



## **AQUATIC AND HEALTH CENTRE**

### **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS**

**RECEIVED THROUGH**

**TESTING THE WATER AND OTHER EMAIL ADDRESSES,**

**ON-LINE SUBMISSION FORMS AND LETTERS**

**October 2015**



## **BACKGROUND**

During August and September 2015, Council sought community feedback on a funding proposal for an Aquatic & Health Facility. The broader community engagement process included:

- 1) independent market research via a phone survey. Sample n = 600 (JWS Research)
- 2) community forums held in each ward of the Shire, including 2 in Torquay Ward (Capire)
- 3) 'testing the water' email address, and
- 4) online submission form.

Reports from 1) and 2) (above) have been compiled by the consultants working on these elements of the engagement process. These reports have been shared with Councillors and made public.

The 'Testing the Waters' email address ([testingthewaters@surfcoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:testingthewaters@surfcoast.vic.gov.au)) was established to provide an opportunity for community members to ask questions and express their views throughout the engagement phase, to complement the community engagement forums and phone survey.

An online submission form was promoted via a mail out to all non-resident rate payers during September, and was advertised to the broader community through social media, press advertising and Council's website.

The following is a summary of the community feedback received from community members who contributed feedback via email and the online submission form.

### **Breakdown of community opinion**

More than 820 emails have been received through the testing the waters email address. Of these, approximately 500 were registered as unique submissions (the others were made up of duplicate emails, acknowledgement responses, follow up discussion etc). More than 60 additional comments were received through other Council email addresses and via letter.

In addition, 320 submissions were received via the online submission form.

The feedback has been grouped into categories and percentages applied to the numbers of submission that fit into these categories:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| • Supports the centre not the funding proposal                                   | 10% |
| • Support for the centre and the funding proposal                                | 9%  |
| • Does not support the facility in any form                                      | 47% |
| • Does not support the funding proposal and has no stated position on the centre | 28% |
| • Questions and replies  | 6%  |

Caution is advised when interpreting these results. The submissions were gathered through an open comments process, not a poll or survey with set options. The comments received have been grouped

into the above categories, for reporting purposes only. Surf Coast Shire Officers have grouped the comments according to which category they best fit into. This enables themes to be identified and helps the reader to summarise the verbatim comments.

### **Summary of verbatim comments**

The following are a summary of comments received. The comments are arranged according to whether they support the centre, oppose the centre or provide suggestions for a re-scoped proposal, or other relevant comment.

### **Opposition to the facility**

The following are some of the key comments received that are in opposition to an aquatic centre:

- Not an appropriate use of such a significant amount of money
- Insufficient revenue for the project to be viable
- Too much focus on facilities for Torquay
- Of minimal/no benefit to communities outside the Torquay/Jan Juc area
- Council should focus on core business, not providing this type of facility
- Existing facilities (eg. In City of Greater Geelong) are reasonably accessible and satisfactory to meet needs
- Future plans for an Armstrong Creek facility make a pool in Torquay unnecessary
- Borrowing funds for this facility would limit Council's ability to borrow funds for other projects in the future
- Non-resident, or part time residents, were highly likely to oppose the proposal citing a lack of direct benefit.

### **Support for the facility**

The following are key points raised in favour of the centre:

- Large numbers of locals take part in swim school/lessons
- There is a risk of drowning if people don't have access to local public swim lessons
- Aquatic centres deliver health and wellbeing benefits to all ages
- An aquatic centre could add to the tourism infrastructure in the Shire.
- There is a need to plan now for future growth
- Other towns of similar size have access to local aquatic centre
- Community members have been requesting an aquatic facility for a long time
- Community members in Torquay and Jan Juc were more likely to be in favour of the facility.

### **Suggestions for rescoping the project or other suggestions**

The following are comments that call for a re-scoped proposal

- Investigate private sector funding for aquatic centre
- Investigate additional grant funds for aquatic centre
- Investigate partnership with health provider

**VERBATIM COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH TESTING THE WATER  
EMAIL AND OTHER EMAIL ADDRESSES, ON-LINE SUBMISSIONS  
AND LETTERS**



- Take over and redevelop existing privately operated centre
- Funding model is unfair and divisive
- More specific 'user-payers' funding model to be devised
- Re-scope the project to reduce cost of aquatic centre
- Invest in design process so the project can be accurately costed
- 50 metre pool is required to allow for competitions and school carnivals
- Relocate centre to an alternative location within the shire
- Upgrade for pool in Winchelsea
- Enclose and heat Lorne pool

nb: identifying information including names and addresses have been removed.

**17/07/2015 Lorne**

Good morning Clive,

... and I cannot make the Lorne presentation but you can put us down to an emphatic NO to this project.

It adds no value to Lorne or for that matter anyone within the Shire west of Warn Pons. The Shire is too Torquay centric. I understand there is duplication of sorts as there is a similar complex already near Torquay.

We are not happy with the way the Shire treats Lorne eg no funding to heat our pool, mismanaging the Men's Shed, Point Grey development etc,

**17/07/2015 Lorne**

Hi Clive

thanks for making us aware of the scope, cost and implications of a pool in Torquay. It's clearly wanted by the Torquay community, however want does not equate to need or afford, this sense of entitlement has been fostered by the Torquay-centric SCS for way too long. It is a duplication of a world class under utilised facility barely 10 mins drive in Wauran Ponds.

I'm sure there are multiple gyms, fitness classes, yoga and alike in Torquay, so I doubt they are really necessary.

Having been a regular member of LAP(Lorne Aquatic Project ) the SCS repeatedly rejected our proposals on the basis that no public pool in the state makes money, and even tho were fully funded through grants, they were relentlessly obstructionist due to financial concerns about the continual drain on shire funds, once it was built.

Is there a serious business plan and ongoing cost estimate to staff, run and maintain it.....it genuinely seems beyond the scope of shire finances. Likewise it will be used only by Torquay residents, the rest of the shire won't benefit, and will no doubt have their spending slashed.

This project seems over the top, outrageously expensive and clearly will drain SCS funds for years to come. It will no doubt be a decision between financial prudence and the usual Torquay self importance. Perhaps it should be pursued thru the Surf Coast College and State Education Dept....

VOTE NO, but offer them the chance to raise 80% of the funds, just as we did in Lorne, they were happy to offer us 250K to go with the other 850 we raised.

Seems fair...

Thanks, regards and good luck

**17/07/2015 Lorne**

GEE CLIVE WILL IT BE HEATED????????????????????????????????

Follow up phone call. " No Bloody Way " are they on drugs !

**17/07/2015 Lorne**

Many thanks for the update regarding the Surfcoast Aquatic & Leisure Centre.

I cannot see that this project would significantly benefit Lorne ratepayers. A small number of families we know travel to Leisure link in Grovedale to attend swimming lessons or for the occasional swim. Given the very small additional distance between Torquay and Grovedale (from Lorne), I cannot see that the cost/benefit stacks up when you consider the construction cost and ongoing operating costs. There are surly other projects within the Surf Coast Shire that are of higher priority.

**17/07/2015 Lorne**

Thank you for your email regarding the establishment of an aquatic facility in Torquay.

I categorically oppose this development in any form, on the basis that it provides no benefit at all to Lorne residents or visitors and represents a prohibitively expensive undertaking which can be ill afforded by shire ratepayers.

I fail to see how even the most favourable business case could conclude a tangible economic benefit to the shire and, given the proximity of other facilities to the region, even the social benefit would be hard to prove.

While Lorne residents and visitors have been significantly "duded" with the (ongoing) development fiasco of our own pool, we already have access to a similar aquatic facility to the one proposed within a marginally shorter travel time in Colac. Torquay residents have access to much larger facilities even closer to home.

Given the challenging trading conditions the Surf Coast has faced since 2008, I believe it is fiscally irresponsible to undertake such a significant capital project without a compelling business case that demonstrates benefit to the entire region. I implore you to do your best to ensure this is not yet another example of "Torquay-centric" Shire decision making that results in benefits for one part of the region at the – in this case, significant – cost of the other wards.

If required, I would be pleased to elaborate further, accept market research calls and/or add my voice to the many others certainly in opposition to this project.

Many thanks.

**17/07/2015 Lorne**

Thanks for the pending review of aquatic centre at Torquay. Having spent many hours at local Melbourne swimming pools Have often thought what a good pool would be like.

With all swimming pools what council should consider is maximizing its usage time.

Going for 25m pool limits that usage.

If the council built a 50m pool and could have depth of 2m, water polo could be played at night.

Being 50m long would enable swimming completions from schools during the day and swimming clubs at night.

If large financial resources are going to be invested it should be done right the first time.

Support from both federal and state governments should be obtained.

The task alone by council is to big.

Torquay residents should have financial input, the same way Lorne had to contribute to Mountjoy Parade upgrade.

Please note 15th Sept is bowls opening casserole night at club. Can it be another night?

**17/07/2015 Lorne**

I would definitely use this facility. I'm currently using leisure link once a week but would probably use a pool in Torquay twice a week since it's a bit closer.

**17/07/2015 Lorne**

I think it is unlikely that I will get to any of these forums.

But, it seems to me that something so costly should be borne by those who will benefit (In the past an issue that was of limited relevance (Lorne drainage) was funded by levying those who would benefit). Not many ratepayers in Lorne will benefit from a facility in Torquay. Unless there is a substantial trade-off that benefits Lorne, I would not support such a facility. And even then I might not, because that would increase rates even more. I also wonder about the need. There are endless private gyms in Melbourne and they seem to survive so must be profitable. I assume that options such as the Council paying for access to private pools (I assume there is one at the golf club) have been investigated? Weekday access for a few hours each day for 10 months of the year (ie excluding main holiday periods when resort managers might not welcome outsiders) would meet much of the real medical need (recovery from injury etc.) would it not?

What I say next will not be news to you, but I assume it helps to have evidence of someone saying it. It amounts to me preferring to pay for ongoing education of council staff and contractors, than for a pool in Torquay.

There are issues with services in Lorne that reveal lack of knowledge of local conditions.

1. Some years ago parts of 2 blocks in the upper part of Varner gully collapsed and a tree was uprooted. This was all the result of undetected tunnelling precipitated by leakage from the storm water system, and the subsequent collapse of the tunnels. The council visited the sites, informed us

of other similar problems in Lorne, but did not accept that their pipe was the source of water. Water movement in soils is complex, but this storm water pipe was by far the most likely source. So this is not a story of total irrationality or incompetence, and the people we dealt with were polite and helpful within their skill set. But their knowledge and investigative capacity was deficient. The knowledge is hard to come by, and perhaps they had budgetary constraints. They did get images taken of the inside of the pipe, and declared it OK. Fortunately they gave us the images. We could see that it was not OK. Why could we see what they could not? We resolved the matter ourselves by getting our neighbours permission to excavate the pipe (mattock and spade). Only after this excavation and the leak was laid bare did the council concede our point and fix the pipe. Evidence after 2-3 years is that the pipe was indeed the problem. This adds up to disappointing service for people who had paid a levy to improve storm water drainage.

2. I have a progressive program of removing pittosporums and replanting with indigenous species. I started this about 10 years ago and it includes roadside verges. Last year the Council, which had never done anything about the pittosporums, slashed the new growth, despite some of the trees being still in tree guards. The Council response to my complaint was admirable in that it was honest. It said an error had been made. It conceded that the drivers of these vehicles were likely to be people who thought all native plants were 'scrub' (even when in a tree guard it would seem).

I want to emphasize that I am not claiming gross incompetence on the part of the council or its employees, but I am saying that in my experience there is a level of ignorance that should be addressed. I can end on a good note. After the slashing incident I sought council advice on who was responsible for what on road verges. As a consequence I notified them of problems with two trees. They promptly removed the totally dead tree and the worrisome dead branches in the second tree.

**17/07/2015 Lorne**

how dare they, how dare they and all the other 4 letter words i can think of after the fiasco with trying to get a heated pool in LORNE. Let's get rid of Torquay in the Surf Coast Shire!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**(follow up from same address 21/07/2015)**

- Clive, sorry for using such strong language but I feel we were really shafted and that a heated pool would have brought tourist and retirees to Lorne (apart from being therapeutic to the community). Their excuse was that pools never make money or break even so how's Torquay proposed pool going to break even? Interesting

**17/07/2015 Lorne**

Thank you for the information on the proposal of an aquatic centre in Torquay.

This is an extremely ambitious program considering the geography of the shire.

I have a grave concern about the magnitude of the expected cost of this venture and as you well know, this will not be the total end cost as all such projects do have overruns in time and costs. This



is a facility that will almost exclusively be utilised by Torquay residents and as such, the building and ongoing maintenance costs should be levied to Torquay rate payers and not applied to properties within the Shire outside of Torquay.

The council needs to be aware that to commit such a large amount of capital funds to a single project that will principally service one town within the total shire will meet with resistance or total rejection.

The shire also needs to take into account that the City of Greater Geelong has an aquatic & recreation centre located at Waurnd Ponds which is only 17kms from Torquay via the existing dual carriage highway, which I am advised takes about 17 minutes by car.

I ask that you table my concerns

**17/07/2015 Lorne**

As a long time rate payer at Lorne I am strongly opposed to this project as it offers nothing for the residents of Lorne. Let's join the Otway Shire for a more rational provision of resources from rate payers money in Lorne !

**17/07/2015 Lorne**

I love receiving your emails and being kept in touch with the happenings around lovely Lorne.

I have passed this email onto other members of my family and friends who are also Lorne lovers & ratepayers.

I think I can speak on behalf of family and friends and say how outraged we are about the proposed Aquatic & Leisure Centre in Torquay – when they have good facilities at Waurnd Ponds and also the ocean at their doorstep.

As we live the working week out of Lorne (Melbourne & Geelong) – and won't be able to attend the meetings, what would you like us do to voice our opinion about the bill the ratepayers of Lorne will have to bear on behalf of the Torquay community?

**17/07/2015 Lorne**

NO WAY !!!!!!!!

**17/07/2015 Lorne**

I don't see how this can benefit the community of Dean's Marsh or any of the smaller towns within the SC Shire. If we want to access facilities like you mentioned we could visit the Bluewater Fitness Centre in Colac, a lot closer than Torquay!

If it means money taken away (or not even been used) for basic infrastructure, safe foot paths, safe roads, in our area it's a Big no from me. It would just strengthen my view that the Surf Coast Shire only think of Torquay and not its smaller communities.

**19/07/2015 Lorne**

Thank you Clive for keeping everyone in the loop, I appreciate that

I think Lorne would be a better place for this such centre as there is no public facility under 50 mins away (Colac & Geelong)

Torquay is more or less a suburb of Geelong now and only a 15 mins drive to get to 'Leisurelink' or such facilities from Torquay

The health message is to exercise, inc weight bearing to 'get' or 'maintain' our health and well being. This is difficult in Lorne as there is no public facility, do we move back to Geelong or Melbourne for our health & well being???

Just my personal thoughts

**18/07/2015 Lorne**

As far as I'm concerned, an aquatic and health centre for Torquay at a cost of \$29 million is a joke when there is a perfectly good one in Waurm Ponds. If there is to be any such expenditure it should be privately owned on public land. That would then reduce the cost to nil. As Lorne's pool has become private ownership so too should a pool for Torquay.

I believe the council needs to wait to see what the rate capping will be before sounding the alarm bells. Perhaps cost cutting is in order with less town meetings and more done on the internet.

**22/07/2015 Lorne**

Dear Clive,

We will be away when the community consultation is held in Lorne regarding the proposed aquatic centre for the Surf Coast Shire, but would like to make the following comments to you. We are in favour of such a facility being built, but not in Torquay. We offer the following reasons:

- The facility would be almost an hour's drive from Lorne, and even further from Wye River and Deans Marsh, and would therefore be useless to ratepayers in these localities
- Residents in Torquay already have access to the Waurm Ponds aquatic facility within only 15 minutes' drive

Obviously we would like to see the facility built in Lorne. However, to be fair, we believe that such a facility should be located more centrally in the shire, making the use of it feasible to all ratepayers, especially school and community groups. Anglesea or Aireys Inlet would seem to be a more appropriate location. Torquay residents are just as capable of driving to a sporting venue as those in Lorne or Wye River! If the project goes ahead as Council has suggested, Torquay residents should be levied separately to cover the cost (as Lorne residents were for the streetscape project here). Lorne ratepayers would be rightfully hostile to having to pay for such a facility in Torquay, particularly in light of the debacle regarding Council's rejection of funding for a heated pool in Lorne some years ago.

We would appreciate it if you could represent our point of view to Council during discussions. Thanks.

**23/07/2015 Anglesea**

As an Anglesea rate payer I am fed up with subsidising Torquay development. This proposal for an aquatic centre is just another example. Many people in the smaller coastal towns outside Torquay feel the same as I do. If Torquay people want a pool then, as they will be the primary users, then they alone can pay a rate levy to support it.

If the constant expenditure stream to Torquay developments continues then we intend to separate from the Surfcoast Shire to form a more balanced group of towns with a more even fund distribution. Shire of The Great Ocean Road has been a popular choice. This would mean that we would be able to achieve a rate reduction by not being part of any Torquay development. This rate reduction would also be achieved by not being part of a Shire that is top heavy with overpaid staff who constantly engage consultants at premium rates to do their job for them and operate in a building that couldn't be further from the rest of the shire towns.

If you think this is not possible then have a look at Noosa heads in Qld who recently successfully split from The Sunshine City Council for exactly the same reasons.

Torquay was not originally meant to be part of the Surfcoast but part of City of Geelong. Torquay can pay for their own pool !!

**23/07/2015 Eastern View**

I am very interested in having an aquatic Centre in the Surfcoast shire but NOT at Torquay. Those living at Torquay can easily and quickly access one of the numerous aquatic centres in the Geelong area, whereas those living in Anglesea Aireys Inlet and Lorne have no facilities anywhere near. We need a teaching pool and a hydro pool easily accessible for those who live further down the coast.

**23/07/2015 no township stated**

Our rates just escalated to \$3200.  
We cant believe that an aquatic centre has not already been built.  
We pay some of the highest rates in Victoria to the Surf Coast council.  
Our area does not even have town water.  
Where does all that money go?????

**23/07/2015 Moriac**

Not interested if a rate rise for Moriac is involved.

**23/07/2015 Torquay**

Can you please include in your financial modelling how the charges would look like if a grand from State or Federal governments were received, i.e. for every \$1 million received which will reduce the build and loan cost, it will be useful to see the impact on the rate payers. It will help us all to support

you in lobbying the respective government authorities, which given the pending election, in not too distant future, would be useful.

If the proposed aquatic centre has a gym and a health centre attached to it, how the income from these leases will help to reduce the \$1million of the operating cost and assist in minimising the rate payers' contribution?

The run cost is an operating cost of the facilities and should be covered by the admission fee, not necessary a flat rate unless the facility is prepared to run an open book on its cost.

What would be the admission fee for rate payers v/s casual visitors?

Finally what is the proposed income from the surrounding areas of Armstrong Creek?

Hope this questions help to get us to a better place and finally make a decision on the aquatic facilities, it has been a while.

**23/07/2015 Torquay**

we have a wonderful pool already just walk along the esplanade and there it is we also have lots of homeless people and people in need. Far more important

**23/07/2015 Deans Marsh**

Thank you for your email re the aquatic facilities in Torquay.

As rate payers located in Deans Marsh we would not be willing to pay an additional \$20 per annum for the facility to be built (20 years) and an additional \$50 per annum for ongoing running costs. - \$70!

Geelong and Colac have excellent facilities and we use the Geelong facilities on a weekly basis with our children and find this adequate for our swimming lesson needs.

If such debt is required to be entered into to provide this service, it is most likely not the right time for a centre of this size to be developed in Torquay.

Many thanks again for sending this information.

**24/07/2015 Anglesea**

... & I would like to be involved in this discussion.

However I see your info notes only a pool at Torquay. This is very disappointing as the whole Shire is becoming Torquay centric.

The closing of the Anglesea Power Station provides a marvellous opportunity to site this facility at Anglesea. I provide the following points for circulation and discussion.

1. The Anglesea Power Station is closing.
2. It has been tapping hot water from an aquifer at about 400m, so

little energy to warm the water will be needed, although pumping costs would be associated.

3. Alcoa buildings could be altered/converted - saving costs.
4. The water could be a continuous stream (ie) in one end out the other the waste water cooling in the current settling ponds and released to the Anglesea River which needs the water. A spar pool would work in as similar fashion. There should be no need for strong chemicals.
5. It would be a source of employment for a town that has just lost 84 jobs.
6. It would show that the Council is not Torquay centric by putting this service near the centre of the shire.
7. The capital cost would be much cheaper than Torquay.
8. It may be a foundation for a tourist/health spar industry.

**23/07/2015 no stated township**

We have just received our latest Rates notice along with the article about investigations into an Aquatic Centre.

How can any reasonable set of Councillors allow such a review to go any further?

How could the Council think they might be able to afford to pay this monstrous amount of money as capital expense for a centre which would only serve local Torquay and at best 1% or less of the Surf Coast population? The ongoing operating expenses and insurance/liability would also be an unaffordable addition to the annual budget.

The capital cost is equivalent to spending \$ 2,900 million on a facility that would service all of the Surf Coast population.

No wonder our rate and costs are going up so quickly.

Please kill this centre off as quickly as possible and don't allow yourselves to become subservient to special interest groups who represent only a miniscule percentage of the total shire.

If there is a demand for such a facility, then let "user pays" apply and let Private Enterprise build such a centre if there is thought to be a market.

Focus should be on cost efficiency (our waste collection charge in Boroondara is only ½ the amount charged by Surf Coast) and the needs of the majority; not catering to noisy minorities located in Torquay.

**24/07/2015 Aireys Inlet**

To Whom It May Concern,

As a Surf Coast Shire rate payer, I refuse to pay \$20 extra in my rates for something that I will not use. I do not feel it is justified to ask me to subsidise increased rates of \$20 a year, for people in Torquay/Geelong people/visitors to have an aquatic centre. I don't think I/we should have to, mind you Aireys Inlet did not get a mention in costs.

We in Aireys Inlet have just lost our water supply because of costs to maintain our asset and of a so called subsidy of \$20 per house hold for Barwon Water users, to keep our dam and own water supply. There is no difference between the two . Barwon Water have now set a precedent you can't expect me /us to subsidise others .

Can you tell me why I/we should have to pay hard earned money for Torquay/ Geelong people to use this asset.

**25/07/2015 Lorne**

Personally, I think this proposal is does not service the entire Surfcoast and for which the entire Shire is expected to contribute.

It's indulgent and loaded with the self-interest from a minor in Torquay. If the only justification for this expenditure is health/ well being , save travel time and costs for "some users". THAT IS AN APPALLING WEAK DEBATE.

There is a real need for the shire address OUR debt ceiling, as I was 'blown away' on hearing of the current indebtedness.

I vote NO for this Aquatic centre...

**25/07/2015 Lorne**

NO WAY!!!!!!! Absolutely no use to Lorne. Why should we pay for something that is of no benefit to us and be saddled with the debt for years to come. What are those councillors smoking? They nearly bankrupted the Shire several years ago and they are heading down the same path again!

Community consultations, indeed! All they do is steer the outcome to what the Council want it to be.

I think Lorne has had enough of these so-called inclusive meetings judging by the past one that were held.

**26/07/2015 Moggs Creek**

To whom it may concern,

I wish to register my objection to the proposal for an aquatic centre in the shire. I am a ratepayer and own a property at Moggs Creek.

As neither my family nor myself would receive any benefit whatsoever from an aquatic centre and as the cost of such a centre is extremely high, we are not willing to invest in it.

**27/07/2015 Anglesea**

the process certainly wasn't generated by the Anglesea, Aireys, Fairhaven community to my knowledge.

Haven't seen any of those but just wondering why some are being emailed and not others.

Like many in Anglesea we wouldn't be in favour of this proposal and see no useful purpose for Anglesea, Aireys and Lorne residents.

For your information it is never raised as a priority for Anglesea residents that we are aware of.

According to google maps:

22kms and around 25 minutes drive to the Torquay shire offices from Anglesea.

32 kms and around 30 minutes drive to Leisurelink Waurin ponds aquatic centre from Anglesea.

17kms and around 18minutes drive to Leisurelink from Torquay.

For us it would be a few minutes drive saved and to what end, the Anglesea ward already contributes 25% of the rate revenue to the Shire and what do we get in return?

Which businesses in Torquay will be using the facility and what kind of levy will they have to pay?

There is a much bigger issue of concern here for many of us in Anglesea regarding our place in the Shire and the dominance of Torquay.

There is virtually no public transport between Torquay and Anglesea so how do residents without cars and older people get access to the new centre.

Why not have an aquatic centre adjacent to the bowls club in Anglesea where there is ample open space. Anglesea is more centrally located to Aireys and Lorne.

Anyway we will follow the process and attend meetings and I guess in the meantime we as rate payers will pay for this process which let me be very clear about **we never asked for**.

**27/07/2015 Anglesea**

To whom it may concern;

Due to work commitments I will be unable to attend the Aquatic Centre forum on September 3<sup>rd</sup> in Anglesea.

In relation to the proposed Aquatic centre in Torquay:

I am very concerned that council is considering building a facility at significant cost to the Shire that will realistically benefit the Torquay community only. I can't see residents from Anglesea, Airey's Inlet, Lorne or Winchelsea driving to Torquay to use the facility.

If this is the case, surely funding for the Aquatic Centre should be borne by the community that will receive the benefit, in this case Torquay – user pays.

I and I'm sure many thousands of others in Surfcoast Shire will be outraged if a levy or tax on all homes in the Shire is even considered as a means of funding this facility.

I am of the firm opinion that if the facility is unaffordable under current Council revenue projections – it should not be built by the Council.

**27/07/2015 Anglesea**

I wish to record my vehement opposition to the proposal, particularly the proposed means of financing it.

I and my husband have lived in Anglesea, part time, for more than 50 years, we are both in the 70 year old bracket, we have no need for a pool, rarely visit Torquay, and regard the proposal as ridiculous for a seaside community.

We are "lucky" to own a valuable property and therefore already contribute an absurd amount to Council coffers, completely out of proportion to what we receive in exchange, our rubbish collected weekly. We realise we have no hope of overturning the inequitable basis upon which rates are struck, but will resist as strenuously as possible this further unfair impost on us.

On another matter, we read with interest, if not dismay, that the Council opposes any form of coal seam gas mining, or anything similar, and wonder on what basis this policy is based, we don't recall rate payers being asked?

**27/07/2015 Moriac**

Hi , Just wondering why there is no session in Moriac to allow this community have its say.

We are going to be expected to pay for a pool many of the Moriac community won't use. I would think that most people from Moriac would head into Waurm Ponds for a pool as going to Torquay is not where this community goes for services.

**27/07/2015 Lorne**

Good morning Ciive, trust you are keeping well. We continue to appreciate having you as the Lorne Representative on Surfcoast Council. ... & I noticed the very large article in the recent issue of Groundswell seeking community views on ratepayers investment in an aquatic centre. This has made us particularly angry, given anything Lorne ever seems to want or need a "special levy" is inflicted on Lorne Ratepayers alone. Given this proposed aquatic centre would not benefit Lorne ratepayers even remotely – we request you provide feedback to this effect and suggest a "special levy" on ratepayers for Torquay if they want such a centre established. Lorne ratepayers should not under any circumstances have to contribute towards this. We can't even get the Council to do the most basic things down at Lorne like footpath improvements. Special levies inflicted on us in the past for works in the town have been totally only beneficial to Traders and enabled the surf coast to charge more for the widened seating areas outside the various eateries. Congestion in the busy times is even worse and these improvements have only enabled additional clutter; hence no pedestrian benefits at all. Property prices seem to have remained very suppressed at Lorne – partly as a result of the perception of excessive rates for sub-standard provision of services from Surfcoast Shire. For years Lorne has been the "cash cow" for surf coast and sadly this has eroded the attractiveness of investment in the Town. Perhaps a survey of dissatisfaction amongst Lorne Ratepayers would improve things somewhat. Please keep us informed of any further developments regarding this proposed aquatic centre.



**27/07/2015 Lorne**

Dear Councillor Goldsworthy

We own a holiday house in Lorne, so are among the large majority of the town's home owners who are not resident in the Shire. Non-residents receive few benefits for the rates we pay to the Shire, but that does not mean we have no interest in how our rates are spent - we are in fact as concerned as residents to see that our rates are spent properly and prudently.

We therefore declare the strongest objection to Shire's proposals for

- an Aquatic Centre which will benefit only the town of Torquay, but for which the enormous cost of \$29M plus \$1M per year will be borne by all the ratepayers of the Shire
- a prior consultation process which will focus on the Shire communities, when the group which has first and greatest right to be consulted is the whole body of Shire ratepayers including the large number of Shire non-residents who will bear a significant part of the huge cost if the project proceeds.

Please make known our objections to all councillors.

**28/07/2015 Anglesea**

Thanks for your reply and suggestions... In relation to past funding allocation, I would like to point out that Anglesea rate payers do not view shire expenditure spent on the garbage dump as any benefit to the town, after all, as you put it, It's a garbage dump for the "Whole Shire". It is insulting to have this included as funds allocated by the Shire to Anglesea development. The way the "Torquay" Aquatic Centre proposal is presented is an attempt to con the rest of the shire rate payers that it would be a benefit to them. It is just as close for us to go to leisure link in Geelong than travel to the other side of Torquay where I am sure you intend to locate it.

Torquay was not originally included in the breakup of the shire of Barrabool and creation of SCS, it was to be part of the City of Greater Geelong. This was to provide a balance amongst the coastal towns as Torquay to Geelong was a designated growth corridor. It was only following endless complaints from Torquay that it was included in SCS. As Torquay has developed into a suburban city, a growing number of people believe that it has lost touch with the true coastal spirit. This includes many of the original Torquay people who are saddened by the approval of ugly and unsuitable projects. .

