

1<sup>st</sup> of May 2025.

**MEDIA RELEASE - Appeal Dismissed – George Town Aquatic Health and Wellbeing Centre.**

George Town Council will get on with building a new aquatic and wellbeing centre as soon as possible following the dismissal of an appeal against the development application by the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

George Town Mayor Greg Kieser said the appeal had delayed the next phase of the project by about a month, but the council was keen to get on with the work.

“With the appeal process behind us, we can get on with finalising the construction contract and getting shovels into the ground as soon as possible.

“We’re obviously eager to get as much preliminary work done prior to the onset of winter and make sure any further delays are minimised.

“We’ve already seen this project’s budget impacted by a two-year delay in the council having the finding confirmed, and we want to make sure we are delivering every cent of value to the community,” Mayor Kieser said.

“I know there are many people both within the George Town community and in outlying areas who are looking forward to this facility being built so we can provide vital services such as learn to swim programs every single day of the year, rather than being restricted by seasons and bad weather as the outdoor pool was.”

The new aquatic centre will feature an indoor 25m pool with multiple lane configurations, as well as a warm-water program pool with gymnasium and café facilities.

The centre’s construction is being funded by a \$15 million Federal Government grant with a further \$2.5 million from the State Government. It is being constructed on the site of the existing outdoor pool.

While an outdoor pool was initially planned as part of the development, a two-year delay in receiving the funding while the funding program was reviewed meant the scope needed to be revised due to escalating material costs and inflation.

Future development phases will include an outdoor splash pad for younger children and an outdoor pool.