

Sunshine Coast
Aquatic Plan 2011-2026
July 2024 edition



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Reference document

This document should be cited as follows:

Sunshine Coast Council.

Sunshine Coast Aquatic Plan 2011-2026.

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Executive summary



Sunshine Coast Council owns 10 aquatic facilities which are spread across the region and has arrangements with four school and community pools to provide additional community aquatic access opportunities.

In a time of rapid population growth and change, it is important that Council understands the role of its 10 Council-owned aquatic facilities, and considers future arrangements with additional pools providing community access within the region to ensure:

‘The provision of a diverse range of quality aquatic facilities and infrastructure across the region which positively contributes towards the Sunshine Coast’s character, identity and vibrancy and helps attain physically active and healthy communities.’

As a result, the Sunshine Coast Aquatic Plan 2011-2026 has been developed to inform and guide the planning, development and management of the aquatic network across the Sunshine Coast region through to 2026. This Plan focuses on Council-owned land where aquatic programs and ancillary services are delivered, or where Council has a defined role in the delivery of an aquatic facility.

The Plan was not required to address natural areas such as beaches, rivers, man-made or natural lakes.

The Sunshine Coast region is experiencing high growth with the population projected to increase dramatically by 2031. Currently, aquatic facilities appear well distributed, with a high percentage of residents living within five kilometres of a Council-owned or supported swimming pool. However, new growth areas will provide additional activity areas and future community planning will need to respond to this growth.

The outcomes of this Plan have recommended:

- the preparation of plans and design options for several of the current aquatic facilities, including Beerwah, Caloundra, Coolum, Eumundi, Kawana (all completed) and Nambour (to be completed)
- planning for new aquatic facilities based on Council’s forecast growth at Palmview and Caloundra South
- a Risk Management Audit is undertaken and a Risk Management Plan is prepared for each Council-owned facility (completed)
- the introduction of software and benchmarking mechanisms across the Council’s aquatic network capable of capturing and reporting on patronage and attendance and other performance against key performance standards (completed).

1 267,252 persons in the Sunshine Coast Council local government area. Source: Population and household forecasts, 2011 to 2041, prepared by .id, October 2015.

1 Vision and recommendations



1.1 Vision

'The provision of a diverse range of quality aquatic facilities and infrastructure across the region which positively contributes towards Sunshine Coast's character, identity and vibrancy and helps attain physically active and healthy communities.'

Council will achieve this through the attainment of the following recommendations detailed within this section.

The Plan

The Plan:

- Sets out outcome areas, strategies and recommendations required to ensure the aquatic network on the Sunshine Coast offers a diverse range of quality aquatic facilities and infrastructure.
- Identifies facilities and embellishments that positively contribute towards the Sunshine Coast's character, identity and vibrancy.
- Helps to contribute to physically active and healthy communities.

Outcome areas

Recommendations have been classified into five key outcome areas, these being:

- planning the Council-owned aquatic network for growth and change
- improving management arrangements and community outcomes
- developing partnerships in aquatic service provision
- marketing and promoting the aquatic network
- Sunshine Coast Council-owned venue recommendations.

Timing

The following time frames have been suggested to guide priorities:

Immediate	Considered a matter of 'urgency' or 'high risk'
Short term	Within next 4 years (2011-2015)
Medium term	Next 5-9 years (2016-2020)
Long term	Next 10-15 years (2021-2026)

1.2 Regional aquatic network recommendations

Outcome Area 1: Planning the Council-owned aquatic network for growth and change

Recommendations	Priority
<p>Continue to endorse Desired Standards of Service outlined in Section 5 (including provision standard rationale, site selection criteria and design criteria considerations) as set out in this Plan, ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> standards are reflected within future planning documents Council prepare annual capital works programs in accordance with the implementation recommendations. 	Complete
<p>Inform the relevant planning processes of the requirements of land for two new aquatic facilities within Palmview (1ha) and Caloundra South (1.8ha for a Major Sports Facility).</p>	Complete
<p>The timing and delivery of Palmview and Caloundra South facilities will need to be considered in line with population growth, existing and future facility demand and sustainable land use as part of detailed master planning processes. It is acknowledged that some of these recommendations may fall outside the reach of this Plan.</p>	Initial planning undertaken with delivery beyond life of this plan.
<p>Place a moratorium on further additions, developments or re-developments at Council-owned facilities until Council has received, considered and endorsed individual plans and development strategies for each facility, consideration of which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> settlement patterns, demographics, community demands and anticipated needs infrastructure and service mix to accommodate existing and future demand project specific feasibility research conduct of 'quadruple bottom line' cost benefit analysis incorporation of environmentally sustainable initiatives whole-of-life cost implications and risk analysis partnership opportunities. 	Ongoing
<p>In the preparation of the new planning scheme, ensure aquatic and associated ancillary facilities and uses are consistent with community and sport and recreation land use designations.</p>	Complete
<p>Refer the requirements for active pathway connections for all Council-owned aquatic facilities to the Open Space Strategy and Active Transport Plan for immediate planning and future delivery.</p>	Complete
<p>Undertake a disability access audit across all council controlled aquatic venues and refer these findings to the Aquatic Plan implementation plan.</p>	Complete
<p>Undertake an Aquatic Facilities Asset Audit and prepare a Strategic Asset Management Plan for each Council-owned facility.</p>	Complete
<p>Undertake a periodic Risk Management Audit across the Council-owned aquatic network and prepare a Risk Management Plan for each facility audited.</p>	Complete
<p>Investigate initiatives which analyse and deliver credible data detailing any economic development benefits gained from Council's aquatic network.</p>	Ongoing