Rate payers in the smaller towns now feel that Torquay is dominating the shire in fund allocation and is imposing rules and regulations that are unnecessary outside Torquay. The shire offices, ( or palace as most call it), being located almost as far as possible away from the rest of the shire does not help, this along with the state of the art sports fields that nonw of us get any value from. It is also felt that SCS staffing is top heavy with management operating under fancy titles and being overpaid high salaries and benefits keeping our rates above average. The constant engagement of consultants for feasibility studies and surveys etc is also causing concern.

These are only some of the reasons why there is a movement beginning to hold a referendum, and create a new shire separate from Torquay. One of the suggestions made for the new shire name is, Shire of The Great Ocean Road. Yes, we all know that the GOR has never run through Torquay !

If you think that this is not possible just ask the people of Noosa Heads in Qld who faced with the same issues and recently successfully separated from the Sunshine City Council.

This attempted con job or should I say "Testing the water", only confirms that the SCS is Torquay Centric which is a commonly used phrase to describe SCS.

I can only hope that apathy doesn't allow this project to slip through and we will then be paying for it for the next 20 years or that then we are forced to continue to advance our plans to separate from SCS.

Please pass this onto Margot Smith .

**28/07/2015 Lorne**

We are writing as ratepayers of the Shire (we own a holiday house in Lorne) to protest strongly against the funding method proposed for the proposed aquatic and health centre at Torquay. We have no problem in principle with Torquay having such a facility but find it a step too far to be asked to contribute to funding it.

We suspect that like virtually all ratepayers of Lorne and most particularly those who have holiday houses there but live in Melbourne, we would derive zero direct benefit from the facility and probably also no indirect benefit.

We accept that the council has to fund projects from time to time which benefit only those local to the project and that ratepayers who live in other localities help to fund them.

The distinction with the proposed project is that it is comparatively large and cannot be funded within normal budgetary means.

In our opinion a rates rise for Lorne ratepayers of \$20 (for 20 years) to repay the loan plus an additional rates rise of 2.75% to cover operating costs cannot be justified.

We are very unhappy with these proposed increases. Although its not related of course, it adds to the frustration we feel in relation to the Surf Coast Shire.

It took us about 3 years to get adequate attention paid to dealing with a stormwater drain problem which caused ongoing flooding in our garage despite having paid a significant stormwater drainage levy. Please consider this letter to be a formal objection to the funding proposal for the Aquatic and Health Centre at Torquay. We trust that the survey conducted will seek to include the views of those ratepayers of Lorne that live in Melbourne.

**28/07/2015 Lorne**

Good morning,

We are Lorne ratepayers who object to having to pay any additional contribution towards your Torquay facility. We paid a special charge for the Mountjoy Parade streetscape in March 2010. Whilst we did not object to that particular payment, we acknowledge that we benefitted from the

works, along with all ratepayers and visitors to Lorne, including the people that visit Lorne from Torquay! Conversely, we don't believe that the Torquay ratepayers were FORCED to pay for our streetscape works in Lorne. Why should we be FORCED to contribute to an aquatic centre located 100 kms away (return trip) in shire-centric Torquay, that we will never use?

Having said that, historically we have paid our fair share including a 1993 \$300 State Government Deficit (Labor Party) Levy (John Cain/Joan Kirner mismanagement levy if you like) at a time when that \$300 was a great amount of money to a young rate-paying family trying to make ends meet. Further, there are other ways for people to exercise apart from swimming. Hang on a minute - is it not possible to don a wetsuit and swim in the ocean?

How about cycling as a form of exercise? Anyone think of upgrading cycling facilities in the shire? What about walking? - How about concentrating on adding additional walking tracks across the shire?

Does the squeeze never end???

**31/07/2015    Jan Juc**

I do not support the proposal to build a swimming pool in the town of Torquay for the following reasons.

The model as outlined in the local newspaper recently is patently unfair. It purports to be a user pays system but in actual fact it appears to be a scheme in which users will be subsidised by the bulk of residents who will probably never use the facility.

If this noisy minority of people want a swimming pool let them pay for it themselves or build it and charge a user pays fee which is commensurate with what it actually costs. This true user pays costs would be so high that the pool would not be a viable concern. How many of these noisy people will move out of the shire in future years while those who remain are burdened with another impost, a levy which is just another name for a tax.

Also I am sure that people in the far reaches of the shire will be aghast at paying for a pool that is quite a considerable distance from them. Its placement in Torquay will be seen by them for what it is just a further imbalance in the operation of shire which is too Torquay centric.

At present I think there is a private pool in Baines Crescent Torquay that is available to parents to teach their children to swim. Other options for a pool would be school facilities such as the proposed elitist schools for Jan Juc, the Catholics and an expanded state school. These facilities should be community facilities anyway as they are subsidised by the taxation system.

There are also currently plenty of pool options in Geelong a short drive or bus ride away from Torquay. Perhaps this option is not as close for our cousins in far flung corners of the shire like Lorne or Winchelsea but Torquay for these people is also a considerable distance.

In fact I am not opposed to building a pool in Winchelsea for the residents there who do not have the availability of the sea to swim in which most of the folks in Torquay and Jan Juc do.

With all due respect I do not think that the shire should be engaged in building a pool for both financial and management capability reasons if the past performance of the truck depot and other ventures is taken into consideration.

If a pool is viable proposition then the private sector should and would undertake such a venture. Obviously the proposal is not viable without the ongoing financial subsidisation that is underpinning the testing the waters proposal.

Finally as it is such a large financial commitment the only way that this pool campaign should proceed is that it would put to a vote in the next council elections as a proposition that all of the residents of the shire can vote on.

**31/07/2015 Township not stated**

As a preliminary view and given that our rates are already 50% above the median for S.C.Shire we do not accept that a pool for the Torquay residents should be funded by all Surf Coast ratepayers. There is no justification for such an impost.

**1/08/2015 Lorne**

As far as I am concerned the people of Torquay can drive to Waurm Ponds for a swim.

Or use the RACV in Torquay.

**1/08/2015 Lorne**

Torquay is recognised as the place where much of the Surf Coast Shire's growth will occur. 47 % of the shire's rate base is drawn from Torquay and this percentage is forecast to grow. WELL TORQUAY SHOULD PAID FOR IT!

**2/08/2015 Township not stated**

Are you considering reducing the levies imposed for this project proportionately, relative to ratepayers not living in Torquay, who are likely to never use this facility?

**2/08/2015 Anglesea**

I wish to object to the construction of the aquatic centre in Torquay..

I have a holiday house in Anglesea and will never attend the centre. My grandchildren will also not attend as they swim at the main beach at Anglesea.

Anglesea is the poor relation with respect to services by the Council and there is no valid reason for us to subsidise such a proposal.

Money would be better spent on reducing the traffic problems into and out of Anglesea during the summer months by finding a solution to the roundabout near the shopping centre.

**2/08/2015 Lorne**

Thank you for the information which I have looked at also as published in the Lorne news.

As a ratepayer of Lorne who visits for holidays and weekends I would never use the Torquay facility. I therefore would oppose any special levy on rates for those people living outside the reasonably local area of Torquay.

**2/08/2015 Township not stated**

Dear Mayor

I am writing to register my opposition to the proposed aquatic centre at Torquay

It will be of NO benefit to me - Waurn Ponds and Colac Aquatic Centres are closer, easier to get to and I do not have to pay for them on my rates.

There is no need for another aquatic centre in the region it is a total waste of money

Please organise a bigger venue for the consultation on the 16th Sept as the community centre will not be big enough for us all to get in to register our opposition to this total stupidity

**3/08/2015 Lorne**

Thank you for the email regarding the proposed aquatic centre.

I am a keen user of a similar centre in Hawthorn and agree with the general sentiments of the purpose and benefits of building such a centre to the local community.

I wish to stress the word "LOCAL".

As a resident and ratepayer in Lorne, I would have no need or real opportunity to use a centre built at Torquay which lies a 50 minute drive from Lorne.

Therefore I believe it is the ratepayers of the Torquay/JanJuc region who should be paying most of the cost, perhaps including other nearby locations within 5-10km.

When other rate payers such as myself in Lorne were levied for road improvements in Lorne, I assume residents of other towns in surf coast shire were not levied for those works given they were not likely to directly benefit from them.

The surf coast shire rates are considerable when compared with Melbourne city ratings on a per dollar of land and capital value basis and I would respectfully request that levies were not put upon residents in Lorne who would have no real likelihood of using the proposed aquatic centre.

Thank you

**4/08/2015 Lorne**

As a home owner in Lorne, I am aghast that we would be asked to subsidise the building and maintenance of a new aquatic and health centre in Torquay - a facility that we would never have occasion to use because of the distances and expense involved in travelling there.

Several years ago, Lorne ratepayers were asked to pay a levy on our rates to fund streetscaping in the Lorne township. If Torquay residents want a new aquatic centre, they can fund it from an increase in the rates of the residents there, without lumbering Lorne residents with an increase in

rates for the next 20 years. Our rates are already a heavy burden on us without an increase for a service that we will not use.

If the council is so keen on building a new aquatic centre, why not ask for interest from the private sector to produce a “user pays” business model to build and fund it.

**4/08/2015 Lorne**

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed Aquatic Centre in Torquay.

To spend \$29 million of ratepayers’ money on such a project when your annual capital works budget is \$18.3 million is extremely financially irresponsible.

On a fairness basis, it is also ridiculous. The Shire is very widespread and it would be only Torquay ratepayers and mainly permanent Torquay residents who would use it whilst all of the ratepayers of the Shire would pay for it. If Torquay residents want it then strike a separate Torquay rate to raise the money.

Not only do I object to the proposed centre but I also object to such a misguided idea getting to the stage it is with Shire money being wasted on the Taskforce, market research and community forums.

**6/08/2015 Township not stated**

QUESTIONS

DEPRICIATION

1/ (a) Why are you factoring in depreciation when this rarely happens as an ‘actual amount’ put away by councils? It is usually just a figure on paper that is the total cost of the facility divided by it’s estimated life span. When the centre needs replacing the common process is for normal budgeting, grant applications etc to happen once again. ( i.e the same process as will happen now).

1 ( b) Is this money being put away for rebuilding into the future and has the compounding interest been factored in? If so what does this figure look like?

1(c) Can the community get a binding agreement that their money (with interest earned) will only be reinvested in to this specific piece of infrastructure?

1 (d) If you have not factored in putting the claimed depreciation amount away to rebuild in the future then what is the extra \$660000 p.a. that is being collected from ratepayers for?

The 2.75 % RATE RISE

2/ (a) Have you factored in the population growth in your revenue base? i.e due to growth the number of ratepayers will bring substantial additional revenue over the lifespan of the centre.

This will add considerably to the amount raised through this process as current figures are based on a one off rise on current population/rate payers.

2/ ( b) Have you factored in the compounding amounts that will be gained as “normal “ rate rises are calculated on top of the 2.75 % on off rise? i.e. the following years rates will be calculated on a figure actually 2.75% greater than it would have been, year on year.

#### SPECIAL CHARGE

3 (a) Why are you asking residents who ‘clearly will not benefit’ from this centre to pay the special charge? E.g residents of Winchelsea, Deans Marsh, Wurdale, Lorne etc

This appears to go against one of the principles of “special charge schemes “

3 (b) Why are you asking for residents of the above mentioned distant locations to contribute when the total amount they will contribute is almost insignificant in the scheme of the total amounts raised?

( approx. 3000 or 4000 residents x \$20 = 60000 - 80000 p.a out of a total raised of 1.8 million p.a ). This is an insignificant amount as a percentage (3 or 4%) of the total funds raised for a lot of bad-will in these communities. (see relevant anti-extra charge facebook pages from these areas...)

3 (c) A 20 year special charge is almost unprecedented. Although this has never happened before (e.g. the civic precinct), are we to expect this to happen for other future infrastructure projects, eg arts centres etc.? Have you considered a more palatable alternative funding model?

#### OTHER QUESTIONS

4/ Why hasn’t the information the surf coast shire made public clearly stated that there are good possibilities of larger amounts of funding being obtained (e.g. Regional Development Australia Fund) that could greatly reduce the amounts that ratepayers will contribute?

5/ Why have you not communicated to the public that the building costs are the “maximum” amount projected and that the costs could be lower, thereby resulting in a reduction in the amount that ratepayers would have to contribute?

6/ Why has the “conservative” financial model been used in regard to operating performance. In an area like ours (highly active and affluent) at least the middle (or “base”) model should be used. This has an average operating loss of \$124,000 p.a, a saving of \$224,000 p.a over the conservative model used.

7/ Why are the council not utilising any money made available in a normal budgetary manner. I.e. why is 100% of this project being funded by “extra charges” to the ratepayers?

Why isn’t an amount being removed from the funds being obtained through “extra charges”? i.e If this was a \$5 million project the council would most likely just fund it from normal revenue.

8/ Why have the council not better promoted the positive outcomes to the community from a leisure centre?

The overriding message to the community has been a negative one from both official releases and from councillors' own articles in the media.

On your "Testing the Waters" page the very bottom link is to "more information on the potential benefits". This link takes you to a very uninteresting page with no information, only references to studies. These studies do not even have proper links. It looks like an afterthought, despite the availability of so much positive information.

9/ What happens if the facility runs at less of a loss, breaks even or at a profit? Or the interest rate on borrowing is less than 6%? Do we get refunded any or all of the additional one off charges and rate rises?

**7/08/2015 Lorne**

We will not be able to attend the Lorne consultation meeting scheduled for 15 September and would like to record the following comments.

When the proposal for the Aquatic and Leisure Centre was first mooted we felt that this would be a major project that would have serious implications for the Shire's limited budget. The article in the July issue of Groundswell provides the figures to confirm this view.

The estimated cost of \$29 million is more than 1.5 times this year's capital works budget. If the Centre were to go ahead it would have a major negative impact on this budget for many years to come. Furthermore, the estimated \$1 million annually for running costs would likely displace other smaller projects of local significance.

The Groundswell article confirms the tight budgetary constraints likely to be faced by the Shire resulting from rate caps and the freezing of Federal Assistance Grants. All this makes the proposed Centre financially unviable.

There is also the issue of location. The Centre would benefit mainly the residents of Torquay with little advantage accruing to residents in the hinterland. The proposal would therefore be seen as another example of the "Torquay – centric" proclivities of the Shire Council. For Torquay residents keen to use aquatic facilities, these are available in Waurnd Ponds – a 15-20 minutes drive.

Our view is that the proposed Centre cannot be justified in budgetary terms. Nor can it be justified in Shire-wide equity terms given its Torquay location.

We emphasize strongly that no consideration should be given any idea of a special project levy as a basis for funding.

**7/08/2015 Township not stated**

As a ratepayer to the Surf Coast Shire, I wish to voice my objection to the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay.

This project would increase rates beyond an acceptable level, and put extra strain on already stressed ratepayers.



The Surf Coast Shire rates are excessive in any event. The level of services provided by the Shire are unsatisfactory and disappointing, particularly over the holiday period.

The level of debt that the Shire proposes to undertake is irresponsible and would eventually minimise the already meagre services.

**10/08/2015 Lorne**

Please record my objection to the establishment of the "Surf Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre".

Rate payer Lorne

**11/08/2015 Township not stated**

Under NO circumstances will we support this over the top proposal.

The Surfcoast Shire is currently already ripping ratepayers off with rate rises four times the CPI, plus is carrying enormous levels of debt.

Can you advise if you think that ratepayers have received a 5.5% pay increase, and if not how are we meant to meet your insatiable thirst for money?

As to an aquatic Centre.

Firstly Torquay is located on the coast. Why not go for a swim at the beach at Torquay or Jan Juc?

There is a lovely pool at the RACV - become members and use it.

Why Torquay? Why shouldn't such a facility be located inland - where there is no ocean option for taking a swim?

Think regionally. Surfcoast does not need an aquatic centre when there is wonderful facility already built and operating at Waurin Ponds.

This project - if it was to go ahead - should be 100% financed by private investment.

Our Shire should start living within its means and stop wasting money on projects that are non-urgent.

Under No circumstances will we support any rate rise for such a non essential project.

**9/08/2015 Township not stated**

Thanks for your email. Is it intended that the additional charge on rates will only be applied to the residents of Torquay or are all Surf Coast residents expected to bear the burden of funding this facility? If there is a need for such a facility, why would it not be run on the basis that its revenue covers its costs, thereby avoiding the need to seek funding from ratepayers for operating costs?

**12/08/2015 Township not stated**

How do we say No, and object to any decision made by the council. ? Is there a task force set up, which does not agree with this motion? 25 meter pool 28 million WTF ? Seriously!!!!

Rates keep going up more then the CPI my wage hasn't gone up in 10 years. Bloody crazy, stupid, idea.

**12/08/2015 Postcode 3228**

Yes, we will be making a statement once we have concluded more research and consultation.

The more I research this and read the information the SCS has provided the more disturbed I am at the way this is being conducted.

There are many unanswered questions that need to be responded to before the community can make an informed choice.

council can assist by answering the following questions, preferably under each question.

How much has the current and previous consultation/investigations costs – there seem to have been several going back years?

With only a concept plan, how can you accurately predict the cost?

Does the cost include the value of the land?

Are the costs based on MAV procurement?

Have you obtained more than one estimate of the predicted cost?

Who devised the funding model and why wasn't it part of the brief for the Task force?

Does the financial model include any contribution from council funds for the construction and running costs, other than the proposed Special Charge and one off rate increase?

Have you considered any other financial model? If yes, what is it? If not, why not?

Have you asked for any grants for this project? If not why not? How do you know what mix of grants will be (25/75%).

From the SCS website - "It would cost \$29m to build and up to \$1m a year to run." Please explain the up to \$1m to run – does this figure include depreciation?

I note that in a SC Times article that the council is planning a new sports and rec centre in 5 years at an undetailed cost and would then consider to convert the old hall near Surf World into an arts precinct at a cost of between \$5.76 to \$11.6 million and an ongoing cost of \$443K per year – how is all this to be funded? Is a special charge also being considered? Are you going to give the community a choice between a swimming pool and an arts precinct?

Are you intending that all future infrastructure projects be funded by a Special Charge Scheme?

**13/08/2015 Torquay**

I, ... of, ... Torquay hereby advise

1. That I will be attending the information evening to be held at the Council Offices on 2 September 2015.
2. Strongly support the Council in its proposal to construct and operation of the Aquatic Centre at Torquay and to pay the proposed levy and/or rate increase to fund the same.

**13/08/2015 Lorne**

Thank you for your reply.

Irrespective of the diverse response from the survey, I feel the matter of the shires current indebtedness and the costs of the proposed borrowing for this project must be critical to this debate.

I respect complete transparency on these matters.

I would appreciate details like.

Actual amount of current debt?

Interest rates on the same?

With the aquatic centre.....

Actual expected borrowings?

Interest rates?

Time frame for repayment?

It's a strain on my 'mental' health as opposed to my 'physical' health to think, we the rates payers, could have a collective debt rising to the order of 160%+ for a facilities that only services a small portion the the shire at large. Then there's the ongoing. How sustainable is this?

Whilst the argument of saving travel for residents of Torquay, to use an excellent facility at Waurm Ponds a 25 minutes drive from Torquay is a shallow justification.

As for the rest of the shire, it's an hour or more from home to pool for those a that feel it essential for their physical health.

Yes, I will certainly be attending the Lorne meeting ,if not the Torquay one as well.

Thank for your time.

Looking forward to your response

Kind regards

**13/08/2015 Township not stated**

I write to express my concerns about first, the proposed swimming complex at Torquay, and second, its related telephone survey.

Proposed swimming complex at Torquay.

I am concerned about the lack of detailed information and the processes used about this proposal; I have searched the Shire website and was unable to find any details on this matter. Information I seek before making any decision about whether to support or reject this proposal include:

Has a business case been brought forward for this proposal? Is it available for inspection and comment? Is there a cost-benefit analysis for the project? If so, where can it be inspected? Have these studies been independently assessed? If so, by whom?

What has been the legal advice regarding ultimate liability for the debt should Council at some time be unable to meet repayments? Would it be the now-present Councillors? The Councillors at a time the repayments may not be met? Would it be the present ratepayers, each and every one? Or the ratepayers at the time of default? Please be assured I am not suggesting that council will default, but rather that none of us are aware of what the future may hold.

How will the assumption of this debt affect the Shire's ability to meet costs and/or undertake new loans if a major disaster should occur in the future while the loan is still outstanding? Where is the 'what-if' analysis?

How will the Shire rates compare with those prevailing throughout Victoria, should the debt be undertaken and the proposed rate increase come about? How will this affect the ability to sell or rent business and residential premises throughout the Shire? How will it affect the Shire's ability to attract new residents and new businesses to the region? Where is the 'what-if' analysis?

Have Shire ratepayers been made aware of any of these above matters? If so, how?

Telephone Survey

I received a phone call seeking my input to a 10-minute survey about this proposal. It is the second time I have received such a request. Both times I have agreed to take part. I have had some experience in designing and using both mail or direct survey instruments, and telephone enquiry instruments and I understand and commend the Council's use of telephone surveys to consult with Shire ratepayers.

However, for this complex proposal, I question the use of a telephone survey. The survey instrument was far too detailed to enable reasonable responses, and the interviewer gabbled through much of the content. I was not made aware of any opportunity to give reasons for my support or rejection of the proposal, but instead asked to comment on someone else's views. I think a proposal of this magnitude requires much more in-depth consultation.

I appreciate the opportunity to bring these matters to the attention of Councillors.

**13/08/2015 Lorne**

Following our recent email on the above topic, we have had a chance to study the graphic representation of the proposed project published in the August issue of the Lorne Independent. It seems that financing of the Centre would be by means of a special charge on ratepayers.

We have strong objections to this approach. Our recent experience with the North Lorne drainage scheme resulted in our (and our neighbours) being charged a significant amount for drainage works which brought no benefit whatsoever to our properties.

Granted infrastructure projects can be difficult to slice up in ways whereby beneficiaries can be identified and charged accordingly for the service provided. But for single entities like the proposed Aquatic Centre, it is much easier to define the likely beneficiary population subject to assessment for charges.

In the graphics provided in the Lorne Independent, the Shire map is divided into four zones with differential charges proposed for the distances out from Torquay. The charge for the greater Torquay area is \$150 per ratepayer per annum. This is reasonable given that, according to the 2011 Census Shire profile, about 70% of the Shire's population live in the Torquay/Jan Juc/Bells Beach/Bellbrae area. This is the population from which the great majority of likely users of the Centre would be drawn.

For the the outer zone, which includes Lorne, an annual rate increase of \$20 is proposed. This does not appear onerous but with the addition of the \$50 surcharge per year to cover operational costs, which presumably is adjusted annually to cover inflation, the burden increases substantially.

Lorne has a high proportion of elderly people including many pensioners. At the 2011 Census, 31% of Lorne's population was aged 60 or over compared with 19% for Torquay. One can draw the reasonable conclusion that few, if any, Lorne residents are going to undertake the 100 km round trip to avail themselves of the Aquatic Centre's facilities. We feel strongly that Lorne should be excluded from participation in the project and be omitted from any related special charge proposed in the future.

**14/08/2015 Township not stated**

I have read the documentation on the web with interest.

After a preliminary perusal, I have three questions which the documents do not address:

The 'questions and answers' section states that if a property is sold, the special levy charge is the responsibility of the present ratepayer, and must be settled at the time of property settlement. Does this mean the special charge for that year of sale alone, or does it mean the special charge for the remainder of the proposed 20 year existence of the levy?

Should, for whatever reason, the Council be forced to default on the proposed loan, who bears ultimate responsibility for that debt? The present Councillors? The Councillors at the time of default? The present ratepayer? The ratepayer at time of default? What is the legal advice on this?

How will the 'majority support' (or otherwise) of ratepayers be ascertained? By interpretation of existing polls and community consultations? Or be poll? Or ???

**14/08/2015 Lorne**

We are home owners from Lorne and are unable to attend the forum about the proposed Torquay swimming pool in September.

We wish to voice our very strong objection to such a project.

It is with disbelief that such a proposal be suggested. If Torquay wants a swimming pool it should be Torquay residents who pay for it or private investors. In Lorne every time the council proposes something ratepayers are slugged for the cost. The streetscape cost still upsets us as it is of most benefit to shop keepers and tourists yet we had to pay, no questions asked or forums to voice objections. Then came the drainage of Howard street and beyond. That should have been a basic infrastructure cost met by the Surfcoast council not the few who happened to be at the bottom of the hill. We feel we pay outrageous rates and then more for "projects" in and around Lorne.

A Torquay swimming pool is of absolutely no benefit to Lorne residents. Why wasn't the existing Lorne pool upgraded and heated a few years back.....because of the cost and ongoing maintenance. At a time when costs should be kept to a minimum this proposal would create a budget blowout. At this stage the \$1million annual operating costs would in no time be increased. Torquay residents can use public pools in Geelong, significantly closer than for Lorne residents to have a dip in a Torquay pool.

We are horrified each time we receive a rate notice from the Surfcoast. The rates are considerable higher than our Boroondara rates and we receive far more services in Kew than at Lorne. Our Kew home is worth considerably more than our Lorne home yet the Lorne rates this year are massive. Our money should not be used for such a poorly thought out proposal.

This proposal also raises other concerns we have had for years about Torquay and JanJuc. They are effectively suburbs of Geelong and should be part of the Geelong Council not the Surfcoast.

Could this email please be tabled at the forum in Lorne in September.

**14/08/2015 Township not stated**

The 16th of September is not a Friday

Is this an example of the degree of importance that you are putting into this you cannot even look at a calendar and get the day right or are you deliberately trying to make it difficult for people to attend

**15/08/2015 Anglesea**

Clearly this project is all about Torquay and not the 'Whole Shire'. I think it is a great idea to combine this centre with Armstrong Creek, in fact why don't you become part of the City of Greater Geelong which you were originally supposed to be. We may then form the Shire of The Great Ocean Road and be free from continually subsidising Torquay facilities and the rate increases to pay for them.

**18/08/2015 Township not stated**

From your testing the water chart what is the actual total amount Council obtains from all ratepayers for the 20 year special charge. Just a quick calculation estimates well over double amount of \$29million Council is asking for. It is outrageous to ask ratepayers especially in Torquay area to pay \$150 per year for 20 years.

**12/08/2015 Lorne**

I am hopeful of attending the forum at Lorne regarding the Torquay Aquatic Centre Proposal. In addition to our concerns about Lorne having to contribute to this; John and I also believe the Surfcoast Shire should offer some discount to ratepayers who are prepared to pay all their contribution in one payment. I am told to do so we need to pay by the first installment date which I find out of touch with our Councils. Most other councils give ratepayers until February if they wish to pay the total amount up front. Why should I give the Council the benefit of having all my funds in advance without any benefit to me? In other words give extra time to pay full amount of a discount for paying early? Please present this at the next council meeting as a complaint from Ratepayers.

**20/08/2015 Township not stated**

How many lanes are proposed for the 25mt pool?

And what is the size of the hydrotherapy pool?

Where can I find the plans for this proposal?

**21/08/2015 Torquay**

My wife and I live in Torquay and are strongly opposed to the construction of an aquatic centre in town. We are not willing to pay either the \$150 per annum for 20 years and a 2.75% rate rise for a facility that we believe will add nothing in value to the area.

Please consider this a most vehement "NO" x 2 to the proposed construction of the centre.

**22/08/2015 Anglesea**

This supposed consultation process is a con job clearly designed to work in favor of this development, and the pushy minority of Torquay people who expect the rest of the shire to subsidise it. I have asked everyone I know in Anglesea, well over 50 people, whether they have been contacted by this survey. The results of my survey were... no one contacted ! You have not informed the rate payers as to how callers are chosen and just saying random is not good enough. I therefore have no confidence that it is a true reflection of rate payers views. You say that **residents** will be contacted when **Rate Payers** should be the only households contacted as we will be expected to pay.

It is ridiculous that all town meetings are being held on weeknights when non resident rate payers, unlikely to be in support, will not be there to put their views. I look forward to asking you at the Anglesea meeting how much rate payer money has been wasted on this feasibility study and survey

to try to push this project through. You should send the bill to the Torquay people behind this center, many of whom would be Shire employees looking forward to having a convenient new facility for their own use.

**23/08/2015 Lorne**

We are Lorne ratepayers/voters.

Torquay does not need an aquatic and health centre. In the unlikely event that it was decided that such a facility was actually needed – rather than ‘nice to have’, it must be paid for by those who might reasonably be able to use it.

The Leisurelink Swim, Sport and Leisure Centre at Grovedale is better than anything which could be constructed in Torquay and Torquay is connected to it by first class road facilities (with 91% of Surf Coast households having one or more vehicles) and a more than adequate bus service.

Torquay should not be benchmarking itself with inland towns such as Benalla and Colac. Neither of those towns have an existing facility within 50 kms and neither is on the coast. Torquay is unique. It has plenty of beaches and has the facility at Grovedale and the proposed facility at Armstrong Creek, only a short distance away - 15kms and 11 kms respectively, from the location proposed at Torquay.

For the Surf Coast Shire to suggest that anyone outside a radius of 10 km from Torquay would ever visit such a facility in Torquay is fanciful in the extreme. It is noteworthy that the average travel time for anyone more than 10 km from Torquay to travel to Torquay (excluding those using the Surf Coast Hwy from Grovedale), is generally more than it takes for a Torquay resident to travel to Grovedale.

In any event, many of those in the so called 10 km radius north or northwest of Torquay, including many in Torquay itself (including many of the current 670 Surf Coast members), would be more likely to head to the superior facility in Grovedale, or the new facility at Armstrong Creek, than to the proposed facility in Torquay, which leaves only some of those in Torquay itself, along with Bellbrae and Bells Beach as possible users.

