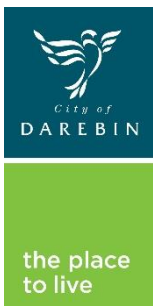


NORTHCOTE AQUATIC AND RECREATION CENTRE CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT FINAL



MAY 2020



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Executive Summary

The Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre was built in 1968. The facility plays a key role in supporting the health and wellbeing needs of the Darebin community. Although the centre has been upgraded over the years, NARC is reaching the end of its serviceable life and requires redevelopment.

Darebin City Council completed a feasibility study in 2017 in conjunction with OPG to explore the options that should be considered for the Northcote Aquatic & Recreation Centre (NARC) redevelopment. Due Diligence reports obtained indicate the facility is nearing the end of its lifecycle and ongoing maintenance costs to preserve the facility will grow considerably over the coming years as a result.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the detailed community engagement undertaken by the City of Darebin to obtain feedback on the concept plans for the proposed redevelopment of the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre. The report provides the context for the project; engagement approach; and a summary of the key issues raised by participants; and observations from the consultant team.

Consultation for the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation centre was conducted predominantly over a five-week period during an unprecedented global pandemic COVID 19. The consultation included a wide range of interviews and online workshops with various key stakeholder community groups via alternative means including;

- Darebin – Your Say web page
- Online video conferencing
- Telephone calls
- Online surveys – residents and schools

The consultation platforms were implemented in order to gain an understanding of the thoughts and opinions of various different sectors of the community including:

- General community
- Schools in the City of Darebin and current schools that use the Centre
- Advisory Groups
- Key Stakeholders
- Facility Operators
- Relevant State Sporting Associations

Overview of key Findings

Council should be commended on the environmental focus and how the proposed design of the centre provides a free-flowing open contemporary aquatic and leisure centre.

Aquatics

The Centre is well located and supports the other community services and open space areas. There is already a “community feel” about NARC and the outdoor 50m pool is well utilised even through the winter months. This will need to be retained and community and swim groups/sports clubs have expressed the importance of adequate shelter and shade for events, carnivals and day to day activities.

Indoor Aquatic areas are welcomed as a much-needed upgrade and refresh to bring the facility up to date with current and future trends. It has been noted across majority of feedback responses that storage is very important whether it be locker space for swimmers or storage for clubs.

All abilities access and adequate change rooms for aquatics is very important to the community, in particular ensuring that there is not only ramp access into aquatic areas but an alternative i.e. hoist or swing should be considered for people who have limited mobility.

Concerns about lack of recreation water space outdoors by removing 25m and toddler pools and replacing with only a splash deck raised some concern for residents.

Health and Wellness

Feedback suggests that the design of the gym and allied health component is very important to the community and local residents – the variety of offerings and services will be key to the success of this facility component. Data points and gym layout need to consider; flexibility of spaces to meet different needs and requirements of the gym in the future. Virtual classes are a valuable add on to the programming of the health club.

It should be noted that air flow and noise preservation need to be taken into consideration for each of the health club/gym rooms to ensure they are able to be programmed efficiently and support required types of environment.

Amenities

Feedback was received about the need to ensure changerooms provided for all users' needs and not only gender neutral spaces. This is a misinterpretation of designs as there will be options available which include men's/women's, family, accessible, gender neutral and a dedicated changing places. Council will need to ensure that this message is appropriately conveyed to the community.

Other

The need for additional car parking was identified as a key issue. The key issues being ensuring sufficient car spaces were available during peak times, emergency vehicles have access and that deliveries are able to be made quickly and efficiently. A number of local residents expressed concern about the impact of additional traffic on Victoria Road as a result of a new and more substantial facility. Comments were also made about ensuring sustainable transport options for bikes, cars and any other modes of transport were taken into consideration when the design is completed.

AV and IT considerations need to be looked at throughout the building. The provision of CCTV was also identified as a key safety issue ensuring that line of sight across the facility was maintained, this will also be very useful if 24/7 gym access is utilised by members.

There was strong support for the provision of a multipurpose/meeting room. The need for this space was identified by both community groups and aquatic clubs (swimming, water polo and synchronised swimming) as a space for social gatherings, meetings, club operations and training.

Fee increases were mentioned numerous times throughout the consultation feedback, the community members are concerned that the cost of the build will lead to a rate rise.

The majority of the respondents are in full support of Councils intent to develop the facility as a 6-Star Green Rating.

1. Introduction

An extensive community engagement plan was developed as part of the design process for the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the detailed community engagement undertaken by the City of Darebin to obtain feedback on the concept plans for the proposed redevelopment of the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre. The report provides the context for the project; engagement approach; and a summary of the key issues raised by participants; and observations from the consultant team.

2. Background

The Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre was built in 1968, it plays a key role in supporting the health and wellbeing needs of the Darebin community. Although the centre has been upgraded over the years, NARC is reaching the end of its serviceable life and requires redevelopment.

Darebin City Council completed a feasibility study in 2017 in conjunction with OPG to explore the options that should be considered for the Northcote Aquatic & Recreation Centre (NARC) redevelopment. Located at 180 Victoria Rd, Northcote the NARC currently offers the following amenities:

- Outdoor 50m and 25m pool and toddlers heated pool
- Indoor 25m and 10m lane pool
- Spa, sauna and steam room
- Gymnasium
- Cycling Studio
- Group Fitness Area
- Creche
- Café
- Changerooms
- Reception / Retail Space
- Private Consultation Rooms

Council have considered community feedback received in 2017 and the future needs and growth of the Darebin community determining the future facilities needed at NARC will include but not limited to;

Indoor

- Indoor 8 lane 25m pool
- Indoor learn to swim / leisure pool
- Ramp entries to pools
- Indoor aquatic playground and toddler pool
- Indoor warm water pool
- Steam, spa and sauna facilities
- Gym and group fitness studios
- Private consult rooms – for allied health services i.e. physiotherapy
- Reformer pilates studio
- Café
- Change rooms including dedicated spaces for accessibility, gender neutral, changing places and school groups

Outdoor

- Outdoor 10 lane 50m pool
- Landscaped spectator area for carnivals and events
- Outdoor nature play aquatic playground

- Outdoor landscaped area for relaxation

Access and Car Parking

Reconfigured traffic measures including:

- New entry and exit to car park
- Electric vehicle charging stations
- Increased bicycle parking
- Pick up / drop off zone
- Bus parking

Due Diligence reports obtained indicate the facility is nearing the end of its lifecycle and ongoing maintenance costs to preserve the facility will grow considerably over the coming years as a result. A Condition Assessment report prepared by Macutex in 2016 found that overall cost for repair and renewals of the facility would exceed \$3.3m over the next ten years. The report also found that a significant amount of water was being lost, likely as a result of building movement over the years which is predominantly caused by oversaturation of the soil.

The redevelopment of NARC provides an excellent opportunity for Council to create an industry leading facility that becomes a flagship facility for Darebin City Council due to its alignment with the municipality's strategic goals, vision and values. The vision for the project is to:

“Create a vibrant, welcoming and innovative multi-generational health and wellbeing hub for the municipality.”

A key goal of Council is to become an energy and water efficient city and reduce waste and improve sustainable transport. To help achieve Council's ambitious sustainability goals, The Northcote Aquatic & Recreation Centre redevelopment project is targeting to achieve a certified 6 Star Green Star rating (i.e. at least 75 points) using the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) Green Star Design & As-Built v1.2 or the latest environmental rating tool.

The overall NARC redevelopment objectives are;

- Improve health and wellbeing of residents
- Address current and future needs for the provision of aquatic and recreation facilities
- Increase participation of all gender and abilities
- Increase social interaction
- Improved, inviting, safe and environmentally sustainable facility.

The design team has completed a concept design for community consultation based on all previous work completed, and this report provides a summary of the findings from the consultation undertaken. This consultation feedback report will be provided to the Project Management Group for consideration in the next phase of the design process.

3. Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre Concept Design

The Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre is located at 180 Victoria Road Northcote, north east of the Melbourne CBD.

Below is a site plan of the current Centre



Figure 1 Current NARC location

The centre is located adjacent to McDonnell Park and is generally bound by Victoria Road to the west, Clifton Street to the north and residential/industrial properties to the south.

The general precinct comprises of a number of sports and leisure related land uses, including

- The Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre, including swimming pool and tennis facilities;
- Clifton Street Children's Centre; and
- Northcote Junior Football Club.

Based on the background information and work previously completed the following concept plan was completed and released for community consultation.



Figure 2 Concept Plan NARC Site Plan

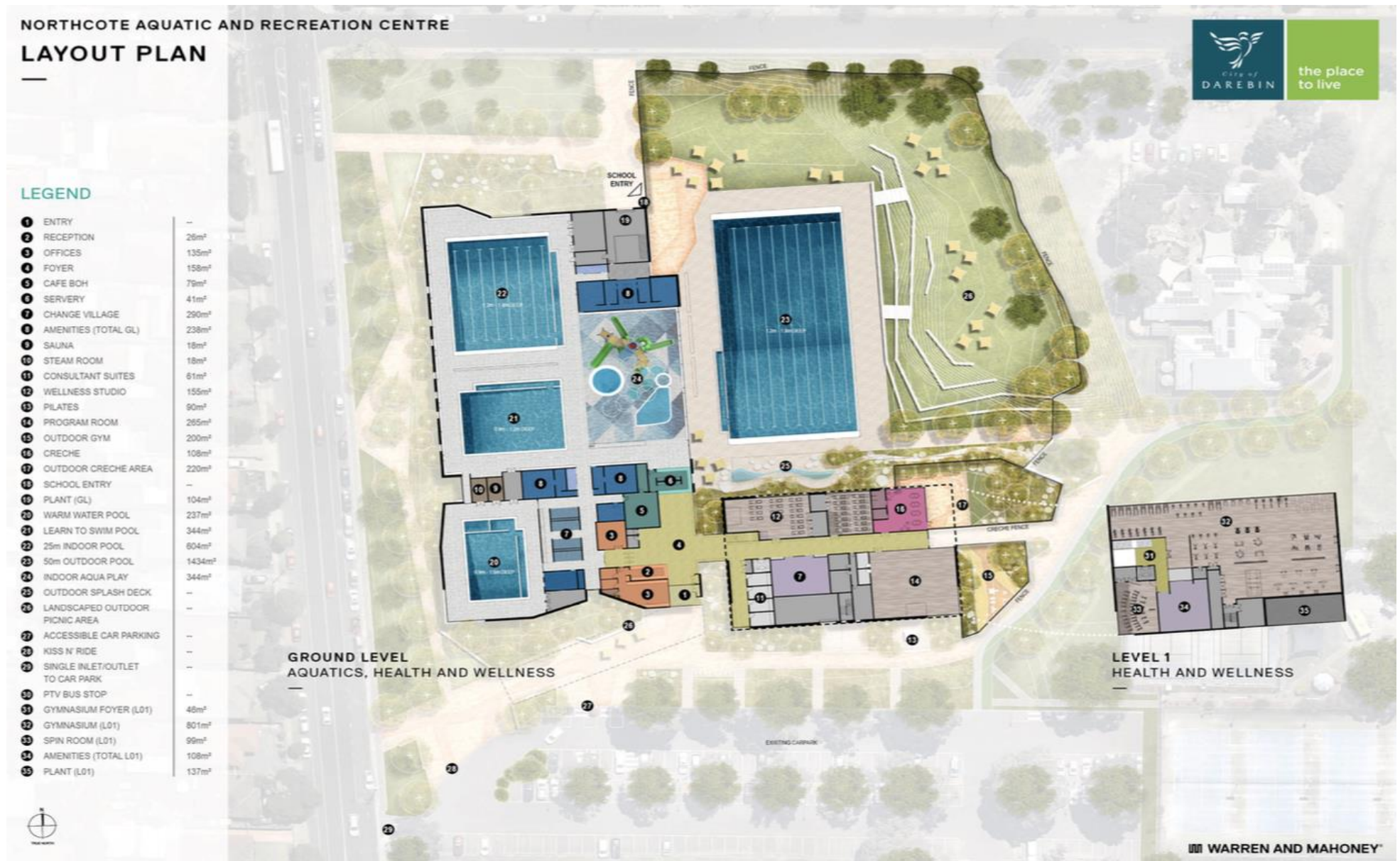


Figure 3 Concept Plan NARC Layout Plan



Figure 4 Concept Plan NARC ESD Initiatives

4. Consultation, Engagement and Research

4.1 Introduction

Consultation for the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation centre was conducted predominantly over a five-week period during an unprecedented global pandemic COVID 19. The consultation included a wide range of interviews and workshops with various key stakeholder community groups and Council and non-council officers via alternative means including

- Darebin – Your Say web page
- Online video conferencing
- Telephone calls
- Online surveys – residents and schools

The consultation platforms were implemented in order to gain an understanding of the thoughts and opinions of various different sectors of the community including:

- General community
- Schools in the City of Darebin and current schools that use the Centre
- Advisory Groups
- Key Stakeholders
- Facility Operators
- Relevant State Sporting Associations

The key findings from the consultation and engagement are presented in this following section and are grouped together under the following stakeholder groups:

- Community survey
- School survey
- Resident, Advisory Groups and Key Stakeholder written submissions
- Resident, Advisory Groups and Key Stakeholder interviews
- Facility Operators

4.2 Community Survey

This section summarises the key findings from the community feedback survey conducted online, through Council's 'Your Say' webpage. This consultation took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, where social distancing restrictions were in place, from 15 April 2020 to 3 May 2020. Under the changing circumstances, caused by the pandemic, online consultation was implemented, including video meetings available with the project manager and this online survey, which was also available for download, so that it could be printed and returned as a hard copy survey.

A total of 401 people completed the survey for all comments please see **Appendix One**. The following information provides details on who was responding to the survey. Additional to this there were a number of comments made through the Darebin "Your Say" Q&A portal. A full list of comments can be found in **Appendix Two**.

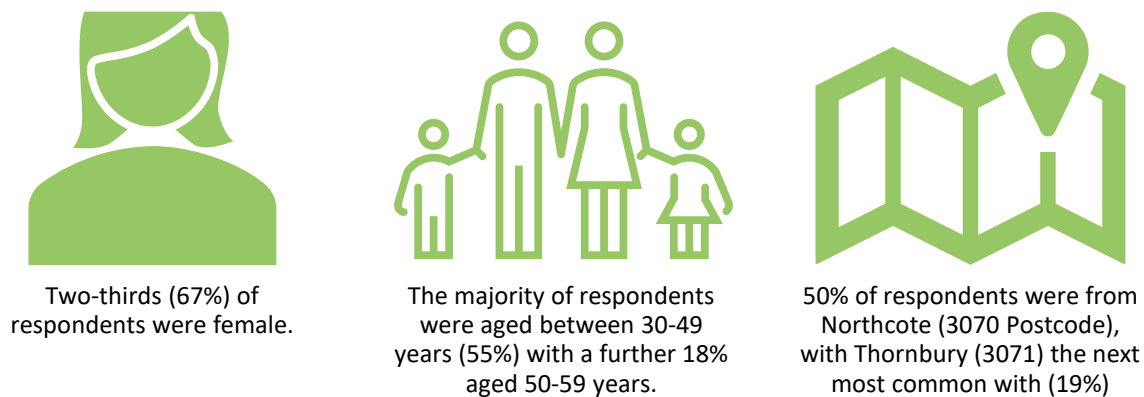


Figure 5: Respondent Characteristics

After viewing the proposed concept design for the new Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre respondents were asked to rate the design from Excellent to Very Poor. Overwhelmingly (81.5%) respondents indicated that the proposed design was either 'Good' or 'Excellent'

The 6% of respondents who rated the designs 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' were given the opportunity to outline the reasons they gave this response. Opposition to gender neutral amenities accounted for the majority of these responses, however it is important to note that this only accounts for approximately 3% of all responses.