Outcome Area 2: Improving management arrangements and community outcomes

Recommendations	Priority
<p>Review lease and management arrangements across the network, ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alignment with facility and regional network planning • where practical, future contracts deliver consistency of the lease terms and conditions across the aquatic network • future agreements optimise community benefits • improved reporting and transparency mechanisms • a balanced approach with 'quadruple bottom line' outcomes 	Complete
<p>Introduce standard software and benchmarking mechanisms across the Council's aquatic network capable of capturing and reporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • patronage and attendance • participation trends • customer service quality analysis • mechanism for customer feedback direct to Council • community fit • maintenance requests • expenditure relating to heating • bookings and availability of water space across the network performance against key performance standards. 	Complete
<p>Subscription costs associated with software and benchmarking.</p>	Complete
<p>Ensure all facilities submit an annual performance report which includes audited financial statements and summary of the individual venues annual key performance indicators for cross referencing across the network (where leases require).</p>	Ongoing

Outcome 3: Developing partnerships in aquatic service provision

Recommendations	Priority
Develop and implement a funding policy for non-Council aquatic facilities with criteria that require facilities to annually demonstrate significant localised community patronage or benefit and their capacity to complement (and not compromise) the viability of the publicly accessible aquatic facilities within the region.	Complete
Consider partnerships with other aquatic facility providers to improve community access as demand warrants.	Complete
Council actively seeks to work closely with education institutions to develop partnership models and arrangements that enhance the aquatic network's capacity and avoid duplication of infrastructure.	Complete
Encourage the strategic involvement of private enterprise arrangements to deliver leisure water opportunities where such developments complement Council aquatic facilities service delivery.	Complete
<p>In accordance with ongoing community interest for an upgraded aquatic facility in Maleny, the 'Maleny Aquatic Facility Feasibility Study' was completed in January 2013 and investigated two potential sites within the Maleny Community Precinct.</p> <p>In the event that an aquatic facility in Maleny is to become a viable proposition and funding becomes available, a portion of land has been identified within the Maleny District Sport & Recreation Club leased area, as endorsed at Council's Ordinary meeting, 8 November 2018. Note, no funding is provided in Council's 10-year capital works program toward a new aquatic facility in Maleny, given existing and forecast catchments and endorsed planning outcomes.</p>	Ongoing
Council officers to work with the Maleny community to consider appropriate funding opportunities and provide planning advice as requested.	Ongoing

Outcome 4: Marketing and promoting the aquatic network

Recommendations	Priority
Develop a marketing plan for the aquatic network which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an informative aquatic web page detailing the location, facility mix and programs of each venue in a standard format • a style guide for the promotion of council's aquatic facilities • work with educational providers to increase use of the network. 	Complete
Investigate the likely demand and subsequent implementation requirements associated with a Regional Swimming Pass that can be used across council venues.	Complete
Work with Sunshine Coast Tourism to promote aquatic facilities, and actively attract appropriate events and programs that will deliver a demonstrable economic or social benefit to the region.	Ongoing



Outcome 5: Sunshine Coast Council venue recommendations

Beerwah Aquatic Centre, Roberts Road, Beerwah (Council owned)



The Beerwah Aquatic Centre is located within a growing major activity area of the Sunshine Coast and is bordered by a large multi sports ground and high school. Currently the facility operates under a management agreement that is in place until June 2027, with options for extensions.

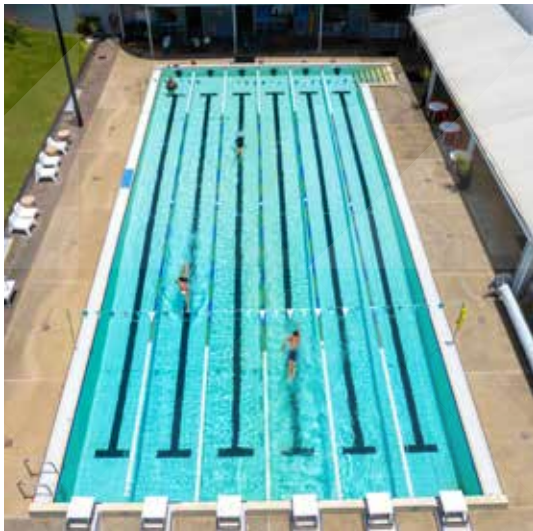
The facility features a 25-metre lap pool, toddler leisure pool, enclosed program pool, covered program pool, amenities block, kiosk and first aid room.

Assessment

Based on a 10-kilometre population catchment area for this facility, the catchment population as at the 2021 census is estimated to be 19,419 persons.