To the extent that there is a need within the township of Torquay, that is more than adequately met by the current privately owned (and funded) facilities. There is no need for local government to compete with those facilities. If anything, some subsidisation of improvements/extensions to those facilities, might be more effective use of money and be able to be achieved within the current standard rates.

If the Surf Coast Shire wants to build this facility, it must be funded by the ratepayers within a catchment area who might be able to use it, i.e. Torquay, Bells Beach and Bellbrae. If it can't be funded by them, it should not be built.

Taxing those ratepayers with the cost of the proposed facility, whose properties are more than 10 km from the proposed facility and who, except in isolated cases, will not use that facility, is an outrageous attempt by the council to get those residents who can never reasonably be expected to use the facility, to pay for it and thus keep the funding model feasible.

**23/08/2015 Lorne**



If the proposed centre goes ahead it would be an act of financial lunacy and irresponsibility

**22/08/2015** Lorne

Unfortunately I cannot attend the forums.

I cannot see any benefit for Lorne from this proposal.

**23/08/2015** Township not stated

Thank you for your response to my questions. Regrettably, I do not think you or Council are being clear about this matter.

Your responses do not say so, but it is very clear that it is current ratepayers who will bear the liability for this loan. Why else would it need to be paid out at time of settlement of sale by the current property owner? And how is it 'guaranteed by rates' – who pays the rates?

I think the Council needs to be very clear and upfront about the possibility of such a liability. Ratepayers may wish to consider this in the light of their own personal circumstances and the current economic environment.

I point out too, that the loan is NOT risk-free. The fact that it is 'guaranteed by rates revenue' does not guarantee 'there is no risk of default'. What happens if a ratepayer becomes bankrupt? I understand that Council/the lender would have some recourse against the loan, but may not collect the full amount due. Who picks up the shortfall? The remainder of the current ratepayers?

I have further questions.

What other loans does Council have at present? Does it have a loan to meet any shortfall in a superannuation defined benefit scheme? For how much? Does it have any other loans? For how much and for what purpose?

If Council does 'draft a special charge scheme... that would require majority support before it could be introduced' how would that majority support be ascertained?

What is the role if any, played by a) the Minister for Local Government, and b) the Municipal Association of Victoria?

I look forward to getting clear answers to my questions and comments, and to having them published with other comments (both positive and negative) on the proposal.

**23/08/2015** Fairhaven

I am totally opposed to the levy to pay for this ...as a rate payer living in Fairhaven I strongly object! - it should be paid for by the users and how much more money is to be wasted on " surveys" to see what we want ....we are over governed and it is absolutely not necessary

**25/08/2015** Anglesea

Dear Margot and all Councillors,

As residents of Anglesea, we wish to record our strongest opposition to the proposed pool in Torquay.

There are the same facilities already in the Torquay catchment plus at Waurm Ponds.

As residents we would not use it.

We believe the Council has far greater projects that need to be addressed across the whole shire rather than further facilities at Torquay .

**27/08/2015 Anglesea**

I do not support the proposed aquatic facility in Torquay for the following reasons:

- Location. I live in Anglesea. I infrequently use the Waurm Ponds aquatic facility which is 26 minutes away. The proposed site in Torquay north is @23 minutes away which is pretty much the same distance. Why wouldn't I continue to use one of the best (if not the best) regional aquatic centres in Victoria?

- Weight of numbers. I often drive past Waurm Ponds at various times of the day and notice the pool is hardly ever busy, located in a city of more than 200,000 people. How then can we expect the pool in Torquay (population 16,000 and growing but still less than 10% of Geelong) to be busy = cost effective?

- Cost. Rates in Anglesea are already high compared to other municipalities (and more than most urban municipalities) mainly due to a low population base and high costs maintaining roads etc. A one off rate rise is ongoing, not just for the the first year. I would much prefer the funds be put to projects across the whole shire that benefit the whole shire, not just a few in Torquay.

**27/08/2015 Lorne**

I did not participate in the survey but have received the results.

As a rate payer in Lorne I fail to understand how the aquatic centre will benefit our community in any way.

I would resent paying additional special purpose rates to further benefit Torquay. The reality/perception is that Torquay already gets an over share of the funds.

If Torquay are to receive major additional infrastructure then it should be funded out of their fair share of the exiting funding pie, then further supported by the facility user.

**28/08/2015 Torquay**

Unfortunately, I am able to attend the meeting at Council offices.

I STRONGLY DISAGREE with any form of rate increase or additional levy to all Surfcoast Shire residents to fund a pool that will be used by some. We live in a beautiful part of Australia with endless beaches, fantastic swimming programs via Nippers and an existing privately funded pool where all of our 3 children learnt to swim. Since that time, there have been 3 hotels built all with their own pools that are available to users on a “user pays” basis.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT any way that we can *reduce* our ever increasing rates NOT add more levies.

Any future pool (which would be the 4<sup>th</sup> in Torquay) should be built and supported purely on a “User Pays” basis.

This is the only fair way for all of the Surfcoast Shire residents.

We contribute to the Surfcoast Shire by way of the very considerable dollar amount in rates and we DO NOT wish to pay any more annual fees for something we will NEVER use.

**29/08/2015 Lorne**

Thanks Clive all I can say is Doh ! Hope we can get thru to your fellow councillors that they represent a large area and not just Torquay/Geelong. Seems a given.

Have a good festival. (personal message deleted for privacy reasons)

**29/08/2015 Anglesea**

As expected, the survey contacted the vast majority of people from the Torquay area giving biased and misleading views in relation to the results tabled. Even then, including this bias, the only result that matters is the number of rate payers prepared to pay for this centre. The results show that over 70 % of those surveyed were NOT willing to pay for it. This then means that this feasibility study and survey has been a complete waste of everyone's time as well as rate payers money.

Also, it is no wonder that 50 % of those contacted felt the Shire was doing a good job as I am sure that Torquay people would say that given the stream subsidies coming their way from the other shire towns , especially Anglesea that provides a facility for them to dump their rubbish.

**30/08/2015 Lorne**

I have lived/worked in Lorne since 1979. I have seen Winch Shire come and go and now we have you guys. I do not believe the results of your survey at all. How many people did you ask apart from people in Toquay? I can assure you, you didn't ask many people in Lorne and how many people who don't live here full time even know about it?

We tried to get a heated pool in Lorne here a few years ago and even had much of the funding but GORC squashed it and you know what their reason was? That there was only ONE pool in the whole of Victoria that was paying its way. WHAT DO TOY SAY TO THAT. I don't you seen you even considering this issue in your survey.

Why can't you people in Torquay go swim at Warun Ponds? What is it? 20 kms away. How far would we have to go to come to Torquay to use this new pool from Lorne? From WYe? We people in Lorne don't want it and aren't interested in paying the extra rates to build it or keep it

going.

I guess what it boils down to is this. For a very long time the coastal towns from Anglesea to Apollo Bay have wanted to be incorporated into a shire minus Torquay which is obviously looking more and more like it belongs to greater Geelong. You've got it wrong again.

**30/08/2015 Lorne**

As we are rate payers in Lorne it seems totally wrong to be asked to pay for such a centre that we shall almost certainly not use. Nor, it would seem, attract tourists to the Surf Coast. Torquay is not really seen as a tourist centre - it is more like an outer suburb of Geelong and as such, should not the LOCAL residents be responsible for payment of costs?

Given the above is the case, is there a need for such a hugely expensive centre?

We face levies when there is a need for such things as improvement of pathways, gutters, drains etc. in our own TOURIST town, some of which do not apply to us directly. Do the residents of Torquay get hit with a levy for such necessary spending? I guess the same may be asked about villages such as Anglesea or Fair Haven.

We look forward to hearing direct answers to our queries.

**28/08/2015 Anglesea**

(Transcript of hand written submission)

I ... of ... Anglesea wish to express my opposition to the building of the swimming pool in Torquay and any move to increase rates / impose a levy / to cover same.

**31/08/2015 Anglesea**

We were not selected for the telephone survey so thanks for the opportunity to make this comment.

We have read the report.

Being non permanent ratepayers in Anglesea we fall into the 20+ km radius area from the proposed centre.

We also strongly oppose progressing with the centre and are not willing to pay anything to support its construction.

We see absolutely no benefit to us and consider that to proceed would put a ridiculous drain on limited financial resources now and for years into the future. Our resources should be spent on more urgent priorities.

We also consider it would be totally unfair to expect Anglesea, and beyond, ratepayers to contribute to such an expensive facility that would be of real benefit to only those living in close proximity to Torquay.

If Torquay ratepayers had been requested to contribute to the construction and ongoing costs of the recently opened Waurn Ponds aquatic facility I can imagine the outcry on the basis that it was too far away for Torquay ratepayers to get any benefit. The distance from Anglesea to Torquay is not that much different to the distance from Torquay to Waurn Ponds.

**1/09/2015      Lorne**

My wife and I own a property at ... Lorne. Unfortunately we will not be able to attend the public forums, and would like to make the following comment about the proposal to have all rate payers fund this facility.

While there may be benefits from such a centre for the community in reasonable proximity. This is not the case for people at Lorne or other areas remote from the proposed centre. The provision of this centre could be equated to the provision of services for specific parts of the shire which are often provided through a special rate for those who benefit. Hence the proposal to require rate payers from parts of the shire such as Lorne that are not readily accessible to the centre is inequitable and we are totally opposed to the leveeing of such a rate across the whole shire.

**1/09/2015      Torquay**

We are unable to attend the forums but wish to register our opposition to the proposal on the grounds that it is an excessive financial burden on pensioners and low income families who may not even be able to use the facility.

**2/09/2015      Torquay**

I am strongly opposed to the establishment of a centre in Torquay.

I am a 30 year plus resident pensioner and my reasons for opposing this proposal are as follows.

1) Rates and cost of living increase every year and many pensioners and low income families struggle to survive without a further unnecessary financial impost.

2) There are other swim/learn facilities accessible in Torquay including one of the safest beaches around i.e. Cosy Corner which as you know is free to all.

3) We have a World Class Aquatic Centre close by at Waurn Ponds which I enjoy attending. Judging by the constant promotion of this Centre and the few people who use the pool I suspect it doesn't have the support it deserves so, why build another?

4) I belong to a local Probus Club and a number of recent, wealthy retirees to the area, support such a facility for convenience but, Waurn Ponds is minutes away by car and with improved bus services, travel and time is surely not an issue. For some of us aged it may prove to be a 'jolly day's outing' with coffee and cake to cap it off.

5) I expect that during the 'summer' season it may be popular with the hordes of tourists that alight in Torquay but, should we as ratepayers fund their holiday enjoyment without their financial contribution?

6) Like a lot of expensive projects of this type what happens in the future when the pool needs extensive and costly repair and, will the ongoing cost, deplete funding from other critical community needs.

7) If we as ratepayers are prepared to accept, and partly finance, special projects funding of this type outside capped rate increases, what next? I think this establishes a dangerous funding precedent and Council will need to think very carefully before going down this road

When we settled in Torquay 30 odd years ago we lived on an unmade road; no water, no gas, no mail, no garbage collection, no public transport etc. and we survived.

The thing that has changed significantly in that time is expectation.

As a community it is absolute madness to expect/demand largesse of every service/facility presented to us on a platter, on our doorstep, when there are so many really important community issues that need addressing.

It would be a much saner idea if we came up with broader based social community benefits that included facilities OTHER THAN sports oriented facilities such as footy grounds and pools.

**2/09/2015 Lorne**

I wish to register my strong objection to the construction of a proposed Aquatic and Health Centre Torquay North.

I also consider that no further expenditure of rate monies on this proposal should be made.

**2/09/2015 Anglesea**

I'm a resident of Anglesea, ... Road,

I cannot attend meeting tomorrow, I'm against aquatic pool in Torquay

**2/09/2015 Township not stated**

I was unable to make the meeting tonight but would like to council to explore other funding options (eg not asking rate payers to fund etc). Surely there are govt grants you could apply for and other options for fundraising?

A pool is an essential piece of infrastructure required my members in OUR community. For my family it would ensure that our children could learn to swim locally and for myself it would mean I could swim for relaxation and exercise (as I have a knee injury and cannot walk/run).

Please dont waste another 20 years. Build us a pool

**3/09/2015 Township not stated**

This council needs to stand by its promises ... (supplied with press advertisement clipping titled *Together we can we all be Pool Champions*)

**3/09/2015 Jan Juc**

I am taking the opportunity to advise that I am strongly opposed to the proposed Aquatic Centre in Torquay. I will not be using such a facility and object to being required to pay large amounts of money over many years for others to use it. I pay for my own recreation pursuits and don't expect other ratepayers to foot the bill. If there really is the sufficient demand for such a facility, leave it to a commercial operator to step in. i.e. let the market decide. Besides we are blessed with a large body of water where people can pursue all sorts of water based pursuits.

**3/09/2015 Township not stated**

I would just like to register my support for the Aquatic and Health Centre.

I will be unable to attend a forum, due to the timing so wish to express my support for the proposal.

I would also be interested in the ages of people surveyed whereby you have presented a strong % of non-support.

The surf coast shire has a lot of young families of whom this would be most beneficial too as well as the older member of the community.

The current pool that exists is extremely insufficient. It is small and overcrowded. When I take my children for lessons, half the time we have to stop our swimming to watch out for other parents with their children. It got so bad that we no longer swim there and instead ( not by want ) travel to Warn Ponds to use the facility there.

As they say, BUILD IT AND WE WILL SWIM

**3/09/2015 Township not stated**

Can you please answer the following questions.

- **What are the details behind calculation of the benefit ratio to be applied to properties? (i.e. who decided that people 5-10km away had a benefit ratio of .7 etc)**

From the feasibility study done in 2009 and updated it is stated that 85% of users will come from within 5km radius. That would suggest that 85% of a special rate charge should be raised from that same geographical boundary as they are the most likely to use and benefit from this facility. Therefore the benefit ratios suggested for properties further from this proposed facility are grossly inflated.

- **What is the total number of rateable properties in each of the suggested zones?**

These figures will allow us to calculate how much of the proposed special charge is anticipated to be applied to each zone and whether that correlates to expected usage and the benefit ratio.

- **Why are the entire ratebase pay for the running of this proposed facility?**

It is clearly acknowledged that ratepayers further away will not benefit from this facility particularly and in the light of last nights disclosure that only 47% of the rates collected come from Torquay. Effectively we are being asked to subsidise lower entry fees for those within a 5km radius.

- **Please provide a list of the other capital projects (\$59 million mentioned) and what are the individual estimated costs proposed for Torquay precinct that were mentioned by the CEO at last nights forum and the time frame for completing them?**

- Please provide details (costs included) of all capital projects and timelines for all other projects that fall outside the Torquay/Jan Juc precinct.
- Please provide details of all current debt and any unfunded liabilities of the Surf Coast Shire and what the current prudential limit is for borrowings/debt for the Council as established by the Auditor General.

The answers provided to the above items will better inform us as to the distribution of facilities and expenditure across the entire shire and form part of a submission to the council.

**3/09/2015 Torquay**

I moved to Torquay because there is a perfectly good beach to swim in and walk along, and can't see any reason to build a pool and then make the non-user residents pay for it.

I would like to live in Balwyn, but I wouldn't expect that local council to charge everyone to have an ocean built in the suburb for a minority of the ratepayers.

If locals want to swim in a pool, it would be much cheaper to continue driving into Waurin Ponds than have many thousands of dollars extra added to their rates for the next 20 or so years.

Why hasn't there been a mail-out questionnaire sent, that can be scrutinized by an independent company, so that the ratepayers can be told the truth about those for and against [instead of what the council wants people to believe] ?

**3/09/2015 Torquay**

These comments are based on my being a Torquay resident

I am against the spending of the large amount of money noted on an aquatic centre. Following are my reasons:

- The proposed spend is well above what the shire seems to be able to afford. Could a much less capital pool be built - e.g. outdoor heated, no gym etc.
- With this big spend comes the necessity for ratepayers to pay \$200 per year over many years. My guess is many including myself will not use it, so it represents no value for us.
- The amount of money that ratepayers in Torquay will pay will be onerous for a significant proportion, I imagine.
- Ratepayers outside Torquay have every right to be miffed about having to pay.
- There are several pools in Torquay with gyms etc., that people can access if they wish to. It would seem that if the proposed centre went ahead on a "user pays" basis then it will be equally as expensive as those other venues.
- I moved to Torquay for the ocean and the sea and feel that we have a giant pool that is free of charge. OK it is a bit cool in some months but modern wet suits can mean almost all year round swimming if desired. A wetsuit at Baines Crescent can be had at the price of less than one year's rates on the proposed centre.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment

**4/09/2015 Township not stated**



I wish to strongly object to the suggestion that each rate payer be required to pay for the proposed aquatic center for a 20 year period or any other period.

The idea that a special levee be applied for this project excludes new and more relevant projects in the coming years as it is unlikely the council can continue to stack special levees onto the rate payers.

I suggest you do as we all have to do and that is to live within your means. If you cannot afford it then perhaps is not viable. Just because you want it does not mean you can have it.

We are not a cash cow for those that just want something.

**4/09/2015 Anglesea**

I have just read the surfcoast times after getting it out of the mail box this morning only to find that the Anglesea forum was held last night. I would have gone if I had known that it was being held.

I have asked many friends if they were surveyed by phone and I have not found one person that was. I know it was supposed to be a random survey, but was it really?

I have tried to read the consultants report but the link would not work, so I couldn't read it.

If I live 20+ kilometers away (is this by road or as the crow flies), and will only pay a portion of the special charge, why do I still have to pay \$150 per year for 20 years.

With retirement looming we will have to watch all our dollars and this is just another thing that we really do not need. There are a lot of elderly or retired people who live away from Torquay who will be in the same boat ie watching their dollars being eaten away by unnecessary charges.

Friends who have holiday homes who come for the beach and wont use the pool, will they still be charged?

What percentage of people have to agree to the proposal for the pool to go ahead? Surely it has to be something around 75%. I read that there is only 37% in favour and 54% opposed. There will be far more support from people who live in Torquay because that is where they live and it will be easy for them to use the pool, whereas people who do not live in Torquay wont use the pool very much.

Will it just be the permanent population that get a say. Anglesea, Aireys Inlet Lorne etc do not have the same percentage of permanent population therefore will their vote carry as much as Torquay. What about people with holiday homes do they get a say, will they have to pay the same charges as the permanent population?

I am against the pool, not just because every piece of infrastructure goes to Torquay and the rest of the shire always have to pay for it, but because I will never use the pool and neither will my family. We use the beach to swim etc. I never go to Torquay unless to the vets, maybe a meal, Mitre 10. I am a member at Leisure link and go there because I shop in Geelong go to the pictures, library and a host of other things including visiting family, so it is convenient for me, so would never go to Torquay just for the gym or pool.

One last thing are all residents going to get a say or just another survey, surely a voting form could be mailed out with the next rates notice for us to vote with one way or the other.

**4/09/2015 Anglesea**

I'm an Anglesea Resident, I would Never have the need for a pool in Torquay.

Hopefully this plan does not go ahead.

Also will cost for this current survey be published?

**4/09/2015 Jan Juc**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I object to the construction of the above pool in Torquay, mainly due to the financial impost on ratepayers.

I have been paying rates here for 15 years and currently own a property on the Mornington Peninsula as well.

Both these properties have the same C.I.V. ,but the rates on the Jan Juc property are over \$400 more each year.

So I would hope for a reduction in the Surfcoast rates rather than an increase and an ongoing special charge as well.

So much council money has been wasted in the past.

**4/09/2015 Torquay**

I would like to express my opinion on the proposed aquatic centre in Torquay. I strongly oppose this proposal and the effect on ratepayers. I am a Torquay resident and ratepayer. I do not believe that there is enough support within the community for this to go ahead and to be financially viable. Residents are already paying enough in their rates and the increase and special charge will cause unnecessary financial pressure. There are already gym facilities available in Torquay and privately run pools and the Waurn Ponds pool is easily accessible. Perhaps council should be lobbying for better bus services to the Waurn Ponds pool so it is more easily accessed.

**4/09/2015 Township not stated**

I am opposed to the impost of paying for the proposed Aquatic Center being put on the rate payers of the Surfcoast. We, in this household, use the Waurn Ponds Leisure Center a few times per week and we should not also have to contribute to a facility we will not use. Our Rates are already high enough without extra fees being added on.

**4/09/2015 Township not stated**

Why I am against the funding proposals.

1/ Already pay high rates and get little in return being in the country.

2/ Over 60 years of age and find it hard enough to pay the current rates.

3/ Pay separate rates on the house block and the farm and a small area that is leased out so at this stage it appears that I will be required to pay 3 times the increase for something that I am unlikely to use.

4/ If an increase is forced upon us we will refuse to pay the rates along with all of the others that get no benefits from it.

5/ May give it some support if it is located a long way from the beach like Winchelsea.

6/ This is where a proposal like this should be located, not near an ocean.

7/ Would those in Torquay support the Aquatic centre if it were relocated to Winchelsea. If not then don't expect people outside of Torquay to support it.

**5/09/2015 Anglesea**

As only a small percentage of residents will use the facility, I believe the cost per household is excessive.

Our rates are already higher than most. This set increase puts a high burden on low income families.

**6/09/2015 Township not stated**

Comments I have regarding the proposed Aquatic & Health centre are:

- Costs to rate payers. I believe that these costs will continue due to expenses of running an aquatic centre to stop after a few decades will never pay off the cost of maintain, equipment etc.
- No seeing a proposed decreased fee to use the facilities for rate payers if this does go ahead.
- 25 meter, believe is not big enough and not service the region, people will then go back to using Geelong due to the 50m.
- Why money doesn't go into fixing current private pool

**6/09/2015 Bell Brae**

It saddens me to think that the shire could contemplate expenditure of more than \$20 million on a pool when the shire has no decent facility for artistic performance - drama, concert, music, cinema ... Instead the council seems besotted with shallow "hang-ya-togs-out" stuff. An "aquatic and health centre" (a fancy name for a swimming pool) will benefit few in the shire - mostly those who live nearby. It won't be much good to people inland, those at the western end of the shire or those who are not interested in pool activities. "Torquay pool " is what it would be - more accessible to those who live outside the shire towards Geelong than to ratepayers. And yet every ratepayer is expected to support this extravagance. It should be obvious to the Surf Coast Shire that we have surf and beaches all along the coast. An "aquatic and health centre" is the sort of thing to build in Ouyen, or Dubbo, or Alice Springs, not the Surf Coast.

I urge the Council to redirect available funding to providing ratepayers and their families with high quality performance venues. We have ample sporting opportunities. Let's raise the bar a little.

**6/09/2015 Township not stated**

I would like to take the opportunity to register my opposition to creating an aquatic centre in Torquay. I do not believe that an aquatic centre is a priority for use of rate payer funds, especially with rate capping coming on its way. I also make the following comments:

1. Leisurelink. We have access to a large facility only 20 minutes away. To rebut comments that it is 'too far' I submit that Torquay does not have a lot of things in close proximity. That is a circumstance of living in a regional town. I am sure the same people that claim Waurn Ponds is too far, will go there regularly for movies, Target or KMart.
2. Size. I am a swimmer, and I go to Waurn Ponds as it is 50 metres. The proposed 25 metre size is not really beneficial for adult swimmers, and I suggest that we would still go to Waurn Ponds even if having to contribute to the pool in Torquay.
3. Expense. I have heard that pools are generally not a profit making facility. I have also previously lived in two suburbs, Glen Iris and Brunswick that had to close the pool for years to undertake maintenance and repairs. This cost millions and rate payers were not happy. In addition, as a lawyer I am familiar with the type of claims made when children are injured at the facility. That liability exposure can't be predicted or absorbed by increasing the rates. I recommend Council speak to some other Councils that manage pools in this regard.
4. Child swimming facilities. I appreciate that this is the main argument for a pool in Torquay. In addition to the fact that there is a pool 20 minutes away, there is a private swim school for children in Torquay. I understand people do not like the facility, and it could probably do with an upgrade.

I suggest that instead of all rate payers paying the cost of a pool to satisfy some, the people in support of a pool in Torquay could direct the additional funds to invest in assisting the owners of the current swim school to improve the facility. A facility which will go out of business if a pool is created in Torquay.

Finally, with Gilbert Street and the state of the CBD in the state they are in, I recommend that a pool is not a priority for the Town, and we need to be focussing on improving on the current infrastructure and improving tourism to the region.

**7/09/2015 Torquay**

As a rate payer who is unable to attend the public seminars I would like to register my opposition to this proposal. To get a satisfactory reflection of the concern of rate payers it would be helpful to enclose a feedback form in the next lot of rate notices that are mailed out, so that the people who are expected to pay a significant proportion of the cost of the proposed project can communicate their views. Ratepayers should be given the option to opt in to fund this project if they support it, and non-ratepayers in the community invited to commit to funding the facility they want it - this should provide an indication of the true level of support for the Swimming Pool Complex.

Swimming pools are notorious for running at a loss, and the only option then is to either close them down or continue to subsidize them with someone else's money, in this situation ratepayers' money, because a private company would not invest in something that is doomed to make a loss.

The Council's concern for the health and well being of the citizens is all well and good, but this should not extend to committing rate payers to a vast financial outlay for the next 20 plus years. If the building of the pool is regarded as essential, the money should be raised by special appeals and the construction only commenced when the funds are sufficient to cover the cost of the project.

Added to this, the current economic climate is not such that Council should feel in a position to embark on such an enormous undertaking.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

**7/09/2015      Anglesea**

Good morning Margot, I read with interest that there are discussions continuing regarding a proposed new \$30M aquatic centre to be located in Torquay.

My family and I (3 residences at Pt Addis, Anglesea, Airey Inlet) whilst not against the idea, are very much opposed to the funding method which will effectively tax every household in Surfcoast Shire.

Surely a facility such as this should be user pays? I can't imagine residents of Anglesea, Airey Inlet, Lorne and Apollo Bay among many other towns driving significant distances to use an aquatic centre located in Torquay noting there is already one in Waurin Ponds which is not that much further?

I have discussed the proposal with many local residents in Anglesea and holiday home owners and I have yet to find anyone in favour. I also note that the forum to discuss this matter is held during the week on a Wednesday which precludes the many who have holiday homes from attending.

There is already a perception whether correct or not that Torquay attracts the lion's share of Shire resources and funding – this particular project will do nothing but promote this thinking.

According to the council report I noted that this project will cost every Surfcoast household between \$50-\$150 per year for the next 20 years which will be introduced as a levy (tax).

If Torquay residents want a \$30M aquatic centre then Torquay residents should pay for it and not burden the rest of the Shire with the debt.

**8/09/2015      Deans Marsh**

I was an attendee at the forum in Anglesea and am at a loss as to why the list of topics raised did not include the overwhelming topic/concern voiced by over 90% of attendees – namely:

“The need for such a development at all.”

Those Council members present will remember that at one stage an attendee, being so impatient with the direction the forum was going, attempted to shut down discussion altogether suggesting there be a show of hands indicating those against the proposal and thus, as he said, make the

continuation of the forum in Anglesea a waste time. Immediately virtually everyone raised their hands!

The CEO in his introductory speech put emphasis on the fact that the SCS with its Councillors was determined to not show bias. However the publication of the list of topics below does not support this, indeed it appears to come from the premise that the Aquatic Centre will indeed go ahead but the costing, location etc. etc. are the only subjects under discussion.

As with the Men's Shed in Lorne, it would appear that the Council continues to support a vocal minority and ignore the wishes of an overwhelming majority and is oblivious to the amount of money it spends to achieve this end. (\$30,000 over the Men's Shed and \$65,000, to date, on 'Testing the Water').

**8/09/2015 Township not stated**

Just to let you know that I strongly oppose the increasing of rates to fund the aquatic centre.

I currently pay \$96 per week rates for the farm and the house and in my opinion don't get value for money.

If the Shire pushes ahead with rate increases to fund this aquatic centre I will simply NOT pay the rate increase.

**Now please note that a group is being formed and is growing rapidly that when the time comes and if the Shire proposes to increase the rates to pay for projects like these you may end up with a 1000 plus rate payers that will refuse to pay any rate increase for infrastructure that is isolated and no benefit to them.**

**8/09/2015 Anglesea**

I would like to register my non-support for the proposed swimming facility and funding model. This is my first submission to the proposal.

I do not support the building of such a facility with the rate rise and 20 year special charge scheme on all residents of the surf coast shire.

Comment: It is highly unlikely residents further then 5km from the facility would use it, as there is many other pool and health centre options in the district (including private facilities and facilities outside surf coast shire boundary) that are more easily accessed and/or have better facilities. It is unreasonable to ask rate payers of the surf coast shire to pay over 20 years for such a facility considering the surf coast shire is such a large geographic space.

Our family is an example of this. I'm a permanent resident of Anglesea with young children. We use an indoor pool in Geelong weekly and a private gym in Anglesea. We are unlikely to utilize the pool in Torquay due to the small size (25m) of the proposed pool and also the location (torquay is not where we shop, go to school, work etc so no need to go there). It is 25 minutes for us to a much more expansive Leisure link facility in Waurm Ponds, compared to 20 minutes to Torquay. There would be many in other parts of the Surf Coast shire, such as Winchelsea, for whom facilities such as

Waurm Ponds Leisure link facility is considerably closer than Torquay. The proposed payment structure indicates it would cost a minimum of \$2200 plus one of rate fee payment plus entry fee over 20 years for our family in Anglesea. This is substantial. It would be better for our health to spend money on entry to facilities that we already have close access to in Anglesea, such as Football Club gym, Surf Club membership and Gym.