Overall support for the proposed designs is further strengthened when respondents were asked if the designs would be a good fit for the local neighbourhood, where 94% said that it would be a good fit for the local neighbourhood. The community also strongly supports Council's aim to develop the facility with a 6 Star Green Star rating, with 95% stating they support design initiatives to achieve the Green Star Rating.

4.2.1 Potential Facility Usage

The following section details how the proposed facility may be used by those who responded. 91% of those who responded said they would use the new Centre. Those who selected that they wouldn't use the new facility followed a theme to the questions related to the overall design, with many of those who selected they wouldn't use the new facility, if built, focused on gender neutral change rooms, along with concerns over the change to the outdoor pool area.

4.2.2 Reason for Facility Usage

Those who selected they would use the proposed facility were asked to outline why they would choose the facility. Respondents were asked to select up to 3 options from a list. Overwhelmingly the respondents outlined the top three reasons as 'Close to home' (64%), 'To use the outdoor pool' (47%), and 'To attend health and fitness program' (41.5%).

The graph below details other reasons for use that were available.

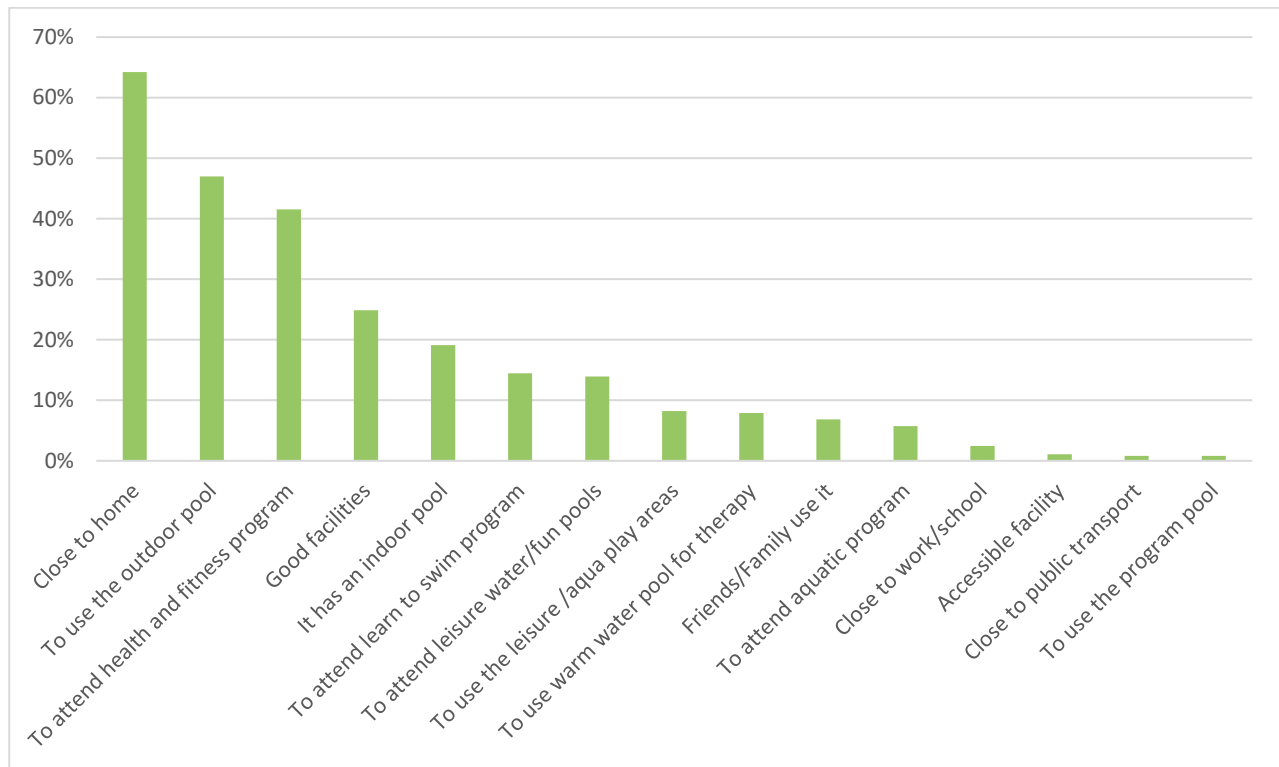


Figure 6: Potential Reasons for Use of Facility

Respondents were asked to detail what the main activities they would undertake at the proposed facility from a list of common activities that are undertaken at aquatic centres. Respondents were asked to select up to three responses. The most popular response was to undertake lap swimming in the outdoor 50m pool (39%), this was followed by using the gym and weights room (33%), then group health and fitness activities (28.4%).

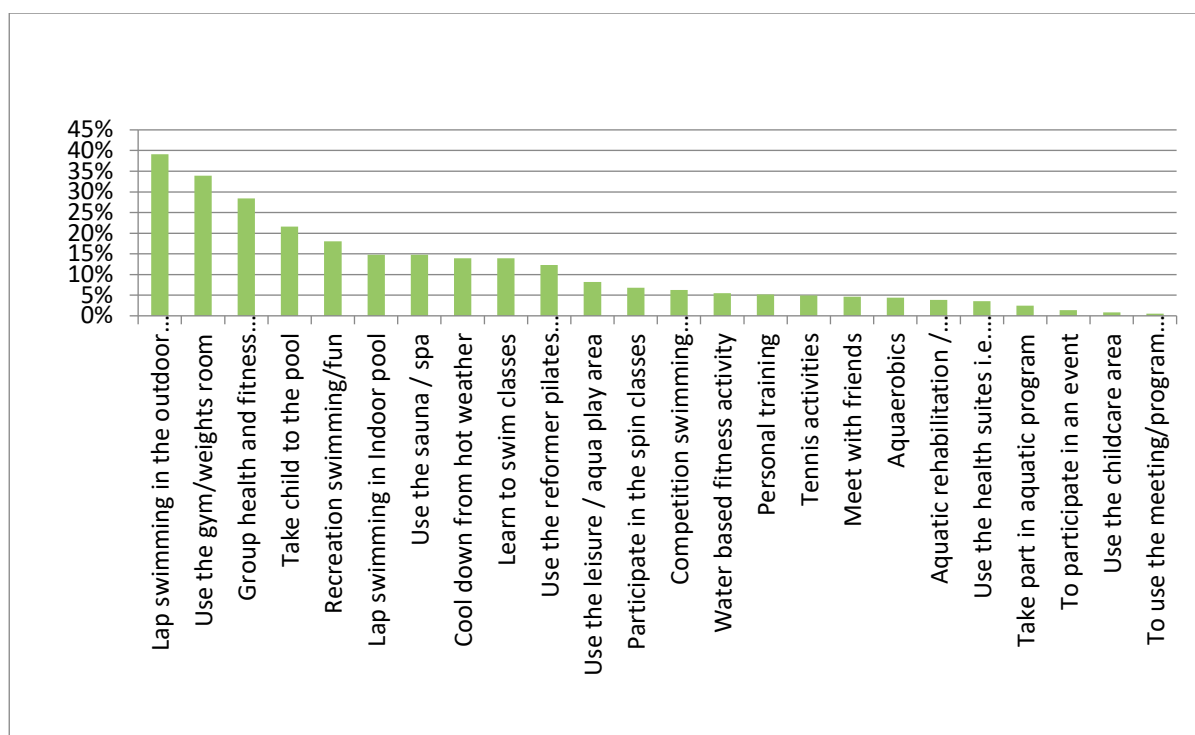


Figure 7: Potential Main Activities to undertake on site

Respondents were also asked to highlight if they thought the layout of the facility (location of components) would make the use of the facility easy, with 85% indicating it would. Of those who said it wouldn't location and design of the outdoor pool areas was of main concern, in particular the change from the current layout. This follows a general pattern throughout the survey that the use of the existing centre during summer to cool down from hot weather is important to respondents.

Respondents were asked to outline how they might use the facility in terms of time of use, method of travel to the facility, and frequency of travel. Details of this is outlined in the graph below.

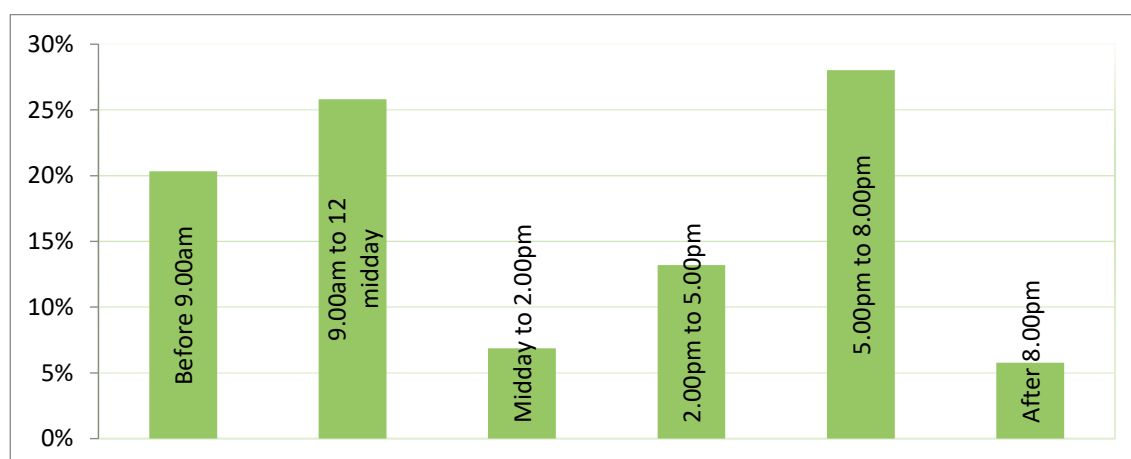


Figure 8: Potential Time of Use

Respondents identified that the most likely time of use was before lunch, with more than 45% indicating they would use the facility prior to 9am or between 9am and 12 pm. The next most common anticipated time of use was between 5pm and 8pm, which is a common peak time for people to attend after work time.

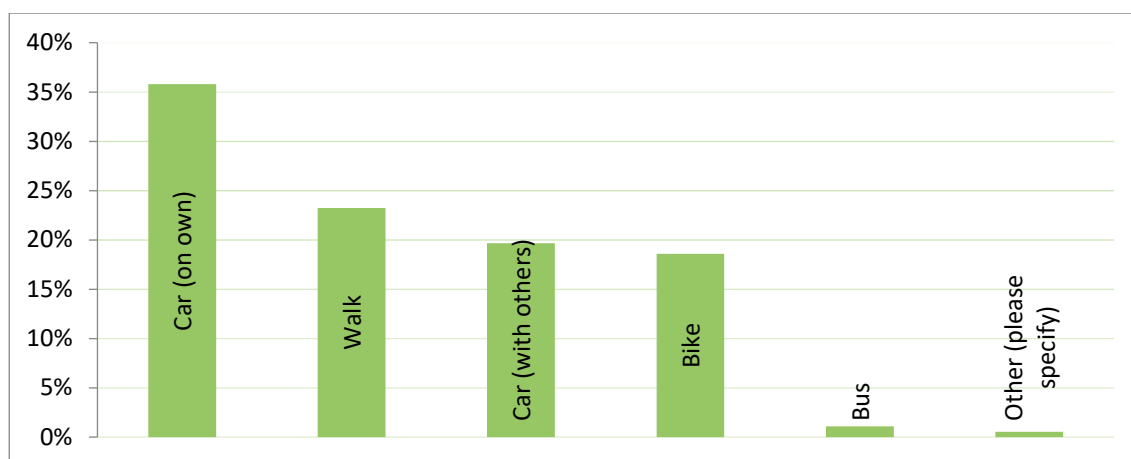


Figure 9: Potential Method of Travel to Facility

Respondents indicated that the most likely method of travel to the facility would be by Car (either on their own or with others). This accounted for 55% of all responses. It is important to note that active transports (walking or by bike) accounted for the majority of responses (43%).

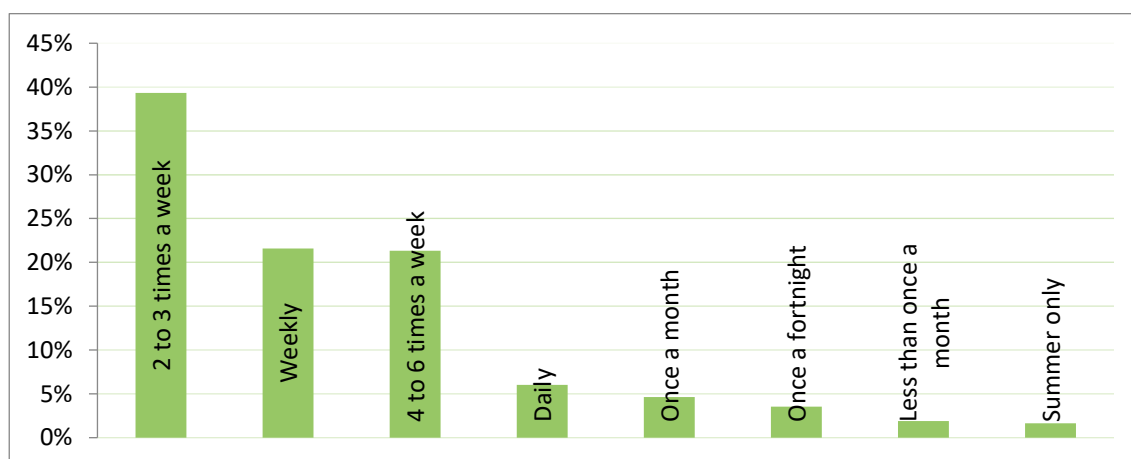


Figure 10: Potential Frequency of Use

Respondents indicated that it was most likely they would make multiple visits to the centre per week, accounting for 67% of all responses. A further 21% indicated that they would visit at least once per week.

4.2.3 Additional Comments

Respondents were given an opportunity to provide additional comments on the plans. There were 271 comments made, which have been grouped into the following categories.

- Concerns over the design of the outdoor pool area, in particular the reduction in the number of pools, and the impact that this will have on peak times in summer. (27%). This further reinforces other comments made throughout survey on the importance the outdoor pool areas plays within the local community.
- Concerns around the Gender neutral changerooms (14%): This was also mentioned throughout the survey and was the main area of concern among respondents. Many of the concerns were related to the safety concerns women may feel or experience if they were to use the same change room as men.
- General positive comments about the design (13%): Beyond the above to areas there were no other clear themes that emerged beyond generally supportive comments about the design and the potential of the proposed design.
- The community liked the idea of a 6-Star Green rating (80%) however were concerned that this may increase rates.

4.3 School Survey

Run at the same time as the community feedback survey, was a school survey aimed at identifying the potential use of the facility, and any elements that may impact their use of the proposed facility. Eight schools responded to the survey, being:

- Apollo Parkways
- St Raphael's
- Thornbury High School
- St Anthony's Primary School
- Northcote Primary School
- Marcellin College
- Croxton
- Westgarth Primary

All schools were supportive of the design, with only one school rating the designs as neutral. Reasons for use focused on accessing the 50m pool, proximity to the school, and access to good facilities. These facilities would mainly be used for school swimming carnivals, learn to swim classes and group fitness and wellness classes.

