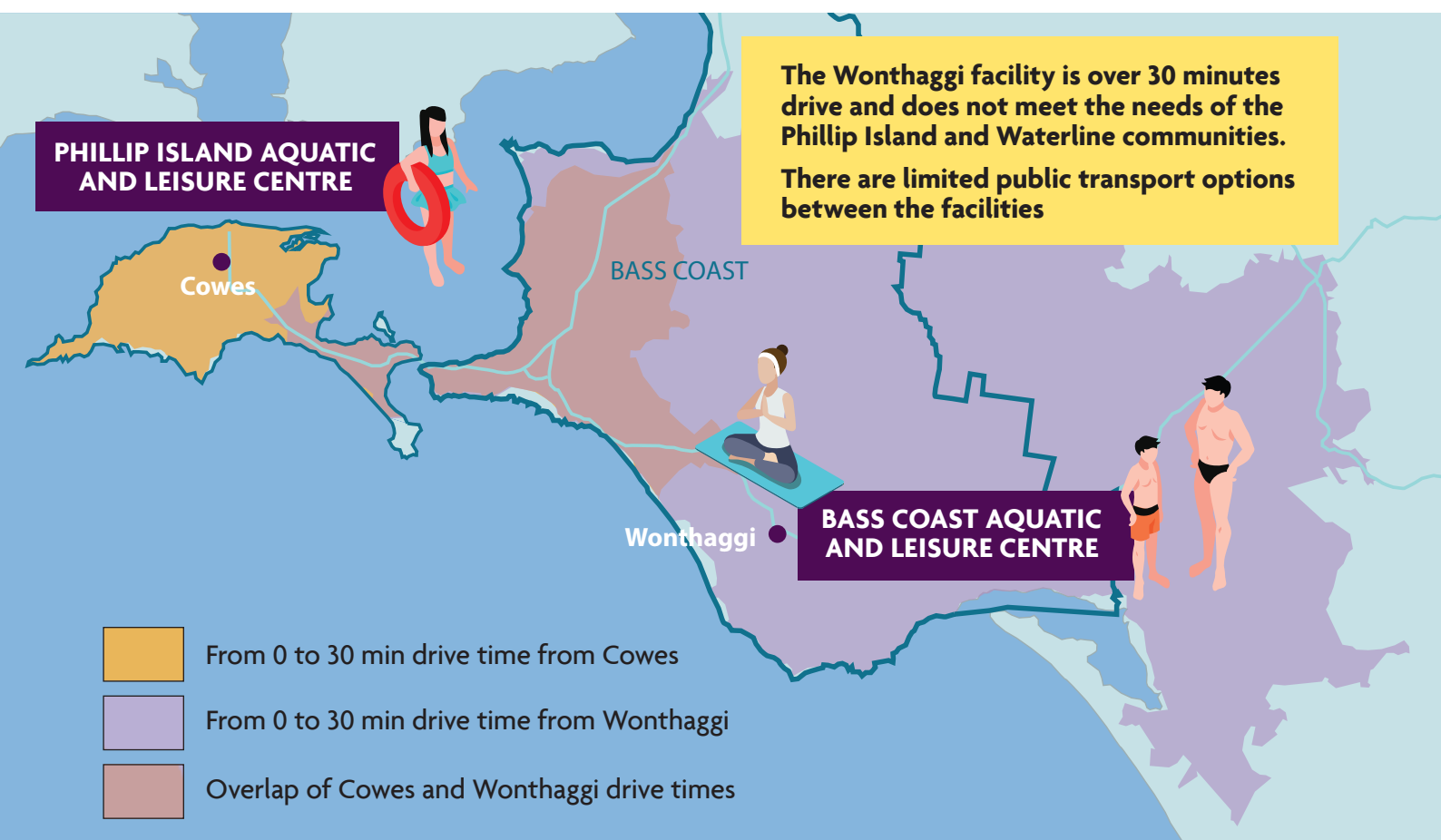
Ageing population (47% will be over 50 yrs old in 2036). Warm Water Exercise for rehabilitation and mobility encourages these cohorts to be active



Phillip Island residents have been advocating for a facility for over 30 years. A facility on Phillip Island is supported by community fundraising and a committed group



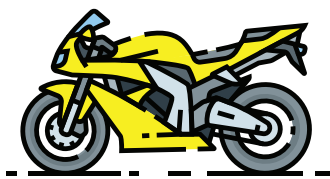
The Phillip Island facility provides an alternative activity for holiday makers and tourists.



What is the opportunity?