Yes I do understand the benefits to health for those that are close or would use the facility, but if it is built it should be funded primarily by a user pay system with the 20 year special charge scheme only applicable to those within the immediate 5 km zone (the only zone where a majority supports the scheme based on recent survey results).

**9/09/2015      Torquay**

As a landowner and resident in Torquay it surprises me this issue has had the oxygen it has had.

And then I appreciate the current feeling of entitlement we have in our society and the unreasonable immediacy of our culture within this little town. This when mixed with the squeaky wheel approach of the vocal minority and the susceptibility of political leaders to drift from one headline to the next brings me to the realisation that of course the Aquatic Centre is an issue we have to discuss...

Council has explored this matter on a number of occasions and explained in a reasonable and responsible way the feasibility of such a project – never saying no but instead saying ‘wait until we get the population’ to make it feasible.

I think Council is being responsible.

I also think that it is important and smart for Council to point out to the Community the cost (to the community) that if we take the unfeasible approach of providing it now then we will have to contribute significantly. I feel for the people of Lorne and Winch who will have to contribute for minimal advantage.

The suggested cost in contributions from the community is unreasonable at this time and we should wait until we have the population to make such a facility more economically viable and properly plan and budget for it. I am happy to contribute towards such a facility however not now and not this much.

**9/09/2015      Lorne**

I do not support the development of an Aquatic Centre as proposed in Torquay

There are better facilities on offer in Waurm Ponds than the proposed 25m, 6 lane pool.

I understand there is also a proposal for a privately owned pool to be constructed at Armstrong Creek

Council to my knowledge cannot support the debt and recurrent cost of such a facility. To do so would be to the detriment of other required infrastructure and maintenance projects.

Council appears to be unwilling or unable to properly maintain existing recreational infrastructure around the Shire. One can only imagine that this situation will get worse if the Shire has to service debt on a pool and cover recurrent costs.

Should Council, in its wisdom, decide to proceed with this project then it should be funded on a user pays basis not by a levy on ratepayers across the Shire.

As a Lorne resident I will NEVER use a pool in Torquay. It is quicker and easier for me to drive to Colac.

It was an insult when the ratepayers of Lorne had to bear the brunt of the cost of a streetscape upgrade when to my knowledge we are the only ratepayers in the Shire to do so.

To even consider asking Lorne ratepayers to contribute to the funding and maintenance of a pool in Torquay is at best a folly of ego by Shire Councillors and Officers and at worst just bloody insulting.

Prepare for a fight in mainstream media and at State Government level, if you proceed on the basis proposed.

**10/09/2015 Torquay**

As a ratepayer that you want to rip off by wasting our \$ for our lifetime building a pool when everyone that comes to our town ,comes to go to the beach ,not a pool. It would be a good start to think what the town is about ,not what the lazy ones [minority,by all the people we talk to] that are too lazy ?? to get exercise while they walk to the best attraction we have,,OUR BEACH.. Our Kids & Grandkids have asked me are they for real wanting a pool,, we have that at home..It appears the council need to build up spending to get the "STAFF" their bonus, We don,t see it this way,,please reconsider

**11/09/2015 Lorne**

Dear Madam/Sir, We own a holiday house at Lorne which is used throughout the year by our family. In this group the age range is from the seventies to less than 2 years old. None of us would use the proposed aquatic centre in Torquay and we see no benefit for the Lorne community.

I am surprised to note that in this expensive "health" complex there is no shallow pool and no swimming facility for the aged or disabled. The pool just seems to be an enlarged lap pool for the able. Even if these things were available there is really no possibility, having driven 2 1/2 to 3 hours from outer Melbourne to Lorne, that within a few days we would spend over 2 hours driving to Torquay and back just to use the sort of facilities that are close to our permanent homes.

My husband and I are the ratepayers and we do not think that Lorne ratepayers should have to pay anything for the proposed centre.

**11/09/2015 Township not stated**



The key issue with the Surf Coast Shire and the proposed Leisure centre is the “rubbery” figures.

Using leisurelink Waurn Ponds for example cost approx. \$33m to build.

It comes with a 50 metre pool, 3 other pools, gym, spa 2 sauna, group exercise rooms etc

Surely they could build a centre for say \$25 million which is on a smaller scale to the Waurn Ponds facility.

Then if you look at staffing levels at Waurn Ponds (I've been a member since it opened), they could easily cut over a \$1M a year in excess wages from non core staff.. Yes a million dollars and if Leisurelink Waurn Ponds was privately owned, this would certainly be the case.

Examples of excess staff – 5 on the front counter, 8 back office managers, with 3 tiers of management in the back office alone.

Do we honestly believe that RACV Torquay is losing a \$1M a year running a gym and pool?

**The simply challenge is to provide a centre that once fully funded on opening is self funded going forward. Everything we hear from the Surfcoast Shire tells us the centre will lose \$XX per year.**

**What is this based upon?**

There are plenty of ways to reduce day to day running costs – examples are key card electronic access outside peak hours / only operate the pool for set hours when life guards are required etc

Hope the above helps your thoughts and provides better education to the wider community.

The current information the Shire has shared is below standard at best.

**11/09/2015    Jan Juc**

I wish to register my disapproval of the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay North and have outlined some of my concerns, in particular with the ongoing costs that will be associated with this proposal.

As a retired person with limited financial resources this will only add to the difficulties of trying to live to a budget and strongly feel that this proposal is extravagant.

#### **Drain on Shires financial resources**

What guarantees are there that, with the burden of such an expense placed on the Shires finances that they will be able to honour or meet other Shires/community objectives?

My fear is that in the future the Shire will put essential projects on the back burner or worst still, hit the rate payers up for these costs as well, where does it stop?

Will this not be double dipping by the Shire, where I will be asked to pay a `special charge' for the construction of the centre and then I will be also asked to pay to use it?

#### **Drain on the communities financial resources**

It is hard to understand in the current climate where there are still aftershocks from the GFC, people losing their jobs, people struggling to make ends meet, that our governments and local councils continue to place more hardship on people.

The demographics of the shire is no longer for the rich, we have a lot of families and retirees who live a simple existence and cannot afford this added cost to their rates.

We are not talking of a one off cost to the rate payer but ongoing cost, for how long we just don't know.

**Do we really need it?**

Again it is hard to understand the reasoning behind such a proposal, when we have a most beautiful coast line, beautiful and clean beaches that people can enjoy and the majority of us do.

I am extremely confident that the majority of holiday makers and tourist that will visit the surf coast will come here for our beaches and the beautiful scenery and not because we have an aquatic centre.

Money could be better spent in improving and growing what we have and what is free to enjoy.

**Finally what form will discrimination take?**

Should those living closer to the aquatic centre pay more?

Should those that will never use it pay?

Should those with more expensive properties pay more?

Should those who want it and will use it only pay for it?

As a person that will not use this facility, I will find it obscene, if the proposal is approved and I will be asked and eventually be forced to pay for something, which clearly, is way beyond the council's scope to meet within its own balance sheets.

A simple rule that we must all live by, if you can't afford it, then don't buy it, or postpone it until you can afford it.

**11/09/2015 Township not stated**

I have reviewed all the documents tonight as I'm sick of hearing all this mis-information in the press and seriously question the consultants reports...

Based on revenue from General memberships in the report of just over \$200K a year at \$840 a year membership (again from the report) equals 240 members. Seriously if that's all the members you think you will get, you would never build the centre and should have never undertaken all the research.

For reference Leisurelink had 11,000 in the first year. I would seriously doubt there are more than 100,000 people within 10km catchment of Leisurelink and there are plenty of other facilities in the

Geelong catchment. People always go to a new facility – clean and new equipment. So is say 11% a reasonable number for memberships? Based on that 20,000 @ 11% would equal 2200 members at \$840 a year which would add an extra \$1.646M before you start. Just a thought but I would suggest this might help the financial modelling.

Other items to easily save money – you don't need the same staffing structure as per Leisurelink – easily remove entire second tier of the centre. Save another \$500K on wages easily from current model (That's \$2.1M a year already).....

What about other funding from State or Federal government to reduce capital costs? Don't see that these have been taken into account?

Other items

- ❑ Certainly don't support the proposed current funding models – why would a Winchelsea resident pay for a Torquay Facility? Winchelsea have a pool. Dumb to say the least and certain to deliver negative feedback.
- ❑ Casual visits would be huge during peak times in Torquay – Xmas School holidays and Easter school holidays – every non beach bay would be massive.
- ❑ Staffing Costs / structure need a full rework – simply crazy and shows no commercial skills.
- ❑ Design – why would you have a reception area larger than the gym - \$1.1M to build the reception area – this is only used to pay / scan members cards – potential to reduce this area by at least 75% - again common sense
- ❑ Contingencies – seriously these numbers are a joke. Excessive to say the least.

**12/09/2015 Torquay**

Please register my strong opposition to an indoor pool for Torquay.

We are a tourist town and this pool will attract no extra visitors.

The pool at Warne Ponds is far superior to the one suggested for Torquay, which already has three indoor pools of comparative size to what is proposed.

I think we need to seriously look at a set of Ocean Baths which would become an attraction in their own right and bring people , and their money, to our town.

Cheaper to build, very little on going maintenance as it is cleaned and filtered by the ocean.

Open and available 24/7, only need staff during busy times, perhaps provide a 'pavilion' where catering and services can be provided by a lessee, again removing expense from council.

Lots of options for a location, the mouth of Thompson creek at Point Impossible would be perfect, Yellow Bluff on the Fisho's side would also be good and keep the visitors close to our commercial centre.

Although the Fisho's site would be better used as a break water and boat harbour which we also badly need, just to complete the perfect coastal town model.

**12/09/2015** Jan Juc

In response to your request, I am emailing to send my negative opinion on funding the “aquatic and health centre” proposed for Torquay by charging all SurfCoast ratepayers \$150-200 a year.

I am against this for several reasons:

1. This is a waste of rates, which are supposed to go for important and essential government activities, especially in a time of declining income to councils. I also don't like the idea of additional government debt to pay for this, if a loan would be needed as well.
2. There is apparently no attempt to use the “National Stronger Regions Fund” to support this rather than taking it from ratepayers. Rates are an inappropriate source for this centre, given that this and other funds are available.
3. Swimming pools are notorious locations for the spread of disease. The number of people getting sick after swimming in the Geelong aquatic centre is very much higher than the Geelong population at large. Warm water plus a closed air system is a perfect breeding ground for all sorts of pathogens. I know that the water is chemically treated, but not enough, and in any case the major risk comes from the air's high humidity and many damp surfaces—absolutely perfect for a host of different pathogens. In a time of rapidly increasing and emerging pathogens, the last thing we need is another pathogen breeding ground.
4. In addition to the \$200 per year charge, it will also cost a large amount of money in entry fees every time anyone wants to go to the centre, as witnessed by the similar centre in Geelong. This is manifestly unfair and a good example of double billing.
5. The charges are especially unfair to older people who not only could not use it (for various reasons including the known health hazard) but many will not be able to afford either the \$200 increase in rates or the entry charges each time one wants to swim, if one could.
6. This is also manifestly unfair for those who live in the Surf Coast Council area but are too far away to use the facilities, if we wanted to, or those living in places which already have public pools (e.g. Lorne).
7. Lastly, I cannot help but note that it is manifestly redundant and absurd to have a swimming centre right next to the ocean.

For all of these reasons I am against raising rates to pay for the aquatic and health centre.

**12/09/2015** Lorne

I would like to oppose the proposal for an aquatic centre based in Torquay.

I have a property just outside Lorne. I pay high rates and I cannot see this centre benefiting me or the people of Lorne in any way. It is a very Torquay centric proposal of such expenditure it will alienate the ratepayers of Surf Coast Shire.

It cannot be justified when there are so many projects that could be of benefit to the whole Shire. Don't approve it!

**12/09/2015 Lorne**

I am writing on behalf of our family, which has a holiday house in Lorne, to register my opposition to the proposed Aquatic and Leisure Centre for Torquay.

I see it as an unnecessary burden on ratepayers, and something which would be of benefit only to the residents of Torquay. Meanwhile, other far more important services will be foregone in order to service the enormous debt.

Please do not proceed with this venture.

**12/09/2015 Anglesea**

Has the Torquay community wanting a pool in Torquay made any effort to raise funds to support the project or held any events or functions to raise money for it ? If the answer is no, then how can they expect other rate payers to support this proposal, especially those outside the Torquay / Jan Juc area ?

**12/09/2015 Township not stated**

There are a lot of things that the council can spend their money on. We have pools at the RACV and Waurin Ponds with another one proposed at Armstrong Creek. The last thing we need is a pool in Torquay for the Surf Coast Shire, an area which is on the boundary with the rest having to travel to it with no public transport.

WHAT ARE THE COUNCLORS THINKING?

Vote NO for a pool in Torquay

**12/09/2015 Lorne**

I am writing regarding the proposed Health and Aquatic Centre at Torquay.

My family have owned a holiday house at Lorne for 30 years and we enjoy time together throughout the year. We are opposed to the development of this facility for the following reasons-

The Centre would benefit the residents of Torquay but other Surf Coast residents would be unlikely to travel to Torquay.

Spending \$29mill on one facility seems unreasonable when there are many projects requiring funding throughout the shire.

How would the project be funded ? Would there be special rates levied ?

Would other services be cut?

Would infrastructure in other areas be reduced?

How would the operating costs be funded?

Torquay is well served by local amenities.

I am sorry I am unable to attend any of the meetings next week but will be interested to keep in touch with the discussion.

**12/09/2015 Lorne**

This seems a scandalously extravagant venture & again demonstrates why Lorne should be a separate rating area. I'm reminded of the successful secession of Noosa from the Sunshine Coast council. We already have a very large & expensive shire offices etc . Small is beautiful

**13/09/2015 Torquay**

I wish to voice an opinion on the proposed Torquay Aquatic and Leisure Centre as I cannot attend any of the forums this week.

I do not think it's a good idea at this point in time without sufficient population to cover the huge cost to the proposed centre. The rate payers will need to fund this and not everyone will benefit from the works. Perhaps in 5 – 10 years this may need to be reconsidered for works in the future, but in this current economic environment for the community where jobs and everyday living expenses are high for families and empty nesters. Jobs in this region are scarce and with the closure of many companies, the out of work situation from Geelong right through to the coastal region, we should be focusing on small business opportunities for growth. I do understand the centre would employ some people, however at what cost to the community to pay for their jobs. We do not need the additional burden on our outgoings and it will encourage people to move from the region to seek lower overheads, precisely why many people move to the region to enjoy a balanced lifestyle.

**13/09/2015 Township not stated**

Just to let you know that ... Pty Ltd strongly opposes the increasing of rates to fund the aquatic centre.

No one lives on the farm and in our opinion we don't get value for rates we currently pay.

If the Shire pushes ahead with rate increases to fund this aquatic centre we will simply NOT pay the rate increase.

**Now please note that we will support a group that is being formed and is growing rapidly, that when the time comes and if the Shire proposes to increase the rates to pay for projects like these**

**you may end up with a 1000 plus rate payers that will refuse to pay any rate increase for infrastructure that is isolated and no benefit to them.**

**13/09/2015 Township not stated**

Just to let you know that **(company name)** strongly opposes the increasing of rates to fund the aquatic centre.

No one lives at the tourist venture and in our opinion we don't get value for rates we currently pay.

If the Shire pushes ahead with rate increases to fund this aquatic centre we will simply NOT pay the rate increase.

**Now please note that we will support a group that is being formed and is growing rapidly, that when the time comes and if the Shire proposes to increase the rates to pay for projects like these you may end up with a 1000 plus rate payers that will refuse to pay any rate increase for infrastructure that is isolated and no benefit to them.**

**13/09/2015 Jan Juc**

In response to your request, I am emailing to send my negative opinion on funding the "aquatic and health centre" proposed for Torquay by charging all SurfCoast ratepayers \$150-200 a year.

I am against this for several reasons:

Similar facilities in Waurin Ponds, Geelong, and Ocean Grove are only a short drive away.

Torquay already has swimming pools at the Sands and RAQV, as well as gym facilities at the same venues and at Jetts.

There are already pools in Lorne and Winchelsea.

Funding by increasing rates is grossly unfair for people in the shire who already live close to and use existing facilities, those who do not use such facilities, and the many for whom the rates are already a financial burden.

I strongly believe that total funding should come from other sources (private, state. or federal funds) leaving the Surf Coast Council with no on-going financial commitment.

**13/09/2015 Lorne**

I read with interest of the proposed 29 million dollar pool plan.

I am wondering whether each rate payer in Lorne will have to pay the same possible 9% increase in their rates as a rate payer living within 15 minutes of the new centre.

Realistically, no one will drive from Lorne to Torquay ( 40 minutes each way ) just for a swim. ( please note I am a very keen pool swimmer )

For such a huge development and outlay of our shire's financial resources this would hardly seem fair. Let's spend everyone's nest eggs to benefit only a small percentage of the contributors ?

I also wonder how many Torquay residents currently use the Waurin Ponds pool complex or indeed the Kardinia pool in the summer months. Note these 2 pools are only 15 to 20 minutes from most Torquay residents who drive.

Not to mention another complex mooted for Armstrong Creek, even closer .

Perhaps a smaller development would be both more sensible and more popular.

I am not in favour of the current proposal.

Many thanks for the feedback line.

**13/09/2015 Lorne**

As residents of Lorne already paying very high rates each year for what we feel is much less services than those rates ought to provide us with, We very strongly object to the proposal for us to pay increased rates to fund an aquatic centre which we would never use.

We have a swimming pool here at Lorne, and we have an ocean. We would never contemplate driving even 5 kilometres to an aquatic centre, let alone 50k.

Our vote is very much a NO vote, and we would be happy to be contacted for more comment.

**13/09/2015**

Hi everyone, I have sent this email to the Testing the Waters email address but also to councillors and council officers due to the content .

As you are all well aware I have been a long time supporter of an Aquatic Leisure Centre for the Surfcoast. My position as a supporter of a centre has no bearing on my observations of what took place at recent the Torquay forum. The situation that occurred could and may have occurred from either side of the opinions that the community hold.

During the discussions taking place at the tables it was observed that there were some actions that bordered on bullying at one of the tables. Two attendees left the forum as they felt intimidated by others at their table.

If group discussions are to take place again this week it is vital that all participants are able to voice their opinions in a safe and supportive environment. Participants should not have been put in a position where they have to justify their opinions to other members of the community. There is no reason and no place for abusive , belittling or bullying tactics by supporters on either side of this discussion. It is the Shires responsibility to ensure that all attendees feel safe and are treated with respect . For this to take place there must be a skilled , independent facilitator assigned to each table.

In order to assist the Shire to ensure that a repeat of this situation does not occur can I offer the following observations ...



It would appear that the desired outcomes from these forums are that ...

- 1/ The community leaves better informed of why and how the proposed financial model has been prepared
- 2/ That the community is able to ask questions of the Shire around this process to help them form their opinions
- 3/ That the community then is able to voice their level of approval or disapproval of the process and that these views are then collated

At the Torquay forum we were asked to consult and discuss the process with our fellow community members. There appears to be no sound reason for this. It is not mine or others role to try to convince each other of the merits or otherwise of the financial model or the need for a Leisure Centre. The consultation should be between the Shire and the community.

Attendees were told that their views would be recorded and later collated. The scribes on each table were not skilled or trained in drawing out answers and opinions from the attendees.. This meant that the points put forward on paper were not well recorded and could easily have been skewed in favour of whoever was doing the writing. Many tables did not discuss all points put forward on the discussion paper and therefore the notes taken were in many cases incomplete.

As the electronic surveying process did not take place the only clear information the Shire received on the night was in the form of a slip of paper placed in one of four jars. This does not seem a great outcome for the effort put into the process by both the Shire and the community.

I'm hoping these observations may assist in this week's forums obtaining the desired outcomes whilst also ensuring all attendees and their opinions are shown respect.

**14/09/2015 Lorne**

I am writing in regard to the proposed new Torquay Aquatic and Health Centre. I would like to formally register my strong opposition to this proposal. I strong oppose this proposal going ahead and would be extremely upset to see such a large amount of money - both CAPEX and ongoing OPEX being spent/wasted on such an idea in light of many other pressing needs that can serve the entire shire community better, not just those few residing close to Torquay. We have our own endless and free aquatic health centre just the other side of the sand.

**14/09/2015 Township not stated**

You know I call it the way I see it. I fully believe the town needs a pool / leisure centre but I just think some of the modelling doesn't make sense. Likewise I'm sure we all have our own opinions on this one.

Trust me, the over staffing etc at Leisurelink at Waurn Ponds is a total joke and pure waste of money and the model for Torquay staffing is so similar. Maybe I need a job as a consultant!

P.S I don't think any residents in Torquay / Jan Juc would object to a pool if it didn't impose a major financial burden on the community. Our family would certainly support a pool and be members (have currently been family members at Leisurelink since it opened) and also be involved in swimming programs etc.

**14/09/2015 Township not stated**

I'd like to register my full support for a pool at Torquay.

I am happy to pay extra rates to pay for it, but question the \$30 million dollar cost.

I am needing rehabilitation and really missing having a pool reasonably close by.

I was unable to attend the forums

**14/09/2015 Torquay**

My name is ... and I have recently moved into my new home in Torquay. **I would like to express that I oppose paying extra money for the next 20 years to build this Swimming Pool in Torquay.**

I have no need for it as I don't have young children, my family have all grown up and learnt to swim at a Council run pool where the cost was covered in the rates budget. Box Hill Council built a new facility years ago and I don't recall them asking residents to pay extra to cover the cost to build it the next 20 years. Besides I am already a member of RACV One in Jan Juc and pay approx. \$1,000 a year to use their facilities, which I like and will continue to use. They have a swimming pool that I can use and invite friends or family for free.

My current Surf coast rates are ... I believe if you can't afford to build a Swimming Pool using the funding collected from Rate payers, don't build one at all ! Please don't expect self-funded retirees be burden with the cost of this the next 20 years of their life!

**14/09/2015 submission from Committee for Lorne**

On behalf of community groups, permanent residents and non-resident owners of Lorne properties, I look forward to register our town's united objection to the special charge scheme currently proposed to fund the new infrastructure.

While we acknowledge the facility will provide a great amenity for the Torquay and immediate neighbourhood, subject to their acceptance of your proposal scheme, we perceive absolutely no benefits to our town. In fact, the proposal comes as a major "slap in the face" to many Lorne people following the withdrawal of shire funds for the thermal heating of the Lorne pool in 2010.

Having recently completed a special charge scheme for our Mountjoy Parade streetscape and storm water drainage scheme, our community has absolutely no interest in making financial contribution to a project with so little benefit in return.

Further insult is inflicted in the knowledge that we here in Lorne, would be funding a great facility that would get more use from the fast growing community of Armstrong Creek on Torquay's northern boundary, with no financial contribution whatsoever.

Certainly a great facility for the Torquay community and nearby residents outside the shire and I wish you well with your financial modelling, but please do not include the Lorne Ward as a financial contributor.

**14/09/2015 Bells Beach**

I object to the proposed financial model for funding the proposed pool via a rate rise and 20 year special charge scheme to cover construction and operating costs. My current rate bill consumes an annually increasing proportion of my income, particularly as I will be retiring next year. The model is an unfair impost for the majority of ratepayers

If I intend to use a pool facility I have a selection of aquatic centres located within 20 to 30 minutes travelling time from my home, with entry fees being most reasonable.

My experience with municipal pools is that that none are self- supporting financially and therefore are continually a burden to ratepayers.

Torquay has many suitable beaches for all levels of aquatic activities and they should be promoted as a sustainable alternative to another municipal pool.

**14/09/2015 Eastern View**

I am writing to provide feedback to the issue about the Surf Coast Shire funded Torquay Aquatic and Health Centre. Whilst I appreciate the fact that Torquay and residents in the immediate area have a need for an aquatic and health centre, I object strongly to the proposed funding arranging for this centre to be borne by all rate payers of the Surf Coast Shire. I am of the opinion that to inflict extra costs on all rate payers in particular rate payers who do not reside in the Torquay area is unfair and unreasonable. I reside a distance of 40km from this proposed facility and would never see any benefit or use wise to me when I am only minutes from the beach and 10km drive to the Lorne pool. To levy a twenty rate burden on all rate payers is also unfair and very unreasonable.

**15/09/2015 Wensleydale**

I am a resident of Wensleydale with 3 school aged children and would like to register my views as to the proposed aquatic centre.

I strongly object to the proposed aquatic centre in Torquay or any plans for ratepayers, and in particular those ratepayers that do not live in Torquay, to fund the building and maintenance of the aquatic centre.

If my family and I wish to use an aquatic centre it is quicker, easier and far more logical for us to access the facility at Waurn Ponds. We would never use an aquatic centre in Torquay.

I remind the council that they are elected to represent to entirety of the Shire, not just those residents based in Torquay.

**15/09/2015 Lorne**

I am writing to express my strong disapproval of the proposed Aquatic Centre in Torquay. The amount of funds required to firstly build and then maintain such a facility on an annual basis does not justify any benefit to the community. For Torquay residents there are excellent Aquatic facilities already in existence only 15 minutes down the road in Geelong. This really isn't very far at all and I believe that most people living in other communities, including Melbourne, would easily travel for 15 minutes or longer to get to a quality Aquatic facility. For the rest of the shire community such a facility will be for many of us still 45 minutes away and is therefore of no use to us. I believe it would be an inappropriate use of our Shire funds to build this facility which really adds NO benefit to many in the shire.

**15/09/2015 Jan Juc**

I am voicing my opinion on a pool for Torquay..

I am a Jan Juc resident and am desperate for a pool, I am unable to attend the meeting at Jan Juc as I am sick in bed at home.

Please build a pool but look fully into all the grants that are available, stop the rubbish on how it will cost the ratepayers a fortune.

**15/09/2015 Lorne**

We are both horrified at the precedent this unfair special charge could set.

**15/09/2015 Lorne**

I am unable to be present at the Lorne meeting relating to the Shire imposing a levy on achieving an Aquatic Centre for Torquay. In short, if the residents of Torquay would like to have such a Centre they should be prepared to pay for it to be built and support its ongoing costs. Perhaps at some future time, as Torquay is a rapidly growing community, there may be enough residents to consider the proposal. Moreover a feasibility study should be undertaken by the Shire beforehand rather than responding to Torquay based pressure groups.

For Lorne such a Centre is irrelevant as we have a pool with gymnasium and heated sauna facilities used by residents and visitors who so choose. It came about through a public private partnership with no financial input from the Shire. Furthermore to travel for an hour to Torquay to enjoy another pool complex is highly unlikely. Lorne's permanent residents are aging and many do not swim at all; just a few go to Mantra to use the heated pool there.

Nor can such an expensive building and its on-going costs be justified to be underwritten by the Shire and all its ratepayers. Some years ago there were 2 levies that Lorne people paid: Streetscape and a drainage levy.

Getting these in place was hard work even though there was agreement about improving the look of the streetscape and particularly undergrounding powerlines. People wanted the projects but didn't want to pay for them.

While we do pay a bushfire levy we accept this as necessary and it relates directly to Lorne and its hinterland. This cannot be claimed for a Torquay based Aquatic centre.

For myself, I feel privileged to swim in the ocean and once the weather warms up more will resume daily swimming. I go to the Lorne Pavillion/ Sea Baths to drink coffee and read the papers.

**15/09/2015 Township not stated**

As a ratepayer currently travelling within the Northern Territory I have not been able to attend any of the community forums being held in relation to the above and have just been made aware of this site and the opportunity to make comment.

Not having time to read and take in the full task force report, and upon scanning same, I believe the proposed centre should not be proceeded with considering the cost to ratepayers.

There appears to be too many assumptions with design, usage, income, expenditure, costs, both capital and ongoing, to commit the shire and ratepayers to this massive commitment where capital costs keep going up, and the assumption that ratepayers will be charged "around" \$50 for running costs. This figure could explode should the patronage fail to meet expectations which is quite possible with larger and better facilities within a short distance of Torquay.

Having setup and managed the most successful swimming recreation centre in Australia and changed the way centres were programmed and managed leading to what they are required to provide in facilities and program's today, has seen an explosion of demands put on local government to provide these expensive and massive burdens on ratepayers, usually driven by a vocal group of persons looking out for themselves and not taking into account the ongoing costs to authorities and the majority of ratepayers who will receive no benefit whatsoever from the facility.

The centre I set up and managed made an operating surplus of \$54000 in its first year rising to \$123000 in the fourth year, a situation not heard of in swimming and recreation centres in Australia.

As indicated above I am against the construction of the proposed centre.

**15/09/2015 Lorne**

I am writing as a permanent resident (& ratepayer) of Lorne to voice my strongest possible protest against the proposed construction of a new pool & fitness centre at Torquay, considering the outlined methods of finance. It may be useful for people living nearby, but with the pool to be only 25 m, even that is doubtful, considering the Aquatic Centre at Wauran Ponds being so nearby, & the cost seems outrageous. To ask ratepayers from all over the shire to put in to pay for it is totally ridiculous, as it will be of absolutely no benefit to them.

So obviously I am completely against the proposal.

**16/09/2015 Winchelsea**

Dear Carol I am sorry that you are not feeling the best. I attended the meeting tonight but did not stay as I could not take the heckling.

I know that we do not always agree with the Council and staff whether paid or as Officers, but the the thing that I did not find nice tonight was the isolated thinking and not thinking of the Shire as a whole. I would like to say that I support the project and I am quite willing for you to put this letter forward to the Submissions Committee. As I said early I will have probable have fallen of my perch by the time it gets paid, but that is not the point. I have used the facilities in Torquay and JanJuc as the family used to come down for surfing holidays, so now it is time to put some money up front. The fundraising committee have also worked hard to raise money and the profile of the aquatic centre so shouldn't they be rewarded in some way? The only thing that concern me was the small number of surveys taken which does not really reflect the whole shire. I am quite willing to help in any way I can, and if this letter will b e of assistance then be feel free to use it.