One concern raised by two schools was the ability to have access to a school only change room or the ability to close off sections of a change room to limit the external use during a hired event (such as a school carnival). These have already been considered and were incorporated into the proposed concept design.

Although the overall sentiments were positive, concerns around how the proposed centre would cope with school requirements was raised as the main area of concern, from those who responded.

4.4 Resident, Advisory Groups and Key Stakeholder Submissions

4.4.1 Resident Submissions

There were 19 written submissions received and 17 video conference/telephone meetings held with residents in regards to feedback of the concept plans on Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre redevelopment. A summary is listed below:

Table 1 Residents Submissions

Issues	Opportunities
No Bike racks on plans	Ensure Car Park meets facility needs
Seating around pool is minimal	Increase staff office space
Safety of outdoor splash park being near other bodies of water	Wind in winter is strong, could look at putting in wind breakers
Café location- would like to see this moved off pool concourse	Opportunities to name pool after a local swimmer
Unsure if there are enough amenities for the centre, this should be looked at through the plans	Ensure photos are taken before and during demolition for history purposes
Where do people go whilst this centre is closed?	Noise abatement opportunities throughout the centre, as currently very loud
Consider the impact of development and operations on local residents	Shelters for outdoor pool need to be included for weather and events
Consider the noise of the weights being dropped particularly for the rooms under the gym area	Ensure that there is sufficient disability and family change areas
Northern winds across pool can be uncomfortable for swimmers	Ensure memberships stay at low cost
Difficult to turn right onto Victoria Road from car park	Ensure Gym facility meets today and future demands

During the cold months the proposed entrance will be exposed to wind/rain	Entry and Exit onto Victoria Road needs to be looked at to make sure it is safe as extremely busy road
Resident request information about • Procurement process for the design team • How the capital cost figure was derived. • Process for deciding that NARC would be redeveloped before Reservoir Leisure Centre	Virtual Group Fitness Classes are not the only option for over 50's
Concern about sight access into group fitness rooms and ensuring privacy is maintained	Sun protection cover over the 50m pool
Ensure sound systems from group fitness rooms do not conflict with each other	Garden area needs to be separated from pool areas – particularly the outdoor leisure pool area
Waiting area outside of group fitness area important for social interaction – current size does not seem sufficient	Secure bike parking required for protection of expensive bikes
Concern over the amount of wood at the entrance and long term look and maintenance	Entrance pathway should be of sufficient width to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists
Bus entry poorly designed – concern for safety of cyclists	Pedestrian crossing required on Victoria Road
Concern over the sustainability of the proposed facility for local residents – particularly traffic management	Training/ meeting room should be included in the design
Concern for amount of money being spent in the South and the North being left out again (Upgrades to Reservoir Leisure Centre)	Ensure facility has capacity for virtual classes
	Size of sauna should be increased
	Café should be located to serve wider sports and community precinct

4.4.2 Advisory Groups

There were 4 submissions received from the Darebin Advisory Groups which included Darebin Disability Advisory Committee, Darebin Interfaith Council and also the Islamic Council of Victoria (Preston Mosque), and the Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diverse Advisory Committee. A summary of their feedback is listed below;

Table 2 Advisory Group Summary

Issues	Opportunities
Accessible Access, pools currently only accessible via water wheelchair	Hoist or swing should be investigated for pool entry
Reiterated community concern to include a variety of change spaces with designated men's/women's as well as gender neutral, family, accessibility etc.	Support the multi-use quiet room to be used as a prayer room at designated times, and at other times to be used for multi faith, quiet space for respite for patrons with special needs and a closed breastfeeding space.
	Support gender neutral changerooms to provide choice to patrons. In favour of single cubicles.

4.4.3 Key Stakeholders

There was seven submission received from the Key Stakeholder this included;

- Northcote Swimming Club – 290 swimmers
- Northcote Waterpolo Club
- Waterpolo Victoria
- Synchronised Swimming Victoria
- Fairfield Counselling

- NYP Dragons Water Polo Club
- Melbourne Physiotherapy, Pilates and Fitness Group

Feedback Summary from the above stakeholders is below:

Table 3 Key Stakeholder Summary

Issues	Opportunities
Ensuring correct lengths and depths for water polo, currently doesn't look correct on the plans	Secure outdoor Storage for Clubs
Concern over access and allocation policy for aquatic clubs – need to ensure fair access to all user groups	Multipurpose rooms for warm up and Stretching
Outdoor 25m pool should not be removed	Shelters for outdoor areas including shelter at shallow end of the pool.
Current size and location and health suites is insufficient. • Need to create a health precinct that support a range of allied health professionals • 6 health suites min • 60m2 clinical gym required for rehabilitation/therapy • Area should be located adjacent to larger gym to enable transition from rehab to wellness • Area require for reception and waiting room • Area needs viewing to external areas with natural light	Viewing and/or spectator seating for all pools
	Poolside showers would be very handy
	Ensure timing/pace clocks are installed at both outdoor and indoor pools
	Outdoor large digital screen would be very helpful for competitions and everyday messages- it would also help with sponsorship for clubs
	Correct markings for water sports is included
	Ensure commercial viability for Allied Health Services i.e. space, opening hours and range of practitioners
	Swim wall and netting should be provided to support swimming and water polo club activities
	Access to a meeting space required for aquatic clubs
	Require diving blocks for both the 50m and 25m pools
	Ensure lane rope anchor points are provided to enable cross pool activities ie water polo
	Ensure diving blocks can be removed to enable water polo referees to walk along pool side
	Lux level of outdoor lighting needs to be sufficient to support evening training and games
	Access to power outlets across 50 m pool
	Boom or swim wall to increase flexibility for programming of 50m pool and division of use

Additional Comments

- Clubs concerned about transition to alternate facilities and how council will assist the clubs to find a training venue during construction

- Suggestions that a residents/stakeholder reference group should be established to provide feedback through the design process

4.5 Operator Feedback Submissions

An online video conference meeting was held with the following current facility operators. The operators were also invited to provide a written submission.

- Aligned Leisure + written submission
- YMCA + written submission
- Bluefit + written submission
- Belgravia Leisure
- Club Links + written submission

The feedback on plans for Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre in summary is listed below. In general, all operators commended council and the design team on the quality of the design and the thought process to ensure the operational imperative had been considered and the market segments had been clearly separated.

Table 4 Facility Operators Summary

Issues	Opportunities
Front Foyer area looks to be too small with no indoor social space in close proximity to café	Ensure energy saving initiatives don't have a significant impact on the ongoing operational costs
Potential traffic flow to the aquatic area could be an issue at peak times	Electrical works to be looked at when gym floor is completed, this would help moving the cardio equipment around
Potential issues with the skylight within pool hall, could cause glare and reflection issues for lifeguards	Ensure that the facility has electronic display boards, makes it very easy to change messaging and programming and membership prices for customers to read
Ensure Car Parking is adequate	Consideration for turning circle for busses would be a great help for events and schools with the least traffic disruption on Victoria Road
Waste Disposal location looks like it has been potentially missed	Discussion around delivery drop off areas needs to be taken into consideration, currently Café looks like it must go through reception
Ensure Emergency Services parking locations are the closet to the building, plans do not show this	Potential for sales/membership space away from high traffic areas
No location for emergency evacuation points	Ensure there is storage at reception for day to day operations
Unsure how merchandise will work with 24/7 gym access	CCTV locations need to ensure line of sight
Management and Staff workspaces looks light on	Consideration of a designated learn to swim office that allows direct line of sight to the LTS pool and gives accessibility to parents for direct communication rather than having to go to reception for all enquiries.
Location of First Aid room	Ensure correct storage for chemical i.e. off the floor
Individual health club areas should be on their own thermostat	Ensure EFT and HICAPS points in wellness areas
Ensure that at minimum one gate into the centre is large enough for all abilities access	Inclusion of bigger 'Social Space' for social groups, warm up areas etc.
Is the creche area a good use of space?	Potential for outdoor gym space
The health suites may not be of sufficient size to support a health and well-being practice	Ensure some cover over outdoor gym
Consider the reduction in lane space in both the 25m and 50 m pools	Outdoor screen for swim club and carnivals

Issues	Opportunities
Consider increasing the length of the warm water pool	Ensure there is enough shade for outdoor aquatic spaces
Ensure seating is provided around program pool and leisure water area	Consider double door entry into the sauna and steam rooms
Ensure sound barrier treatment provided to health and wellness area	Ensure 24-hour access to gym area and consider security of reception and café area
Consider café delivery access	Swim ledge should be provided on both sides of program pool
	Provide anchor points on bottom of pool for inflatables and power access
	Need for multi-purpose meeting/training room
	Need for a small room to support birthday parties
	Boom or swim wall to increase flexibility for programming of 50m pool and division of use

Additional Comments

- Outdoor splash park will provide a point of difference
- Consider future expansion options
- COVID 19 will have an impact on the layout of gyms in the future
- Consider before and after school care in creche

4.6 Royal Life Saving Victoria

Life Saving Victoria will undertake a formal audit of the final concept plan once completed. The general comments are provided below prior to the audit.

- Design of facility to be commended
- Pool size and depths are suitable for proposed uses
- Consider circulation options / separation of areas
- Consider opportunity for program room to support running of LSV Life Saving Course

5. Key Findings from Concept Design Consultation

The consultation through the unprecedented period of COVID 19 indicated key themes from various user, non-user and community groups.

Overview

Council should be commended on the on the environmental focus and design of the centre provides a free-flowing open contemporary aquatic and leisure centre.

NARC is well located and used by local resident's and the inclusion of the warm water program pool is a key asset for the facility and the area as a whole. The programs that will be provided (e.g. arthritis) to the ageing population with the concession rates makes it a valuable asset locally and beyond for the older target market group.

Overall design elements are very well received, flow during peak times and access to café from foyer area has been raised as an issue from a number of areas in the feedback, as well as ensuring that there is large digital display screens thorough the centre.

Aquatics

The Centre is well placed with other community services and green open space. There is already a “community feel” about NARC and the outdoor 50m pool is well utilised even through the winter months. This will need to be retained and community and swim groups/sports clubs have expressed the importance of adequate shelter and shade for events, carnivals and day to day activities.

Indoor Aquatic areas are welcomed as a much-needed upgrade and refresh to come up to date with current and future trends for the centre. It has been noted across majority of feedback responses that storage is very important whether it be locker space for swimmers or storage for clubs.

All abilities access and adequate change rooms for aquatics is very important to the community, in particular ensuring that there is not only ramp access into aquatic areas but an alternative i.e. hoist or swing should be considered for people who have limited mobility.

Concerns about lack of recreation water space outdoors by removing 25m and toddler pools and replacing with only a splash deck raised some concern for residents as this is currently highly utilised during the summer period.

Health and Wellness

Feedback suggests that the design of the gym to the outdoor pool and splash deck was well received,

Allied health component is very important to the community and local residents – the variety of offerings and services will be key to the success of this facility component. Data points and gym layout needs to consider; flexibility of spaces to meet different needs and requirements of the gym in the future. Virtual classes are a great add on to the programming of the health club.

It should be noted that air flow and noise preservation need to be taken into consideration for each of the health club/gym rooms to ensure they are able to be programmed efficiently.

Amenities

Feedback was received about the need to ensure changerooms provided for all users’ needs and not only gender neutral spaces. This is a misinterpretation of designs as there will be options available which include men’s/women’s, family, accessible, gender neutral and a dedicated changing places. Council will need to ensure that this message is appropriately conveyed to the community.

Other

With all recreation and high usage sites car parking was mentioned a number of times throughout the feedback period, ensuring that there is enough during peak times, emergency vehicles have access and that deliveries are able to be made quickly and efficiently. There was also mention of the inclusion of sustainable transport options for bikes, cars and any other modes of transport are taken into consideration when the design is completed.

AV and IT considerations were raised throughout the period, and further detail will come for the placement of these during schematic design stage. CCTV was also a major feedback item, again ensuring that line of site for all areas both indoor and outdoor was maintained, this will also be very useful if 24/7 gym access is utilised by members.

There was strong support for multipurpose/meeting/warm up room was also mentioned by majority of groups, in particular community groups and swim clubs a space for groups to use that could be multi-purpose would be significantly beneficial to the operation of their groups and clubs and to the community to hire also.

Rate increases were mentioned numerous times throughout the consultation feedback, the community members are concerned that the cost of the build will lead to a rate rise, whilst majority of the respondents are in support of the 6-Star Green Rating rate rises are a genuine concern.

6. Warranties and Disclaimers

The information contained in this report is provided in good faith. While Otium Planning Group has applied their own experience to the task, they have relied upon information supplied to them by other persons and organisations.

We have not conducted an audit of the information provided by others but have accepted it in good faith. Some of the information may have been provided 'commercial in confidence' and as such these venues or sources of information are not specifically identified. Readers should be aware that the preparation of this report may have necessitated projections of the future that are inherently uncertain and that our opinion is based on the underlying representations, assumptions and projections detailed in this report.

There will be differences between projected and actual results, because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected and those differences may be material. We do not express an opinion as to whether actual results will approximate projected results, nor can we confirm, underwrite or guarantee the achievability of the projections as it is not possible to substantiate assumptions which are based on future events.

Accordingly, neither Otium Planning Group, nor any member or employee of Otium Planning Group, undertakes responsibility arising in any way whatsoever to any persons other than client in respect of this report, for any errors or omissions herein, arising through negligence or otherwise however caused.