The Bass Coast region, a major tourism destination, has been catastrophically affected by the combined impacts of Covid-19, 2020 bushfires and 2021 storms. The area has suffered significant economic loss as a result of these events. The loss of Moto GP, World Superbike Championship and the decimation of the international tourism market to the Bass Coast Shire has caused further economic hardship on the region. The total impact of the loss of events in the Bass Coast Shire is estimated below:

In 2018-19, tourism to the region was estimated to be worth
\$529million
and employed approximately 5,900 people



Moto GP annual revenue loss
\$42M
for two years

Decline of visitors to the Bass Coast region **51%**



Total tourism employment losses estimated between

1,016 and 1,098

Bass Coast domestic overnight spend has fallen by

34%

Domestic daytrip spend has fallen by

22%

The Bass Coast Aquatic & Leisure Centre will be a regional facility to meet the needs of the growing community. This project is directly aligned to the Wonthaggi Opportunity Unlocked project



Now is the perfect time to deliver these leisure centre developments. Both projects deliver positive economic, health and social benefits to the region. These projects present a quantified opportunity to stimulate the economy, to help the region bounce back from the impacts of Covid-19, bushfires and floods and encourage visitors back to the region.

The challenges

- The Phillip Island community is not serviced by the facility in Wonthaggi, which is over a 30 minute drive away
- Residents have expressed the identified need for an aquatic centre for over 30 years, in particular learn to swim and rehabilitation

The catchment for this facility is expected to grow by
by 2036 **24%**

Phillip Island caters for an influx of
1.6M visitors per annum

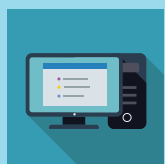
- The current Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre in Wonthaggi is 45 years old, does not comply with contemporary standards and is at the end of its useful life
- The centre requires re-development to continue to meet the health and wellbeing needs of the community

Supporting strategies



Aquatic Strategy

This 2015 study identified that two facilities were required in the Shire to service the community. The projects are aligned with the Council Plan, Building Asset Management Plan, Economic Development Strategy, Draft Long Term Financial Plan and Climate Change Action Draft Plan.



Feasibility Studies

These 2021 studies confirmed the two-facility strategy and included population and catchment reviews, operating reviews, site inspections and technical asset condition reviews, industry trends analysis, site plans, financial business models, indicative cost plans and community and stakeholder engagement



Economic, Social and Health Modelling

Economic and Health Impact Assessments have been completed on both projects in combination with supporting research into projected social benefits



What will it look like?

Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre



Key features: 25m pool, learn to swim pool, aquatic playground, gymnasium, group fitness and café

What will it look like?

Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre



What will it look like?

Phillip Island Aquatic and Leisure Centre



Key features: Two court indoor stadium, waterslides, 25m pool, learn to swim pool, aquatic playground, gymnasium, group fitness and café

What will it look like?