I will not be at the next dinner as I will be at the Masters Games in Adelaide.

**16/09/2015 Torquay**

Firstly I'd like to declare that I am a member of the Surf Coast Aquatic Leisure Centre Action Group, but that does not have much of a bearing on the comments I'd like to make.

I have just heard that at the Lorne Community Forum last night, the agenda for the meeting was scrapped and that the session was run as a question and answer forum.

Firstly - is this correct? And if so, how do you think it reflects on the consult process overall?

If true, I am disappointed and concerned that the 'consultation' process is becoming increasingly flawed.

I have already had concerns regarding the telephone poll (that some people were incorrectly excluded due to their occupation as a teacher, the number of people under 55 years old surveyed was very low and the fact that only rate payers were surveyed when renters pay rent reflective of landlords' rates) and believe that the 'special charge' allocated to wards far from Torquay is a divisive, unnecessary charge, however this correspondence addresses the forums.

I was one of the community members who attended the very structured and regulated Torquay forum. My reflections on that night are:

- 1) The interactive technology polling from the paid facilitators was embarrassing - not only did not all participants have access to a device but only a handful of people actually had internet access
- 2) Some people were 'allowed' to ask questions and other ignored. I waited patiently with my hand up to ask a question to be told "No questions at this time" Others however followed by shouting out questions and being heard. The facilitator assured me that my question - now written - would be answered first. It was not.
- 3) I know some people actually left the meeting as they felt intimidated and bullied - not a great feeling

4) The 'paper in the jar' poll at the end did not represent all people who attended - I know at least 6 people who had to leave early that were not polled at all. I have also been informed that at Anglesea, community members were polled as they entered and as they left.

Where is the consistency? Or is this 'consultation' evolving organically? In my opinion, I am concerned that you are not getting relevant and reliable information, which I assume is the objective of such a process. Also allowing all points of view to be heard in a balanced and respectful way is important.

Will the Winchelsea meeting tonight and the Jan Juc meeting on Thursday be run as open Q & A?

**16/09/2015 Lorne**

We are fulltime residents in the Lorne community. We were unable to attend the meeting held at the Senior citizens hall last night in regards to the possible pool development in Torquay. We strongly oppose the recommendation and that we as residents would be paying a "fee( more rates)! to Torquay Shire is ludicrous as well ! There is no need for such a "development" in Torquay as just down the road is Waurm Ponds Leisure centre which fulfils any swimming and recreation water sports needs.

**16/09/2015 Lorne**

As an owner of an Apartment in Lorne, I strongly object to the proposed tarrifs to be applied to Lorne owners who will receive effectively no benefits

**16/09/2015 Township not stated**

I realise it's a big decision to build or not to build the centre. The financing is tremendous, not only the building but the yearly maintenance. No doubt my thoughts will be similar to others of my age group. The thought of raising a special rate worries me greatly as with limited finances it is already difficult to cover all the necessary bills.

With the centre out of town (the Shire area), they have to use transport to get there, once in the car only a few kilometres further on is a Waurm Ponds Pool, and will possibly one at Armstrong Creek,.

I feel it unlikely Anglesea, Lorne & other away towns will fully support the Centre.

The supporters of the project should contribute heavily if its that important to them which probably will make the aquatic unviable taking the burden off we "oldies".

I am definitely against the centre when so much else is needed in our Shire.

We await the Shire's decision with interest.

**16/09/2015 Lorne**

I wish to express my strong opposition to the proposal to use council rates paid to the Surf Coast Shire to fund the building of a new Aquatic and Wellness Centre at Torquay. I am especially against a levy being paid by rate payers for the next many many years to pay for this centre.

My family own a holiday house at Lorne and will not use an aquatic centre at Torquay. It is too far away, especially given the traffic problems along the Great Ocean Road in summer time.

Given that there is an aquatic centre in Waurin Ponds and that this is only a short drive from Torquay it is surely a very low priority to build another such centre, especially when it could not be accredited by FINA etc.

There must be many many more worthwhile projects that will benefit more of or the whole Surf Coast Shire that money could be spent on, preferably without the need to increase rates even more so.

I hope that the council represent all their constituent's best interests and will vote against such a ludicrous proposal.

**16/09/2015 Township not stated**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions. These are questions and comments that I had prepared for the community forum but was unable to have answered due to the structured nature of the facilitation. Perhaps I should have attended a forum in Lorne as it appears there was no agenda at that meeting?

Throughout the consultation process for this facility I have been disappointed with the misinformation provided to the community. While I accept that a "general overview" and "approximates" are what is usually provided, I think you need to be more specific and sure of your figures if you intend to impose the "will you pay" question to the community.

I am disappointed that a narrow sector of ratepayers was formally consulted via the phone survey. No renters, no disability services, no schools, no swim clubs, no fitness groups etc. This facility is community infrastructure that supports broad community participation, such a narrow consultation focus is not reflective of the communities opinion on the two issues at play here.

1. Does the community support a pool?
2. Does the community want to pay for the pool through a special charge scheme?

You only need to read Facebook and twitter to see the divisiveness that bundling these two issues together has caused our community.

I can't help but wonder "Where are the pool champions now", why are they not stepping up to lead the community through this discussion in an informed and honest consultation process?

In terms of the financials/reports on this project I have a few questions/point to raise:

Aquatic facilities alone do not make money – dry side programming spaces provide income to support the financial cost of running aquatics. The concept model requires major overhaul to reflect this. Program and gym space needs to be increased. Reception areas need to be reduced. There are no change villages, only two changerooms that have their entry facing the dry area – surely the greatest use is from the wet area.



The proposed business case modelling should reflect a membership base of approximately 1000 members this is more reflective of a centre this size and the population forecasts.

The management option needs review. A company limited by guarantee would require a CEO (additional cost) and a governance fee of (\$80K). There is no need for a business manager and sales and marketing staff in a centre of this size. These functions would be picked up by the programs coordinator and a centre manager. Cut the cream out of this model.

A contract managed option to a YMCA or Belgravia would provide a more feasible option for this site. This allows for a set management fee and also commits the contract management group to undertake maintenance and promotion etc of the facility. Council would need to engage a contract supervisor within the existing staff structure of council's recreation, procurement or infrastructure teams, which in relative terms of managing one leisure facility contract is not an overly onerous task.

There is capacity and need (due to Leisurelink being at capacity) for this centre to operate 5 days a week learn to swim and I am confident that 560 classes per week could be run at the site in an 8 lane pool. Add to that swim squads, clubs and school use and the 25 m pool will be very well utilised. You may be able to get to 10 lanes with the removal of the access ramp and provision of the new style pod that is being used at Cockburn Aquatic Centre and WA. This would further increase capacity whilst still allowing access based on universal design principles.

When I look at the QS and based on industry knowledge I would estimate an immediate saving of \$1.3m in 3 areas. The cost of the pool, the cost of the leisure pool and the professional fees.

At the forum CEO Keith Baillie mentioned that Council could only afford this pool if we gave up something on the list of 45 priority projects already committed to by Council? Can I suggest that those 45 projects are not in fact community priority projects but rather 45 projects committed to by Council in a DCP for Torquay Jan Juc developed in 2009 without ANY community consultation. This would explain why a feasibility for the pool undertaken in 2009 did not make this list of "priority projects"? I don't recall being asked if a library was a priority project?

What is council's financial commitment to the delivery of these 45 projects and what is the financial commitment from developers?

Given we expect rateable property numbers to increase and developer contributions to co fund projects then again I would ask the question of why can't the SCS fully fund this project in line with what other LGA's have been able to achieve?

There was also a discussion about Council not being able to subsidise facilities that run gyms as it is "against the law" to compete against other gyms in the area. Many at the forum took this as being a valid reason why Council wouldn't subsidise the facility. This is also confusing and needed clarity. This is a discussion around competitive neutrality. Many LGA's, in fact most, would be subsidising their leisure facilities through deficit contract arrangements, whether they be in house managed or contract managed by an outside company. As long as benchmarking is undertaken to ensure that the price being charged by the local government facility is in line with like facilities in the area then it is simply a matter of Council signing off a letter outlining this and adhering to competitive neutrality

practices. This is not a hurdle, nor should it be put out there as a barrier to Council being in the business of providing such facilities for the community.

Whilst I understand the need for you to gain clarity around the needs of your community and to be “seen to be” engaging and consulting the community, I think all you have done is “muddy the waters” rather than “test the waters”. The community is now divided and confused on this issue.

**16/09/2015 Lorne**

As a ratepayer in Lorne I wish to lodge my very strong objection to the possibility of Levies to fund a possible

Aquatic Centre in Torquay. It's benefit to anyone in Lorne is ZERO and likewise in Airey's Inlet, Fairhaven, Mogg's Creek, Winchelsea and almost all in Anglesea. Even if the levies were restricted to Torquay I would cynically suggest some of the costs involved could be charged to the Rate side of the Shire's accounts. Special audit processes would be necessary to ensure this did not occur.

We also strongly support the stand of the Friends of Lorne and the arguments they have detailed against the proposal.

**16/09/2015 Lorne**

We strongly oppose the building the proposed Torquay Aquatic Centre should it result in an increase in the rates or reduction in services for Surf Coast ratepayers in any other wards than Torquay Ward.

The proposed Centre will be of minimal or no benefit to residents in the shire who live more than 10 minutes' drive from the Centre, consequently not benefitting Lorne ratepayers such as us nor our families, rather adding excessive additional living costs.

Mayor Margot Smith acknowledges the contentious investment would have implications well beyond the Torquay township.

“With these figures in mind, the project would result in a substantial impost on the whole Surf Coast community — be it through cutting other services or infrastructure, deferring projects or through special rates and levies depending on how the Victorian Government's plan to cap council rate rises works,” she said. None of these scenarios is acceptable to the vast majority of Surf Coast ratepayers. We wholeheartedly agree !

Council is now predicting it will take 20 years rather than 10 years for the Centre to conceivably break even.

Shire wide rates were predicted in 2009 to require an increase of up to 9% specifically to fund the Torquay Aquatic Centre.

The current uncertain economic times, exacerbated by reduced federal government funding of councils, will see serious

inaccuracies with past predictions of construction, funding, operating and future capital maintenance and upgrades costs.

*Shire consultants say Torquay hasn't the scale of population for a further 10 years to support the proposed Centre.*

*Shire consultants say the bulk of users will come from within 10 min drive of the proposed Centre. Shire consultants say it will be easier for residents from Anglesea and beyond to get to the Waurn Ponds Aquatic Centre.*

*Shire consultants say the proposed new Armstrong Creek Aquatic Centre will impact on the viability of the Torquay Centre.*

*Shire consultants say that in addition to the required operating cost subsidy, Council will need to make an allowance of approximately \$750,000 per annum for future capital maintenance upgrades (2009 estimate).*

We implore the Surf Coast Shire councillors to be influenced by sound economic management principals and cost V benefit pertaining to all ratepayers rather than a narrow interest group.

**16/09/2015 Lorne**

We are writing to voice our strong opposition to the establishment of an Aquatic and Health Centre at Torquay. This feedback has previously been forwarded onto our local member, Clive Goldsworthy, but as the consultation process has unfolded and further information has been made available to ratepayers, our opposition to this project has strengthened.

Based on our experiences as former residents of Lorne and, now, as holiday home owners we cannot see that this project would in any (meaningful) way benefit Lorne ratepayers. The cost/benefit does not stack up when you consider the construction cost and ongoing operating costs of the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre. In addition, now that Council is considering a special charge scheme to cover the capital costs of the project, Lorne ratepayers (and residents of the Surf Coast Shire who live outside of the Torquay area) are essentially being asked to consider funding a project that offers no benefit to them. In the event that Council chooses to proceed with this unnecessary project, the people who directly benefit from it should be asked to fund it - definitely not the ratepayers of the Lorne Ward.

Thank you for including this feedback in your analysis of this project. We trust that you will treat this feedback with confidence.

**16/09/2015 Lorne**

We strongly object to any funding for the TORQUAY Aquatic and Health Centre to be derived from our rates, charges or levies to the Surf Coast Shire.

We support all points and comments made by the 'Committee for Lorne' in their letter dated 14th September 2015.

**16/09/2015 Lorne**

I strongly oppose the building the proposed Torquay Aquatic Centre particularly if it results in an increase in the rates or reduction in other vital services for Surf Coast ratepayers in any other wards than Torquay Ward.

As Lorne is some distance away from the proposed Centre it will be of minimal or no benefit to residents in the shire who live in other towns and locations. It will only add excessive additional living costs.

Mayor Margot Smith acknowledges the contentious investment would have implications well beyond the Torquay township. And “With these figures in mind, the project would result in a substantial impost on the whole Surf Coast community — be it through cutting other services or infrastructure, deferring projects or through special rates and levies depending on how the Victorian Government’s plan to cap council rate rises works,” she said. We support Mayor Smith's statement and I doubt any of these scenarios are acceptable to the vast majority of Surf Coast ratepayers.

Council is now predicting it will take 20 years rather than 10 years for the Centre to conceivably break even.

Shire wide rates were predicted in 2009 to require an increase of up to 9% specifically to fund the Torquay Aquatic Centre.

The current uncertain economic times, exacerbated by reduced federal government funding of councils, will see serious inaccuracies with past predictions of construction, funding, operating and future capital maintenance and upgrades costs.

*Shire consultants say Torquay hasn't the scale of population for a further 10 years to support the proposed Centre.*

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*Shire consultants say the proposed new Armstrong Creek Aquatic Centre will impact on the viability of the Torquay Centre.*

*Shire consultants say that in addition to the required operating cost subsidy, Council will need to make an allowance of approximately \$750,000 per annum for future capital maintenance upgrades (2009 estimate).*

We implore the Surf Coast Shire councillors to be influenced by sound economic management principals and cost verses benefit pertaining to all ratepayers rather than a narrow interest group.

Personally I would prefer to see the Council write and support a policy for the eradication of feral cats . This would be an investment in the future of our environment as would be fitting the bins with magnets to stop the cockies emptying rubbish. Much of this waste including plastics end up in the water and is detrimental to the cleanliness and health of our beaches. Our beaches and the local environment are all the reasons we love to live here.

**16/09/2015 Lorne**

I am a resident of Lorne and believe that with the crying need for infrastructure along the GOR that the additional funds required to fund a swimming pool in Torquay are a distraction from the real needs.

-Only 2 years ago we had an additional levy put on to rebuild road drainage in Lorne and the town needs to grow infrastructure in sewage, power, road safety, parking, beach management etc to deal with the massive influx of tourists each year. The plan to increase density of housing will only add to this requirement.

-Every year one of our swimming areas (under the Erskine River swing bridge) is deemed unclean to swim due to high bacteria run off from the town. This should be addressed as it is a protected area for small children to play and swim away from large swell.

-Surf Coast Shire rates are already higher than metropolitan rates.

-There are other aquatic centres within reach of Torquay and more easily accessible for Lorne commuters (eg. Waurin Ponds).

**17/09/2015 Township not stated**

I have received the various communications regarding the proposal to build an Aquatic Centre in Torquay and am dismayed that the Council didn't nip it in the bud at the outset.

With the information provided at the time, it was apparent that it couldn't be properly financed and this together with escalating ongoing running costs rendered it structurally non-viable.

Putting it out to the public for comment has simply delayed the obvious. This method of testing the waters, so to speak, temporarily shifts the responsibility away from the Council who should have made the decision at the outset not to proceed.

The sooner it is struck off the agenda the better.

**17/09/2015 Lorne**

The scenario in Lorne is this. I wonder how many people who own holiday homes here in Lorne know of this proposal. And do you honestly think its going to benefit people who don't live here permanently? And what percentage of homes in Lorne are holiday homes? Considering that there are only 800 to 900 people that live here permanently I would say there are at least 80% that wouldn't benefit. You also had about an eighth of the permanent population at that meeting who didn't you pool. Get the drift.

**17/09/2015 Lorne**

The meeting last night was very disappointing with the loudest voices determined to close it down, a lack of respect for the moderator and shire officers, and no opportunity for calmer exploration of alternative proposals.

I carelessly dropped my token in the totally negative vase but I want to record that I am not opposed to a pool facility in Torquay, nor the charge on Lorne ratepayers of \$20 a year. My more important concerns are the Shires' future access to finance for other projects and the size of the pool making it unsuitable for school learn-to-swim and events.

The meeting appeared to have no representation from young families, not possible at that time or perhaps at any time, however they are the real beneficiaries and would probably be prepared to drive to Torquay. A swimming pool was the centre of my youth and later as a parent. Most children do not learn to swim in the sea, especially surf beaches.

A further concern is the cost of the necessary major works, replacement of machinery etc. in ten years.

I believe that regardless of the results of these public meetings there is room for more discussion and exploration of alternatives.

Thank you for your representation.

**17/09/2015 Lorne**

This proposed development needs very careful consideration if it will require substantial and long term Council subsidisation, as appears to be the case. The project should not be approved if it would result in a substantial impost on the whole Surf Coast community — be it through cutting other services or infrastructure, deferring projects or through special rates and levies depending on how the Victorian Government's plan to cap council rate rises works.

**17/09/2015 Lorne**

We strongly oppose building the proposed Torquay Aquatic Centre should it result in an increase in the rates or reduction in services for Surf Coast ratepayers in any other wards than Torquay Ward.

The proposed Centre will be of minimal or no benefit to residents in the shire who live more than 10 minutes' drive from the Centre, consequently not benefitting Lorne ratepayers such as us nor our families, rather adding excessive additional living costs.

Mayor Margot Smith acknowledges the contentious investment would have implications well beyond the Torquay township.

"With these figures in mind, the project would result in a substantial impost on the whole Surf Coast community — be it through cutting other services or infrastructure, deferring projects or through special rates and levies depending on how the Victorian Government's plan to cap council rate rises works," she said. None of these scenarios is acceptable to the vast majority of Surf Coast ratepayers. We wholeheartedly agree !

Council is now predicting it will take 20 years rather than 10 years for the Centre to conceivably break even.

Shire wide rates were predicted in 2009 to require an increase of up to 9% specifically to fund the Torquay Aquatic Centre.

The current uncertain economic times, exacerbated by reduced federal government funding of councils, will see serious inaccuracies with past predictions of construction, funding, operating and future capital maintenance and upgrades costs.

*Shire consultants say Torquay hasn't the scale of population for a further 10 years to support the proposed Centre.*

*Shire consultants say the bulk of users will come from within 10 min drive of the proposed Centre.*

*Shire consultants say it will be easier for residents from Anglesea and beyond to get to the Waurn Ponds Aquatic Centre.*

*Shire consultants say the proposed new Armstrong Creek Aquatic Centre will impact on the viability of the Torquay Centre.*

*Shire consultants say that in addition to the required operating cost subsidy, Council will need to make an allowance of approximately \$750,000 per annum for future capital maintenance upgrades (2009 estimate).*

We implore the Surf Coast Shire councillors to be influenced by sound economic management principals and cost V benefit pertaining to all ratepayers rather than a narrow interest group.

Clearly this unfair and financially irresponsible proposal will be fought at a Council, State Government and if required Legal level until it is stopped. Additionally a strong campaign to oust all councillors that do not oppose it will be initiated irrespective whether it proceeds or not.

**17/09/2015 Lorne**

On behalf of community groups, permanent residents and non-resident owners of Lorne properties, I look to register our town's united objection to the special charge scheme currently proposed to fund the new infrastructure.

While we acknowledge the facility will provide a great amenity for the Torquay and immediate neighbourhood, subject to their acceptance of your proposal scheme, we perceive absolutely no benefits to our town. In fact, the proposal comes as a major "slap in the face" to many Lorne people following the withdrawal of shire funds for the thermal heating of the Lorne pool in 2010.

Having recently completed a special charge scheme for our Mountjoy Parade streetscape and storm water drainage scheme, our community has absolutely no interest in making a financial contribution to a project with so little benefit in return.

Further insult is inflicted in the knowledge that we here in Lorne, would be funding a great facility that would get more use from the fast growing community of Armstrong Creek on Torquay's northern boundary, with no financial contribution whatsoever.

Certainly a great facility for the Torquay community and nearby residents outside the shire and I wish you well with your financial modelling, but please do not include the Lorne Ward as a financial contributor.

**17/09/2015 Lorne**

We are property owners in Lorne and we are e mailing with feedback on the proposed Torquay Aquatic and Health Centre. We would not be willing to bear costs or cuts to our service in order to

invest in this project. We appreciate this will be a great facility for Torquay dwellers but of no benefit to us as Lorne residents.

Our community has already been subjected to a special charge scheme for our Mountjoy parade streetscape and storm water drainage scheme, but we are not interested in contributing to a project which will provide no benefit to us whatsoever. We find such a request rather insulting after the council withdrew funds for the thermal heating of the Lorne pool in 2010, consequently rendering this amenity useless for many months of the year.

We would request that you do not include the Lorne Ward as a financial contributor to the project in Torquay.

**17/09/2015 Lorne**

We strongly oppose the building the proposed Torquay Aquatic Centre should it result in an increase in the rates or reduction in services for Surf Coast ratepayers in any other wards than Torquay Ward.

The proposed Centre will be of minimal or no benefit to residents in the shire who live more than 10 minutes' drive from the Centre, consequently not benefitting Lorne ratepayers such as us nor our families, rather adding excessive additional living costs.

Mayor Margot Smith acknowledges the contentious investment would have implications well beyond the Torquay township.

"With these figures in mind, the project would result in a substantial impost on the whole Surf Coast community — be it through cutting other services or infrastructure, deferring projects or through special rates and levies depending on how the Victorian Government's plan to cap council rate rises works," she said. None of these scenarios is acceptable to the vast majority of Surf Coast ratepayers. We wholeheartedly agree !

Council is now predicting it will take 20 years rather than 10 years for the Centre to conceivably break even.

Shire wide rates were predicted in 2009 to require an increase of up to 9% specifically to fund the Torquay Aquatic Centre.

The current uncertain economic times, exacerbated by reduced federal government funding of councils, will see serious inaccuracies with past predictions of construction, funding, operating and future capital maintenance and upgrades costs.

*Shire consultants say Torquay hasn't the scale of population for a further 10 years to support the proposed Centre.*

*Shire consultants say the bulk of users will come from within 10 min drive of the proposed Centre. Shire consultants say it will be easier for residents from Anglesea and beyond to get to the Waurn Ponds Aquatic Centre.*

*Shire consultants say the proposed new Armstrong Creek Aquatic Centre will impact on the viability of the Torquay Centre.*



*Shire consultants say that in addition to the required operating cost subsidy, Council will need to make an allowance of approximately \$750,000 per annum for future capital maintenance upgrades (2009 estimate).*

We implore the Surf Coast Shire councillors to be influenced by sound economic management principals and cost V benefit pertaining to all ratepayers rather than a narrow interest group

**17/09/2015 Lorne**

As a rate payer for properties in Lorne, I wish to express my alarm regarding the proposal to build the Torquay Aquatic Centre.

The proposed Centre will be of minimal or no benefit to residents in the shire who live more than 10 minutes' drive from the Centre, consequently not benefitting Lorne ratepayers such as us nor our families.

It is likely to be a significant drain on council funds which could only be recouped by adding excessive additional rates to non-users of this facility.

Mayor Margot Smith acknowledges the contentious dubious investment would have implications well beyond the Torquay township.

“With these figures in mind, the project would result in a substantial impost on the whole Surf Coast community — be it through cutting other services or infrastructure, deferring projects or through special rates and levies depending on how the Victorian

Government’s plan to cap council rate rises works,” she said.

I concur that none of these scenarios are acceptable in the present recessionary environment.

Council is now predicting it will take 20 years rather than 10 years for the Centre to conceivably break even.

Shire wide rates were predicted in 2009 to require an increase of up to 9% specifically to fund the Torquay Aquatic Centre.

The current uncertain economic times, exacerbated by reduced federal government funding of councils, will see serious inaccuracies for predictions of construction, funding, operating and future capital maintenance and upgrades costs.

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*Shire consultants say the proposed new Armstrong Creek Aquatic Centre will impact on the viability of the Torquay Centre.*

*Shire consultants say that in addition to the required **operating cost subsidy**, Council will need to make an allowance of approximately \$750,000 per annum for future capital maintenance upgrades (2009 estimate).*

I have not seen any evidence of the proposed benefits that could in any way justify the investment.

It appears on the basis of sound economic principles the proposed development should be shelved.

**17/09/2015 Lorne**

As a rate payer and property owner in Lorne for 30 years I strongly support the comments made by Committee for Lorne correspondence to you on 14 September 2015.

The proposed Aquatic and Health Centre, whilst being of benefit to the growing population of the Torquay area will be of no interest to the majority of the Lorne community.

Accordingly I strongly object to contributing to the proposed centre either by directly, contributing by rate payments or indirectly, by the council withdrawing funding for any projects proposed for the Lorne ward in the future.

It would be appreciated if my objection against the above proposal could be noted.

**17/09/2015 Township not stated**

We strongly oppose the building the proposed Torquay Aquatic Centre.

The capital and running costs will almost certainly result in an increase in the rates and/or a reduction in

services for Surf Coast ratepayers in ALL WARDS, yet will be of minimal or NO benefit to residents and families

In the shire who live more than 10 minutes' drive from the Centre.

Mayor Margot Smith acknowledges the contentious investment would have implications well beyond the Torquay township.

“With these figures in mind, the project would result in a substantial impost on the whole Surf Coast community — be it through cutting other services or infrastructure, deferring projects or through special rates and levies depending on how the Victorian

Government’s plan to cap council rate rises works,” she said. None of these scenarios is acceptable to the vast majority of

Surf Coast ratepayers. We wholeheartedly agree !

Council is now predicting it will take 20 years rather than 10 years for the Centre to conceivably break even.

Shire wide rates were predicted in 2009 to require an increase of up to 9% specifically to fund the Torquay Aquatic Centre.

The current uncertain economic times, exacerbated by reduced federal government funding of councils, is most likely to result in serious inaccuracies to predictions of construction, funding, operating and future capital maintenance costs.

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*Shire consultants say the proposed new Armstrong Creek Aquatic Centre will impact on the viability of the Torquay Centre.*

*Shire consultants say that in addition to the required operating cost subsidy, Council will need to make an allowance of approximately \$750,000 per annum for future capital maintenance upgrades (2009 estimate).*

We believe decisions by Surf Coast Shire councillors should be based on sound economic management principals particularly in relation to costs.

Benefits should pertain to all ratepayers rather than a narrow interest group.

For those watching the current ABC series called UTOPIA this current proposal rings loud alarm bells; residents remember the relatively recent spending debacle overseen by previous councils at Torquay.

**17/09/2015 Township not stated**

We strongly oppose building the proposed Torquay Aquatic Centre should it result in an increase in the rates or reduction in services for Surf Coast ratepayers in any other wards than Torquay Ward.

The proposed Centre will be of minimal or no benefit to residents in the shire who live more than 10 minutes' drive from the Centre, consequently not benefitting Lorne ratepayers such as us nor our families, rather adding excessive additional living costs.

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Shire consultants say it will be easier for residents from Anglesea and beyond to get to the Waurin Ponds Aquatic Centre.

Shire consultants say the proposed new Armstrong Creek Aquatic Centre will impact on the viability of the Torquay Centre.

Shire consultants say that in addition to the required operating cost subsidy, Council will need to make an allowance of approximately \$750,000 per annum for future capital maintenance upgrades (2009 estimate).

We implore the Surf Coast Shire councillors to be influenced by sound economic management principals and cost V benefit pertaining to all ratepayers rather than a narrow interest group.

**17/09/2015 Lorne**

On behalf of community groups, permanent residents and non-resident owners of Lorne properties, I look to register our town’s united objection to the special charge scheme currently proposed to fund the new infrastructure.

While we acknowledge the facility will provide a great amenity for the Torquay and immediate neighbourhood, subject to their acceptance of your proposal scheme, we perceive absolutely no benefits to our town. In fact, the proposal comes as a major “slap in the face” to many Lorne people following the withdrawal of shire funds for the thermal heating of the Lorne pool in 2010. Having recently completed a special charge scheme for our Mountjoy Parade streetscape and storm water drainage scheme, our community has absolutely no interest in making a financial contribution to a project with so little benefit in return.

Further insult is inflicted in the knowledge that we here in Lorne, would be funding a great facility that would get more use from the fast growing community of Armstrong Creek on Torquay’s northern boundary, with no financial contribution whatsoever.

Certainly a great facility for the Torquay community and nearby residents outside the shire and I wish you well with your financial modelling, but please do not include the Lorne Ward as a financial contributor.

**17/09/2015 Lorne**

As ratepayers in Lorne we wish to register our strong opposition to the proposed Torquay Aquatic Centre. It will be of absolutely no benefit to ratepayers in places such as Lorne and the huge costs involved in building and maintaining such a centre would result in the neglect of more pressing needs in the Shire or enormous and unfair levies or rate rises.

We again wish to emphasise our very strong opposition to this proposal.

**17/09/2015 Torquay / Jan Juc**

This email is to lodge my opposition to a council and rate payer funded pool in Torquay. I am a long term Torquay/ Jan Juc resident and do not perceive at this time that a pool is required. The proposed funding model imposes significant additional cost to rate payers in the immediate area irrespective of their use. If the pool were to be funded purely on a user pay basis, my opposition may not be as extreme. Had this question been posed ten years ago, prior to upgraded bus services to Waurin Ponds, and the RACV with pool and multiple other local resorts with pool access my opinion would have been different.

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

I would like to register my disagreement to the proposed centre. The estimated costs to ratepayers to build and operate the centre are ongoing over a period of twenty years, and are too much for the community to bear.