Appendix 1: Community Survey Online

Written Comments

Response	Detail
1	I welcome this innovative, stylish, ecologically and environmentally driven design. Fits with key personal and community values. In my professional life I have worked in health / hospital and wellbeing policy and program implementation, both in early years and aging care, disease prevention and evidence informed policy. In hospital we had to consider a 30 year + life trajectory for facilities. From this point of view, I believe there may be some key areas overlooked. As the population ages and to reduce chronic disease or manage symptoms and conditions I believe facilities such as these will be crucial. There is a cohort of older Italian women who attend the aquarobics. many in their 70's or 80's. They mostly look like they are in their 60's! As more people are referred to discover such therapeutic and prevention strategies are the facilities sufficient for the influx? My second story is that I have episodes of sciatica backpain and have had 2 broken ankles in both cases water therapies and physiotherapy was crucial to speedy recovery. My use of the gym which is my routine maintains my health and wellbeing. Scans of my bones show my bones very slowly reversing my osteoporosis and NARC has made this possible. Is this design future proof for the chronic disease tsunami, will some of it be prevented.
2	1) SPA/SAUNA - The artists impressions and the current facility floor plans don't note a spa being included. They only show a sauna /steam room. As you will know the current spa, sauna area of NARC is beyond capacity most peak and off-peak times. Please ensure the spa and dry sauna are capable of handling the current capacity, plus new membership in the future 2) DISABILITY access plan – through your feasibility and consultation you should provide a disability access proposal. How do members get into all areas of the facility while maintaining respect and dignity. Especially accessing pools, gates, spas, sauna, the upstairs gym, change rooms, showers and toilets and entry and exit doors including braille, tactile strips, hearing loop and high contrast signage, handrails and pool chair lift or compliant grade ramp 3) OUTDOOR POOL – As one of the last facilities in the northern suburbs with a year round outdoor 50m pool, it is essential to be retained. You should deeply consider that the scope of all requirements of the pool meeting the FINA international standards so that the facility can be used for official time trials and heats and very little or no additional cost. 4) ESD – some other inclusions in ESD is stipulating the following; • Water permeable footpath, to reduce runoff during rainfall, and improve water penetration into the ground. • Low embodied energy building materials, local or recycled or repurposed • Water sterilisation through the filters and pumps using ultraviolet treatment and salt, rather than chlorine chemical • Passive ventilation of the indoor pool area through large operable windows or folding doors • Building insulation to be a natural fibre product, not synthetic • Floor of the gym, spin and programs room to be repurposed recycled rubber or plastic composite 5) BUILDING MATERIALS - Ensure that none of your building materials are ACP (Aluminium Composite Panel) or EPS (Expanded Polystyrene. These are currently the subject of international, state and federal investigation into fire risk. The artist impression appears to include these materials. If you do,

Response	Detail
	the Victorian Cladding Taskforce will likely require them to be removed at a later date. 6) BIKE RACKS - Currently the facility has a major lack of bike racks and quite often I have to lock my bike up to a tree or street sign. Please ensure enough facilities are provided in low theft risk area. 7) CONTACTLESS – Contactless entry into the facility, secured areas and lockers for members. 8) BRICK WORK – Your specified materials in wet areas should not include anything with cavities or deep grout where mould and fungus will build up and be difficult and expensive to clean. The artist impression shows brick masonry on the inside of the indoor swimming pool area. I would strongly advise against brickwork as the grout between the bricks will cause problems. 9) NATURAL LIGHT – Reduce energy consumption and create a more vibrant atmosphere by allowing more natural light through skylights with tinted glass to reduce UVA and UVB.
3	Gender neutral means mixed sex. Gender neutral means male dominated. Research from the UK shows mixed sex change areas are a serious safety risk for women and children. Don't do it.
4	The plans show another childcare centre when there is already a childcare centre a short walking distance away. This does not seem to tie in with the Green Star ambition. Why can't the existing childcare centre get an upgrade and extension, and this be used for parents who want to use the gym or pool? Removing the childcare would also allow space for a kid's party room or community meeting room or other spaces such as a quiet room for people on the spectrum. At the very least the childcare in NARC should be small as isn't it only catering for people doing a short gym or pool session for an hour or so? It is a waste of resources to have 2 childcare centres so close and I am sure the existing childcare centre could do with an upgrade. Also, I have 3 kids aged 11, 9 and 6. It seems I would have to be stuck inside on a hot day so we can use the indoor 25m pool as we can't use the outdoor 50m pool. (teenagers and too deep). This is very annoying and not as good as the facilities at the present pool. I don't understand why there isn't a pool for medium sized kids outside like NARC has now.
5	Only having Gender neutral changerooms or toilets create hostile and unsafe environments for women and girls. If you feel there is a high enough proportion of people unable to use corrected sexes change rooms and toilets, then offer gender neutral and an option for them. However, this tiny minority should not be preferences at the cost of women and girl's safety and comfort. There will be a huge backlash if you insist on ignoring the needs of your female clientele.
6	Keep the vibe. Facilities for performance athletes is a great key. Jono's coming back with heat once COVID's done. Upgrade weights room.
7	Looking forward to some nice new bathrooms!! Would be good if the women's bathroom had open showers (like at Hawthorn YMCA) so people can shower in bathers without waiting a long time!
8	please install single sex change rooms
9	I am highly concerned about the change room facilities. I do not want to share the change rooms with men. Many women from ethnic backgrounds will not be able to use this facilities if all the change rooms are non-gender specific. Please make sure there are female and male only change rooms. I could not take my elderly relatives and friends here now if they thought they had to change in front of men. If you need non gender specific change rooms have some but not all.
10	It is a vital feature to have dedicated FEMALE ONLY bathroom facilities, NOT gender inclusive bathrooms. Women (females) have a right to privacy safety and dignity.
11	I can't tell from the Indoor Aquatic floor plan but there needs to be sufficient family change rooms as currently there is only 1 and only 1 badly positioned change table in the female change room.
12	I'm fine with inclusive spaces as long as you still provide some female only space.

Response	Detail
13	I support the submission from Northcote Swimming Club. It is essential squad swimmers have access to lockers where they can leave their swimming backpacks during, the day as these student's swim before and after school. This is a small ask to support our future swimmers. At present they are not allowed to use public lockers!!
14	It's really important that there are separate toilets, showers and change rooms for women and men, especially for the safety of women and their children. There also needs to be parenting facilities in the men's bathrooms (change table, etc). Can you say for sure that this will be the case to ensure the safety of your clientele?
15	I was excited until I saw you're proposing an ALL genders change room. Please don't allow this. Women and girls have a right to change and have spaces away from men. You will end up dealing with men assaulting and videoing women and girls. This has happened in ALL changing rooms or spaces that have been made unisex. You'll have blood on your hands if you have been made aware of this and it goes ahead, and females are assaulted by males. Men who say the magic words 'I'm female' are not female. Don't bend to the trans cult and throw women's rights under the bus to cater to misogynists who think females are nothing more than a sexist stereotype.
16	I heard the change rooms were planned to be gender neutral. If there is no female change rooms then I wouldn't use the facility.
17	please provide adequate female only changing spaces
18	You have not given the public sufficient time to respond to your design proposal and have not advertised this survey sufficiently.
19	Regarding the shower/toilet/ change rooms: I need one that is for females only. Will you provide this? If not, will you provide individual rooms that contain a shower and toilet so i can go into that by myself?
20	Yes, you must include women only change rooms. I have been to pools with mixed gender change rooms, but these have also had women only change rooms as well males only. Otherwise you will be excluding some cultural groups, lesbian women and woman who would not feel comfortable with men around the change rooms.
21	Yes, woman must be provided with a safe separate change room I object to all genders being in the same change room 🙅
22	The architectural presentation and facility diagrams and poor. They look like a year 8 graphics assignment.
23	Review the outdoor options for kids please. Should be a key user group, particularly for use throughout the week.
24	There needs to be women's only change rooms. I'm very concerned about the impact on women who for multiple reasons may not want to change where there are men. This needs to be address as a matter of urgency.
25	The increased number of separate pools will be expensive to staff (i.e. more than double the current 2 lifesavers)
26	I am completely uncomfortable with the 'Family and all-gender' change rooms. It is totally unacceptable. I am used to female only rooms where women walk around freely without clothes on and use the area at their convenience. No woman is ultimately safe in a mixed gender change area and I am sure there are segments of our multi-cultural community who will not use a space where a man could be in a state of undress near to a woman. I am a lesbian and would find that difficult. Women who have had rape experiences would feel vulnerable. Did you actually consult about this?? Maybe you are trying to be accepting to alternatively gendered persons. You need to think again about how you meet their needs, because once again women are the losers in your plan. Apart from this, while I realise the images must be from other places some of the equipment e.g. Pilates looks far too close together to me. The gym images tend to the cavernous factory style look. The existing gym has enough complaints about it being noisy - if the new gym is going to be a great

Response	Detail
	big echoing warehouse with blasting music it is going to be very alienating. Give it a ceiling at least. Although it may seem I am very critical - I am in fact very excited about the redevelopment. I have been attending the Centre for at least 30 years and brought my daughter there to learn to swim. It is so crucial that you get this design right now, or we will have to live with the mistakes for another 30 years. The cafe could be a real boon to the area if in the right hands and marketed the right way to the wider community, not just members. I also think giving only two weeks for feedback is really too short and makes it feel like you don't really want this to get out to the community. Had the centre been open I would expect there would have been advertising there. Without that the encouragement points to participate are few. Good Luck.
27	About time...!! Been waiting for a lifetime to see a redevelopment....!! Whoever is against it should stay in isolation for the rest of their lives 🙄
28	Overall, I think the design is great but needs some tweaking. I support the feedback provided by the Northcote Swim Club regarding the design. Swim squad coach and athlete equipment storage near the outdoor pool is a priority, as are outdoor starting blocks & shelter at one end of pool, outdoor seating, clocks, digital screens and an indoor multi-purpose warm up space. The squads are large and growing users of the facilities now and it would be great to cater for them in this fantastic new proposal. Thanks for your work.
29	More family shower room apart from the disability room would be great
30	I support the feedback given by Northcote Swim Club.
31	I fully support the proposed amendments to the design submitted by the Northcote Swim Club
32	How long will the project take, and will there be compensation as I live next door so it will interrupt the serenity around my new apartment I just bought.
33	I hope there will still be plenty of group fitness classes with a real teacher (not the large screen). I am a bit concerned about noise levels with the yoga/exercise room near the large pool. Hopefully there will be plenty of sound deadening and real mirrors (not the screen, which shows all movement with a lag).
34	I think the proposed cost of this initiative is outrageous and as a rates payer I will be very interested to watch if you go thieves in the night and up my rates to pay for your grandstanding in building this overpriced monolith - it is a gym and pool for heaven's sake - stop treating it like the Taj Mahal that you lot seem to want to hang your hats on.
35	* I am really disappointed to learn that the entire centre will close for 18-24 months in order to build this. Is there an alternative site in the vicinity that Council owns to which gym equipment could be relocated or that could host group fitness activities? Brunswick Baths did this successfully during its redevelopment in 2013, by offering gymnasium, cycle and group fitness out of an old school hall and classrooms nearby. * I wish there was a smaller outdoor pool for children that is shallower. On hot days these pools currently are very popular. Indoor pools are great for the rest of the year, but a real shame (given the land size of the property) another small pool could not be accommodated in the plans. * I question whether an entire reformer Pilates studio is required. It would be a 'dead' space for most of the time, unless there are multiple classes per day. I would prefer that space to be better utilised for group fitness and the cost of the reformers to go towards an upgrade of gym equipment that is utilised far more frequently. * It was unclear from the Level 1 plans how the layout of the gym floor would function. Please consult with staff and users to get this right from a user experience perspective. No use getting architects to simply plonk bikes here, treadmills there and free weights in the middle. Where is the stretching (mat) area? This was not easy to understand from the very tiny image provided. * Please reconsider the single entry / exit from the carpark. This will be an absolute nightmare at peak times. * Please consult with the experts (i.e. instructors) about what the outdoor gym will look like and contain. Already this seems strange, as it is currently typically used as an alternative zone for HIIT training. And equipment is brought out from the functional training area inside (dumbbells,

Response	Detail
	kettlebells, barbells, ropes etc). Would you have a duplicate set of that equipment downstairs to use? Or would instructors be forced to haul it upstairs or downstairs from the gym each time? It might be all too hard, and the space not used for its original purpose if not considered fully with input from those actually instructing in this space. * It actually seems odd that the gymnasium would be on level 1 and not on the ground floor.
36	Please ensure adequate size of gym, sauna/spa, reformer Pilates rooms, etc to cater to future population growth. When I lived in Brunswick I went to Brunswick pool and, while the renovation was great, the size of many of the renovated areas was not adequate such that using the gym, spa/sauna was not possible due to too many people.
37	My main issue is around the availability of the swimming pools during peak times to the general public. In my view, regardless of the new design of the centre and the number of pools proposed the primary issue has always been the lack of availability of lanes to the general public during peak times as the swimming club (squad and water polo) and YMCA (squad and lessons) occupy the majority of the lanes. Most weeknights there are only 1-2 outdoor lanes and nil indoor lanes available for the general public until 8pm. Saturday morning no lanes are available indoors until after midday and limited availability in the outdoor pool until 11am. Will the allocation of lap lane availability improve going forward and current contracts reviewed for fairness to the general public?
38	I feel the outdoor area needs more shading, should be shade sail over outdoor splash play area, and increase in seating outside. Nowhere outside for swimmers to put bags & towels, also indoor seating for parents waiting for kids in swim lessons is inadequate
39	It is vital to me you separate hot & cold water taps in female showers. I am a daily user and shower after my swim. I only ever have cold showers and would be forced to protest loudly or cancel my membership if I were not able to have a cold shower. Thank you !
40	As a person with a disability, and the very significant problems I've run into with competing use at the Northcote Aquatic Centre in the past, I'm begging on behalf of all disabled users that you include AT LEAST TWO DEDICATED DISABLED TOILET/change rooms.
41	How long will the gym be out of action? Are we getting new gym equipment? And when,?
42	Anything that increases access to lap swimming would be great. It would be wonderful if there were activity rooms free for people with low fitness. I would prioritise only undertaking as much upgrade work as can be completed during shutdown. I find the medium sized outdoor pool very useful - I would hate to lose that.
43	Please include shaded outdoor pools suitable for young children to play safely.
44	Very concerned about the removal of outdoor swimming space suitable for small children. The splash area is not an adequate replacement. Also please ensure that the plumbing is kept separate between pools so that if there's a poo accident in one of the kids areas that doesn't mean all pools need to be closed!
45	Not sure why the kid's outdoor pools have been removed
46	The outdoor gym area seems an afterthought being separated from the larger outdoor area which could have been utilised as well. It is likely to be used by a larger number of people/percentage of the day than the creche so wouldn't swapping them be good Love the outdoor kids area for play however it also seems to be an afterthought put in between the building and pool.. needs to be closer to the leisure area to ensure adequate room for parents to supervise Will miss the outdoor pools. Given they are going will there be diffident ability to open doors walls in summer, so it isn't stupidly hot and stuffy inside?
47	I think it is imperative for the outdoor 50m to have a cover over the entire pool area to provide protection from UV rays
48	Please provide dedicated toilets and showers for disabled users. It does not work to share these with families or gender-neutral users nor does simply putting a sign on the shower door in a shared changing room work as compliance is so low. I regularly used the facility with a disabled friend and

Response	Detail
	waiting for a shower - while understandable if another disabled user is using it - is exhausting after an exercise session and distressing if someone is using it who doesn't need to. Enforcement was non-existent. Consider a key tab for showers/ toilets that is only given to those with a disability.
49	Consult with the current staff and ask them about what should be there.
50	There should be a large weights area with ample equipment for strength training
51	I'm concerned about sharing the bathroom facilities with men. I would prefer if there was a gender section
52	Reformer Pilates is a fabulous idea. Please ensure spa area is large enough. Also quite surprised there is not a smaller swimming pool outside that is shallower and similar to the learn to swim pool that is inside for children and facilities to chilli in rather than doing laps, to me this is quite separate to the outdoor aquatic play area. Would also think that additional parking would be required to cater for increased patronage?
53	The change facilities appear small on the plan. There is often a problem finding bench/changing space when school groups are in. Please make sure that new facilities have more capacity than the old ones. Please plan to plant trees in the outside area that will provide deep shade in summer. These might have to be non-native trees, but they will provide a huge benefit in lowering the temperature around them.
54	Why is the community consultation being run only online and only for 2 weeks? There seems to be an awful lot of money being thrown into this and pushing for it to happen ASAP, whilst everyone is distracted by COVID 19, it seems very suspicious
55	Please provide a shade cloth over the outdoor pool. The outdoor pool is good for laps (50m) but exposed to the sun, and I don't want to get skin cancer, nor have to ask pool staff to lather up my back with sunscreen.
56	With regard to ESD features I'd like to see more trees for natural shading around the outdoor pools and I don't think electric vehicle charging should be a future initiative, rather include at least one straight away to demonstrate leadership on this for users and the local neighbourhoods.
57	The spa area could be bigger, it's a very popular feature of the current centre.
58	The key things that still need to be considered: - more clarity on staging - better integration of tennis courts/facilities - improvements to school bus facilities - need for kid's outdoor pool.
59	It would be great to have a new sauna and steam room area as that is what I use the most. I am also a lap swimmer in the outdoor 50m pool. I am glad that there will be lots of open space left for people to sit and talk outside on the grass, which has always been a unique feature of the NARC (Brunswick baths has a LOT less outdoor space).
60	Need outdoor lockers for swimmers
61	The design is a significant improvement from the existing facilities. It would be nice if the design was more architecturally exciting (more Sydney opera house, less fed square). We think having the weights room on the ground floor would be preferable, as every time a weight is dropped it will be heard on the ground floor. Currently in the creche room we can hear weights being dropped.
62	I'm confused as to why there is only one outdoor pool plus a toddler area. There is opportunity to really tailor the outdoor space for different groups.