Phillip Island Aquatic and Leisure Centre



CAFE



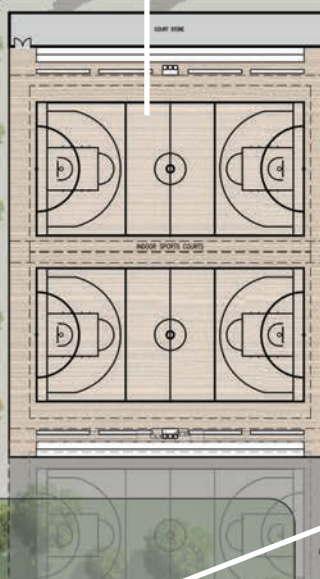
AQUATIC PLAYGROUND



WATERSLIDES



STADIUM



GROUP FITNESS



GYM



SWIMMING



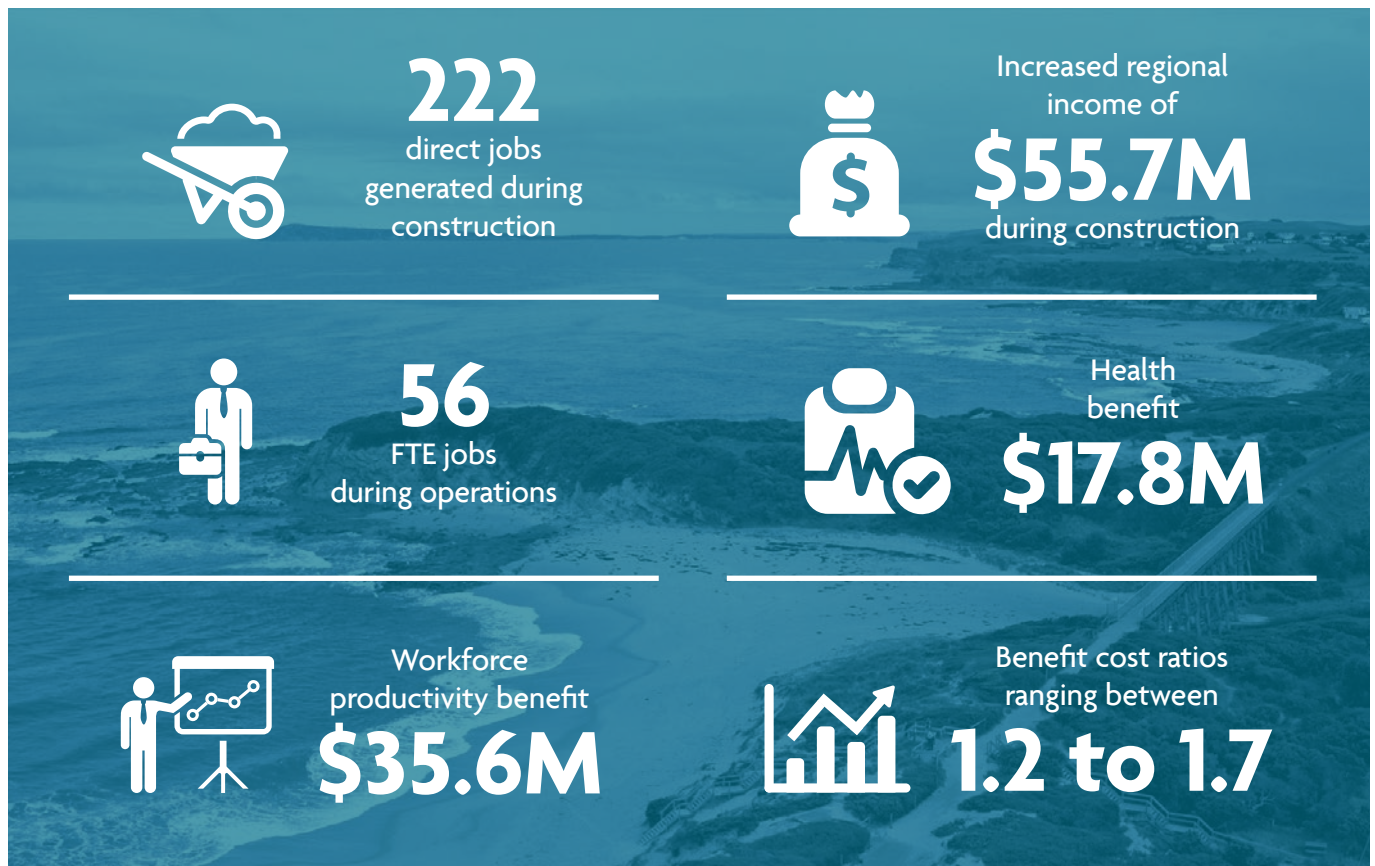
WARM WATER EXERCISE
POOL/LEARN TO SWIM



What are the benefits?

The Centres are expected to generate significant economic, health and social benefits for the local region by providing a diverse range of sports, events and activities.

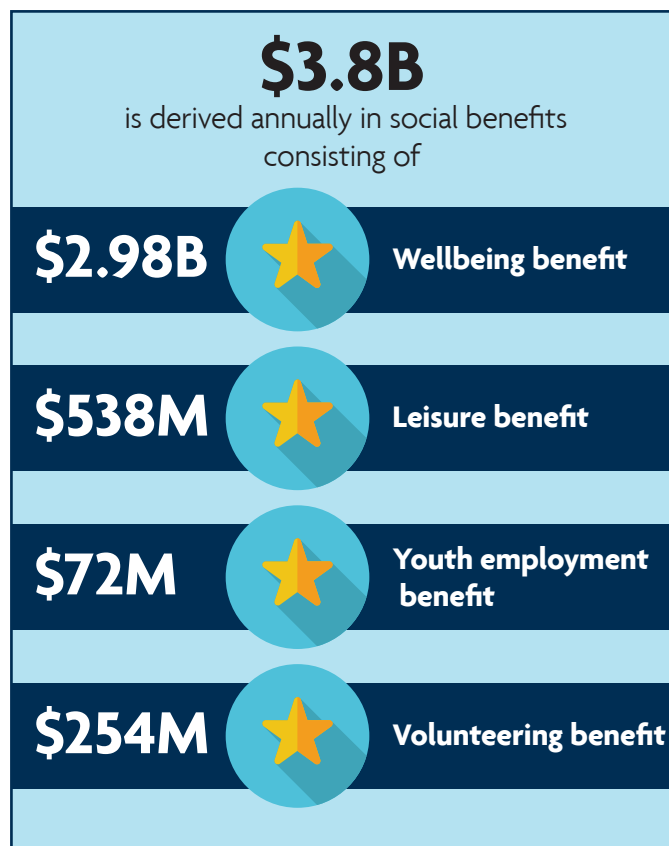
Combined project benefits:



What are the social benefits?

