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MEDIA RELEASE– Tenders advertised the George Town Aquatic, Health and Wellbeing Centre

Tenders have been advertised for the preliminary construction stage of the new George Town Aquatic, Health and Wellbeing Centre, George Town Mayor Greg Kieser said today.

Cr Kieser said it was an exciting step for the new facility, which will replace the existing outdoor swimming pool.

“With \$15 million in funding from the Federal Government and a further \$2.5 million in funding from the State Government secured, we are now getting on with the job of delivering this new facility.

“This centre will not only provide our community with all the benefits of year-round swimming access with a five-lane 25m pool and a warm water program pool, but also a gymnasium, fitness rooms and café facilities.

“Importantly, the new centre will also provide infrastructure for allied health services to help assist people with exercise and therapy.

“The new centre, which was identified as a priority in Council’s Sport and Recreation Strategy, will represent a significant upgrade on the current swimming pool which has served the community exceptionally well for the past 40-plus years,” he said.

Council is planning to add outdoor facilities to the centre in a future stage of development.

“We are already in discussions about how that might be funded, recognising that many people in our community do enjoy access to safe outdoor recreation areas in the warmer months.

“While our initial plan incorporated an outdoor facility, increased costs of construction, particularly for major projects, since funding was first sought has meant this will be done as a future priority.

“The major benefit of the indoor facility is it gives the community access to year-round aquatic activity, meaning additional learn to swim opportunities as well as recreational use that is not limited by closures over the cooler months or inclement weather. We know how important it is to provide our community with opportunities to live active, healthy lifestyles, and this facility will help deliver those.”

Cr. Kieser said the tender was for the project’s early construction involvement and would seek to have a construction firm become involved in the final design stages.

“The project team is planning on submitting a development application in late November or early December, and designs will be publicly released at that point, as per normal planning processes.

“We can then get on with the task of building a centre which meets all contemporary requirements and guidelines and will provide the very best aquatic facility for our community for decades to come,” he said.

Cr. Kieser said Council was planning on holding a community celebration of the existing swimming pool to mark its last season.

“Council understands the association many people in the community have with the current facility and it’s important we celebrate that and the many memories the pool has helped create for many users and families.

“I am confident the new centre will continue to provide an extremely positive experience for our entire community and offer even more opportunities for a wider cross-section of users to enjoy aquatic and other types of recreation, year-round,” he said.

The new centre is scheduled to be operating by October, 2026.