



MEDIA RELEASE – SHIRE OF COOLGARDIE

KAMBALDA AQUATIC FACILITY MISSES OUT ON GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Monday 18/2/2019

The Shire of Coolgardie has missed out on Federal and State Government Funding for the retention and redevelopment of its much-loved community pool with both governments indicating that there was a significant oversubscription to their funds. It is disappointing that both funding requests have been overlooked to revitalise what is the only outdoor 50 metre pool in the Coolgardie-Kalgoorlie area.

Estimated costs of refurbishment to the Aquatic Facility is \$3.4M which includes renovations to the 50m Pool, new change rooms and expanded first aid room and universal access pool. In order to fund the project, the Shire will require additional funding to just loan borrowings.

Both funding requests were made in September 2018 for the Sport Australia's Move it Australia – Community Sport Infrastructure grant for \$500,000 and the State Government's Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Funding for \$808,175.

Correspondence received from Sport Australia, Federal Government, indicated that the "\$28.3 million grant program experienced overwhelming interest with over 2,000 applications submitted totalling more than \$390 million in grant requests." Whilst feedback on the application for state funding was deemed of good quality, further comments indicated that the CSRFF program was also considerably oversubscribed and that the project fell over due to funding not being secured through Sport Australia.

The Shire has applied for a loan from the Western Australian Treasury Corporation (WATC) which is currently being assessed with the Shire liaising with officers to provide information in support of the application for funds. The process is rigorous and a decision from WATC will be made on the 30th April.

Kambalda Aquatic Facility was originally constructed in 1970 by Western Mining, as a standard outdoor aquatic centre comprising: outdoor 50M, Children's and Learn to Swim Pools, change rooms, First Aid room, kiosk, large recreation areas, and shade structures. In the early 2000's, the Shire inherited the asset when Western Mining withdrew its operations in the townsite. Due to the age of the facility it now falls short on a number of operational and compliance requirements and needs significant repairs. Any works that commence in the future for the pool must then meet health, building and safety standards at the time they are completed.

Tenders for the Kambalda pool closed Friday 1st February. The assessment process will take 4-5 weeks to ensure requirements stipulated by WATC are met. A community workshop is proposed for Tuesday 19th March 2019 at the Kambalda Recreation Centre commencing at 6.00pm. Council consideration of the tenders received was set for the February Council Meeting on the 26th February. Given WATC



requirements and timing Council will consider tenders at the March Council Meeting on 26th March or at a Special Council Meeting in early April. Shire staff will work with the successful tenderer to try opening the Kambalda Pool in November

The process of applying for government funding has been a catalyst for Council to assess the Shire's asset renewal position and ensure that investments in major infrastructure upgrades such as the Kambalda Aquatic Facility are included in the Shire's long-term financial plan. It is acknowledged that planning for investment in infrastructure is vital to managing risk which ensures that the long-term viability of projects do not hamper the Shire's ability to function or progress key projects for the interest of the community.

Council intends to continue discussions with business, mining companies and the community to seek options and funding avenues to support its major infrastructure investments. It is strongly encouraged that community members contact Ministers and local members in support of works to the Kambalda Swimming Pool. The Shire is also progressing discussions with the Federal and State Governments to continue to lobby for funding support.

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