Recommendations	Time frame	Lead/support agent/s
Beerwah Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study, seek Council endorsement and begin implementation in line with demands and resource constraints.	Complete	Sunshine Coast Council
Begin implementation of Stage 1 actions from the Beerwah Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study in line with demands and resource constraints.	Complete	Sunshine Coast Council

Buderim Aquatic Centre, 44 Main Street, Buderim (Council owned)



The Buderim Aquatic Centre is situated adjacent to the Buderim Mountain State School Pool (25-metre swimming pool). Currently the Council facility operates under a management agreement that is in place until June 2027, with options for extensions.

The facility features a six lane 25-metre lap pool, enclosed program pool, first aid room, kiosk and amenities block.

Assessment

Based on a five-kilometre catchment area for this facility, the catchment population as at the 2021 census is estimated to be 136,849 persons. The aquatic needs within this area are also serviced by Council’s Cotton Tree facility and various other non-Council-owned pools

Recommendations	Time frame
Investigate methods that aim to improve the capacity of the site, including the potential inclusion of the adjacent school pool for community access.	Complete

Caloundra Aquatic Centre, Central Park Road, Caloundra (Council owned)



The Caloundra Aquatic Centre is located centrally within a large multi-use sports and high school precinct. Currently the facility operates under a lease agreement with the contract expiring in June 2032.

The facility features a 50-metre pool, 25-metre pool (with small grandstand), junior pool, toddler leisure pool, enclosed program pool, amenities block, kiosk, crèche and gymnasium.

Assessment

The 2021 census 10-kilometre population catchment is estimated to be 91,415 persons. This population catchment base is shared with the nearby 25-metre ocean pool at Kings Beach and a regional facility at Kawana.

Recommendations	Time frame
Finalise tenure agreement with lessee.	Complete
Undertake a site master plan to realise the venue's potential as a major district aquatic facility.	Complete
Progressively implement the Caloundra Aquatic Centre Development Plan.	Ongoing

Coolum-Peregrin Aquatic Centre, David Low Way, Coolum (Council owned)



The Coolum-Peregrin Aquatic Centre is located within a large multi-use sports precinct at Coolum. The facility operates under a management agreement that expires in June 2027, with options for extensions.

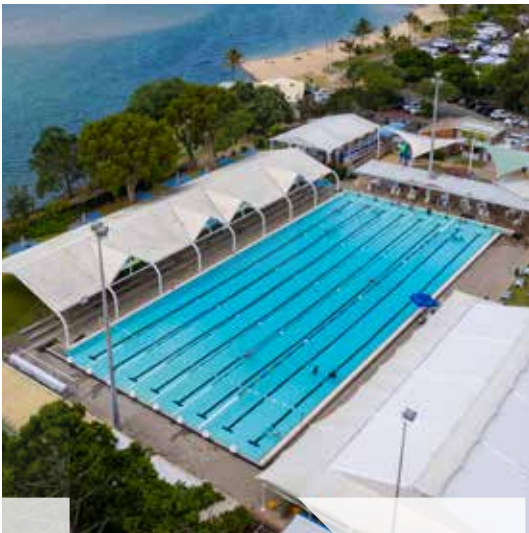
The facility features a nine lane 25-metre lap pool, small enclosed program pool, spray park, club room and traditional reception/kiosk and amenities block.

Assessment

The 2021 census five-kilometre population catchment is estimated to be 23,958 persons. The program pool's construction is not of commercial quality and consideration should be given to the construction of a program pool that is more functional. Improved shade and overall landscaping also need to be considered as part of the future development of this facility.

Recommendations	Time frame
<p>A concept plan for this facility will be developed following the endorsement of this Plan. Concept plan considerations should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the provision of leisure water (with potential for delivery through public- private partnership) • upgraded program pool • improved landscaping • natural or built shade options. 	Complete
<p>Undertake site master plan giving consideration to an improved program pool facility and introduction of leisure water/splash pool.</p>	Complete

Cotton Tree Aquatic Centre, The Esplanade, Cotton Tree (Council owned)



The Cotton Tree Aquatic Centre is located on the foreshore of Maroochy River in Cotton Tree. The facility operates under a lease that expires in June 2032.

The facility features a 50-metre outdoor lap pool and a 25-metre covered lap pool, spray park, enclosed program pool, traditional reception/kiosk amenities block and small crèche.

Assessment

The 2021 census 10-kilometre population catchment is estimated to be 146,525 persons. The aquatic needs within this area are serviced by another Council-owned facility at Buderim and various other non-Council-owned pools. The site is contained by the adjoining caravan park and open space which represents impediment to future development.

Recommendations	Time frame
Monitor usage and infrastructure maintenance requirements, and review facility planning prior to the expiration of existing lease.	Complete
Progressively implement the Cotton Tree Aquatic Centre Development Plan	Ongoing

Eumundi Aquatic Centre, Memorial Drive, Eumundi (Council owned)



The Eumundi Aquatic Centre is located in close proximity to the Eumundi township. The facility operates under a lease arrangement that expires in January 2028.