Response	Detail
63	I'm concerned about increased entry fees, management of outdoor pool to fairly provide regular access to public lap swimmers, only one outdoor pool & only a continuation of existing opening hours - even 30mins at each end of the day and an hour on weekends would make a huge difference.
64	1. It is weird to see people drive an SUV to the NARC to keep fit. Please encourage use of bicycles by providing excellent bike parking facilities and limit car parking or use other measures to promote bicycle use and discourage use of cars. 2. I was surprised to see so little outdoor space for young kids. Apparently, families are essentially encouraged to stay indoors. Also, the splash deck seems to be close to an area with lots of traffic. Please ensure that there are enough seating/tables nearby to enable child supervision. 3. What about adding some simple "sports facilities" to the outdoor area such as table tennis (solid material with steel "net" to increase life span) or a simple bowls "lane" or anything else where (mainly) kids can enjoy being outside
65	It would be good for more public lap lane availability when swim clubs etc are on.
66	I think it would be good to keep an outside toddler/aqua play pool. Given the outdoor pool's popularity in the summer months I think a separate outdoor pool for children to play separate from the lap pool is essential - both for lap swimmers and families with small children.
67	I much prefer the plan from the minutes of September 2018 plan 4b
68	While I support energy saving initiatives, the water in the showers needs to be hot and adjustable. Many timer based single button showers take the duration of the cycle to get warm enough to use (and thus waste more water and energy while you wait for it to get warm). Also access to lockers within the changing areas would be useful to allow you to lock your clothes and belongings while using the shower facilities without having to exit the change rooms. Ironing and hair drying facilities would make it more practical to use the gym and pool on the way to work.
69	As someone who has worked at the centre in the past please give consideration to a second outdoor pool and a larger gym space, the second level should be as big as the first
70	I think it is a huge mistake not having an additional outdoor pool especially in summer when so many families from Northcote need somewhere to come and cool off. It is so busy on hot days it is ridiculous and to think that we will all fit into a 50 m pool is ridiculous.
71	1) Please consider adding standing height hair dryers in change rooms. 2) Please consider adding natural light to health consulting rooms 3) Mobility device storage needs weather protection (they have batteries) and ideally a charging station 4) ensure at least one disabled shower includes trolley 5) would be lovely to have outdoor cafe area with visual access to outdoor pool/wet areas for easier parent supervision 6) please consider maintaining seniors membership option as this makes it affordable for low income older people 7) I strongly support exercise bike/device energy generated contributing to the grid - perhaps philanthropy/energy companies might support purchase of suitable equipment 8) consider provision/access to personal hygiene areas for homeless people: few facilities available in Northcote - additional consideration required for fittings/fixtures/privacy 9) how will children be supervised/barred from spa/sauna area - provision for gates/access not clear Thank you
72	Space for children in the outdoor area to play would be very valuable.

Response	Detail
73	It is difficult to understand what you are changing because there is not enough detail. A concept drawing is inadequate.
74	Currently swim at Richmond in the winter. Would prefer to swim closer to home indoors if the pool was more suitable. 50m indoor would be a dream.
75	I'd love an area for bike roller sessions. I get spin classes suit some people (and are important)...but as part of the Jarasport crew I'd love to be able to bring my road bike in and pop it on a roller. I'd also really like a Northcote triathlon club. Hawthorn and Bundoora have one...it would really be great...!
76	The plans to do not have any information about the interior design and equipment of the gym. The project appears to be a redesign of the facade.
77	Disappointing to see no other outdoor pools than the lap pool. Sharing a pool with recreational play is tricky under normal circumstances and will only be amplified with only one outdoor pool. The closure time is also quite long. How do you expect to win people back once they have found somewhere else to swim for two years?
78	The plans do not show any marking on the ceiling of the indoor lap pool to allow backstroke swimmers to hold a straight line in the water. The outdoor splash space looks dangerous unless the tiling is skid proof. Kids will run there despite the adult supervision - there is even a kid running in the drawing. There does not appear to be seating near the splash pool nor on the lawn next to the outdoor pool. There appear to be umbrellas but not seat. Some people who want to sit in this area may not be able to get up and down from the grass. A few seats outside the entrance would also be good. Will additional shade be provided in the summer? The pool depths appear to be designed for men and many shorter women would struggle to find an appropriate depth for aqua fitness, nor could I do any of my pool based exercises in these pools. The depth of the outdoor pool seems inappropriate for school swimming sports as many children would be out of their depth as soon as they enter the water. Having the spas connected to the warm pool suggests that the pool will be very hot - too hot for me to do any of my pool-based exercises. It is hard to tell from the drawings but the material underneath the current external gym equipment gets too hot in even mildly hot weather and too wet when it rains. I hope this will be addressed in the new space. The ESD is fantastic - the more solar panels and water recycling the better.
79	I really think there should be pools for children and toddlers outside, not just the splash play area, which is great, but I don't think it will be big enough for all the kids who use the facility in summer.
80	I cannot see any reference to managing vehicle movement. There is already a number of conflicts with vehicles particularly right turns in and out of the Carpark. What is planned to manage this with one entrance?
81	A water slide/s and a proper play area (not just the splash area) in and around the outdoor pool for kids would be wonderful
82	Pity the children's outdoor pools won't be staying. They are a highlight and the splash area look small
83	I would like to see the new design support room for competitive swimming with the Northcote Swim Club and also leave room for recreational swimmers. there is sometimes a clash between rec swimmers who want more lanes and competitive swimmers who need their lanes.
84	With the gym areas, it is not clear how much space will be allocated to people wanting to do stretching and floor exercises. The area in the current gym is inadequate and often unable to accommodate everyone wanting to use it. I'm hoping that the warm water pool will be big enough to cater for a larger number of participants than can now take part in the high impact aqua aerobics classes as there is not enough room at present.
85	I'm worried that car parking will be worse - is there only one entry/exit? Research should show that the car park is poorly designed as it is and at peak times cars cannot move around and it becomes quite congested and confusing. Consider opening up an exit onto the smaller street behind the apartment complex?
86	The cycling space seems to be taken up by Spin groups. What about if you don't belong to a class and just want to cycle following your personal plan.

Response	Detail
	The pin loaded weights area and machine numbers seem totally inadequate. In the current facility users for the pin loaded weights have to mill around waiting for a machine to become available as there are currently inadequate numbers of these machines. Expand areas 14 and 32 into area 15. Some of the garden can be sacrificed. The external gym, which is a great idea, can still be located in area 15. The garden in area 15 is really not needed as it looks directly onto McDonnell Park Good to see the cafe space is enlarging and hopefully it will be a professionally run good ambient space. Can't believe there isn't an alternative to an environmentally friendly indoor ceiling and wall cover other than timber. May be environmentally OK but in a wet, steamy area it will grow microbes and fungal spores and eventually will rot and look awful - unhygienic in a damp area.
87	I completely reject the concept. Not necessary to spend that much money when it can be improved for far less.
88	1. Traffic management The plan needs to consider and manage traffic in and out of the car park onto Victoria St. Victoria St needs pedestrian & traffic lights with dedicated separated(Copenhagen style) from traffic bicycle lanes. Usage will only increase, and it is already dangerous leaving the car park especially with peak hour traffic. This portion of Victoria St needs to be a 40km zone. It's great to have a 21st century facility but not with 20th century road access. Traffic flow needs to be calmed and made safe for all traffic - pedestrians, cyclists, and cars. 2. Open grassed areas Also, the open grassed area seems to be reduced from the area available presently. The grassy area near the current toddler pool and adjacent to the shallow 20m pool seems to have been largely lost. Please do not shrink the open grassy space as it is already very crowded on hot days and will only increase. The layout should maximize shady, grassed areas not reduce it. Currently, the large open area is a feature other local pools do not have e.g. Brunswick and Fitzroy. It is good to use the unutilized area south of the current plant building but new buildings should NOT reduce the grassed open space as once open area is lost it will probably never be regained.
89	We are in outdoor pool a lot, whether it is attending event to swimming or accompany kids training, the outdoor need more shade area from the RAIN permanently in some areas. Large umbrella do not last and break easily. The current shade area from the sun hardly effective. It is a very windy area for the 50 min pool. Partially blocking some wind in some section of the fencing would help a lot. It will make the 50m outdoor pool loses less heat. Which would result in need for more heating to the pool. That area is so cold if the sun is not out. Need to see if you can make heat more efficient. Otherwise your heating machine will constantly struggle and break down again. Since we go there 6 time a week. We really notice how it is struggling. Hopefully the indoor pool is improved with the lighting. Really dark and need a good design to brighten area. Check out many other swimming centre and you will see how they Utilise nature lighting. Hope this feedback helps.
90	Great to see provision for water polo access being provided. For this to be maximised, construction of the outdoor pool deck should facilitate use of goals and lane ropes (e.g. holes for placement of goals and also netting). Also its possible part of the design but not listed on the page - a boom with the ability to separate the pool in half also allows better use of space - one half can be kept for water polo or other aquatic use while the other can continue to be used as a lap pool.
91	The proposed facilities look fantastic. My only query is about the family and all gender change facilities. Given the child abuse findings of

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	the royal commission could this combined change room lead to teenagers and young children or other vulnerable community members being preyed upon, groomed or assaulted?
92	It looks great and I can certainly say this is well overdue. Can't wait to see it when it's done.
93	The pool designated to conduct Water workout classes needs to be from about 1.1m to 1.6m deep, with about 65% of this pool at 1.1m-1.5m. Water workouts require the participant to work with the water at underarm level, so detailed discussion needs to take place with instructors. Also, lap swimming should be available at all times in the outdoor pool, not restricted when the Swim Club operates; this particularly relates to accessibility issues in getting into the pool for older swimmers.
94	I think having more spaces for group fitness classes is an excellent idea, as they are the primary reason I choose NARC. I also think having another outdoor pool in addition to the 50m one would be a good idea, otherwise there just won't be enough pool space in summer. No one wants to swim inside in summer.
95	It is a public facility that should first and foremost meet the requirements of local residents. Availability of swimming space for all ages and abilities in summer and winter is important, and it is unfair to bias aquatic facility availability to particular groups for many hours of each day. If much of the swimming space is allocated to private groups on a daily basis then you need to provide more outdoor pool facilities (as there are currently.). Also, as a parent of young children I resent being forced indoors on a warm day, because the outdoor facilities do not suit their abilities.
96	Will there be a staff room and/or staff bathrooms?
97	Placing outdoor rinse off showers around the outdoor pools
98	All I really care about is affordable access to a 50-meter pool for swimming laps. The proposed new facilities look good, but if the objective is to crowd the outdoor pool with more programs then this is a bad thing. Many people just want access to lanes for swimming laps. As far as my interest go building a second 50-meter pool to create more free lanes would be better than upgrading the other facilities.
99	I wonder if the NARC development can push past 6 starts in its ESD - future ESD requirements will be higher and the new centre will not get refurbished for perhaps 15 years. I think you should also deploy solar across the whole roof to provide community solar to reduce thermal loading. I hope you can switch from natural gas entirely.
100	I like the overall design. My comments, combining my professional knowledge being an architectural designer, and being a local mother, would be that, the aqua play areas need a lot more. I know this is early concept imagery, but please look at two outstanding examples of aqua play, one indoors, one outdoors, both in Christchurch NZ. The Margaret Mahy Children's Playground, and the QE II Aquatics centre. The children's aquaplay facilities have so much going on, they are great. Big structures, not just a couple of water pumps hip height. I'm pleased to see the creche moved to the back of the site, near the Clifton St centre, away from cars and pollution, and noise. They can see the main outdoor pool area will be exciting for them. The purpose-built rooms in the gym look great. Be careful when showing yoga mats in plans. There's a dozen or so shown very spaced out on the plans. This is not reality. usually in a room this size people get squished in like sardines. Make sure your room limits fit the actual space and reflect this correctly on the plans. I like the energy efficiency planning and conservation efforts. In a big fan of Warren and Mahoney and am sure they will do a great job of this. The street front being mostly just grass gives the site visibility from the street but since it is such a huge solid front facade it's not going to need help standing out on this residential street. Can there be more taller trees and planting along the Victoria Street? Lastly, I notice the school entrance being on Clifton St. Is that where buses will park? Currently there a so many bused using the curved drive at the front. Is there going to be suitable off-street parking space for school buses and limited opportunity for school kids to be very near the busy roads?

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101	I think the design of the engagement process could be improved. I would allow at least 1 month for feedback on proposed designs and try to make the online engagement (especially given there is no face to face engagement) way more engaging and easy to navigate. Can you not use interactive maps where you could hover over areas, with bite sized chunks of information about what is in that area? Consider other online engagement tools apart from surveys too please! A lot of the text is also quite verbose in the FAQs etc. Also, worth thinking about how people commonly use and move through the centre, and making this clear in the proposed designs. Something to consider for future phases of engagement, as this project is a really important asset for the community and it is worth investing in proper engagement processes to ensure the project's sustainability, given the large-scale investment.
102	Please consider including a 25m outdoor pool for water play in summer. If it is heated or could be used in the shoulder seasons as well.
103	Great job on the design, it looks world class.
104	Would like a toilet on the upper floor near gym
105	1. there needs to be less car parking and more leisure space. 2. swim education needs to be separated always from lap swimming.
106	please no tiles.... use solid surfaces that don't chip easily or need multiple grout lines that get dirty. its breeds germs.
107	Will the car park be the same size?
108	I would like to see a women's only spa/sauna area or at least dedicated times for women to use these facilities. It can be intimidating to use these areas as a woman on my own due to the high numbers of men using them at the same time. It is almost always 80% men using the facility when I am there, and I think that can be attributed to women not feeling comfortable to use the space.
109	A comprehensive disability access plan needs to be presented and have feedback from people with disability. You don't ask about disability in the 'About You' section below. Why not?
110	I wish there could be more to represent the Aboriginal history of the land that the centre stands on (the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation). And any sort of programs etc regarding Aboriginal culture to bring this to the forefront within the community.
111	I love the design. I think it's a good, contemporary response to the area and will create a renewed sense of place. the sustainability initiatives are fantastic. Long overdue renewal of the centre. I can't wait to use it!
112	Unclear from proposals guys amenities on 1st floor; Good idea to most of pools indoors. Agree with moving current classes / activities on 1st floor to ground. Gym upstairs is good idea. Gym equipment distancing needs to be clarified. Currently very poor; Hopefully lots of mirrors on upper level; Need up to date equipment - much of current very dated; Showers / change areas look good; Proposed naming of a pool - outdoor - 'Joe Fogg Memorial Pool'. Will send details of proposal. pmich@hotmail.com - if not received.
113	More consultation with staff working there. We hear nothing about the redevelopment and impact to jobs. And members ask us, and we have no answers. The facility is ageing badly, and this redevelopment needs accelerating
114	The changes proposed are a significant outlay. The design just really improves what is here and doesn't bring it into line with other aquatic centres in Melbourne. NARC has one of the largest and premier swim clubs and teaching programmes in Victoria and the opportunity is now to create a