The Royal Lifesaving Society of Australia, in conjunction with Price Waterhouse Coopers, completed research into the Social, Health and Economic Value of the Australian National Aquatic Industry in July 2021. This research found:

The aquatic industry is a key driver of social benefit for Australians.



With a significant stretch of coastline in Bass Coast, these centres will help keep local children safe through the delivery of learn to swim education programs



\$1.74M is saved annually from avoided child drownings (health benefit)

There is a social return on investment of **\$2.18** for every **\$1** spend on aquatic facility operations in regional Australia



What are the benefits?



Physical benefits

- Reduced risk of obesity
- Increased cardiovascular fitness
- Healthy growth of bones, muscles, ligaments and tendons
- Improved coordination and balance
- A greater ability to physically relax and, therefore, avoid the complications of chronic muscular tension such as headache or back ache
- Reduced risk of premature death from cardiovascular disease and stroke
- Reduced risk of developing high blood pressure and high cholesterol
- Reduced risk of developing some cancers such as colon and breast cancer
- Lower risk of developing non-insulin dependent diabetes (type 2 diabetes)
- Achieving and maintaining a healthy weight
- Improved quality of life for individuals managing chronic conditions
- Increased muscle and bone strength
- Increased energy and improved sleep

Social benefits

- Improved social skills
- Improved personal skills, including cooperation and leadership
- Increased family and community connectedness
- Improved community networks and social capital
- Reduced sense of isolation and loneliness, enhanced social skills and self esteem



- The community benefits from broader use of many sporting facilities, including as disaster response centres or as central meeting points
- Participants in sport benefit from increased cognition as well as the development of several skills that improve their education and employability outcomes

Mental benefits

- Reduced feelings of stress, anxiety and depression
- Improved concentration, enhanced memory and learning
- Improved confidence and self esteem
- Improved overall mental awareness and psychological wellbeing

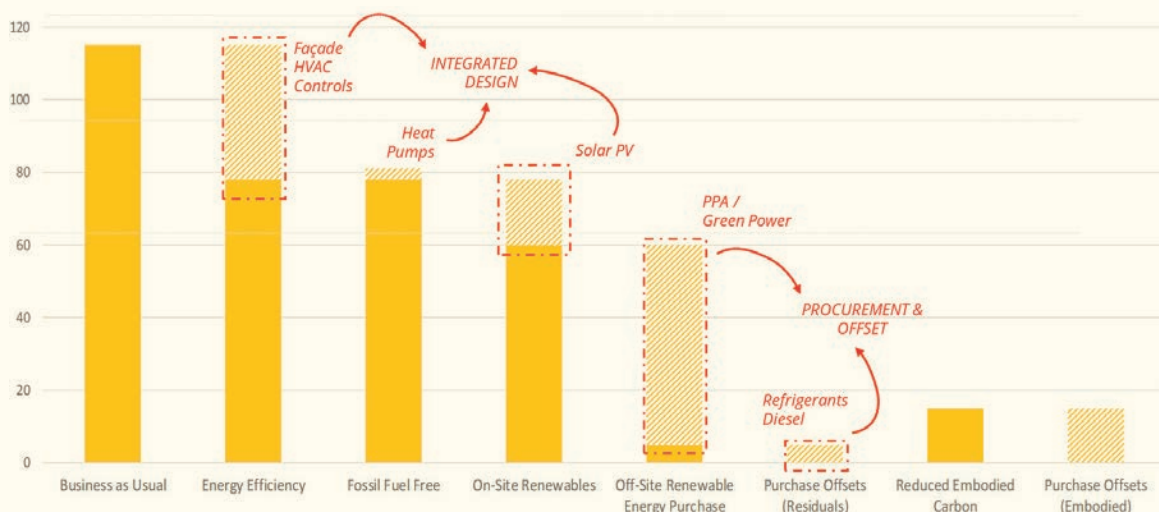


Environmental initiatives

Council has an adopted climate change action plan and is committed to urgent action to reduce emissions and reverse global warming.