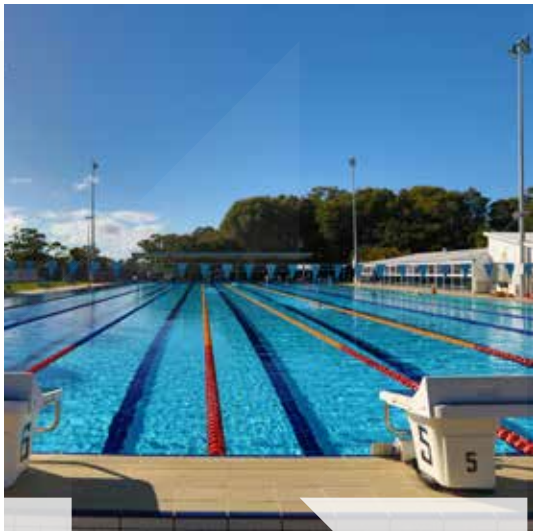
This facility includes a 25-metre lap pool, toddler leisure pool, enclosed program pool and amenity block.

Assessment

The 2021 census 10-kilometre population catchment is estimated to be 15,199 persons. Future developments need to consider the addition of secure storage options, shaded areas and first aid room.

Recommendations	Time frame
A concept plan for this facility will be developed following the endorsement of this Plan to guide future development.	Complete

Kawana Aquatic Centre, Sportsman Parade, Bokarina (Council owned)



The Kawana Aquatic Centre is located adjacent to the Kawana Sports Precinct in the major activity centre of Kawana. The centre operates as the Sunshine Coast's regional aquatic centre for high level events and competition.

Currently the facility operates under a management agreement until June 2028, with options for extensions.

This facility features a 50-metre pool (water polo compliant), 25-metre pool, diving pool with three diving boards and platform, enclosed program pool as well as a toddler leisure water area, amenities block and crèche.

Assessment

The 2021 census 10-kilometre population catchment is estimated to be 153,007 persons. Although this population catchment figure appears high, the aquatic needs within this area are serviced by two other Council district facilities at Caloundra and Cotton Tree.

Recommendations	Time frame
Determine the future management model and arrangement required for this regional aquatic facility in the context of the Sunshine Coast Stadium management arrangements and structure.	Complete
A concept plan for this facility will be developed following the endorsement of this Plan. Concept plan considerations should include options and embellishments to develop the centre as the regional venue and will be used to generate community feedback towards final design elements within a master plan.	Complete
Following on from conceptual considerations, undertake a site master plan to realise the venue's potential as the regional aquatic facility.	Complete
Implement Kawana Aquatic Centre Master Plan: Stage 1 – upgrades to include construction of new program pool. Stage 2 – upgrades to include a new main administration building, improved car parking and demolition of the old Learn to Swim pool.	Complete Complete by mid 2025

Nambour Aquatic Centre, Petrie Park Road, Nambour (Council owned)



The Nambour Aquatic Centre is located within walking distance from the Nambour town centre. The facility operates under a management agreement that expires in June 2028.

This facility features a 50-metre pool (compliant depth for water polo) with full length grandstand, 25-metre indoor heated pool, junior/toddler splash pool and play area, adventure slides, kiosk and amenities block.

Assessment

The 2021 census 10-kilometre population catchment is estimated to be 51,981 persons. This aquatic centre complete with its grandstand makes it attractive for events.

Recommendations	Time frame
Undertake a feasibility study which develops concept plans on the preferred option for the provision of leisure water (with potential for delivery through public- private partnership) and ensures adequate car parking is available to meet current and future demands.	Complete
Design, construction and activation of a splash park and adventure water slides, a key recommendation identified in the Council endorsed Nambour Activation Plan. Council, in partnership with pool operators and the Queensland Government's Work's for Queensland program, deliver a Splash Park at the Nambour Aquatic Centre. The design to include a children's zero-depth and fully accessible splash pad and two adventure slides.	Complete

Palmwoods Aquatic Centre, Palmwoods – Montville Road, Palmwoods (Council owned)



The Palmwoods Aquatic Centre is located within a multi-use sports precinct just outside the Palmwoods township. The facility operates under a lease that expires in December 2027.

The facility features a 25-metre pool (with grandstand), toddler and enclosed program pool, amenities block and kiosk.

Assessment

The 2021 census 10-kilometre population catchment is estimated to be 47,863 persons. However, the aquatic needs within this area are serviced by another Council district facility at Nambour. Many schools utilise this facility which places pressure on the capacity of the facility during school hours in summer. Limited car parking also restricts the capacity of this site. Expansion opportunities exist to the west if demand increases.

Recommendations	Time frame
Monitor usage and review facility planning prior to the expiration of existing lease.	Complete



Kings Beach Ocean Pool, Kings Beach Foreshore (Council owned)



The Kings Beach Ocean Pool is located on the Kings Beach foreshore. Council provides a lifeguard supervision service during summer holiday periods and weekends. This is a community facility with free access year-round.

This facility features a 25-metre pool, leisure water and nearby spray features.

Assessment

Community meetings acknowledged that built aquatic infrastructure like Kings Beach Ocean Pool and spray park had been done well by Council and contribute towards the appeal of the Kings Beach area.