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	fantastic public facility whilst also making it the race centre of the north and the premier learn to swim venue. Let alone being attractive to the public with an expansive water park amusement area.
115	Please provide more than one entry/exit to car park....otherwise there will be accidents exiting to the right
116	Disappointed about the removal of the outdoor pools in summer. With a small child I like using the small pool outside in summer. Without a shallow pool outside for small children won't be coming back. On a hot day, don't want to be indoors in a heated pool. Would rather go to the beach if these changes happen. You're ruining the local pools which I have been coming to for over 35 years. Please cater for everyone not only the lap swimmers
117	I am concerned that the group fitness space is not enough. Design of cooling in the space, currently inadequate. Also, the need for floor to ceiling mirrors in group fitness room rather than large video screen.
118	Allow for expansion and flexibility of usage of space. High consideration of needs of Instructors and Staff managing the facility. A happy staff means a well looked after clientele.
119	I've used the centre since 1974. The pre showers are a good idea. I hope the finishes on walls, floors, infrastructure are safe and importantly easily cleaned as cleanliness is an issue with the current centre. Hopefully too the play areas are safe and comply with relevant safety guidelines as some features of the current centre were built and then later placed out of bounds, I also I hope there is sufficient space for necessary maintenance and plant because the current centre looks like a tip. Lastly will the swimming squad only train in the outdoor pool. If they train in the indoor pool is there sufficient space for them to leave their gear and do their cool down routine without getting in the way of other indoor pool users?
120	This will have a significant impact on local residents regarding impacts of construction on local traffic and surrounding streets. This is already a very busy area for local residents particularly those who live on Victoria Rd and who are subjected to excessive noise and traffic on a daily basis. The council has no regards for resident needs in this vicinity and I fear the problem will only get worse with a bigger, fancier swimming complex for people to come to. The council just keeps pushing more cars and more people on Victoria Rd claiming it doing it for the community. What about residents on Victoria Rd and the impact on them?
121	Grandchildren in Squad suggest: 1. Several permanent swim Starting Blocks. 2.Pool wall lip for backstroke starts. 3.Diving board 1 & 3 m 4. Outdoor kids meeting/play area
122	I'm a bit concerned about space/facilities in program room - should be mirrored walls. I hope the cooling system in the programs room and the gym are more efficient than at the moment.
123	At least 1 Lane of indoor pool should be reserved for community use. Currently 80 % of the time only school groups can use it. It is supposed to a community resource.
124	Given the high density living in Darebin can you pls consider the needs of the general public so we can participate in exercise at any time (outdoor swimming pool). The centre has become a training ground with the mentality of making Olympians (Northcote swimming club) which is not what the general users of this facility want including rate payers. Pls give back the swimming facility to the general public for exercise, swimming lessons (learning to swim), school carnivals and fun.
125	could there please be more written detail around what the proposed plans are. Also, does this mean the whole gym will be closed, and for how long? Where will we go for fitness whilst this is being done?
126	As a former member of NARC, I find the redevelopment really exciting for Northcote locals. I have a few comments on the layout of the proposed design from a user and former rec centre employee perspective. As a former lifeguard and Duty Manager, I find the warm water pool layout worrying given it feels 'closed off' from the rest of the centre. If centre management are committed to always having at least 2 lifeguards on deck, it isn't a large concern, however if there are plans to only have one lifeguard on deck, this is a major concern and needs resolving. Also please note that these warm water area/sauna steam areas are incredibly uncomfortable for staff who have to stand lifeguarding

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	them for hours on end, the high temp and humidity could pose a health and safety hazard if not managed correctly. Also as a former rec centre employee, I would encourage you to develop a nice staff room space for all staff to use during their breaks, with air conditioning for those super-hot summer days. This is important for staff who might suffer heat stroke or feel ill during their shifts and need a cool place to rest while they recover. The layout of the indoor pool area looks great, again I would be careful of potential 'black spots' where lifeguards cannot see what is happening in all areas of the pool. The gym looks fantastic! I would suggest with a trend towards small group HIIT classes, making sure a space for this is considered in the planning of the space. The landscaping outside should be sloped so that lifeguards can see people sitting in this area from the pool side. Thank you! This is a great project and I can see enormous community benefits from this project
127	IT IS IN NEED OF AN UPGRADE ASAP
128	I hope there will be good temperature control - - that exercise spaces will be kept properly cool - that other areas (esp. waiting to get into exercise spaces) will also not be hotboxes (This is the main problem for me with the current facility)
129	Yes, how long will it be closed and are there other current same options available in Darebin?
130	The present 50m outdoor at Northcote is fabulous due to wide lanes and 10 lanes. Please make sure the lanes are full width - the New Brunswick outdoor pool is not good to swim in due to narrow lanes.
131	Looks good, use the centre but not for lap swimming. Prefer indoor 25m - like this layout.
132	Would like to see more dry/warm space connected to the pool for activities such as warm-up strength and poolside activities.
133	TWO comments: 1 - your survey is engineered to deliver positive results for your design - it doesn't offer the ability to critique. 2 - the lack of outdoor swim space for kids is really apparent. One of the best things about NARC is the outdoor "family pool." My kids graduated to this after using the outdoor toddler pool. It's such a joy to be outside in fresh air! On a nice day, the 50m pool is full of teens+ and so the 1m deep pool is such a great pool to play with my kids. I see the new splash pad in the development, but it doesn't encourage my kids to enjoy "swimming" games. They aren't interested in doing laps and we would hate to be inside on a nice day. Nowhere to go? This leaves small kids in the 50m pool with their adults trying to keep the teens from jumping on them. It's a safety issue.
134	Concerns over privacy in family and all gender inclusive facilities. Would those who understandably, may feel vulnerable in the presence of the opposite sex, would their personal security be compromised? I would like to see complete segregation of male and females when it comes to changing facilities as I feel that that level of personal safety needs to be maintained.

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135	Please pay attention to my comments about depth. It would be easier for me to go to Collingwood LeisureCentre, but it is too deep. I doubt if they have anything like the number of school visits because of the depth of their pool. You will lose a lot of income apart from anything else.
136	Ensure the outdoor 50m lap swimming pool remains a feature.
137	Better provision for grandstand-type seating for spectators at the outdoor pool. Clarification required regarding changing facilities. There must be the provision of female-only change rooms and toilets. This is a must for child safety. The picture provided in the artist impression implies the change facilities are for males and females together.
138	You need more fun outside not everyone like a to be indoors. And toilets outside. More family toilet shower. Separate gender area. male and female toilets. Not all mixed in together.
139	sun protection/cover over the outdoor pool? fully or partially over each end?
140	Why do you just have one option allowed for what time you would use it? It's a bit ridiculous as I would go 3 different times for 3 different activities. Also - I notice there are no outside showers and also not much thought given inside or outside for play structures for older kids? I think outside it would be good to have a bit more of a play area with a playground etc, either as part of water play or next to it. Otherwise it looks great.
141	Needs more bike parking - area designated clearly not big enough. The gym design should ensure it has enough free weights and mat area, and squat racks to be inclusive for women, the facilities don't look big enough to service summertime crowds, can you get better than 35% water savings, maybe a larger underground tank? Permeable paving for any paved area is a must also.
142	It is fantastic that you are doing an upgrade to this facility. It is such an important feature of the community and well in need of an upgrade.
143	When my Children are having swimming lessons, I arrive 30minutes before to accommodate looking for a car park. I am concerned that car parking could be reduced or harder to find with increased demand of new facility. My children are hoping for a waterslide but as long as waterplay areas have sufficient space for increased use at summertime and allow for kids of all ages and not just toddlers they should still be happy. I couldn't see in plans but hoping seating has been considered to watch children doing swimming lessons as it is compulsory, we stay. Also, somewhere to place Swimming bags other than floor (gets wet) or a chair (takes up space so others can't sit down). Family change areas are really important and plenty of pre rinse showers. Important change areas have a dry floor.
144	there needs to be a female only change facility
145	have steam room and sauna
146	Our primary use of this facility I the past had been in hot weather in the Sumer time. As a parent of. Toddler. There is no way we would come to use an indoor pool on. Hot day.
147	Please consider including sauna facilities and ice baths in your wellness centre for male and female patrons... Please consider the scope of concreted areas around the outside areas. Concreted areas are depressing... please ensure outdoor areas and water-play areas have enough shade and more than enough grassed areas for amenity and useability in the summer and to create space for people to use the entire site.
148	More outdoor kid facilities, specifically a shallow fenced pool for kids learning to swim, similar to Fitzroy pool. Please don't force us parents & our kids indoors in the summer. Please give us a dedicated, safe place for kids to swim/learn to swim outdoors.
149	Preparation of full design drawings for indoor and outdoor pool needs to be available. I suggest reviewing what Watermark centre has created in Greensborough as a guide
150	Commencement of the upgrade immediately would be great, especially considering the facilities can't be used right now due to the lockdown.
151	I worry that there are not enough general swimming pools in the outside area. In summer when I want to swim laps outside, others may be instead using the pool for free swim time. Also, my secondary school uses the current free play outside pools to run novelty activities while the more serious racing is going on. I also worry about the increased cost to members that these developments may cause. One of the best things about the gym, classes and general use of the facility is that it is more manageable price wise than many others and seems to serve the community rather than be run

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	purely for profit. It would be disappointing if this were to change. I also worry about increased attendance and membership making the gym and pool spaces overcrowded. How will this be managed?
152	I believe that the proposed NARC - male/female change rooms, bathroom, showers, and toilets should be based on a criteria of a male and female reproductive system (biological sex), as male/female has more to do with a person's sex for privacy reasons rather than their inner feeling of gender such as masculine or feminine haircut or dress/pants, unisex/non-binary clothes, haircuts etc. There is confusion within society about the meaning of sex and gender because the criteria to assign a sex at birth can no longer be based on a male and female reproductive system like all other animals, as the Victorian Education System has been recently been educating Victorian student to believe that a boy can have a vagina and a period despite this would be drawn the same as a girl with a vagina and a period, as well as a man can be pregnant despite this would be drawn the same way as a woman being pregnant. However, my husband and son can never experience a period nor a pregnancy, so they can never experience this type of "legal male/man/boy" (legal sex)." The Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre (NARC) will need to observe the current Australian Guidelines for Sex and Gender which doesn't mention the sexes nor the differences between the sexes and the reason it matters in public change rooms, bathrooms and toilets in order to prevent sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, child-on-child sex and violence. It is obvious that biological sex is no longer protected by law nor regulation as a British woman recently lost her employment contract because she declared that sex is a biological reality that can't be changed. This woman and others have come up to the "legal trip-wire," as the law defines "legal sex," "legal sexual organs," "legal sexual intercourse," and "legal sexual relationships." The current Australian laws and regulations allows a scrotum to be surgically modified into a "legal vagina" (legal sexual organ) in order to get all the rights and responsibilities of a "legal female/woman/ girl" (legal sex). Also, the Victorian law allows my son to have an equal right to be a male or self-identify as a "legal female/woman" by changing his biological male sex to a feminine gender on his birth's certificate. However, my daughters and I aren't a "legal female/woman/girl," as we have never been assigned a scrotum at birth nor have we changed any of our body part/s into a "legal vagina," so our biological sex is "female" based on a female reproductive system which isn't protected by any law nor regulation in Victoria. The NARC will need to take the communities understanding of their biological sex into consideration in order to provide facilities which are private and safe, such as change room, bathroom, shower and toilet and can separate the sexes. Otherwise there will be many people who won't use these facilities when visiting this centre. The NARC can't claim it is an inclusive centre if it excludes those people whom believe their biological sex matters and they feel NARC should protect them from harmful behaviours and practices within private areas. What does the NARC mean by having a new Family and all gender inclusive facilities? It should be titled more clearly for families, disabled and individuals. Gender means a feeling of masculinity, femininity, neither or both, but are these types of feelings relevant for people using a change room, bathroom, shower and toilet? "Gender inclusive" gives me the idea that NARC would expect me to walk into the men's toilet when I'm wearing pants, but I currently don't walk into a women's toilet because I'm wearing a dress. Pants and dresses are associated with a person's gender, but the signage on a door of a person in a pair of pants or dress aren't related to me wearing pants or a dress. In other words, my liking to wear pants like my dad doesn't make me a male like him. Also, when I wear make-up like my mum, it is not the make-up that makes me a female like my mum. I am aware that there are biological males who like to wear make-up and a dress to appear feminine or female, but I don't wear a dress nor make-up to appear to be female nor feminine. My husband could surgically modify his scrotum into a "legal vagina," but the only thing that my vagina and a "legal vagina" would have in common is the name "vagina." Also, there isn't gender dysphoria or "transgender" which relies on a legal definition of "gender," when there is no longer a criteria to assign a sex at birth. This is like, there would no longer be driving on the left and right-side of the road if The Australian government allowed Americans to drive on the right-side of the road when they lived or visited Australia. It is obvious that the proposed new NARC will have problems with an "all gender inclusive" idea because biological males/men/boys whom self-identify as a legal female/woman/girl aren't the same as biological females/women/girls because the only thing they have in common is the words, "females, women and girls," as the biological female sex isn't defined

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	by feelings of gender, hair-cut, clothes etc. I don't believe that the majority of the Darebin community would accept a biological male (man/boy) should be naked around a biological female (woman/girl) despite a new title of "all gender inclusive." However, the proposed NARC should ensure this unisex design will meet the expected community standards to prevent harmful behaviours and practices already mentioned. The scientific research has shown much evidence that a sexual relationship (wanted & unwanted) are more likely to occur between unrelated people of the opposite-sex, than 2 people of the same-sex, so this has been the reasoning in the past for separated sex facilities. I witnessed a man and his son whom both walked into a unisex toilet and found a woman using the toilet because she hadn't locked the door properly, and we all felt extremely uncomfortable about this incident. It appears to be a form of sexual assault because it was an unwanted sexual experience for the woman, but the man and boy had no intention of invading her privacy or seeing her naked, so should these types of incidents in the future be reported to the police? Therefore, the current design of proposed unisex-NARC facility for families, disabled & individuals must ensure people's safety and privacy because sexual assault can easily happen when a door lock gets broken and the door doesn't lock properly.
153	This is a great development but please make the outdoor area more kid friendly.
154	Are there quiet spaces? Are the changing rooms more cosy? with less of a feel that they are open and somehow public? Are the outdoor spaces also green and with garden, trees, as well as grass etc This is important It is excellent that have a high green building standard.
155	Currently the outside pool area is packed in summer. The new plan has fewer outside pools. I am concerned that everyone will be in large outdoor pool rather than spread between several pools. Also, the outside pool is really well used throughout the year. There are not enough lanes lots of the time due to squad training and water polo training etc. We need more outdoor pools not less. It's not clear how you would get to outside pool area. There does appear to be lots of pokey small corridors. Not sure if these can be avoided or not. Outside view looks good.
156	It's such a shame to lose the smaller outdoor pool. When the weather is hot it's horrible to have everyone in one pool as the bigger kids do not play safely for little ones. I would really like to see an outdoor smaller pool for younger children. I don't think the splash deck is enough in hot weather. Will a 50m outdoor pool be used year-round? Why not make the indoor pool 50m w two smaller outdoor pools?
157	Please reconsider the outdoor kids' area
158	Why isn't there an outdoor toddler pool. Seems a huge missed opportunity not to include this. We currently drive to a neighbouring council pool to access an outdoor toddler pool and would love this to be available at Northcote instead. Heated and open year-round, they're hugely popular and very much desired and we don't have any in Darebin.
159	I would like to know how many family changing rooms there will be as I refuse to send my son into the men's change rooms on his own. This has always been a problem raised in surveys.
160	Would really love to see a play area - water play for kids in addition to a playground on the grass. Would really help promote being a fun place for learn to swim and a positive experience for children.
161	Thanks for sharing the design and opening it up to suggestions, that is really cool and appreciated
162	Please make the kids outdoor area have at least some shade! Kids activities and water falls etc added extra but we just need shade!
163	Great concept and perfect for the area. Current facilities are dated and tired and I don't enjoy using them in its current state
164	It will be good to see an updated look and feel of the building, especially the changerooms are very dated and gross. It will be great seeing it be more accessible to people with additional needs. I wish you didn't have to walk inside the kids pool where it is loud and hot to get to the outside 50m pool.
165	I would have liked to have seen an outdoor toddler pool so that families with small children can enjoy spending time in the outside areas and actually have a swim. The splash deck does look great though. Using the outdoor pool won't be feasible unless kids are primary aged and higher. The outdoor toddler pool at Fitzroy is a great example. Lovely covered shallow, warm outdoor pool near a grassy area.
166	improve bathroom facilities, improve outdoor areas, improve pool quality n cleanliness, renovate SPA AND SAUNA area
167	I'm so excited you have more toilets and kid play areas and that you are doing this. Thank you!

