

MEDIA RELEASE

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Big pool upgrades make a splash

Funding for major upgrades of Townsville's pools has made a big splash in the City Budget.

Council has allocated a total of \$4 million for the refurbishments of the Tobruk and Long Tan Pools and \$450,000 to start the redevelopment of Kokoda Pool.

The capital works deliver on recommendations in the Aquatic Facilities Master Plan to guide the future of public pools in the city.

Work at Tobruk and Long Tan Pools includes refurbishment of change rooms and kiosks, and new pumps and filtration systems to improve water quality.

Environment and Sustainability Committee chairman Cr Vern Veitch said the council was committed to giving the city's pools a long-needed upgrade to meet the community's needs and draw more people back through the turnstiles.

"The council is fulfilling a commitment to upgrade facilities at Kokoda Pool and get it back operating with quality facilities for the enjoyment of the local community," Cr Veitch said.

"All of the works on the city's pools are being done in a strategic way so that our aquatic centres are fun and safe, and serve a distinctive role.

Under the model set out in the Aquatic Master Plan, Tobruk will cater for fitness and recreational swimming, tourism, squad and club training, and learn-to-swim classes. Long Tan will be the main aquatic competition and training venue, while Kokoda will be redeveloped as a year-round community facility.

The master plan was compiled with feedback from resident surveys, consultation and workshops with stakeholder groups.

Work on the \$4.1 million Kokoda Pool project will be carried out over two financial years, with a \$1.5 million State Government grant and \$2.6 million in council funding.

The Kokoda Pool project features a 25m x 20m heated program pool, children's aquatic playground, shade structures, café, reception area and public amenities, and storage and plant areas.

Further community consultation will be undertaken to finalise plans. The concept plans include a future stage with a play pool, multi-purpose wellness centre, picnic and playground facilities and provision for a State-funded hydrotherapy pool.

Media Information >> Cr Vern Veitch 0418 729 496