Given its position in such a harsh natural environment and because the source water is drawn mainly from the ocean, both minor and major maintenance costs are high for this facility.

Recommendations	Time frame
Continue to monitor the role and function of this venue to support community access and attract tourism to the Kings Beach area.	Ongoing



2 Strategic context



2.1 Population profile

The population of the Sunshine Coast makes up about 9 per cent of the population of South East Queensland. The region has experienced, and will continue to experience, levels of population growth that exceed state and national averages.

The population base is mostly concentrated along the coast, from Golden Beach in the south to Peregian Springs in the north. Urban development to date has been largely concentrated within 10-kilometres of the coastline. However, this relative share of population is likely to change over time until 2031, as some of these suburbs approach their capacity, and 'newer' suburbs such as Sippy Downs, Palmview and Caloundra South are developed, increasing allowable densities and hence population numbers.

Table 1: Sunshine Coast quick facts

Population (2012) ³	346,634 people
Total private dwellings (2021) ³	148,646 dwellings
Average growth (2011-2021) ⁴	7,900/year
Overnight visitors (2018/19) ⁵	
Domestic	7,711,653 per year
International	1,663,458 per year

2.2 Age profile

The median age of Sunshine Coast residents was 43 years in 2021, and this is forecast to increase to 46 years by 2041 with a greater percentage of residents aged over 65 years.

The change in median age will need to be planned strategically with respect to the changing needs of our communities, the location of aquatic facilities and the programs and services available.

3 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016 and 2021. Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions).

4 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011 and 2021

5 Tourism Research Australia, Unpublished data from the National Visitor Survey and International Visitor Survey 2021/22. Note: 2018/19 was the most recent full year data pre COVID.

2.3 Aquatic user profiles

The core aquatic activities identified through the development of this Plan are:

- squad training
- lap swimming
- recreational swimming
- learn to swim
- water therapy/aqua fitness
- fitness and cross training (wet and/or dry)
- social interaction.

An example of some of the driving factors which attract patronage to the region's aquatic facilities by age cohort is outlined in Table 2: Driving factors.

2.4 Aquatic participation trends

Aquatic trends in participation on the Sunshine Coast are:

- demand for more social, casual and non-competitive activities
- increasing demand for junior sport and junior squad programs
- night-time/evening activities
- newer/alternative forms.

Studies undertaken for various local governments and research into the topic, also identified a number of other trends that are influencing participation in aquatic sport and recreation activities.

These include:

- Exercise and competitions are increasingly being held on mid-week evenings under lights so that participants have their weekends free to pursue other recreation opportunities.
- There is a desire for participants to 'turn up and swim' where minimal extra commitments are involved. In many cases the participants are willing to pay extra for this service which has created some opportunities for commercial provision.
- There is an awareness of the importance of 'risk management' and the need for a 'whole- of- life' approach to facility development and asset management.
- There is an increasing demand for evening competitions either for reasons of convenience or, in sub-tropical/tropical areas to reduce exposure to the sun.

Table 2: Driving factors

Age cohort	Driving factors
6 months-8 years	Learn to swim and water appreciation, leisure, social interaction
9-14 years	Skill development, participation in competition training, leisure, social interaction and learn to swim
15-24 years	Fitness, leisure, cross training, injury rehabilitation and performance based training
25-55 years	Fitness, physical activity, weight management, injury prevention and rehabilitation, social interaction, family and leisure
Over 55 years	Fitness, non-weight bearing activity, water therapy, injury prevention and rehabilitation and social interaction

Implications to the Plan

User profiles and participation

- Ageing population signifies a likely increased demand for water therapy, physical fitness, injury rehabilitation and prevention and opportunities to socialise and interact.
- More infrastructure is required for the youth cohort – increased leisure water opportunities can assist in attracting higher youth involvement and may assist with regional youth retention.
- Increased leisure water has improved the capacity and patronage across both young people and family target groups.

2.5 Aquatic design considerations

The design and development of aquatic facilities has undertaken major changes over the past 15-20 years. Council reference industry best practice when considering new aquatic design and development across the network.

2.6 Aquatic industry management models

Management of large aquatic networks often require a combination of specialist knowledge.

The three most commonly used management models for contemporary aquatic centres in Australia are:

- management by lease
- contract management
- direct or 'in-house' management by Council.

Option 1: Management by lease

A lease generally transfers responsibility for the care, control and management of a venue to an independent entity, set up specifically to manage the aquatic venue in return for an agreed lease fee. This may involve payment by the lessee to Council or by Council to the lessee, depending on the potential commercial viability of the venue(s) concerned.

Option 2: Contract management

Contract management offers Council an opportunity to retain direct management of the facility, but divest itself of the specialist responsibilities for any aspects of the venue that Council would choose to transfer.

In short, contract management is a hybrid version of direct Council management and management by lease, but tailored to suit Council's short to medium term management needs.

Option 3: 'In house' or direct Council management

Under the direct Council management option, Council oversees the management and operation of one/ many aquatic facilities within the region.