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168	Please please please make the pool Chlorine free. Use ozone or some other filtration system. Chlorine is bad for lungs and skin and is a toxin. Thanks
169	thank you for this opportunity to comment. 1. I would like to see the new facility maintain a low cost/affordable and welcoming environment for seniors 2. I note the reduction in trees in the landscaping. New landscaping must be maintained, i.e. not planted then neglected, and consideration should be given to ensuring there is no less shade cover than present. 3. the cafe should be run much more effectively, but as a social enterprise by an appropriate not for profit organisation (this should happen now)
170	I cannot see an Audio-Visual and Multi-media plan. i.e. visual screens in the facility, providing pool temp, water quality, sustainability, weather, public transport, parking info etc. Similarly, provision of this information online, so they can make informed decisions (e.g. how busy is facility, available spaces). I can see electric vehicle charging, but I cannot see future proofing of facility for shared autonomous modes of transport. Similarly, seems to be lacking safe bus transit hub. Is the design pandemic tested, such that it would allow community asset to remain open in some capacity in future pandemics. I cannot see a zone that allows for replicating ocean conditions, such that lifesaving skills can be taught.
171	Need to make sure sufficient investment is made into the heating equipment for the 50m outdoor pool. Design is excellent, although a little concerned about reduction of the existing car parking numbers as it can be difficult to find car parking during peak times.
172	My grandson will love the play area. I like that there will be more amenities areas. Annoying when in the gym to have to go thru foyer, swipe to go to the loo. More space overall so more facilities for members. Environmental aspects supported.
173	Please have a bar running along the wall in one of the rooms so you can have a Barre class.
174	My only concerns are that: 1. there will be multiple available lanes indoors and out for lap swimming at most times of the day without having to compete with lessons and squads, and 2. that the temperature in the showers is adjustable - please don't make it a fixed temperature!!!!!!
175	I think it essential to continually encourage and listen to users of the facility regarding internal layout, equipment etc throughout the redevelopment process.
176	I know this is petty, but if YMCA is still managing the facility could they change their uniform colours? Black and red is really harsh on the eyes and is additionally not complimentary to anyone as far as I've seen.
177	The Northcote swim squad dominates the pool many hours a week leaving very few Kane's open to regular swimmers. The pool should be for everyone not just elite swimmers. I Doubt there is budget or space for an additional 59 m pool, but if hopefully the design takes into account the different needs of different user groups.
178	The centre doesn't need this level of redevelopment. The design is over the top and unnecessary. Smaller improvements to the change rooms and spa/sauna would have been adequate to improve the facility.
179	Please include outdoor showers for pre-swim ablutions like most of the world does and also, permanent shaded seating (if not bleachers) so towels and bags can be left out with swimmers even if drizzling/raining.

Response	Detail
180	I think the plans look good so far.
181	Can you please incorporate some edible plants and fruit trees into your landscape design for this redevelopment, a community garden or car park orchard to create a community hub / holistic wellbeing spaces and multi purposes for this destination
182	Great news that this facility will be improved and extended. And I fully support the ESD initiatives.
183	We need more pools. Please keep it affordable
184	The sooner this happens the better.
185	Not much provision for hydrotherapy
186	I know it's taken a lot of work to get to this point. I'm excited about the facelift.
187	Basketball court or hoop would be a great addition
188	As long as it is better than the old Center, which was ABSOLUTLY disgusting, you're doing well. I am an avid swimmer, and I simply could not use that horrible Center.
189	S-SW facing entrance will be exposed to cold winter weather and winds. No enclosed or covered bike parking (it looks a small area), no pedestrian crossing (raised platform, flashing orange lights) in front of the centre (particularly important for elderly, families and children and would assist with traffic calming.
190	improve the design to the entry canopy. make it align with the rest of the building or make sense somehow.
191	My son plays water polo and I don't think the proposed facility is much use to him.
192	I've written in the provided spots. Again, hoping that there is adequate provision given to people with disabilities and the changing areas required by them.
193	PLEASE make sure there is a shower right outside the sauna and steam room that can be hot or cold. (the showers at Brunswick baths are set to warm and is SUCKS) It's important to have access to the cold water after the heat of the sauna or steam because of the cold shock effect in the body activating many health benefits. Even better would be a COLD PLUNGE. That would be amazing. You'd get lots of sauna peeps coming to use the facilities. thank you :)
194	The new centre provides less swimming facilities than the old one, and I am not sure how this provides for the future of an ever-increasing Darebin community? The only available outdoor pool will be incredibly crowded in summer and serious swimmers may feel frustrated at leisure users there to cool down. If the car park is not expanded (double storey/underground), it will not be large enough to cope with potentially increased usage, and will cause entry/egress problems at Victoria Road, so much so it could put people off using the facility. Unfortunately, cycling along the main feeder roads to the facility - Victoria Road and Separation Street is not safe especially for families with children, who will use their cars to get there instead. Design-wise, the centre is great.
195	Car parking can be limited at the centre currently, particularly in summer when the pools are in demand. While the new development looks great, it will likely attract more traffic - is provision being made for additional parking?
196	For the projected cost, from what I have seen, Council should be able to rebuild both Reservoir and Northcote pools and should even propose in a longer-term plan reinstating the Preston pool, or a pool in Preston. It is unfair and iniquitous for \$63 m to be allocated to one project that happens to be the area of Darebin if least need! Scandalous in fact.
197	When will construction start? How long is construction proposed to take? Thanks.
198	I would encourage family friendly change stalls (without showers/plumbing) that can be easily accessed from the pool to allow easier change facilities for families. I would also highly encourage the Council and the designers to think about families and members of the public wanting to use the

Response	Detail
	indoor facilities on the weekend when learn to swim/swim school is operating. Having a space/area to swim inside that is not utilized for lap swimming or swim school is very important. The Eltham pool has struck a good balance in this regard. Overall an excellent design and the goal of 6-star rating is commendable.
199	Baby change facilities in male change rooms please- not just female Family change area- private cubicle for multiple people- poolside Places to leave your towel (i.e. not on the ground/ getting wet) poolside
200	It's well and truly in need of an upgrade. Design looks lovely, shame of course the works couldn't have taken place whilst the Centre was closed during the COVID 19 pandemic. Thanks
201	Pls ensure tennis facilities are not reduced
202	It looks like the plans show a much-needed upgrade and expansion of shower and change facilities, which are currently below standard and too small for use at peak times. It appears that there are plans for separate change areas for the aquatic area and the gymnasium, which would be sensible, and make it more comfortable to visit on the way to work etc. I really look forward to using this new facility!
203	I am a local architect who uses the outdoor pool every day. I think the redevelopment has been done extremely well and I fully support it.
204	keep up the great work
205	The heritage look of the outdoor pools needs to be retained. Keep all the trees please.
206	Well overdue change that has been needed for a long time. Can you make sure the change rooms are easy to keep clean because at the moment they are terrible
207	I am concerned that with the extra awesome facilities the car Park will be full when I get there. I also hope the spin room is bigger than the existing.
208	there doesn't appear to be a retail designated area. It's very handy being able to purchase swimwear etc from NARC. Also, no meeting spaces. A new build like this could potentially provide a space for hire for local clubs etc. to run meetings and info nights. Also - when spending this much money, surely we can connect the tennis courts to the facility and provide something better than a portable down there.
209	Spend half of this money on Reservoir Leisure Centre or do ratepayers north of bell street don't matter?
210	Overall I love it - we definitely need a new pool. I love that eco-friendly options are being included. I think there could be more seating and room between the 50metre pool and the aqua play rather than just a walkway. And some other things outside for kids.
211	I'm responding as though I would have enough income to attend with my teenage daughters. However, our low income is a significant barrier to membership.
212	The only thing I'd ask for is a 50m indoor pool. Swimming laps in winter is SO cold. The 25m indoor pool isn't the same as a 50m pool. Cheers guys, it's looking sick ;)
213	I hope there will be plenty of sound damping in the indoor pool area and entry atrium area cafe to mitigate the noise from lots of people and children in this hard surface area.
214	I currently swim & sauna twice a week. I live I up the road from the north toe YMCA but If i don't like the sauna, & I'm uncomfortable in the sauna, I will continue to use the Ivanhoe aquatic centre even though it's further away. Please see Facebook comments by other women who currently feel uncomfortable in the saunas due to men who dominate it. I'm not sure what the solution is but making them less enclosed would be a good start. Making the sauna more spacious might help too. On another note, it would be great if you have wristbands that give you access to the centre and to lockers. Also, you can never have too many hooks I shower stalls.

Response	Detail
	Also, you the more drinking fountains the better. A drinking fountain with good water pressure in each main area please. Also, I've often lamented the lost opportunity to make swimming pools more relaxing & ambient. More plants are a good start. And this is more ambitious but imagine you had ambient nights with projections. It would be so nice. (There's an artist who travels around the world putting on light shows called "wet sounds." You could borrow ideas from that but make it regular.
215	From the plan couldn't tell if there were family change rooms and unisex toilets. I think these are really important and needed especially for families with mixed gendered school age kids.
216	I feel it's a shame you have taken the smaller outdoor pool out which children could play in during the summer months rather than using up extra lanes in the lap pool
217	The Northcote Water Polo Club provides a new team sport for the young generation in the Darebin community. Currently the number of interested young children keeps on increasing every season. I believe water polo is a future team sport for the children. If you have any questions regarding my feedback, please feel free to contact me at petergyorgyicsek@gmail.com or on my mobile on 0468 668 080.
218	It's unclear from the plans if there is a dedicated spa or just a warm water pool. Think it's important to have a spa facility. I worry that with only one outdoor pool in the design, during summer there won't be enough lanes for lap swimming, this is an issue today that is not well managed - when it's hot and there is swim squad and more open space for recreational users there is little left for lap swimmers.
219	Hurry up and build it please
220	Lots of stuff for kids would be good as I have three! They love going to the pool, but I don't take them as often as I'd like because it's so dirty.
221	About time a new facility will be built
222	There's a program room for yoga, one for Pilates and another for several group fitness activities including Zumba. I would like to see less competition for space for Zumba (or other dance-related group fitness).
223	Spend less on this project and use balance on other facilities being improved
224	Invest wisely. Feel like an overspend. Main negative: Darebin splashing the cash to benefit privileged inner-city... . Redirect funds to poorer, needier north of the city
225	There needs to be so much space to play in deep and shallow/no depth water. The outside splash area looks very small.
226	I am concerned that the change facilities and toilets seem to be mixed gender. This will not be suitable for everyone who uses the centre, in particular, a lot of women will not feel comfortable showering and changing in a space where there are men.
227	outdoor pool, places to leave clothes when lap swimming vegetation and gardens to grow vegetables, eatable food.
228	The addition of indoor basketball courts would be of huge benefit to the community, like the Boroondara leisure centre, available to hire by the hour
229	It should integrate better with the park and offer water play for children in the park (sprinklers etc like in Royal Park) The cafe should service people within the complex and outside. That way dog walkers, parents of Auskick kids, people waiting for the bus etc can buy a coffee / snack. It should become a community hub like a library. Evening adult education sessions on health and wellness. What about a rooftop cinema?
230	It would be nice to see what the changing rooms will look like and what amenities will be available, i.e. swimsuit spin dryer, hair dryers, iron, lockers (will they hold hanging clothes for work attire?). Right now, I do not work out there because the squad uses most lanes of the outdoor pool in the morning. I think more lanes should be available for lap swimmers.

Response	Detail
231	Please use quality gym equipment, main detractor of the current facility is the age of the machines
232	Can you make sure that there has been a disability access review of the proposed design? A changeroom somewhere for disabled people is not enough. I need ramps into the pools. The availability of a hydrotherapy class under the supervision of a physiotherapist would be great. I need pool wheelchairs available and others need a hoist into the pool to access their community facility.
233	Will you have to have gym membership to use the outdoor gym space, or will this be accessible to swimmers too?
234	Outdoor toilets and showers that are accessible when using outdoor facilities would be much better - stop some of those code browns! Family change rooms/showers are a must, at least four and this is why we currently don't use narc as much
235	would like more information on the amenities, at the moment toilet facilities are lacking
236	Swimming lessons and parties take up much of the pool lanes most of the time. Sauna, spa, steam rooms over-crowded and facilities generally dirty. The pools close too early. Gym facilities are inadequate for the number of membership. unless there is substantial change to the operation of the facility can't see that this will change, and current membership will need to go elsewhere. I don't think that YMCA operation and management do justice to facility.
237	I hope there is an area to eat food you bring from home. I want to see details of the indoor aquatic playground. I hope it's not too noisy (acoustics inside).
238	It really needs improved changeroom, toilets and shower facilities with shared family facilities available too and separate disabled changerooms
239	My children are part of the swim club and I would really like to have the outdoor pool have sun cover.
240	Just that the sauna and spa be large enough for growing numbers that will use it. Cleanliness. Showers next to saunas to make clients use them BEFORE AND AFTER SAUNA USE. ideally plunge cool pool too.
241	I think there is a massive opportunity to expand the cafe and make it a central feature of Center. There are already strong healthy eating ambitions which should be central to the site with outdoor/indoor seating. I really think more thought needs to be put around the summertime use of the outdoor spaces.
242	Please create a relaxing spa/sauna area that is quiet and separate from the pool area
243	I was a member for years & moved to Virgin active in the city (I worked in the same building). The main reason being the facilities were old, run down & dated and they did not offer reformer Pilates which I did at Virgin daily until the Covid shutdown. If the opening hours changed to 5 am, I would go before work, but I would definitely join again once the changes are made.
244	Concerned the sauna and steam rooms are too small
245	keep this culture alive
246	If possible, please put a shower [cold is fine] at each end of the outdoor pool to rinse off after laps.
247	About time, the centre is due for a huge upgrade!!! I love it
248	It looks amazing and I can't wait for this to happen!!!
249	The current facilities are sorely lacking, and I have been considering taking my membership elsewhere but this looks great. Hope it happens quickly.
250	A female weights room would be great as many friends feel unwelcome in the weights section currently. Also, for the gym to open at 5:30 instead of 6 as well as having a few earlier classes. More Pilates classes in the early morning slots too please. Bigger stretching area as at the moment you can really only get four people there in the corner. Thank you!
251	Are the change rooms going to be separated between male and female? I think it is better if it is.
252	I love, love, love it. Can they start while on lockdown? When is the predicted start time and how long will the build be? Thank you