The proposed length of the pool at 25 meters is only a small pool which would basically only be used for beginners. This is not an Olympic size pool, and could not be used for swimming training or racing.

Our community has wonderful beaches all around our coastline and we should "learn to swim" at the beach and enjoy the outdoors and sunshine, and not be inside in a chlorinated heated pool. We are the "surfcoast" so let's swim in the surf and be forever thankful that we live near the ocean.

**18/09/2015 Torquay**

My wife and I are permanent residents at the above address and do not believe that Aquatic and Health Centre is necessary in Torquay.

There are already two centres at the RACV Club and Torquay Sands as well as ample beaches and other related health practitioners within the Township.

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

At last night's meeting in Jan Juc, I raised the question to the reliability of the price of the model presented.

I have listed some details and links to the relevant projects from around Australia that I mentioned last night.

- **Fleurieu Regional Aquatic Centre - South Australia - \$20m project about to start construction.**

This project gets life from not one, but two councils working together to provide a facility for the greater region.

The Alexandria Council and City of Victor Harbor have both contributed \$6.5m each and federal and state grants stump up the rest.

What do they get for \$20m on a greenfield a site?

The project involves the construction of an environmentally sustainable indoor aquatic centre consisting of:

- \*An 8 lane, 25 metre swimming pool
- \*A multi – use rehabilitation, leisure and children’s pool
- \*A crèche facility
- \*A commercial kiosk
- \*Plant and equipment rooms
- \*Office accommodation
- \*Dedicated change rooms and toilet facilities
- \*First aid and lifeguard rooms
- \*Dedicated car parking, bus parking, pedestrian linkages and traffic management

<http://fleurieuaquaticcentre.com.au/>

- **Rockdale Aquatic Centre - Sydney - \$24m project about to start construction.**

What is interesting is several key points:

Initial costings were over \$35m - fixed price project contract \$24m

What do they get for \$24m??

- \*50 metre outdoor pool capable of hosting water polo and covered grandstand
- \*25 metre indoor combined learn to swim and competition pool (8 lanes)
- \*Outdoor children's splash pad
- \*Kiosk, new change rooms and amenities
- \* Combined creche and community room

<http://haveyoursayrockdale.com.au/bexley-pool>

- **Gungahlin (northern Canberra region)** Last year, \$28.7m bought the residents of Gungahlin an aquatic centre which offers an eight-lane 50-metre swimming pool, a 25-metre swimming pool, childcare facilities, a fitness centre and a café.

<http://www.ausleisure.com.au/news/gungahlin-leisure-centre-to-launch-with-open-day-on-24th-may/>

I would also like to refer you to other models of consultation which have been employed by other local governments around Australia recently in order to seek their communities willingness and desire for aquatic facilities. I would strongly suggest that none of these have the negative or divisive tone of "Testing the Waters"

- **Cairns Regional Council** - Here's an invitation from the for private business partnerships in the redevelopment of the Tobruk Memorial Pool ... The possibilities are endless if there is vision and desire. Check out their proposition to the local business community



[http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/128124/Partnership-Opp.pdf](http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/128124/Partnership-Opp.pdf)

- **Bass Coast Shire Council** passed a motion in June 2015 to build two Aquatic Centres in the Shire - one of which will be in Phillip Island. Much like the Surf Coast, Phillip Island has longed for an Aquatic Centre for some decades.

In this instance however, the Bass Coast Shire Council has "committed \$120,000 in the newly adopted 2015-16 Budget to the Phillip Island Aquatic Working Group to prepare site selection recommendations and the development of a concept plan over the coming month"

They recognise (as we all do) that this is expensive infrastructure and a long term commitment to the community, however they also realise that it is "important to have plans in place now so we can be in the position to seek and apply for funding should the opportunity arise"

<http://news.basscoast.vic.gov.au/council-commits-to-island-pool/>

- **Benalla Rural City Council** - here is another Victorian council 'consulting' it's community about an aquatic centre. Here the residents get to use a 'budget allocator' to decide which components of an aquatic centre are most desired.



<http://benalla.budgetallocator.com>

- **Albury City Council.** Here in addition to telephone surveys, council are surveying local schools, local interest groups and stakeholders, current users of aquatic facilities within their shire, engaging focus groups and inviting written submissions

<http://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/have-a-say/past-items/past-have-a-say-items/albury-aquatics-strategy>

I would also like to point out some other facilities which have funded their aquatic centres through different manners:

- **Phillip Island Aquatic Centre** are in the position of having the ability to raise up to \$2 million in funds through the ASF (Australian Sports Foundation) where donations are treated using tax-deductible DGR status, with tax deductibility for individual donors.



- **Aquanation - Ringwood** - Funded by council with help from fed grants and community business partners (Bendigo Bank). Aquanation are also offering their community an opportunity to be involved by providing "Foundation Memberships" to secure a sought after spot in the gym and lap lanes of this new facility
  - **Lightning Ridge** (yes, opal country) came about getting their aquatic facility (a \$30 million facility for less than \$1 million) - through community working together to make something happen. <http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2010/02/08/2813423.htm>
  - **Greater Bendigo Council** committing to honour the health and well being of all residents: irrespective of age or ability by approving an aquatic centre for Kangaroo Flat. Kangaroo Flat Enterprise group commit to raising \$1m for the facility
- 
- **Port Fairy Aquatic Centre** and the **Sapphire Aquatic Centre** (Pambula) were both built with considerable community input and fundraising (buy a brick, community fundraising concerts etc)

Also in the first round of the NSRF there were 3 aquatic centres which received federal funding:

- **Hume City Council** - received \$9m towards a \$32.5 m aquatic centre
- **City of Darwin** - received \$4.48m towards a \$8.9m aquatic centre
- **Gympie Regional Council** - received \$5m towards a \$20m aquatic centre

For the CEO to have said last night that if politicians want to 'give them money' they should call him, is a little flippant. In order to seek funding, including the State Govt 'Better Pools' money, it is obvious that proper plans be in place and applications made.

I feel that there are MANY ways that the shire could proceed with this project if they actually wanted it to be achieved. I understand the premise that the shire is 'neutral', but to be honest, when the community is only presented with one model of funding which includes expensive and unprecedented 20 special charges and rate rises, the reaction from the community is going to be one of negativity.

I feel really sad that the shire have not been able to really promote the massive benefits of such a centre. Torquay is a growing, vibrant town and a fantastic tourist mecca which has its roots firmly based in water and aquatic pursuits. A Surf Coast Aquatic Centre could be a huge asset and draw card to our town. A facility which would most definitely be used **daily** by hundreds of community members and visitors alike. It could be a jewel in our crown, a facility which brings events and economic benefit to our region, a centre which invests in the health of our residents and encourages the pursuit of excellence in sport and fitness.

I implore the Surf Coast Shire Councillors and Council Officers to seek an understanding of this project and start to reflect the positive benefits of such a resource.

Thank you for your time once again

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

As a rate payer since 1986 I wish to express my **no vote** to the proposed funding model for the aquatic centre. I feel that this funding model is grossly unfair to add to our already high rate levels let alone for another 20 years. Rates in the Surf Coast are already higher than most municipalities.

I pay rates in Melton Shire which has an aquatic centre known as “ Melton Waves” that did not incur an added cost on rates to build nor does it require extra rate monies to operate. Perhaps Surf Coast could investigate how this was achieved.

All operating costs should come from admission fees, if this is not sufficient then obviously the centre is not commercially viable at this point in time.

As a self funded retiree I don't need to explain the added burden this would create on many people who have a reducing income, add this to the discrimination campaign that the Federal Govt is perpetrating on the aged, by creating a division between working folk and pensioners is most disturbing trend.

So in conclusion my choice to go ahead is NO, NO, NO, to something I wouldn't use that is not viable but would burden all for 20 years! I cannot believe that it's even being considered.

**18/09/2015 Torquay**

I pay rates on investment property in Torquay - ... st, Torquay.

I object to this centre as it is too expensive and rates are very high anyway. I am not prepared to pay for this project from my rates and I no longer live in the area so would not benefit. I believe my tenants would not use the resources as prefer to go to one of the many local beaches which are free and outdoors.

**18/09/2015 Fairhaven**

I do respect the use and benefits of aquatic centres. However, as a resident of Fairhaven, do not see that I , or my neighbours, would use an aquatic centre based in Torquay. I go to the surf Coast to swim in the ocean!

If it were to go ahead, it would be more beneficial, and fair , for rate payers in the Torquay city limits only, to fund this project, rather than ask all surf coast ratepayers to foot this bill,(of building, and annual costs to run it,) Non Torquay residents, who are a distance from Torquay, would not gain the same benefits, which would be offered to Torquay residents.

For me to use an aquatic centre in Torquay, there would be transport, and parking issues. Parking in summertime, (the time an aquatic centre would be mostly utilised, )is already at premium in Torquay. Road usage, traffic jams along the Torquay/ Anglesea road are a nightmare , in January, and at times unacceptably dangerous. It is not appropriate to use this road, during January, on a regular basis. An Aquatic centre, funded by ratepayers, would primarily be for Torquay residents.

Therefore I am not happy to have additional charges to my rates, to subsidise the residents of Torquay, for an aquatic centre. There is an aquatic centre in Warn Ponds, which they can use, and could be used for school groups during the year.

I am sorry, but I think this an unfair proposal, for non Torquay residents.

**18/09/2015 Lorne**

Well, the online form doesn't seem to work, so here is an email instead.

We live in Melbourne, and have a Holiday home in Lorne. We have a pool at home, and a public pool and beach in Lorne, so the Aquatic Centre in Torquay would be of no value to us. Since the road to Lorne goes outside of Torquay I have actually never been to Torquay, and an Aquatic Centre would not change that.

Summary: Against the proposal.

**18/09/2015 Anglesea**

I do not support the building of an aquatic centre in Torquay. My family and I would obtain no benefit whatsoever.

Your link

[http://admin.intranet.surfcoast.localhttp://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/My\\_Community/Sport Recreation and Leisure/Aquatic and Health Centre/Aquatic Centre Submission Form](http://admin.intranet.surfcoast.localhttp://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/My_Community/Sport_Recreation_and_Leisure/Aquatic_and_Health_Centre/Aquatic_Centre_Submission_Form)

is not working, or at least I could not get it working in any of my browsers.

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

We are not in favour of the expense added to our rates for the next 20 years. Because we would not be a regular user, my logics say why should we pay? We realise this will be expensive cost, however most other shires and councils do not incorporate this huge expense to our rates

**18/09/2015 Anglesea**

Thank you for your flier regarding the possibility of building an Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay.

As non resident ratepayers, while we are sympathetic to the needs of Torquay residents for such a centre, we are strongly AGAINST having to pay for such a centre ourselves. In our twenty plus years of owning our home in Anglesea, we have made very few visits to Torquay and the offer of such a centre would certainly not increase our visits to Torquay. Further the possibility of paying for the centre over the next twenty years is quite untenable. If a centre is to be built, it should rely on funding that is local to Torquay and not be an impost on the entire shire rates - albeit at a decreasing amount dependent on proximity to Torquay - for the foreseeable future. What about user pay - this seems a far more equitable arrangement?

**18/09/2015 Lorne**

I do not wish to pay for the above.

**18/09/2015 Anglesea**

First, your online submission link does not work. I tried to lodge comments online and the page would not load.

Regarding the proposal for the aquatic centre - I do not support the proposal as presently constructed.

The idea of the centre is okay but I am not prepared to pay \$110 a year for the next 20 years as part of the funding.

I will not use the centre nor will my family - there is no benefit to us and we are angry at the thought of being asked to pay extra rates and fees for something that is 30km from our property and not going to be used by us. If other people want it, let it be a user pays system or privately funded.

This is an issue that will influence my vote on the Council - normally I don't care about who is on the Council but if this gets through it would motivate me to actively vote against members who approved it.

I also think it is grossly unfair on these residents that live >10km from the proposed site - people out around Lorne and Deans Marsh for example - you want to charge them \$70 a year for 20 years when they are long distances away.

Also, I have owned gyms and health centres before. For \$21m you could set up over 100 small fitness /health centres across the Shire (no swimming pools)....so you would be better having 4 - 5 larger hub centres with a smaller exercise pool and 10 small fitness centres (no pool) so they are located closer to where people live and therefore more likely to use them.

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

I am not in favour of the rate levy.

Rates are already a large part of the household budget, there are rising costs every way you turn.

Along with the levy there will be fees to pay probably \$1,000.00 per person per annum to use the facility.

I have no intention of using such a facility.

I would prefer to see a user pays approach to such a development. Or private enterprise encouraged to provide several smaller facilities strategically placed throughout the surf coast area.

There will be too many people who will be unable to use it, won't want to use it, and can't afford to use it.

There are lots of projects that would benefit the community “all” of the community that you could levy for but there is only so much in a household budget to go round.

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

I will say at the outset of my letter here that I am strongly opposed to such a scheme going ahead.

Why?

1. My wife and I are 65 & 68 respectively and cannot envisage ever using this proposed place. We are becoming a ‘user pays’ society and this does not fit today’s world.
2. It is a ‘dream’ project and as such people who have no potential use of the place should not be levied.
3. Not only will we not use it, I cannot imagine bi-passing several towns and ‘real’ beaches to ever take our son or other friends relatives or off-spring to it.
4. We are nearly fully retired (qualify for some centre-link assistance on low income basis but are ruled out on the assets test because our part time house in Aireys Inlet). We find the rates a struggle as it is and would find it especially difficult were a further impost be placed on us.
5. Raising funds for a special one off project may have some value to some people in the shire (I say again not us) but to continue to levy for another 20 years for something (that is of little use to many in the shire) is untenable and unconscionable and will certainly lead to more residents of the area having to sell the family homes.
6. Steadily decreasing interest rates on our term deposits (over the last 3-5 years that we live off) have meant our income has halved in the last 3 years.
7. We, on a personal basis, just don’t feel it is justifiable. (a)from your own words we already have community health centres & services (more sensibly spread across the shire), (b) 3060 businesses supported is wrong (and monies could be better utilised, (c) it is primarily going to be another asset that ‘lesser’ areas such as Aireys will derive no particular benefit from.
8. Hitting ratepayers for just on \$40 mil over 10 years is a gross – may I say obscene – abuse of power by the council and I would be voting and campaigning to expel the entire council if you go ahead with this.
9. Holiday makers (when Aireys goes from 2000 people to 8000 people) will contribute nothing toward this place and will possibly be major users.
10. One million dollars annually to maintain the place is simply out of the question – new ‘centres’ of any description have to be self sustaining – don’t we talk about sustainability.
11. We don’t want it, it is not necessary (the benefits suggested are already addressed by living on the coast way from big city pressures and the huge range of community activities that are organised) and we do not, repeat DO NOT want it.

I seriously oppose council’s philosophical approach to striking rates and projects you ‘wish’ (not need) to undertake.

There seems to be a “DREAM\_WANT” list of projects the Council want to undertake in order to be seen to be doing things and move places forward to maybe match cities like Geelong. Too frequently, we have seen Council create projects, cost them and then levy/rate home owners to cover them. This is intimidation and often seen as bullying by the council. It seems that often the rate payers of an area targeted don’t even want the council-perceived need.

Any self respecting council should have a critical priority list of tasks that have to be done, but, surely the honourable process is to strike a reasonable, non-punitive rate and then see what you can afford and what needs to be triaged.

Having made many points against this frivolous and unnecessary proposal, I will suggest a way that should be explored, so that the centre could be both not an impost on ratepayers and return some revenue to the council should someone makes the lunatic decision no matter what the cost to go ahead.

My recommendation would be to put the project out to tender on the basis that a private developer picks it up and runs it as a profit making centre and pays a fee annually to the council in return for being permitted to run and charge for services.

Council puts nothing in save for providing the land and gets money back.

If no company sees fit to invest in it, it shows that the venture is not profitable/viable and should not go ahead.

**18/09/2015 Lorne**

I have received the information sheet requesting responses to the concept.

I would make the following points:

1. The concept of an Aquatic and Health Centre is a good one – particularly as the Torquay area becomes more heavily populated;
2. The concept of having a differential in the additional charge on rates based on distance from the Centre is also a good one – as it is extremely doubtful that residents living beyond Anglesea and Moriac would use it (we are based in Lorne and I can't imagine us ever using the facility);
3. However I think that the same principle should be applied to the costs of running the Centre – rather than adding \$50 to all residents that should be apportioned in the same way as for the cost to build it. I would have no problem were this principle applied that way to any similar facility expense built in Lorne.

**18/09/2015 Lorne**

Thank you for emailing me with details of this proposal, much appreciated. I am a semi-permanent resident of Lorne ... as I work much of the time each year overseas, however Lorne is my only home in Australia and will be my permanent home when I finally retire. Therefore I take an active interest in Lorne activities and I receive an email copy of the Lorne Independent every month.

I am totally opposed to making any financial contribution to the development and operation of the proposed "Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre" (which is surely a misnomer as more correctly it should be described as the Torquay Aquatic and Health Centre). As can be clearly recognised by reference to the map in your pamphlet, activities in Torquay (and in particular community services) are irrelevant to Lorne residents. In my 27 years as a part time resident of Lorne I have never used any social, community or commercial services located in Torquay, and I cannot see any reason as to

why in future I would drive for 40 minutes to pay for the use of an "Aquatic and Health Centre"; even if it were free entry for ratepayers I cannot see why it would be an attraction for me.

I am not opposed to paying a levy on my rates for social and community services or improvements located in Lorne, and have paid such previously, but it is inconceivable that any such activity located in Torquay can be considered as being beneficial to my personal health or welfare in any way at all. I was interested that the Pamphlet focused on the "Proposed Funding Model" but provided no evidence as to why a community facility in Torquay could include a resident of Lorne (45km driving distance away) in its user catchment. The reason of course is obvious - there is no such evidence, and consequently no justification that anybody residing outside of Torquay should be expected to contribute to either/both its development and on-going operation. Get real!

I will vigorously oppose this proposed development.

**18/09/2015 Anglesea**

Your "Lodge your comments via our online submission form." web page link is not functioning.

We STRONGLY OPPOSE an Aquatic Centre ..... if Ratepayers are expected to contribute via increased Rates.

If an Aquatic Centre is required, then a User Pays approach is the only equitable approach to funding.

I suggest that the Council remember its own name .... that's right ..... SURFcoast .... surf ..... beach .....

And let me guess where this Aquatic Centre will be located ..... at the Civic Centre (??) .... on the Geelong side of Torquay ... at the extreme eastern edge of the Shire ..... not very accessible to many of the Ratepayers that you expect to provide funding.

**18/09/2015 Anglesea**

We are not opposed to the aquatic centre, however it must be funded by money not recovered from rates.

The principal of user pays is paramount and therefore the total running cost and repayment of the debt must be paid by the users.

If the user base is not sufficient or unwilling to meet the total cost then you must forget the project. We have a swimming season at Surfcoast on some 4 to 5 months. November to March or even April which should provide fitness benefits for those motivated.

There is a pool on the highway near Warn Ponds for training and the road system is geared for bicycle training. There are Gyms and walking/running tracks everywhere. When I was younger and marathon training we used to run from Anglesea to Lorne and catch the bus back. There is no lack of opportunity if the intention is present

**18/09/2015 Lorne**

Firstly the link to lodge an online comment is not working

Secondly I would like to register my total disapproval of such a project and complete unwillingness to contribute by way of special rate for either the capital works or the cost of running such a facility

1. \$29M build of such a facility is totally over the top
2. \$1M annual loss to be funded means that the need, use and willingness for those likely to benefit from such a facility to pay for its use does not exist
3. The requirement for ratepayers outside the immediate catchment to contribute reinforces the above and would mean a contribution to a facility never used by them

This would have to be one of the most ridiculous proposals to emanate from the Surf Coast Shire. Torquay and surrounds already has the most attractive natural and man-made opportunities for exercise and water sport

**18/09/2015 Aireys Inlet**

I am writing in response to the Shire's request for feedback about the proposal to build an aquatic centre in Torquay.

To me this seems like a hugely expensive project for the community and the Shire. Particularly when then is pool facilities in Waurn Ponds that could be used. We have a house in Aireys Inlet and certainly would not be travelling to Torquay to use the facility, should it be built. Given this the annual special charge of \$20 plus the annual running cost impost seems unreasonable. I do not support this proposal.

**18/09/2015 Anglesea**

It is a pity your link, [www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/testing](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/testing) the water is unavailable!

As long standing, non-permanent resident ratepayers in Anglesea, we see no benefit for us in having an Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay North.

Furthermore, it is preposterous that the Council could even consider that we should help to pay for it for the next 20 years.

If there are those who live in a beach resort, as we do, feel the need for such a facility, they should be prepared to pay for it on a "user pays" basis.

**18/09/2015 Anglesea**

We have read and considered Councils community feedback flyer on whether all ratepayers are willing to bear the additional costs of building and maintaining the proposed Centre for 20 years.

Being part self-funded retirees, and never have nor ever will, use such a facility, then **we do NOT accept this forced charge to be added to our rates.**



Councillors must obviously be aware of the fact that current social trends are it is "**User Pays**" - so why should Council now determine to oppose that current trend and start obtaining additional funds from everybody within the Surf Coast Shire - irrespective whether they use such a facility or not.??

( This proposed Council project is unlike something like a water desalination plant where all of Melbourne ratepayers have to contribute through higher rates, Clean drinking water is not only necessary - but essential for life.

The Aquatic Centre is NOT "essential" to life.

**WE STRONGLY OPPOSE SUCH A FUNDING PROPOSAL AND SUGGEST THAT FEES FOR CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING THE CENTRE SHOULD BE STRUCTURED SO THAT COUNCIL RECOVERS THE COSTS OVER TIME FROM ACTUAL USERS - and NOT from ALL Shire Ratepayers.**

**18/09/2015 Anglesea**

As an iPad user, please be advised your link did not work.

We have been non-permanent ratepayers for about 20 years visiting our property for about 5 days a month. My wife and I are now approaching 70 years of age and whilst we appreciate the potential benefit of the centre for children and other younger permanent residents we would not be making any use of the facility ourselves and object to any proposal which would require us to provide financial support for its construction.

**18/09/2015 Lorne**

We strongly object to ratepayers funding an item that only a few people will use or benefit from. There are plenty of water-related venues within easy reach that are underused as it is. We are ratepayers at ... Lorne

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

As I presume you know, there is a problem with the link to the webpage form. I edited the link and this took me to the form, which I then duly filled in. In trying to submit the form it continually rejected asking that the date be filled in. This was despite the date being filled by clicking on the calendar icon on each attempted submit.

Here is what I wrote in the submission box.

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I was one of the ratepayers (non-resident) interviewed. Given the results of that extensive discussion and the overwhelming lack of support for the proposed aquatic centre it seems strange that there is now a further call for views. However, I would repeat that we would not support the building of a centre, especially if funds are not currently available and would need borrowings to provide them. Were funds to be available I still believe that there are competitor, worthy projects that could be considered. I felt reasonably well-informed about the benefits of the proposed centre at the time of doing the interview / survey and have now read more about it from the website. I remain opposed to it and to the proposal to levy all ratepayers to fund it.

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

I am strongly opposed to any increase in rates. I already pay rates at twice the normal rate as my block is not built on. I believe it is robbery and I was told when I rang that I was 'land banking' That phrase may have been invented by Stalin or Mao

I will NOT pay any extra.

**18/09/2015 Lorne**

It has been blindingly obvious from the moment an absurdly expensive aquatic centre at Torquay was imagined what the view of the other Shire communities would be, and the Council should have rejected the idea immediately.

Instead it has spent significant amounts of ratepayers money on the development of the proposal and now on a long and expensive consultative process, an absolute disgrace.

To every Councillor: if you do not understand your obligation to manage the Shire and spend its revenues in the interests of all ratepayers please resign immediately.

**18/09/2015 Anglesea**

I do not support a swimming pool in Torquay.

There is an abundant amount of beaches in and around Torquay that people can swim at. I object to having \$60 added to my rate bill, particularly since I never go to Torquay either to swim or to shop.

**18/09/2015 Wensleydale**

I am opposed to the council spending that amount of money on just one area in the shire, I don't see how anyone other than a Torquay resident or tourist would benefit.

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

As pensioners we would be unable to afford the initial and ongoing costs.

**18/09/2015 Torquay**

I would like to lodge my strong objection to the building of an aquatic centre at Torquay. I do not wish to further add to my rates increases.

**18/09/2015**    **Jan Juc**

As a non-permanent resident ratepayer, I wish to record our objections to this development, more specifically to the proposed funding arrangements. Our property is not and never has been available for rental purposes; it is solely for our own use. We bought into the area as we had made regular annual trips to Torquay over many years to avail ourselves of the great aquatic centre called the seaside. Now in retirement in our late 60's we still make regular time to enjoy swimming and/or walking at the beach depending on the seasons. We input to the community through shopping, attending markets and fetes and supporting local cafes and restaurants all along the surf coast.

We do not use nor do we have any requirement for an Aquatic Centre, Gymnasium or especially a Children's Play area. This will be of no benefit to us in any way and I object to being asked to pay a Special Charge over 20 years!! to pay for it. Should such a facility be required in the growing community, funding should be spread over a longer timespan from normal Council Rates (reduced perhaps by a grant from the Victorian Government??) with yearly operating costs met by the users of the Centre and not, as is apparently becoming common for the Surf Coast Shire, by the levying of a broad based Special Charge. Perhaps funding for such projects would be more readily available had Council not spent significant public money on building yet another monument to Municipal Council waste in Victoria at No1 Merrijig Drive.

In relation to the proposed funding arrangements, any Special Charge must be based on a more realistic and equitable model. The current proposal is enormously inequitable. For residents of Anglesea to be charged 40% of the proposed Torquay levy is without substance. Anglesea is a substantial urban centre some 10 - 15 minutes down the Highway; it is not "remote" from Torquay and has limited public and private facilities in comparison. Many people we know who live in Anglesea regularly shop and dine out in Torquay for this reason. Such a development may be very attractive at an impost of \$60 per year.

The same argument more than applies to the \$100 band surrounding the \$150 "Torquay" zone. A decision such as this should not be distorted by relative population sizes. It must also have a larger "User Pays" element and other options for funding should be explored. Residents who have no use for such a Centre should not be seen as a cash cow by Council. Rates are levied to meet the demands of the community and sound economic management over a broader horizon can facilitate such developments.

**18/09/2015**    **Aireys Inlet**

1. I oppose the idea to building the aquatic and health care centre as this will be too far away for us to consider using it. I am against the proposed funding model according to proximity as well as funding the ongoing maintainance costs . If there is no money to allocate a project (ie: in the SCS budget) then there should be no money spent.
2. If the Torquay residents want a pool/health centre, local businesses or other private entities should fund it.
3. There will be a pool built at Armstrong Creek which is minutes up the road from Torquay.
4. Money should be spent within the Shire that has value added to all the residents not just a few.

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

I believe the proposed funding model for the proposed pool in Torquay has muddied the waters regarding the issue of whether Torquay needs a pool or not.

No one could argue against the benefits of teaching people to swim and become water confident. However with this decision being a 20 year impost on a number of residents who will never set foot into the centre, I'm afraid the funding model will sink the idea.

Perhaps a more workable solution is to build the pool on one of the new school sites. In this way there will probably be some costs covered by Victorian and Federal grants. During school times the pool can be used by attending school children and by offering it's use to other schools. In this way, the overall objective of teaching children to swim is achieved and a user pay system covers some of the operating costs. When the pool is not used during the day, it could be opened up for preschool lessons.

After hours, the centre could be managed by council staff and be available to the general public, also under a user pays scheme. Memberships and casual use would be offered.

Each year the council's annual budget sets the rates and then breaks these down into the services provided across council. A portion of this would go to the operating costs of the pool, rather than the set up costs of the facility. So work together with the schools to gain as much funding as possible for the construct of the pool, then incorporate ongoing costs in to the council budgets.

**18/09/2015 Lorne**

As non-permanent Lorne residents, we are writing to strongly object to any financial commitment on our part to the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre development in Torquay North.

This development will provide absolutely no benefit to us as Lorne ratepayers.

Given the position taken by the Surf Coast Shire to not contribute funds to heat the Lorne pool, we think it outrageous and frankly hypocritical to suggest that Lorne ratepayers should be expected to contribute to the Torquay development.

Also, given that we were required to pay a special charge for the Mountjoy Parade streetscape and storm water drainage scheme and that no other ratepayers from the shire outside of Lorne were asked to contribute, we cannot see any consistency in the Shire's intention to impose a special charge on Lorne ratepayers when there is manifestly no benefit to them.

**18/09/2015 Anglesea**

I am a non – permanent resident in Anglesea and pay rates on 4 properties.

I would object strongly to contributing to the above centre and suggest that those who are going to use it pay for it.

Anglesea has a planning overlay that discourages ( effectively prohibits ) residents from having their own swimming pools or tennis courts. Under this policy we have been knocked back so paying for a pool in Torquay which we would never use is something we would object to very strongly.

**18/09/2015 Moggs Creek**

As a property owner in Moggs Creek, I do not agree with the proposal to charge rate payers for the establishment of the aquatic centre nor am I willing to contribute towards it. It is a facility I would never use. Torquay is a town I seldom visit. I think I drove through about three years ago.

**18/09/2015 Torquay**

**Dead set against the pool concept if it is funded by rate payer increases.**

Offer a parcel of land to a private developer, cheap and let them carry the costs of the build. User then pays.

**18/09/2015 Torquay**

I wish to lodge my comments and objections regarding the proposed Aquatic Centre.