2.7 Methods to assist the delivery and maintenance of the aquatic network

Council currently contributes to capital and ongoing maintenance costs for the majority of aquatic facilities on the Sunshine Coast.

There are a variety of methods that can assist in the delivery and management of the aquatic network.

One method to assist the delivery of aquatic facilities is Infrastructure Agreements with developers. This includes the provision of land for two new aquatic centres in the major growth areas of Caloundra South and Palmview. This will ensure that the aquatic network has the ability to expand in line with population growth and community demand in the long term. A Community Facilities Account for these two emerging residential communities could contribute to some of the capital and operational costs of the proposed aquatic infrastructure.

Implications to the Plan

Development process and methods to assist the delivery

- Standards of service will assist towards the delivery of the aquatic facility network.
- State and federal funding can complement available capital funding.
- Community and school-based partnerships add value and, in some cases, offer a better return on investment in comparison to Council-owned facilities and can avoid duplication of the network.
- Opportunities for private provider contributions towards the network should be pursued.
- Future aquatic facility requirements within major greenfield developments could be negotiated through infrastructure agreements.

Table 3: Methods to assist the delivery of the aquatic facility network.

Partner	Mechanism
General revenue	Core service delivery.
Infrastructure agreements	Community infrastructure contributed through a development agreement.
Government grants	Various state and federal community grants are available, which usually contribute towards the cost of capital works.
Community organisations	These groups can run and maintain facilities (e.g. PCYC, swimming clubs).
Private providers	Commercial aquatic providers can establish and run facilities.
Leasing arrangements	Tenure agreements for Council-owned facilities can contribute (fully or partly) towards capital costs.
Education Queensland/ USC and Private Schools	Provide community access to current and future aquatic facilities throughout the region.

2.8 Aquatic facilities hierarchy

For the purposes of benchmarking, future provisioning and embellishment of facilities, all current and future facilities have been categorised into four key areas to reflect the facilities' size, type and function (see Table 4: Aquatic facilities hierarchy).

Table 4: Aquatic facilities hierarchy.

Type	Function/user benefit
Community	These are community aquatic facilities that may not be owned or managed by Council but receive some level of support. Servicing the immediate and surrounding locality catchment population, these facilities cater for localised swimming needs.
District (minor)	These are of a size and location which service a whole district accommodating the majority of aquatic needs and programs within a district area. This can consist of a smaller lap swimming pool, heated pool and other ancillary infrastructure based on district needs.
District (major)	A large aquatic precinct capable of attracting a diverse range of user groups catering for all program requirements. Major facilities will draw a large number of users from a wide radius.
Regional	A regional facility is of a very high standard accommodating a diverse range of user groups, whilst also providing event infrastructure. This facility has the potential to attract patronage from outside the region and the capacity to host regional or higher-level events.

2.9 Benchmarking

A benchmarking exercise was undertaken to compare the level of provision and current adequacy of the Sunshine Coast aquatic facility network against other Queensland local governments.

It is evident that the Sunshine Coast population is well serviced for both the number of aquatic facilities and amount of water space provided when compared to like local government areas.

Table 5: Existing Council-owned aquatic facilities network.

Facility location	Existing hierarchy	Proposed hierarchy	Rationale/comment
Kawana	District (major)	Regional	Regional competition and training venue
Cotton Tree	District (major)	District (major)	Main central training centre
Caloundra	District (major)	District (major)	Main southern training centre
Nambour	District (major)	District (major)	Main hinterland training centre
Beerwah	District (minor)	District (major)	Southern hinterland training centre
Buderim	District (minor)	District (minor)	These pools will continue to focus on local school needs, community training programs, learn to swim and generally be 'activated' for a range of wellness and fitness activities (both wet and dry)
Coolum			
Eumundi			
Palmwoods			

3 Desired Standards of Service



Desired Standards of Service have been developed to detail Council's future regional aquatic infrastructure provision and embellishment intent across the Sunshine Coast.

Table 6: Desired provision standards

Facility style/elements	Provision considerations	Population catchment ratios	Water space (approx)	Site area (approx)	Annual Patronage Target
Community					
Community pools represent community owned and managed aquatic assets which contribute towards improved service provision within the aquatic network.	Existing aquatic facilities available for community use are located at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conondale, Maleny, Kenilworth, Mooloolah and Mountain Creek. 	Must demonstrate significant localised community patronage or benefit and do not reduce the viability of the publicly accessible aquatic facilities within the region.	n/a	n/a	n/a
District (minor)					
This facility is of a size and location which services a whole district accommodating the majority of aquatic needs and programs within a district area. This can consist of a lap swimming pool, heated pool and other ancillary infrastructure based on district needs. Seasonal operation may be considered.	Consider provision through aquatic facilities at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buderim, Coolum/ Peregian, Eumundi, Palmwoods and Palmview. Maleny is being considered through a separate planning process. 	Approx 1: 20,000 un-serviced population Notional catchment area 5 km (primary) and 10 km (secondary)	500 m ²	10,000 m ² minimum	Approx 60,000 persons p.a.
District (major)					
Providing for a higher number of users than a minor district facility capable of attracting a diverse range of user groups catering for all program requirements including leisure water. Major facilities will draw a large number of users from a wide radius and will be required to be of high standard. Year round operation.	Consider provision within the principal and major activity centres of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beerwah, Caloundra South, Caloundra, Nambour and Maroochydore/ Cotton Tree. 	Approx catchment 1:50,000 un-serviced Notional catchment area 10 km	1500 m ²	15,000 m ²	Approx 200,000 persons p.a.
Regional					
Providing for a higher number of users than district and in particular can cater for swimming events to a regional level and has the infrastructure to provide space for regional activity demands.	To be provided within the major activity centre of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kawana 	Approx: 1: Region wide	2000 m ²	20,000 m ²	> 200,000 persons p.a.