Response	Detail
253	Requires family and gender-neutral bathrooms Requires a lot of shade
254	I would love it if there was a women only spa and sauna. The current is usually full of older men- not inviting for women! Also, pools need to be better cleaned than they have been in past!
255	please make sure the toilets and change rooms are close to the pool.
256	Waterslide please
257	I'd like further information on a) depth of indoor 25 pool (current pool is to shallow); if one of the set of steps in outdoor 50m pool is being removed possible creating bottleneck for access; and I am not best please that the whole facility will be closed for 18m- 2 years; why has there not been a staged opening considered given this is the only pool in the area and this would in the best case span 2 summers with no public pool.
258	I love the inclusion of the hydrotherapy warm water pool. Currently, I use the Reservoir pool which is further away and rather small.
259	Disappointed this is the first I've heard of this because I live 1.5 from the facility. Looks great. I have been swimming regularly at Collingwood & Ivanhoe pools because the Northcote change rooms are so shabby and grotty.
260	Therapy area and spa and sauna will be difficult to be monitored by employees and lifeguards working at the Center. The gym also currently gets extremely busy, so additional gym space for weights, machines and functional training would be excellent as well as retaining an outdoor training space.
261	Please ensure indoor water play area water is heated. Greensborough isn't and its too cold to use. Biggest issue currently at Northcote is no family change rooms with toilets. Not letting me 7 yr. old son go to male change rooms to toilet and shower by himself.
262	Very happy the outdoor 50m pool is staying!!!!
263	Depends on how long it will take to build - will it work around the current buildings or will it knock it down. Car parking can be problematic - 2 hours park isn't long enough to do two classes in a row. Need to stop apartment visitors parking overnight. How many aquarobics classes be run in the evening i.e. not in working hours
264	Will there be facilities to incorporate programs such as women's only swimming nights - which could include blinds to cover windows etc.?
265	Are there plans for the carpark? Currently it is unsafe to walk/bike to the centre having to cut across the carpark
266	The upstairs gym area looks quite small and facing northward out the windows in the afternoon will be blinding when using the equipment along the facade.
267	This community values sustainability more than what I'm seeing in the design - please consider a more complex sustainability standard such as WELL
268	Outdoor pool should be undercover. This would ensure sun protection and make it more useable all year round
269	Dignity and Safety First: Complex requires separate facilities for male and female i.e. IT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO HAVE ALL INCLUSIVE GENDER CHANGE / AMENITIES. PLEASE BE SPECIFIC ABOUT THE DESIGN & INTENT ON THIS. Answers/final designs of these areas will determine whether I cancel my Membership and go elsewhere i.e. ensure clearly separate Amenities for Male and Female.....!!!!!!!
270	Hopefully it will be better than the existing gym which is completely outdated etc.....
271	Make sure the Lockers work, unlike now when about 40% are regularly out of order.

Appendix 2: “Your Say” Online Written Comments

Response	Detail
1	It appears that school buses will be required to park on Victoria Road, or Clifton Street for drop offs and pick-ups, noting that the proposed school access is at the north-west of the building - is this correct? Is there a Traffic Report with the concept plans? Has consideration been given to the safety of Victoria Road in this location, where it bottoms out, curves and pinches at Clifton Street? Has consideration been given to requiring buses to park within the car park?
2	Does the carpark exit on to Victoria Street? Only the entry is shown on the site plan. Can you confirm there are no plans to reopen Lorna Avenue?
3	What is going to happen to the treatment plant at the south-west corner of NARC? Currently, there is often a strong smell of chlorine detectable from the path through the park. Also, there is a problem with a blocked drain and there is often a large pool of liquid on the concrete. Not only is the area an eyesore but the safety of the public is in question.
4	Hi...looking at the plans...its difficult to see the space allocated for the warm water (Hydrotherapy, I'm hoping) pool...and without trolling through the site...do you have a future date for completion of the new renovations?
5	The upstairs gymnasium facilities look limited at 801m2. Does management expect these facilities are future proofed for increased demand?
6	The plans look great. I do have some questions though. Is 500kW of solar sufficient to provide 100% energy offset for the whole of the facility? What happens to the recently installed cogeneration unit that heated the outdoor pool? Is the outdoor pool still going to be heated? What is additional annual cost to operate the pool using heat pumps as opposed to Gas? Are the heat pumps efficient in winter when there is no cooling load? Has adaptive reuse of the building been considered as a sustainability measure. It seems wasteful to demolish the whole of the existing building and completely rebuild the indoor pool?
7	Hi there, Why is the 50 metre pool going to be an outdoor pool? It would be used a whole lot more if it was an indoor pool.
8	Will there be closures to the existing facilities, in particular the outside pool, and what are the expected dates?
9	Hi, I might be missing something, but looking at the plan I can't see the spa or reference to it in the legend. It is mentioned in the FAQ. Grateful for your advice.
10	Where will the Group Fitness be held? I can see a Pilates room but that space is very small.
11	The original proposal said the development would be done in stages and there would be no need for a full closure of the centre. In reading responses below it now seems the centre will be fully closed for development. Which is correct?
12	I was wondering if you are going to have a spa in the new centre. I did notice something like a spa in the warm pool but isn't clear it is a spa.
13	Why are the bathroom amenities integrated? There should be at least 6 family change rooms and showers. Toilets for men and showers, Toilets for women and separate showers. Toilet and showers for special needs. This integrated idea always has less showers facilities for people to use and always queues for amenities. Also there is no concept here for a large waterslide like Watermarc in Greensborough. Why is the spa always attached only for hydrotherapy use what about the general public? This is always then sectioned off for hydrotherapy use and never for general use. What happens when there is always school lessons going on? There should be a pool for general use without competing for a lane for indoor winter season. The splash area outside is very small and too much concrete easy to slip and hit your head around that curved area. Why is there no Waterslides for older kids like the Coburg pool? Also all the wooden features on outside of the building seems like in

Response	Detail
	a few years time the wood will look weathered and how does this affect maintenance to these structures.
14	Where can the general public see all questions asked?
17	Not indicated on the plans is whether the LAWN area in green is plastic or real grass. Which is it?
18	The plan looks great overall (love that you're keeping the trees). It's hard to tell from the plan, but how do the sizes of the new sauna and steam room compare to the current layout? It's not uncommon for the sauna to be standing room only during peak times at the moment, would be a shame if it wasn't made larger.
19	I would like to request a generous amount of family change rooms and showers to cater, not just for families but for gender neutral, determined people, elderly and anyone else who needs privacy. Although you have stated that you would like to meet compliance to building code standards, it might be an idea to think go one step further and provide a few more private changing rooms to make this facility not just compliant, but above and beyond compliance.
20	I have observed that the (No# 20) Warm Water Pool is in a closed off area that is separate to the indoor swimming pool. If this is the case, management would have to employ a second lifeguard to patrol the Warm Water Pool. This will most likely cost the operator \$\$ and management would most likely close this area off and providing limited operational Hrs. I would like to see the designer come up with a better design solution so that one lifeguard can have visual access and patrol the indoor pools, warm water pool, spa, sauna and steam areas all at once. This would allow the operator a more efficient operation of the pool deck and allow all facilities to be operated at once. Please consider a redesign of the floor plan and the implementation of a roller door or moveable partition screen between the two areas that could be installed during school functions. This would be a smarter solution than the one presented. In addition, can I suggest that the aquatic center have generous opening Hrs so that patrons of all ages (including professionals that work late) can enjoy the facilities. A swim after a long day followed by a spa, sauna and steam can turn a bad day into a good day. The Ascot Vale pool is an excellent example of late Hrs whereby spa, sauna and steam facilities are very popular with the public later at night. Please review Ascot Vale swimming pool as a case study, it is an excellent facility in both its pool deck layout and operating Hrs.
21	It appears the only kid-friendly outdoor area is a small splash pad. Why?
22	Have the council received all the funding that is needed to complete or start the project?
23	Will Bodyvive and the like still be available?
24	The facility also serves the purpose of mental wellbeing, particularly among the older patrons, by providing social connectedness. we social in the cafe after classes. Unfortunately, this has become difficult to do lately because of the noise of school groups and children's parties. even with really good hearing aids it's difficult to hear with the background noise. Will the new cafe still be used by these noise generating groups or will there be some sort of division which allows all ages to use the cafe at the same time?
25	I don't see any outdoor pool except the 50m pool. People need somewhere to swim outside where they don't get in the way of serious lap swimmers. It is very unhealthy for recreational swimming to be forced into indoor steamy chlorinated areas
26	It is very hard to see what is going on. When I click on the hand, I expect to be taken to more information but it just goes back to the home page. eg I clicked on 12 and 13 to see more detail and what goes on there - no more information. It looks like you have a big room full of Pilates reformers. Were the instructors and the participants consulted about whether reformer classes are what is needed? If you do install reformers in response to what is expressed need you will need to consult about what sort. It would be good to see the size of the proposed mat Pilates room - if that is what 13 is.
27	Re my question below about noise, it is not the noise of the pools etc that is a problem, it is the noise 'in the cafe' when the school groups come to the cafe or there is a children's party eats in the cafe that is the problem. I'm not against anybody using the cafe it's just that we olds can't hear when these other groups are in the cafe as they tend to make a lot of noise. If the teachers & schoolies used a different counter like the outside counter now in existence (which they tend not to use but come inside), and the children party food was taken in a different room then there wouldn't be a problem. What say you?

Response	Detail
28	There are no dimensions on the plans. What is the area the ground floor Program Room (Zumba etc) compared to the area of the existing first floor room at NARC?
29	1. Will the outdoor pool stay as it is or is it being overhauled/remodelled? I think it works extremely well and hope there will be no changes to it. 2. What do you propose users of the centre do for 2 years during the redevelopment?
30	Can the energy efficiency plans consider the move current in other countries to convert the dynamic energy produced by patrons using cycles, treadmills etc to provide power for the centre?
31	Will the YMCA continue to manage the centre given the numerous staff and management that have come and gone these last few years? If so will there be some guidance from council regarding their poor decision making and lack of consultation with participants and instructors regarding the group fitness area?
32	I can't see a diving pool on the plans. Will there be one? The old diving pool was very popular with the youth of the area during summer, who had somewhere they could throw themselves into a pool without having to do 'dive bombs' into the 50m pool. Where will young people learn to dive locally, if there isn't to be a replacement?
33	Why have we lost the south west corner of the site? We need a smaller outdoor recreation pool in addition to the Olympic pool. Why weren't instructors consulted about the facility? In particular why weren't they asked about the number, size, shape and type of group fitness rooms required? How were the dimensions of these rooms worked out? Will there be adequate space for equipment and people for classes to run safely?
34	With the gym areas, it is not clear how much space will be allocated to people wanting to do stretching and floor exercises. The area in the current gym is inadequate and often unable to accommodate everyone wanting to use it.
35	Will there be a cold therapy lap pool (20c) please?
36	Will there be a tank sunk into ground that holds very chilled water for getting in and out for a few minutes after using spa and sauna which is good for rehab box hill centre had one many yrs ago that I used many times was very popular should be seriously looked at would make this new centre more better will there be televisions in areas of spas and sauna as they have them in some centres overseas
37	The plans mention the provision of "ample bicycle parking". Having lived in the Netherlands I have some idea about what "ample bicycle parking" might look like but would fear that this is not put into practice at the new NARC. Specific question: How many lots will there be for bicycles, in particular in comparison to those for cars. Personally, I think that the design should encourage physical activity, not only within the facility but also outside. (I understand though that there are people who are reliant on access by car.)
38	As other people I am wondering about the limited outdoor facilities for smaller kids. Let me as a specific question in this context: Is enough seating provided in the vicinity of the outdoor splash area? Obviously young kids need to be supervised to some extent...
39	Can you please confirm if there's lift access to the first-floor amenities of the NARC redevelopment? I think I can see one on the plans, but it isn't labelled some I can't be sure. Also please make sure any lift/s are adequately sized to accommodate both a wheelchair user & their carer, as per Australian Standards for disability access to public buildings (AS1428-1).
40	Will the outdoor pool be heated and used during winter months?
41	As an instructor I'd like to know if the gradient of the pool(s) designated for use in aqua aerobics classes has been considered. We will require the gradient to be very gradual and wide stretched to ensure the maximum number of participants in classes.
42	It is disappointing that you have reduced the outside pools. A 50m pool is too deep for younger children and it is also important to have them separated from older more active teenagers and lap swimmers.
43	Will there be dedicated facilities for disabled users - toilets and showers? It isn't clear from the information provided. Prior to the current closure these arrangements were very unsatisfactory. Where showers were provided for disabled users there was very low compliance and no enforcement, or the facilities were shared with families or other uses - this resulted in disabled users often having to wait when they were exhausted from aquatic therapy sessions.

Response	Detail
44	My question is around the availability of the swimming pools during peak times to the general public. In my view, regardless of the new design of the centre and the number of pools proposed the primary issue has always been the lack of availability of lanes to the general public during peak times as the swimming club (squad and water polo) and YMCA (squad and lessons) occupy the majority of the lanes. Most weeknights there are only 1-2 outdoor lanes and nil indoor lanes available for the general public until 8pm. Saturday morning no lanes are available indoors until after midday and limited availability in the outdoor pool until 11am. Will the allocation of lap lane availability improve going forward and current contracts reviewed for fairness to the general public?
45	'Hi NARC team great to see progress on refurbishment! As a daily user who uses shower daily, it's not clear - how many showers in female change rooms? There's a lot of us who swim 6-8am and need to shower before work so it's VITAL there are enough showers, more than currently exist. - will there be separate hot/cold shower taps? I ONLY cold shower, CAN'T warm or hot shower, so would be forced to protest loudly or cease membership if unable to cold shower. I look forward to hearing, With thanks
46	Will there be more shading outside? The outdoor splash area will need a shade sail or similar, is this in the plan? Where will outdoor swimmers put bag/towels under cover if don't want to purchase a locker? Internal seating on the concept drawing for learn to swim parents looks inadequate, will this be looked at? Will the exterior doors/walls be able to be raised/opened during summer to allow fresh air into the pool area, so not stifled with chlorine as in current situation?
47	Hi Darebin. will there be COLD water taps in the showers?? Thanks
48	Am concerned re gender neutral facilities. Can you confirm that dedicated female toilets and change areas are available for biological female use where vulnerable biological female children, adolescents and adults have no contact with males having intact male genitalia, however they identify? As you can imagine 'safeguarding' must be a priority and also Muslim/Hindu women etc have a need for spaces free of male-bodied people and far outnumber self-styled 'gender neutral' people. Anti-discriminatory laws against marginalised ethnic groups could come into play if ethnic people felt unable to use your facilities.
49	How many family showers will be provided? The current one is inadequate.
50	What facilities are you providing for school groups to change? I note that the current changing space for boys is inadequate. Note that many teachers and most of the volunteers are female so we need an adequate space for females to supervise young schoolboys changing.
51	Congrats on providing separate gym amenities, this is a great improvement for gym users.
52	Is the Group fitness room as big as the current area? Can you please provide the respective measurements as a comparison? Thanks
53	Can you 100% confirm that there is no possibility a male-bodied person, even if self-identifying as female, would be allowed to access female only toilet and change facilities.