Initiatives aligned with an Environmentally Sustainable Design Framework include:

- **Geothermal heating** Geothermal assessments indicate four options for geothermal or geoexchange systems that could be implemented across the two sites. The inclusion of a geothermal system at the Wonthaggi site could offset CO₂ emissions up to 34 kt and a deep open-loop geothermal system at the Phillip Island site could achieve up to 47 kt offset of carbon dioxide gas emissions
- **Environment and Waste Management** Construction guidelines.
- **Paint, Sealant and Adhesives – VOCs** Specification of materials to minimise Volatile Organic Compounds.
- **Electric Lighting Levels** All artificial lighting will be designed to be no more than 25% above AS 1680.1:2008.
- **Lighting** Energy reduction for Electrical services with smart control systems and fittings (LED).
- **Learning Resources** Signage – fixed and interactive software package development and monitoring.
- **Formaldehyde** Specification of materials to minimise formaldehyde.
- **HVAC** Energy reduction for Mechanical services with smart control systems and integration of active ventilation.
- **Renewable Energy Systems - Solar Photovoltaics** An initial assessment of the total available area for solar PV at the Wonthaggi site has identified that a system size of 448 kWp could be accommodated. An assessment of the Phillip Island Aquatic and Leisure Centre site indicates a similar size system is possible. Systems of this scale can be procured in the range of \$1.2 to \$1.4 per Wp and can pay for themselves in 4-7 years when fully utilised, saving up to 765 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.
- **Thermal Comfort** Maintaining minimum comfort levels active mechanical services.
- **Building Fabric-Insulation** Provision of insulated building envelope provides thermal inertia and improved comfort levels.
- **Efficient Fixtures and Fittings** All hydraulic services.
- **Recycled Content & Re-used Products and Materials** Timber under investigation AFS/FCS sourced timber flooring and loose furniture.
- **Topsoil Management** Maximising soil retention on site.
- **Habitat Enhancement** Landscape design integration.
- **Refrigerant ODP** Refrigerative AC systems with zero ozone depleting potential.
- **Insulation ODP** Insulation materials with zero ozone depleting potential.
- **Stormwater Management** 'Green' car park with storm water collection via landscape swales.
- **Naturally ventilated sports courts**
- **Electricity** Heating and cooling for the facilities will be designed to eliminate the need for gas or other fossil fuels and will include heat recovery on all ventilation systems.



Community support

Community and Stakeholder engagement demonstrates strong feedback supporting the need and demand for both facilities.

In addition, through their advocacy efforts, the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund Inc (PIACF) have gathered support from many local groups including primary schools, local media, Surfing Victoria and local allied health providers.

“The Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund Inc. (PIACF) actively and enthusiastically endorses the Bass Coast Shire Council Funding strategy, which aims to secure funding to construct two new Aquatic Centres in the Shire – a new centre on Phillip Island plus a replacement for Wonthaggi, as per Council’s Aquatic Strategy (2016.)”.

“I feel aquatics for Phillip Island and an upgrade for Wonthaggi are both important. I believe my voice represents many that the community is sick and tired of the delay in getting these facilities and the us vs them mentality of The island vs Wonthaggi - both are desperately needed and deserved.”

“The new plans look excellent and should be a priority as not only does it keep people healthy, but is a meeting place for many residents, some who would otherwise be lonely.”

SPORTS TRAINING AND COMPETITIONS



Aquatics - Swimming, Learn to Swim



Basketball



Netball



Volleyball



Badminton



Futsal



Gymnastics

RECREATION CLASSES AND GROUPS



Exercise classes



Dance



Martial Arts

COMMUNITY EVENTS



School events



Community functions



Sports functions



How much will the centres cost to build and operate?

Combined project details

\$94.8M Construction cost

\$7.259M Annual average revenue

\$7.387M Annual average expenditure

\$128,000 P/A Operating cost

628,000 Annual average visitors

Funding contribution request

\$39.65M Federal

\$39.65M State

\$15.5M Council funding allocated

Council's need

Development of both facilities is dependent on Council successfully receiving significant State and Federal grants and funding allocations. Council is seeking co-contribution from both the State and Federal Governments to deliver the two-pool strategy.

PIACF, a community group established in 1991 to actively advocate and raise funds for the Phillip Island facility, have raised more than \$94,000 to contribute towards the Phillip Island project.

**PROJECT STATUS:
SHOVEL READY**



Contact us

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Visit our website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/advocacy

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