* Development can be staged

4 Supply and demand assessment



4.1 Catchment areas

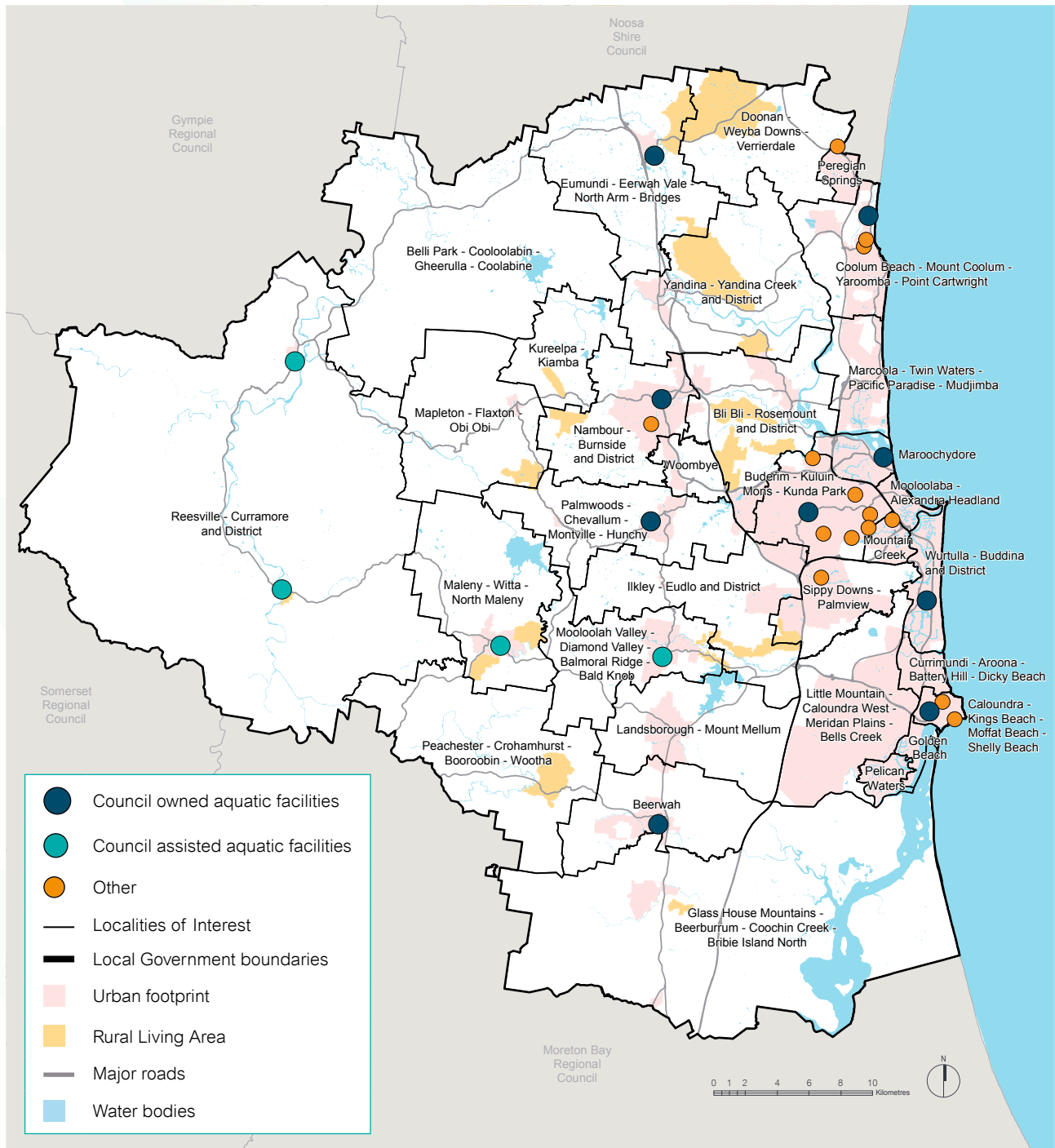
This assessment applies notional 5-kilometre and 10-kilometre catchment areas against current and future population projections across the Sunshine Coast region. These notional areas have been determined with average drive times and overall accessibility to the existing networks in mind.