1. Your apology in a letter I received yesterday from the Shire is **NOT** accepted. It is your duty to inform non residents (where do you get the “non-permanent part”) who pay rates in your shire of what and where our extremely high rates are being spent (now \$2,400 for a vacant block – SHAME). I have been a rate payer and pensioner for the past 22 years in Torquay, does that not qualify me for being a permanent resident? The reason you have brought up this distinction is that we (the non residents) are somehow inferior rate payers. I can assure you, the Australian currency I pay your rates with is by no means counterfeit.

2. I strenuously object to funding this project, and all non-residents must be exempt from this wish list.

3. The grounds for a common facility to benefit the local community will be of ZERO benefit to me, therefore the applied scheme must not be applied to me.

4. **My rates MUST NOT be used to fund this facility.** I make this warning pending a possible class action against the Shire in Vcat.

5. The Shire has no power to demand extra payments from Ratepayers who do not in any way benefit from this development. THIS IS THE LAW UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT.

6. Have you canvassed those who want the development to pay for it? I can bet you haven't, because if you did, what are the results?. A big fat NO.

7. As an Architect, who worked on several aquatic centres, your proposed estimate of \$29 Million is unbelievable, incorrect and far too lavish for a small Shire. Are you saying, a hole in the ground filled with water and covered with a tin roof costs 1/10th the cost of the Royal

Women's Hospital?, a project I worked on? Who gave you this estimate?, Hopefully not one of your close Developers.

8. On top of the construction cost, ( in my case \$3000) you have the gall to charge admission fees to ratepayers? Is there no limit to your greed?????

9. Nobody from the Shire rang me to advise me of this proposal, so no apology for your lack of communication is accepted. Obviously, someone must have read the LGA and realised they are obliged to send this letter and advise all rate payers when there is a proposal to raise rates, otherwise I wouldn't have know you lot where up to your old tricks.

10. I have no objection to the aquatic centre per se, as long as those who want and will use it pay for it. Just don't touch my rates. Then we'll see how badly they want the centre.

11. After all, why would anyone want to burn their eyes in a chlorine filled pool, when they have the cleanest ocean beach at their door step? Isn't that the reason people have gone to Torquay. Really, your policy makers need more than a swift kick when they countenance such a pea brained, useless and unnecessary proposal. As usual, the Shire puts in a clause saying it's only a proposal, and that it's open to community discussion. That's fine, and it smells of your planning department coming up with the scheme, as they are well know for trying to enforce their own personal views and then back tracking when someone takes them to court. When the Shire says to the proposers, you will need to pay for the proposal, we'll then see how ardent their support will be.

12. I dare someone at the Shire to explain to me why I should pay towards someone else's use and enjoyment when you know well I can't participate.

13. With \$29,000,000, you could build a mini-clinic hospital, so people could get treatment in Torquay, not a stupid and useless swimming pool.

The whole proposal beggars belief.

**18/09/2015 Moggs Creek**

I have registered for updates, but advise that we do not live permanently at Moggs Creek, it is our holiday/weekender home only and would therefore not appreciate paying extra dollars on our rates for a facility that we would not be using.

**18/09/2015 Anglesea**

**Firstly** let me tell you the online comment section of your web site is failing to open.

**Secondly** my opinion of this idea is more waste council funds on torquay. Torquay seems to get the lion share of all the councils spending and resources of all the ares in SCS.

I am in Anglesea and we seem to get nothing except high rates, incompetent planning officers and fees for not being permeant residents for no extra services.

Stop stinging us to waste on torquay.

Fix the power station problem.

**Thirdly** why have an aquatic centre when you are close to the beach. Get real.

NO MORE SPENDING IN TORQUAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**18/09/2015 Lorne**

As ratepayer in Lorne I will NEVER use a swimming pool one hour drive away.

29 million is too much to spend on a swimming pool/ gym etc.

NO to the Aquatic centre

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

I am unable to access the online submission form but wish to register my opposition to the construction of the Aquatic Centre.

I do not believe this is required in a coastal setting and I do not wish to be forced to contribute to the construction and operational costs.

**18/09/2015 Anglesea**

My husband and I as non residential rate payers do not agree to pay further costs to fund an aquatic centre our family will not use. We spend a short amount of time each year at our house and swim in the ocean, we don't go to Torquay, we love Anglesea. We pay extra for infrastructure in Melbourne in the Manningham City Council, we are happy to, we use it, we live there. The costs you are discussing should in fairness be paid by residents, who will use the centre, non residents contribute enough already. We do not expect to be asked to pay for facilities in a town where we do not own property and certainly would not be happy to pay to run it for that towns residents.

**18/09/2015 Fairhaven**

Though its a good idea to build one, the cost in my opinion does not justify the means. Look at the desalination plant built in Victoria. Victorians are paying expensively for what we can see now is a folly of a project. The funding model proposed for this project is a worry in my opinion as there can be costs overrun. Another compulsory charge to be pay by ratepayers over too long a period.

To keep this email short, suffice to say that I am **not a supporter** of this proposed aquatic centre.

**18/09/2015 Anglesea**

As a non - permanent resident in the Surf Coast shire (Anglesea) I would like to express my interest in the above proposal. As it is I swim at the indoor pools in Geelong and would love for there to be a complex at Torquay.

I think it would be well supported by all the community including residents, visitors and school and community groups.

I look forward to hearing about the proposal and hope that it definitely goes ahead.

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

We are strenuously against building an Aquatic centre, Torquay is situated on the beach. We do not regard it as a necessity as there other more important things that this amount of borrowed money could be spent on. If residents want to use such a facility there is a large one a short distance away at Waurm Ponds.

**18/09/2015 Torquay**

I understand you are seeking community opinion in respect to a proposal to build an Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay North.

I confirm my willingness to contribute extra to help fund this project.

The benefits of an Aquatic and Health Centre are enormous to the local and wider community:

Summary: 'Economic and Health Benefits Project – Community Aquatic and Recreation Centres' (Full Report: <http://www.aquaticsandrecreation.org.au/research>)

Introduction

This landmark industry research project investigated a range of health, economic and community benefits delivered by local aquatic and recreation centres across Victoria and interstate.

The project was supported by Sport and Recreation Victoria as the major funding partner and led by Aquatics and Recreation Victoria, with significant and productive collaboration between Victoria University, the University of South Australia, the YMCA Victoria and the City of Greater Geelong.

The research has particular implications for all levels of government decision making, as the results provide insights that can positively affect centre operations, programs, marketing, and design.

Making the right decisions will impact on the quality of the visitor experience, participant retention rates and ultimately provide better health, social and economic outcomes for Australian communities.

Key Findings

- **Health and fitness** is the key benefit that prompts all age groups to use their local aquatic and recreation centre, but for 15-29 year olds lack of confidence can hold them back, for those between 30-49 years of age, free time is their major constraint and the risk of injury or being ill makes those over 50 more cautious about participating.
- **Aquatic and recreation centres** are providing programs, facilities and services that are contributing to better community health as users tend to visit centres 3 or more times a week (exceeding the pattern of most Australians), spend 60-90 minutes per visit and feel that their centre helps them remain healthy, have fewer sick days and be more productive in work/life.
- **All users** of aquatic and recreation centres were more likely to increase their participation if they enjoyed the activity and could see the value and personal benefit of their exercise, with most having a positive attitude about the cost involved.



- [redacted] Users value the personal benefits they receive at \$48.00 each time they use their centre, producing an average of \$38 million in personal benefits per medium sized centre.
- [redacted] For every dollar spent by a centre delivering services, \$8.00 in personal benefits is returned.
- [redacted] Over 80% of centre income comes from 3 program areas- learn to swim, group fitness classes/health club memberships and recreational swimming; with 80% of centre memberships taken out by local residents.
- [redacted] Delivery costs for these main program areas accounted for only 25% of total expenditure, producing operational profit levels that support other major centre administration, management and operational costs.
- [redacted] Aquatic and recreation centres have a positive economic impact with 70% of all income provided by local community participation, while significant local expenditure is generated through the use of local companies and employment of those who live locally.
- [redacted] There are however some sobering findings that indicate that aquatic and recreation centres do not attract an even cross-section of their local community, with limited participation from lower socio-economic groups and those with lower levels of education or qualifications.
- [redacted] With only 2% of expenditure allocated to programs and services for community development or specific population groups, centre goals and vision statements do not always line up clearly with allocated spending to address the social needs of the local community.

With 279 centres across 79 councils in Victoria alone, these findings serve to highlight the influence of the aquatic and recreation industry on the state's economic output and the health and well-being of local communities and how they can be used even more effectively.

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Economic & Health Benefits Study Summary: May 2014

18/09/2015 Lorne

We are totally against the proposal and the funding model is totally inappropriate for us as ratepayers at Lorne. We will NEVER use the proposed pool that we are expected to pay for for 20 years. What is wrong with the surfcoast council that they would imagine Lorne residents would be

wiling to pay for a ridiculously expensive pool for the residents of Jan Juc and Torquay? Your proposal is distressing to say the least.

Please see the initial email we sent to the surfcoast.

*(We are home owners from Lorne and are unable to attend the forum about the proposed Torquay swimming pool in September.*

*We wish to voice our very strong objection to such a project.*

*It is with disbelief that such a proposal be suggested. If Torquay wants a swimming pool it should be Torquay residents who pay for it or private investors. In Lorne every time the council proposes something ratepayers are slugged for the cost. The streetscape cost still upsets us as it is of most benefit to shop keepers and tourists yet we had to pay, no questions asked or forums to voice objections. Then came the drainage of Howard street and beyond. That should have been a basic infrastructure cost met by the Surfcoast council not the few who happened to be at the bottom of the hill. We feel we pay outrageous rates and then more for "projects" in and around Lorne.*

*A Torquay swimming pool is of absolutely no benefit to Lorne residents. Why wasn't the existing Lorne pool upgraded and heated a few years back.....because of the cost and ongoing maintenance. At a time when costs should be kept to a minimum this proposal would create a budget blowout. At this stage the \$1million annual operating costs would in no time be increased. Torquay residents can use public pools in Geelong, significantly closer than for Lorne residents to have a dip in a Torquay pool.*

*We are horrified each time we receive a rate notice from the Surfcoast. The rates are considerable higher than our Boroondara rates and we receive far more services in Kew than at Lorne. Our Kew home is worth considerably more than our Lorne home yet the Lorne rates this year are massive. Our money should not be used for such a poorly thought out proposal.*

*This proposal also raises other concerns we have had for years about Torquay and JanJuc. They are effectively suburbs of Geelong and should be part of the Geelong Council not the Surfcoast.*

*Could this email please be tabled at the forum in Lorne in September.)*

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

Online submission form link does not work

strongly opposed

opposed footpath at 44 Torquay Blvd

council then appealed court decision at huge cost then foisted the cost of footpath onto ratepayers on similar basis of distance from path

a guess at best as to benefit value or use

councilors should have their vote published on discretionary spending matters to the electorate prior to council elections

maybe the council newsletter should publish and name councillors to inform all rate payers

as the majority of home owners are not resident on the surf coast.

MPSC spent more than a million dollars on feasibility and design proposals for a swimming pool and health centre on the Rosebud foreshore

for the six months of the year when its too cold to swim at the beach and as few as 1 in 10 homes are occupied in nearby residential areas.

**18/09/2015 Gherang**

I will not be using a proposed pool as I live in Geelong and merely have a block of land in Gherang. I use the Leisurelink pool regularly in Waurm Ponds and so will not be using a Torquay pool.

As such I do not support the Torquay facility for personal use and funding.

I have been unable to access the direct portal to have my say.

**18/09/2015 Jan Juc**

As a long term non resident homeowner we do not support the additional increase in rates required in the current proposal.

Proposing a \$29M facility with a recurrent cost of \$1M and a 20 year loan for 15,000 residents and in a community with a significant number of older residents without the capacity to manage an increase in rates is excessive.

The reliance on government funding to significantly underpin the facility is not guaranteed and whilst large community facilities often require government support, the extent to which the burden is placed on ratepayers through rate increases doesn't appear to focus on funding other important priorities required by this community.

**18/09/2015 Torquay**

We oppose the development and proposed levy.

Being a non permanent resident in old Torquay we are already being asked to pay for footpaths we don't want. We have to pay for for 3 bins we don't use and now this!

People who want a pool can go to Warnponds or swim in the Ocean.

Proposal is to cost for 20 years. In 20 years the pool would need major work & we'd still have to pay for it.

I strongly recommend that proposal be defeated.

**18/09/2015 Anglesea**

To whom it may concern,

I am strongly opposed to the new aquatic centre.

We already have a centre in Waurun Ponds and Torquay is only 25 minutes away.

I am a rate payer in Anglesea and do not think I or my family would ever drive to Torquay to use the facilities.

I think the council would be better putting the rate payers money into making the Great ocean road a safer road to cross during peak holiday periods.

Putting the money into an underpass that allows the public safe access to the Anglesea surf Club / beach would be better use of rate payers money.

Even some traffic lights that are only operational during Xmas and Easter holiday periods would be good. With the completion of the freeway from Melbourne to the coast the traffic has increased dramatically and it is virtually impossible crossing the highway as there is no break in traffic.

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

Thankyou for providing the community with the chance to have a say on this issue.

One aspect that may not have been covered so far is the issue of long term debt to the Shire. I am mindful of the trending global economic situation and the high likelihood of an Australian and global economic recession within the 20 year debt repayment period. Indeed, a number of analysts are predicting it much sooner rather than later. Many of the circumstances suiting long-term economic expansion have or are disappearing. Any institution saddled with large debt; particularly for discretionary items like a swimming pool will be endangering capacity to deliver services (current and otherwise unknown new ones).

Second point, the real challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are 1) climate change and 2) mass species extinction; both being strong indicators of unsustainability by the human race writ-large. As a matter of urgency I believe we need to earnestly tackle these issues as matters of high priority.

Note: Clive Hamilton (author of 'Requiem for a Species'), makes the point that if the human race works very hard from now on, we might be able to limit global warming to 3 degrees. The Great Barrier Reef will be in terminal decline at 1.5 degrees. We are currently at 1 degree warming with almost one half of a degree heating plugged in and still to come from the ocean. Tim Flannery is slightly more sanguine believing there is a chance new technologies could pull excess carbon out of the atmosphere. Either way, we have a very big problem and an expensive pool is a diversion from the main game.

**18/09/2015 Anglesea**

Simply do not see the need for it and strongly oppose the costs that are being proposed for my rates

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

NO! NO! NO!

I am totally against this proposal the surf coast does not need it. It's a total waste of ratepayers money.

The surf coast coastline is one of the best in the world why not encourage people to take walks along the beach and breathe the fresh air maybe hold exercise classes and walking groups as well, so much better than a costly stuffy aquatic centre and will not cost the ratepayers anything. If council feels this is necessary fund it yourselves maybe by taking salary sacrifices, I guess the answer will be no.

If people want an indoor warm pool they can go to the RACV club. Surely council can't expect the ratepayers to fund for something that they will most likely never use. This is absolutely absurd.

The surf coast rates are already exorbitant. Look around step out into the real world your average family cannot survive with all these unnecessary charges. Put our rates to better use, we already pay enough and I am totally against the centre and all its extra charges. What ever happened to the beautiful beachside resorts, it's worse than suburbia.

A very dissatisfied and disappointed resident.

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

It is with disbelief the newsletter we received today informs us the Council is considering a proposal such as this. The expectation that a ratepayer should pay an additional \$200.00 per year for such an item is despicable in the extreme. Any expected additional payment is unacceptable, and the Council management should hang their collective heads in shame at the mere suggestion of it. Rates are already too high with too little benefit, a lack of footpaths, health services and other matters.

A person's health and social benefits/skills are the responsibility of themselves and their parents to address, it is not, under any circumstances the responsibility of a humble ratepayer. \$200.00 per year, plus admission, buys a lot of health and/or social benefit for those wanting it. If you are serious about social issues and individual wellbeing, you may wish to consider other and more important issues such as homelessness, and the appalling condition of the Town Centre. It is noted the Council offices are a cut above anything else the Shire offers.

If the project proceeds, and I suspect it will irrespective of ratepayers' opinions, it should be funded in it's entirety on a user pays basis, unlike your proposal of non users paying.

I trust this is an exercise in justifying Council staff positions, and hope it will come to an end as quickly as it has begun.

Thank you for examining our opinion, and expect it to be placed on the agenda, and read, at the Council meeting adjudicating on this folly.

**18/09/2015 Fairhaven**

Thank you for your letter received today about the proposal for an Aquatic Centre in Torquay North.

As a part time resident of Fairhaven with my family I very strongly object to the proposal for the Centre to be built via a special levy for the following reasons:

1. Neither I or any of my family would ever use the facility. (a) We have all the recreational facilities we need at Fairhaven in the beach, sea and bush and it is for these reasons we come to Fairhaven. (b)The proposed aquatic facility is much too far away from Fairhaven for us ever to consider using it.

2. Why should we pay anything at all for facilities too remote from us for us ever to use. I acknowledge that we would "only" pay \$20 per year but over 20 years this is \$400, plus your pamphlet mentions operating costs as an extra. Only a few years ago we were forced by Surfcoast shire to pay \$9000 on top of our rates for a road making scheme that we strongly objected to. Note that Torquay residents were not required to contribute to this road making even though there is as much chance they may use the road as we might use the aquatic centre.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

**19/09/2015 Anglesea**

I am strongly in favour of an aquatic centre being built on the surf coast. I am a keen swimmer who has previously lived in Anglesea and I am currently a rate payer there. I found driving to Geelong to train was time consuming. To have access to a swimming pool in Torquay would be fantastic. I can understand why some people oppose an additional rates charge to help fund such a centre but I suspect such opposition does not take into effect the health (physical and psychological ) benefits to a community that a swimming pool provides. People will always object to an increase in rates or taxes however the region is growing rapidly and at some point such a facility will need to be built.

I have also lived in a number of country towns in NSW that had 25 meter swimming pools. Some of these towns like Bellingen (population in the of region12000) had a smaller population than Torquay (15000+) and the surf coast region (28000). I found at peak times these pools were not adequate in size and would be very crowded. Orange NSW has a population in the region of 40000 people and has an outdoor heated 50m swimming pool plus a diving pool plus an indoor leisure pool. In addition in Orange there is a 25m indoor pool at the ex services club. The surf coast has a population of 28000 which is predicted to go to 40000+ by 2031. This is only 15 years away. In the summer holiday period the population on the surf coast increases significantly. If you take this predicted population increase into account why not "bite the bullet" and build a 50m pool with a moveable boom that can divide the pool into two 25m lap pools as required.

For your information the Glen Eira council in Melbourne constructed a very large aquatic centre a few years ago for \$44m which included a heated 50m outdoor pool, 25m heated indoor, kids learn to swim pool, large hydrotherapy pool, aquatic play area with slides etc, 2 large water slides, gymnasium, multiple basketball courts, physiotherapy centre and cafeteria. Such facilities become very good employers including many younger people in the local community.

It is important that councils use rate payers money wisely. The construction of an aquatic centre is obviously costly however infrastructure that benefits so many people over many years would have a positive effect on the wellness of the community as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to put my "2 cents worth" in.

**19/09/2015 Township not stated**

Transfer the risk to the private sector. Looks like a white elephant to me. Who will use it in winter?

**19/09/2015 Township not stated**

I am writing in regard to the proposed aquatic and leisure centre on teh surfcoast.

As a ratepayer in Anglesea i am not in support of the centre.

There is already one in Waurn Ponds and the proximity of the sea to the "surfcoast" makes it unnecessary.

In my experience if there is a pool nearby less people swim in the sea. I have seen this phenomenon in seaside resorts everywhere.

Nature has the power to heal, tthe experience of swimming in the sea is, i believe good for the body and the soul.

My eighty nine year old Mum still swims in the sea, it is one of her great joys and I beilieve has contributed to her longevity.

As for gyms and cafes, they are everywhere. Their proliferation has ocured at the same time as increasing rates of obesity, they are part of the same obsession.

Although my rates have increased substansially this year, I would be prepared to suffer further increases for say, an education campaign to encourage the use of our beautiful beaches.

Let's focus on what we already have...

**19/09/2015 Anglesea**

My name is ... from ... Anglesea. Whilst I see the benefits for the proposed aquatic centre, I do not accept that this should be funded by a tax or a levy.

This is the sort of facility that nearly every other council finds a way to construct and fund through commercial arrangements following a user pays model. Rates should be for essential services, not for something that can and should be funded through a commercial venture. The fact that this funding model should even make it to the stage of being mailed out to me is very worrying. What other business cases are my rates paying for?

My opinion is that I already pay higher rates than many of my Melbourne friends, even though the property value is substantially less, and it's questionable what I see in return in comparison. I do

see the 'Taj Mahal' of council buildings and lots of development in Torquay which I expect I have part paid for and I don't want to pay for any more development in Torquay when I live in Anglesea.

Please do not proceed with this funding model. Find another way.

**19/09/2015 Torquay**

I own a property in Torquay at ..., and as much as I think it is a wonderful idea to have such a facility built in the area, the added cost for the next 20 years on top of my yearly land rates is very hard for me to justify and for this reason I oppose the building of the new centre as outlined above. I am not in a financial situation where I can simply and easily agree to such an increase in my yearly fees towards a construction of such a centre.

**19/09/2015 Township not stated**

As a first comment, the online submission form on your website does not work.

In regards to your proposed funding model for this proposal, I am strongly opposed to increasing annual rates as shown for a facility I will not use. Surf coast rates are already very high in percentage terms vs property value and adding further flat levies is not reasonable. The joy of the Surfcoast is that we already have very good aquatic facilities (I.e the beaches) and there is also a pool and gym at the RACV club as well. As an owner of a holiday property where I only spend limited time in the area, I see no value in the facility proposed. Gyms/ health centres should be commercially viable user pays operations as a business model. The Surfcoast already provides facilities for healthy outdoor activity and should not be entering this area.

**19/09/2015 Aireys Inlet**

Re your request for feedback on the proposed Torquay aquatic and health centre:

As a rate paying half owner of three Aireys Inlet properties I am profoundly against any further expenditure on adornments to Torquay where a disproportionate percentage of our rates are spent already. I accept that it is an expanding commuter area. But as such it's needs are entirely different from those of a coastal hamlet whose citizens are nevertheless supporting its amenity and making Torquay even more attractive to more residents (and expanding council's rate base in the process, very handy). Torquay is a coastal town on the ocean with access to kilometres of beach. Why on earth does such a community need an aquatic centre??

I take it that your illustrated pamphlet is meant to suggest that only residents of Torquay, Moriac and Winchelsea will suffer a rate rise should this unwarranted scheme proceed. This isn't spelt out in the text which refers to possible ongoing costs averaging \$50 for the average rate payer (whoever that might be) creating a dodgy impression and an opening through which council can wriggle should costs blow out. And why are the citizens of Winchelsea and Moriac singled out for punishment in the first instance?



The best advice I can give council is to hivy itself off, focus on Torquay's increasingly urban needs and stop expecting the rest of us to pay for them. Our demographic, needs and aspirations no longer match.

**19/09/2015 Lorne**

I wish to object strongly to the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre and its funding model for a number of reasons:

1. As a Lorne non-resident rate payer I believe the Surf Coast shire is most Torquay centric in its decisions and funding allocations and this is one further example. This is based on the analysis of Council's rate collections and spending throughout the shire on an area by area basis.
2. The funding model, while still having zones for rate increases leaving Lorne untouched, also states that the zone map et al are 'indicative only' leaving potential for change to include Lorne.
3. Lorne street beautification, which mostly benefitted traders in Mountjoy Parade, was partially funded with rate payer levies to I believe Lorne residents only. I don't see why the Torquay centre should be in any way funded by Lorne residents who would not use the facilities.
4. When the Lorne pool was being planned the heating of the pool, which would have meant a real benefit to the Lorne residents, was blocked by a number of authorities partially on the basis of funding. While I stand to be corrected here, I don't recall the SurfCoast Shire offering to contribute financially to or support by advocacy, the heating of the pool.
5. I understand there are already sufficient pools and health centres in Torquay and the building of only a 25 metre pool does not improve swimming facilities in Torquay.
6. If the Council decides, based on ratepayer feedback, not to proceed with the ratepayer levy to fund the Aquatic and Health Centre, but to build it from Council funds, I do not expect to see it funded through undisclosed rate rises  
- i.e. through general revenue that has been increased through 'general and undisclosed' increases. I would expect total transparency on this, and of course on all budgetary and financial decisions.
7. While the brochure states the \$150 will reduce based on zones, it does not appear to include the maintenance charge which will be \$50 (on average - meaning higher in Lorne) that would be borne by all. Is my understanding correct here?
8. As a final general comment, I would like to see the Council treating all its zones equally rather than using Lorne as a 'cash cow' to support Torquay.  
This is the perception of many in Lorne based on the way in which Council has been reported to collect rates on the one hand and allocates funds within the shire on the other.

**19/09/2015 Township not stated**

We are pensioners and would not benefit from this proposal and do not have the funds to support this now or over time. Why not go for a private provider, as many of our tax funded capital works end up being privatized over time anyway.

**19/09/2015 Anglesea**

The on line form would not open

I am a ratepayer with a property at Anglesea

I am against the proposal

Point one states that "studies show.....

There may well be a general benefit to Aquatic centres well away from the beach where they would be heavily used in the summer months as well as during the year. However at Torquay I suggest it would be underused in the Summer months i.e. the studies quoted would not transpose well to the Torquay situation.

My estimate of the increase in my rates will be at least 5% and this would be every year for the next 20 years for a facility which neither I nor my family will use at all. This is much too big an impost when the recent rate increases in the Surf Coast Shire have been much greater than the increase I have experienced in two metropolitan councils

**19/09/2015 Moggs Creek**

BTW the online link isn't working.

I support the idea of an Aquatic and Health Centre.

We have a holiday house at Moggs Creek, and would be happy to pay \$20 per year for 20 yrs to build it.

An annual rate of \$50 per year to run it seems quite high to me, but I'm happy to pay that to have the opportunity to use the Centre in the future, as we plan to spend more time in the area when we retire. Although we have the beach, the water is cold and the idea of a warm pool sounds inviting. I would have liked an indoor pool to take children to on bad weather days in the past, so I imagine it would be popular with families on the Surf Coast (visitors as well as residents).

**19/09/2015 Anglesea**

Hi, We are non-permanent resident ratepayers on the SurfCoast and wish to offer feedback on the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre. I do not wish to pay for such a building, with extra payments through my rates. I think this proposal might be an advantage to some people, but depends on age, interests and distance from the building. We think the extra payments come at a high cost to us and we will never use this facility.

**19/09/2015 Township not stated**

No thanks, pay enough in rates as it is

**19/09/2015 Township not stated**

I have never heard of such an absurd suggestion as the one as outlined in the newsletter received yesterday." Surf coast Aquatic and health centre"

I am still shocked and raving mad over the recent rate increases that have been inflicted on the residents. We were asked to pay over three times the CPI with the latest increase. Obviously the council is out of control when it comes to expenditure. Spend spend and spend seem sot be the policy of the council. It's madness . How can the people on fixed incomes pay up to the ever increasing demands of an incompetent council.

The new officers in Torquay are a joke. Why did we need to spend such big dollars on this .

The proposal will benefit those in the immediate proximity but others forget it. It's a ridiculous proposal.

One would think that the council is in the bush away from the ocean but alas it l'd adjacent to one of the worlds best strip of beaches.

I can only assume that the council loves to spend money increase debt so that the councillors can put their name on a plaque.

The proposal stinks and should never have got this far. How much rate payers dollars have already been sent of this project?..

**19/09/2015 Anglesea**

Our family have had houses at Anglesea for over 40 years. We live in Melbourne but do plan to spend more time living in Anglesea. We do not agree to being charged extra to build this facility in North Torquay.

We are blessed with beautiful beaches to swim at in this shire and more outdoor activity for all age groups should be encouraged.

Why don't you find an independent provider to build,staff and maintain the facility, if there is a need and the demand for this type of facility.

Hope this helps with your decision making

**19/09/2015 Township not stated**

I would like to express my strong opposition to the proposed swimming pool. I can't imagine I'll ever use the facility and i strongly object to the increase in rates that this would trigger.

We have the ocean in our backyard and a public pool a short drive away which i believe are more than adequate.

Thank you and all the best.

**19/09/2015 Anglesea**

As a ratepayer and full time resident of Anglesea I have followed the debate about a pool at Torquay.

I am strongly against the proposal and do not believe the Council should proceed with any further expenditure on the project.

**19/09/2015 Aireys Inlet**

I have a house at Aireys Inlet but I don't live there permanently. I don't think ratepayers should have to pay for a leisure facility. I think if the council wishes to build the facility they should apply for State Govt assistance or a low interest loan and then cover the costs of running the centre from membership and entry fees. It is unfair to expect ratepayers who live far away to have to pay for this facility when they will never use it. There is no way I would drive all the way to Torquay from Aireys to use this facility-especially when I have a similar facility in Melbourne about 1 kilometre from where I live.

**19/09/2015 Anglesea**

We would like to register our opinion of this proposal.

We are non-permanent resident ratepayers, and so are opposed to the development. We would not be using the facility, and do not wish to have our rates increased.

**19/09/2015 Torquay**

We strongly object to the proposed increase in rates to fund a facility that will not be used by the majority of residents

**19/09/2015 Fairhaven**

I have received the Testing The Water brochure regarding the proposed Aquatic Centre in Torquay and related funding proposal.

Whilst I have no objection to an aquatic centre, I do not believe that the funding model is at all fair or acceptable in its current form.

The centre will effectively only be accessible within a reasonable travel distance of 15km.

That leaves 60 percent of the shire having to pay for a centre they will very rarely or not at all be accessing. Remembering there is an aquatic centre in Waurn Ponds, which for many residence of the shire is closer than Torquay.

The funding model is trying to overcome some of the inequities by grading ratepayer contributions weighted around Torquay and decreasing by distance from the most advantaged centre at Torquay.