Implications to the Plan

Supply and demand assessment

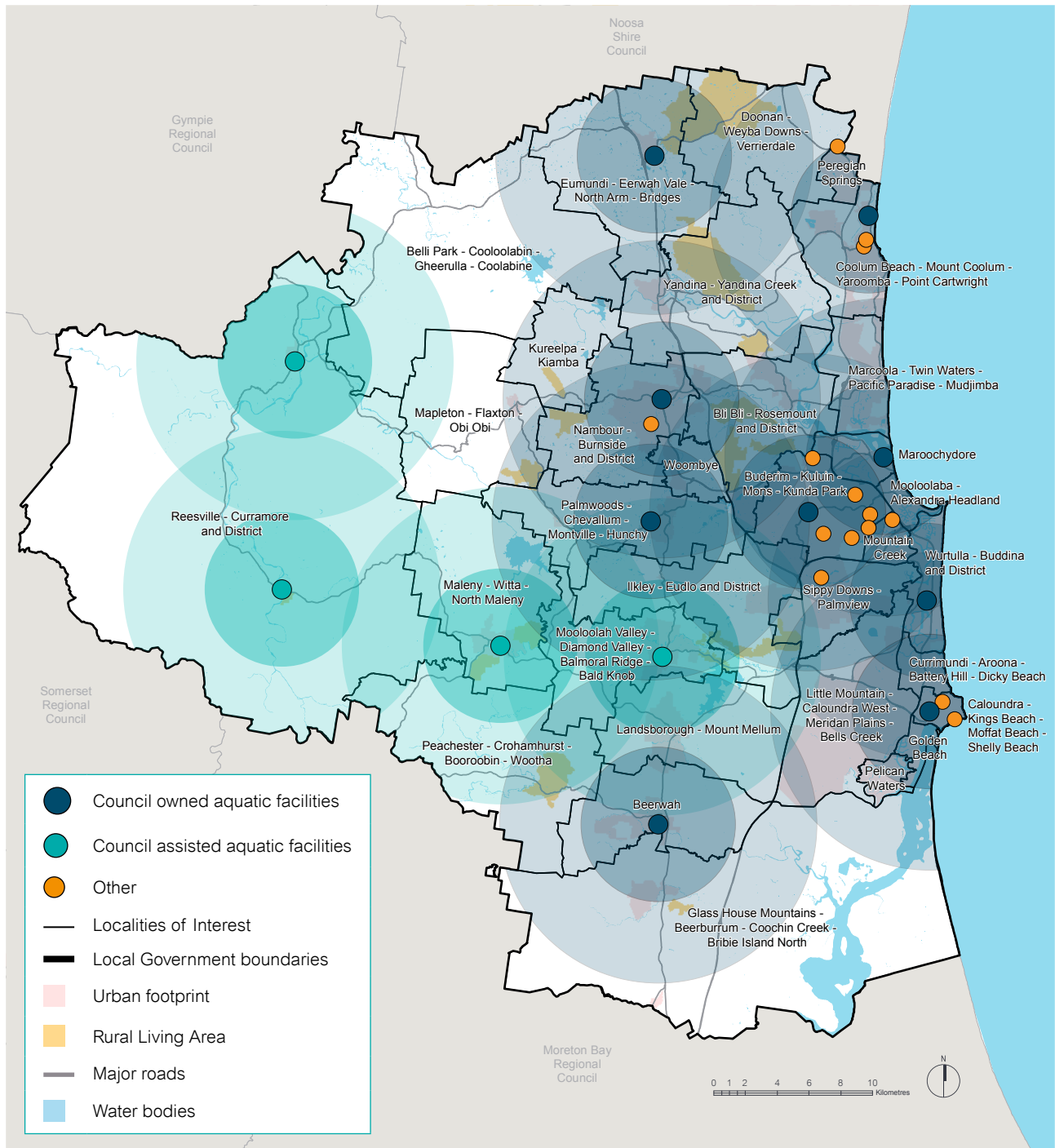
- Generally well dispersed network of aquatic facilities.
- Investigate alternatives to the provision and maintenance of aquatic facilities such as Infrastructure Agreements, government funding and private providers.
- A need to ensure the planning scheme supports ancillary land use functions associated with aquatic facilities as consistent land uses within this land designation.
- Further explore relationships with other aquatic facility providers to improve community access.
- Review current services provided at each facility to ensure consistency with community demographics.

Map 1: Existing aquatic facilities and infrastructure*



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Map 2: Aquatic centre facilities and notional catchment area*



Aquatic Centre	Pop 10 km	Pop 5 km
Caloundra Aquatic Centre	68,265	50,321
Cotton Tree Aquatic Centre	110,155	55,710
Kawana Aquatic Centre	124,852	40,871
Beerwah Aquatic Centre	17,213	10,770
Nambour Aquatic Centre	48,163	21,615
Eumundi Aquatic Centre	18,654	5274
Palmwoods Aquatic Centre	47,988	13,593

Aquatic Centre	Pop 10 km	Pop 5 km
Buderim Aquatic Centre	119,764	54,849
Coolum/Peregian Aquatic Centre	28,685	16,950
Conondale Community Pool	3238	822
Kenilworth Community Pool	1992	1155
Maleny State School Pool	13,758	5686
Mooloolah State School Pool	26,119	9010



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