In my view if such a funding model was to be contemplated it should limit contributions entirely to ratepayers residing within a maximum radius of 15 kilometre to the proposed aquatic centre.

**19/09/2015 Anglesea**

My Wife and I strongly object to the proposed Torquay North Centre. Our grounds for our objection being that we do not wish to contribute financially to a facility we will never be inclined to use due to its location and our age. We are both over 75 years of age and if we ever swim we prefer the sea

water which is one of the reasons we chose Anglesea as the place to purchase a holiday home which we have enjoyed for over 40 years.

**19/09/2015 Torquay**

As a property owner and hence ratepayer of a Townhouse at The Sands, Torquay, I have use of both an Indoor heated Pool and Gymnasium (yearly levy); and, as part of my Owners Corporation fee the use of an outdoor large swimming pool (less than twenty metres from my front door).

Therefore, I would not be interested in a new Aquatic Centre in the Surf Coast area; nor would I want to be subject to an extra 'special charge' over twenty years to finance the project.

Hoping you take my comments into consideration,

**19/09/2015 Torquay**

As one who is retired and uses our house at Torquay for holiday purposes, I am opposed to the surcharge on rates for the building and operation of the Aquatic Centre. Torquay is right on the water and is adequately served by both safe beaches for children as well as a world renowned surf beach. This additional impost on ratepayers should not be imposed. and the centre should not be built until such time as the council has adequate funds in reserve for its construction.

**19/09/2015 Torquay**

**RE: Surf Coast Aquatic Centre and Health Centre**

Currently we are paying \$24 a week towards a similar product as part of The Sands. As a non-permanent resident we do not use the current facility so therefore we are strongly **against** the proposal of paying another \$150 per annum and \$50 per year upkeep fees for another facility.

*We propose a user pay system.*

We already currently pay for our own facility and the likelihood of using the local council facility is very low. There are 12 gym facilities in the area. None of which are patronised in large numbers.

I understand the local permanent residents would like a pool.

Maybe look at building just a pool for the area, reducing the cost of building the facility for all ratepayers. Attach it to an existing facility like a school. This would encourage long term health fitness benefits for the area.

I regularly walk past our local pool in Oakleigh which has been recently redeveloped into a beautiful facility but I rarely see anyone there. It is an outdoor facility and closed most of the year due to the weather.

**19/09/2015 Jan Juc**

As a non resident I wish to state that I oppose the present proposal for funding the new aquatic centre. I am concerned that the costs stated will be a starting point and that over the twenty years costs will be significantly more than what has been quoted. I also feel as a non resident we are being charged the same fees as permanent residents however we will not have the same opportunity to use the aquatic centre if it comes to fruition. As my husband and I have recently retired we have to be careful with our money and the extra \$200+ in our rates for a centre we won't use is something we do not support.

**19/09/2015 Fairhaven**

This is the equivalent of a resident in Balwyn being requested to subsidize a pool in Thornbury. Totally inequitable, ridiculous and unfair to general rate payers. Do you seriously believe someone from winchelsea or fairhaven is going to travel to torquay to have an indoor swim?????

Adding \$\$\$ for 20 years to rates ....plus ongoing contributions.....Totally wrong for rate payers with no benefits. I even doubt the benefits to people in torquay....there is a whole ocean in front for swimming.

Wrong, wrong, wrong....No benefit to surfcoast ratepayers in general. Bet this stupid idea came from a torquay councillor!!!!

**19/09/2015 Torquay**

Dear Mayor and Crs,

NO!

The rate payers in our house hold will vote against the incumbents who support such a grotesque plan

We have ample private facilities.

We have awesome beaches

We have amazing walking tracks,m cycling...

And you seek to bleed us of money to build this for YOUR OWN VANITY???

NO!

**19/09/2015 Aireys Inlet**

Whilst I am in favour of the building of an Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay I am strongly opposed to the repayment plan that has been proposed.

I am an owner of a property in Aireys Inlet where my rates are already astronomically high. I use my property approximately 3-4 weeks a year and do not lease it as a holiday rental. I am confident neither I nor my family will ever use such a facility and therefore I feel that there should be a repayment scheme that isolates permanent residents from non residents.

The surf coast takes in many towns all with varying degrees of perm and non perm residents and this should all be taken into consideration.

If the centre is in Torquay my guess is that it will be mostly used by Torquay residents so it is they who should pay.

**19/09/2015 Township not stated**

Dear Surfcoast Council. The online submission form on your website is not working: can you please email me a form to this email address.

Just a snapshot in response I am totally against this proposal and wish the council would not waste our rate payments and your limited resources on consultants and inquiry around a non-commercial idea.

If there is commercial need for an aquatic centre let a commercial response provide it. As a Surfcoast Rates payer I refuse to pay on top of already expensive rates on a centre I will not use nor do I want. We have pool facilities locally (plus the pool at the Sands) and we have a 'beach' which covers all our aquatic needs.

I and a number of residents were surprised to receive such an off the wall proposal not to mention the disappointment to know you've spent so much to investigate the idea. If there is no economic coverage for a centre don't build it.

No, I will not pay for something like this. Again, please send the submission for through so I can reply formally as you request.

**20/09/2015 Anglesea**

Thank you for inviting our comments about the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre at Torquay and the suggested use of rates as one means of funding this development's construction and ongoing operation.

- Our family are residents at Anglesea. We do not support the proposed funding model. We do not support the concept of all Surfcoast Shire residents contributing to either initial and definitely not ongoing funding towards what we consider will be a single town-based facility.
- The proposed Aquatic and Health Centre would not provide any improved facilities above the Grovedale swimming centre. The proposed centre at Torquay will have one 25m pool, gym, play and health facilities. The Grovedale centre has a 50m length lap pool and gym facilities, plus smaller pool, exercise and wellness services to suit younger and older residents. Thus a lot of money is being proposed towards a facility with inferior services to what is already readily available for Surfcoast Shire residents, including residents of Torquay and Jan Juc. We would not attend this Aquatic centre at Torquay. Our elderly neighbours within Anglesea presently attend the Grovedale swim centre for their fitness and rehabilitation and have expressed their intention to continue this into the future.
- For Surfcoast Shire residents outside of Torquay, travel to the Grovedale swim centre we expect would be more convenient than travel to Torquay. This facility at Torquay will be

primarily for the benefit of residents within Torquay and Jan Juc. It will be a town-based facility, not a facility for the wider shire.

- We expect that other modes of funding for such a facility would be available and these have been explored by Surfcoast Shire Council. We reiterate that we do not support the funding concept. We do not support all shire residents contributing to initial and definitely not ongoing funding of a town-based facility.

Thank you again for providing the opportunity to express our comments.

**20/09/2015 Anglesea**

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Thank you again for providing the opportunity to express our comments.

**20/09/2015 Jan Juc**

I would like to lodge my opposition to the aquatic centre. Its not a Facility I would use and do not want to have to pay for it.

**20/09/2015 Township not stated**

I am opposed to the idea of building an Aquatic Centre if levies are required to build and run it.



Surf Coast rates are already high and steadily increasing (this is despite significant development in the community and rising rate income). If the council cannot afford to build and run the centre within its projected income, it should not levy the whole community for the needs of a few.

Creating a levy for a project like this would also be a poor precedent for future community requests.

**20/09/2015 Anglesea**

As absentee property owners in Anglesea we have no interest in the proposed aquatic centre in Torquay and we would not want to pay any further rates/levies for the construction or ongoing running costs.

**20/09/2015 Anglesea**

Hi, I am a ratepayer who lives in Melbourne and owns ... Anglesea. I would like to register my opposition to the Aquatic centre.

Our anglesea property is too far from the aquatic centre to be of benefit to us. I would only support on the basis it is a self-funding user pay model. Based on the economics this is unlikely to be feasible as the admission charges would be high.

**20/09/2015 Torquay**

My partner and I are currently building a home in Torquay and we would love to support the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre and are happy to contribute the extra rates to fund the facility.

We are both health concious people and would reguarly use the facilities provided.

**20/09/2015 Fairhaven**

We own a property in Fairhaven and are non-permanent residents.

We do not support the proposed aquatic and health centre for several reasons.

1. There is 0% chance that we would ever use the facility. To pay an additional \$70 approximately each year is just a waste of money for us.
2. Is it really necessary? Most of the Surf Coast population probably lives in the \$100 and \$150 special charge areas and yet they are only a relatively short drive to the Waurm Ponds Aquatic Centre and our beautiful surf coast.
3. As non-permanent residents for over 25 years we have been continuously aggrieved by the Surf Coast Shires attitude to rates for non-permanent residents. We pay rates for services we never or very rarely use. We effectively subsidize permanent residents. Given the relatively high proportion of non-permanent residents in the Surf Coast Shire it really ought to get it act together and provide a fairer rating system.

Asking us to pay more for a service we will never use is a joke when we already pay rates for services we never or rarely use.

**20/09/2015 Gnarwarre**

We have to strongly object to the proposal for a Aquatic & Health Centre in Torquay. As ratepayers in Barrabool we have easy access to a swimming centre at Waurm Ponds and fail to see why we should be funding another Centre at Torquay.

Please consider people in the Surfcoast Shire that are on fixed incomes and cannot afford to keep having further burdens placed upon them.

**20/09/2015 Torquay**

Just a quick note to register my opposition to the proposed Swimming pool at Torquay. I feel that the rates we pay are already expensive enough without a special up-front and ongoing charges for a facility that I'm sure I will never use. The proposed swimming pool strikes me as an absolute luxury that ratepayers shouldn't be paying for. I have heard nothing mentioned about a valid business case being presented for the pool, apart from tipping in many millions of dollars from ratepayers. If this is the only way that a pool can be funded it seems a foolish and exorbitant way to go to appease what is clearly a minority of people living on the Surf Coast who want the pool. Surely if it was a financially viable opportunity, private interests would have already built a pool at Torquay. No amount of stunts or spin can change that.

**20/09/2015 Lorne**

I wish to lodge an objection for the plan to build an Aquatic Centre at Torquay.

My reason is because you have not provided a completed Indoor/warm swimming pool at Lorne which is already there but not heated and not being able to be swum in all year around.

I am a Rate Payer and a Masters Swimmer who wants to swim all year around and cannot because the Surf Coast Council will not heat the Lorne pool.

So why would I approve the Surf Coast council building a new aquatic facility costing \$29 million when you have not completed the heated pool and provided indoor facilities at Lorne.

Finish the projects you started first before building a new Aquatic and Health Centre at Torquay.

**20/09/2015 Torquay**

I am a non-resident ratepayer who resides in Connewarre and I do not wish to support the pool proposal.

Our address in Torquay is ...

**20/09/2015 Jan Juc**

We strongly object to the building of an aquatic centre where we are forced to commit to a special charge to pay for it.

We fail to see how requiring individual ratepayers to commit to an annual special charge of at least \$200 per year for 20 years can be described as 'financially viable', the addition of the word 'most' to financially viable simply covers the fact that other options were more unacceptable.

In fact, the amount may be significantly greater as the operating costs cannot be guaranteed and any shortfall will need to be added to the estimated \$50 per year for operating costs currently suggested, even if the \$150 p.a. remains constant. We would be committed to an open ended amount to cover the operating costs. Council has no way of determining what expenses may be incurred in the future.

While we are listed as non permanent residents, the reality is that we spend 4 days a week in our property. We have no personal need for the aquatic centre and should council decide to build it, we will never have any use for it. I am basing that on the fact that we never use the aquatic centre near our home in Melbourne.

**20/09/2015 Jan Juc**

As non-resident ratepayers in Jan Juc we do not support the proposal nor the funding model. Funding for local government services should be directed more towards aging infrastructure replacement and environmental initiatives. The proposed \$150 annual cost is too steep given the current economic climate.

**20/09/2015 Torquay**

To whom it may concern,

We are a non permanent resident ratepayer with a house in ...

We **do not wish to support** the proposed funding model for the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre.

Already, we support the pool and gym facilities at the hotel at The Sands, via an annual payment, allowing two of us access to the facilities.

We feel the proposed centre should be a **user pay concept**, not a community pay one for 20 yrs.

**20/09/2015 Anglesea**

**I wish to advise that I strongly oppose this concept.**

Not the aquatic centre for Torquay, but the proposed funding model.

My wife and I, like a lot of Anglesea residents are seniors who will never use the facility so why would we agree to a rate increase to fund this project. With an ocean on the door step why would we travel to Torquay to swim in chlorinated water.

Whilst I very much appreciate the benefit to the expanding Torquay residents I believe other funding options have to be explored i.e private equity funding etc.

**20/09/2015 Township not stated**

I would like the shire to know that I do not wish to have an increase in my rates now or at any time into the future to support a swimming pool. If people wish to have a pool then I'm happy for them to pay for it. I think it's outrageous to expect financial support from people who will never use the pool to accommodate the hobby of a noisy minority. There are several other pools within 15 – 25 minutes from Torquay, and several pool options within the township.

**20/09/2015 Lorne**

I am writing to you on behalf of my husband and myself to lodge a strong objection to the proposed funding model and ongoing operating costs for the Aquatic Centre in the Surfcoast Shire. Our objections include –

- As we are ratepayers in Lorne, neither we nor our wider family would receive any benefit at all from an Aquatic Centre in Torquay. Ratepayers beyond the immediate Torquay area would rarely, if ever, use the facility.
- Our rates are already high, even without extra imposition from Aquatic Centre costs.
- The perception 'down here' is that our rates contribute more to the infrastructure in Torquay itself than they do along the 'actual' surf coast – from Anglesea to Lorne, and beyond. It seems inappropriate – and patently unfair – to add to the existing inequity, without a provision that all costs of an Aquatic Centre would be apportioned to ACTUAL USE after it was built. If it turned out that only, say, 2% of Lorne ratepayers used the Centre in its first year then only that proportion should be levied in subsequent years.
- The indicated ~\$50p.a. ongoing costs for the median taxpayer (probably about \$140 for us) would equate to about 3% of our total rates. While we appreciate the Council's attempt to graduate the ongoing cost according to distance, this makes all sorts of assumptions about usage. Far more valid, and acceptable, would be to make the WHOLE of the ongoing cost covered by admission fees (rather than being so heavily subsidised in the proposed model).
- The 'bottom line' question is: Should the council commit to such an expense when it has to increase the rates for all ratepayers to finance a project that would only benefit a tiny percentage of the ratepayers of the shire?
- Indeed, if we did intend to visit an aquatic centre from Lorne, then we would go to the nearer existing facility at Waurin Ponds!
- From my understanding there are at least 3 publically accessible swimming pools already in the Torquay environs PLUS the ocean. Indeed, why oh why is such an additional facility really considered necessary? This looks like a real 'Utopia' moment where Council just wants to build something as an edifice!

**20/09/2015 Torquay**

I am confused why this has been a 40 year battle for Torquay locals. Everyone in Torquay loves the water, move close to it We cannot swim in the ocean for more that 6 months of the year Because it is too cold Kardinia shuts in winter and Waurin Ponds is packed before school and work.

With the town growing and the council not providing healthy infrastructure for the community Torquay could end up being a fat suburb?

Little public transport (1 hour or more between buses), no public gym or pool, A suburb where families are forced to drive everywhere.

I have lost more than 2 hours a day on time for myself, because we drive in and out of Geelong every day for kids activities.

Our average week with teenage girls:

Monday night

Pick up daughter 1 from school (no busses from School region after 4pm) Take daughter to swimming for Squad swimming for off season Surf Life Saving training Monday =1.45mins

Tuesday

Am swimming at Christian College with daughter 3 (1.45mins)

Wednesday

Dancing with daughter (1hour)

Thursday

Am swimming with daughter (1.45)

Pm dancing with daughter (1 hour)

Friday

Am swimming (1.45)

Kids are at a higher risk of drowning if they are not involved in a swimming program If there is not a local pool, swimming lessons and training will become harder on families with Working parents. It is a realty these days that both parents have to work.

This council is making excuses for basic and obvious infrastructure for a growing town Regards

**20/09/2015 Township not stated**

Response: Rates already very high. NO to further increase in rates.

**20/09/2015 Anglesea**

I wish to register a NO Support for my 2 properties at Connewarre and Anglesea.

**20/09/2015 Township not stated**

I am contacting you in regards to the proposed

Aquatic Centre . While I think it is a great idea and would be very beneficial to the community as a whole, I think it is unfair that we are expected to foot a large percent of the cost as rate payers .I feel we already pay high enough rates as it is . considering the fact that we are lucky enough to have access to such quality beaches in our municipality,I feel it would be a waste of money and that the funds could be better used on other important facilities desperately needed,unless there was another way of funding the project ie a larger state/federal government funding contribution.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feed back.

**20/09/2015 Lorne**

To whom it may concern,

Under NO circumstances do I agree to the construction of the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre! I think the rates are already too high for the services we, in Lorne, receive given that the property is a holiday property.

I am tired of funding Torquay's development and standing by watching Lorne slide into disrepair from the council's lack of care.

Ratepayers are expected to fund any further development such as footpaths, gutters etc even though they do not use them. It is wrong!

**20/09/2015 Fairhaven**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our view on the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay.

We do like your concept of willingness to pay, and extension of that, which is user pays.

We already have access to all the pools we need, and accordingly do not have a need for such a facility, and accordingly are not willing to pay to fund such a centre.

Can we suggest a simpler pricing model. That you recover the costs totally from the people who use it. Isn't that more equitable?

**20/09/2015 Jan Juc**

As the owner of a modest holiday home, I am strongly opposed to a rate increase to fund the proposed centre.

The centre would provide no benefit to me.

**20/09/2015 Lorne**

I am writing in response to a recent flyer I have received in regard to the proposed Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre.

I would like to express that I am strongly against the proposal. My main reasons for this are

- In-principle consideration of increased rates over a 20 year period to pay for the centre.
- The expense of an ongoing \$50 increase to rates to run the centre
- The regular benefits of the centre to only a relatively small percentage of Surf Coast rate payers who live within an acceptable commutable distance of the proposed centre

**20/09/2015 Anglesea**

I was not a participant in the phone survey, but would like my vote counted in the poll as a NO vote for the proposed aquatic centre.

**20/09/2015 Anglesea**

As rate payers of the Surf Coast Shire because we own a property in Anglesea while not actually living there, we would like to respond to recent correspondence from the shire requesting we have our say about the proposed aquatic and health centre in Torquay.

We purchased our property in Anglesea to take advantage of that area's immediate surroundings and we only very occasionally venture over to Torquay to visit the RACV resort. We don't feel the proposed centre will have any attraction for us and would prefer not to have the extra charges added to our annual rate levy.

**20/09/2015 Lorne**

I am very dubious about who this group of people are that can command a \$60,000 survey for a pool. It wouldn't be political would it? Lorne people are fed up with the Shire council and if you put this through I don't know what our reaction will be but we won't take it lying down.

**20/09/2015 Anglesea**

We are against the proposed funding model for the Aquatic Centre in Torquay.

We are not full time residents of the surf coast and our house is in Anglesea. We cannot imagine using the Aquatic Centre at any time as we go to Anglesea for the beach. We find that the beach provides all the aquatic recreation that we need or want.

We don't think it is fair to cast the funding net so wide as rate payers away from Torquay would not see much benefit from or use in the Aquatic Centre.

**20/09/2015 Torquay**

Both my wife and I strongly oppose to the proposed funding model for the aquatic and health centre.

We are probably the exact target population you are after for the facility with two kids under two but are not in a position to afford the additional \$150 per year for 20 years plus membership fees!

**20/09/2015 Anglesea**

As non-permanent resident ratepayers, we strongly oppose the proposal to build a Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay North.

The centre will not be convenient to Anglesea, and would not deliver \$60 + \$50 annual benefits to my family. We would never use the facility.

Looking at the proposal objectively, it does not appear to be sustainable or viable from any perspective - particularly when considering that alternative centres are located within close proximity of Torquay (especially Torquay North).

We look forward to reviewing the feedback received via this consultation process.

**20/09/2015 Lorne**

I refer to a recent flyer received "Aquatic and health Center Information and Feedback" (undated)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

I have a major interest in a property ant Lorne and administer the property on behalf of my Superannuation fund.

I take pride in keeping my finances straight forward and keep away from forward commitment that I cannot control, in short I cannot afford to create future loans / commitments that are not within my control and importantly commit future expenses for unknown persons that that may not have any the understanding / expertise to say NO.

I do believe that it is the councils has responsibility to ensure that there are services, and assets that are required by the community.

I also believe that we all should live / spend within our means....and importantly I WE We strongly believe in the USER PAY PRINCIPLE.

Therefore if this health center is required, could it not be handed over to private enterprise to arrange a feasibility study; the cost of this Project should not be absorbed by such a wide geographical area that make it highly unlikely to be accessed by them.

From the information provided there was no: feasibility study provided or costing projections etc... it is just 'an idea'.

As a ratepayer, this troubles me, and is of concern.... as the council has devoted time and money to this project, In reality the only REAL benefit is possibly only for the local population of Torquay. The question is who is going to benefit in the short, medium and long term. The time and wages cost required to cover even this Survey are being paid by we the ratepayers.

From the information provided it appears that the costing for each ratepayer is really open ended...it could be a lot more than your provided estimate.

This facility would not provide for us, our family or visitors. Aquatically we have been bestowed with a fantastic coast line and surf beaches, providing the title Surf Coast to the Shire!

The Directors of the company have unimaously voted against this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to make our concerns heard.

**20/09/2015 Township not stated**

After reading the flyer.

My opinion is to oppose the idea.



We recognize the benefits of physical fitness activities.

We also agree a pool would be a benefit for the people of Torquay.

But a \$29 m. Dollar Aquatic centre is a different proposition.

Further we do not think that to expect the rate payers of say Angelsea let alone Lorne and Deans Marsh to be levied for an Aquatic centre in Torquay is a good idea.

**20/09/2015 Township not stated**

We strongly oppose the aquatic centre.

**20/09/2015 Township not stated**

I have tried to access your site for feedback and comments but there seems to be a problem.

I was wanting to comment on this proposal and its impact on me and I wish to **strongly protest** the proposed funding model and the construction concept.

This project is too limited in its concept and overall access and appears to be extremely expensive, particularly for the majority of ratepayers who will need to bear the burden for decades and never use the facility either because of distance or its small parochial appeal.

I am opposed to this project in its current form and funding options.

**20/09/2015 Township not stated**

If we are paying for the centre with additional rates, why should we have to then also pay to use the Aquatic centre?

I DO NOT support the proposal, unless if I pay to build it - I then get to use it free!

**20/09/2015 Aireys Inlet**

We are rate-payers in Aireys Inlet ... We have read the proposal for an aquatic and health centre at Torquay North.

Since we will get no value out of it, we are not interested in contributing. We would be happy to contribute to the build because it may be important for the youth of the Torquay area but the maintenance fee would be on-going for ever and would no doubt increase over time.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the discussion.

**21/09/2015 Lorne**

I own a property in Lorne.

I do not agree with the proposal to build the Torquay Aquatic Centre.

This proposal:

- offers no direct benefits to the people of Lorne
- will introduce a new potential liability for the ratepayers of Lorne

While I am happy to pay rates which provide many services I don't utilise but helps the community as a whole, I cannot see how an aquatic facility built on the far side of Torquay can be of any benefit to me or fellow Lorne community members.

**21/09/2015 Anglesea**

I wish to place my strong objection to those councillors who are proposing a "rate hike pool tax" for a project which clearly the Shire cannot afford.

Is this unscrupulous idea by some self interested parties the thin edge of the wedge ? What's next ?.....a sports stadium or race track for a minority clientelle to be paid by more tax hikes from all ratepayers?

It is very easy to spend "other people's money" .....

The supposed survey conducted is also a farce. Only 600 ratepayers out of approx 28,000 ratepayers in the Shire ? .....Only ONE in 47 ratepayers ???

What is the likelihood that ratepayers in outlying zones away from Torquay would ever travel for over an hour when other facilities are available closer to them ?

Torquay is a beach resort. To place such a gross facility at great expense would add to car pollution in the area, and NOT be a "Health Centre" - as the majority of any users would drive to that facility ...rather than walk to, or along the beaches.

**Please use reason and common sense and scrap this proposal.**

Even the Federal Government is proceeding down the path of "user pays" for most social needs,

I strongly object to this whole plan and on principle would NEVER willingly contribute to it through an unfair "rate pool tax".

**21/09/2015 Torquay**

Whilst I am not yet a permanent resident of Torquay I will live permanently in Torquay in the not too distant future. I would not use an aquatic centre. I currently have a huge Aquatic Centre within walking distance and have not accessed it in the time I have lived here.

I currently exercise by walking and cycling and cannot see that changing, hence I would not use the Torquay Aquatic Centre. I have children and now grandchildren and they come to Torquay for the beach not an Aquatic Centre which they can access in places that don't have a beach. There are swimming indoor facilities ie aquatic centres within a short drive of Torquay and these can be accessed by those wishing to use them.

In principle I don't support the creation and maintenance of an Aquatic Centre for Torquay. Torquay is a beachside town and well renown for this. I don't believe that this would increase tourism which

helps support the community economically. People have not moved to nor built in Torquay due to its having an aquatic centre - nor would they be likely to. People travel to or buy in Torquay to access the beach and its surrounds

The idea that I as a rater payer would have to pay for the centre for 20 years plus have a considerable amount of Council rate funds go annually towards the maintenance of this facility is not something that I would support. I believe in a user pays system where people have a choice; if they wish to use something then they pay for it.

I did not support the creation of the footpaths at a cost to rate payers as I think it takes the aesthetics' from the town but we are having to pay for this (Although the footpath is not on our side of the street). An additional rates surcharge for something that I would not access nor believe that the town requires would be harsh.

There is an indoor pool as a part of the RACV complex - this could be used by individuals if they wished or they could travel to Geelong or Waurn Ponds to access an aquatic centre just as Geelong people (and others) travel to Torquay to access the beach.

Thank you for the opportunity to have input on this large scale proposal. I would hope that if a decision is made to build this centre that alternative schemes to help pay for it are created or that a less grandiose proposal is favoured at a greatly reduced cost to both Council and ratepayers.

A final question - what percentage of rate payers would need to be in favour for this proposal to go ahead, as it appears that opinion is quite polarised and no clear majority established?

**21/09/2015 Township not stated**

We do NOT support the building o an aquatic centre in Torquay

**21/09/2015 Township not stated**

I strongly disagree with the funding model proposed for the new pool. Rate payers throughout the shire should not have to subsidise a pool which will be mainly used by local Torquay residents.

Try getting a grant off the state or federal government.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

**21/09/2015 Fairhaven**

I reside at ... Fairhaven.

I wish to express my opposition to the proposed Aquatic Centre at Torquay If it should, by chance, get the go ahead then I would propose that it be "User Pays".

It should not be operated by cross subsidy.

**21/09/2015 Aireys Inlet**

This is to let you know that being a regular visitor to Aireys Inlet (where we have a holiday house) there is **no way** we would ever use the aquatic and health centre at Torquay and certainly

would **not wish to** make a compulsory contribution through our rates. Our rates are already excessive (\$3500pa) which we already find difficult to pay.

With a surf beach and a sheltered beach available at Torquay, it seems unnecessary to even consider wasting tax payers money on a swimming pool in this area.

**So my vote is to NOT GO AHEAD with building the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre.**

**21/09/2015 Anglesea**

I am a ratepayer of the surf coast shire with a residence in Anglesea. I totally object to any suggestion of being forced to contribute any money via rates or any other means what so ever to build a facility in Torquay which I will never use.

If Torquay residents want a swimming pool in Torquay let them raise the funds to build and maintain it. It's totally preposterous to suggest residents as far away as Anglesea and Lorne should pay for it for the next 20 years.

Shame on you, you are supposed to represent all your residents not just those in Torquay. I will be joining with the many other community voices to stop this ridiculous plan.

I suspect there is more to this than meets the eye so I will be looking into how this came about, was this an election promise? If so by whom with what financial modelling.

Very concerned resident of Anglesea.

**21/09/2015 Modewarre**

As a resident and ratepayer in Surf Coast Shire, I would like to express my extreme opposition to using Council rates and special charges to fund an Aquatic Centre in Torquay.

As noted in the proposed funding model, an Aquatic Centre located in Torquay would clearly have greatest benefit for those living in Torquay with very little benefit for those living in other areas of the Shire.

With numerous existing Aquatic and Health facilities already available in Geelong , I fail to see why Torquay requires its own facilities. Why shouldn't those in Torquay who want to use these facilities travel to Geelong to make use of the facilities which is a far less distance to travel than for those in other areas of the Shire who would have to travel to Torquay and for many of these people, Geelong would also be less travel distance than Torquay

Why also, should those who have no interest or intention of using an Aquatic Centre have to pay to support the interests of a small minority.

Shire Rates and funding should only be used for projects that benefit the vast majority of resident ratepayers across the whole Shire.

I also take exception to the 'special charge scheme' proposed by the Council to fund and maintain this Centre. A project of this sort, targeted for the benefit of a small number, should be funded and maintained by the 'User Pays' process.

I appreciate the opportunity to pass on my views of this project and funding scheme and I trust they will be included in the public feedback before the December Council meeting.

**21/09/2015 Township not stated**

Like, it would seem, many others in the Shire, we would not be too keen on the development of the proposed aquatic centre. While such a centre would have many undoubted benefits (even though we are within cooee of the beach), the benefit-cost analysis would for us not seem to stack up. Costs would add almost another 10% to our annual rates, which are already substantial, and then there would be the normal admission fee to use the centre. **So please list us as being not in favour of the proposal.**

**21/09/2015 Township not stated**

As a ratepayer I am expressing my opposition regarding your proposed Aquatic and Health Centre.

I'm totally against such a project as it is a huge waste of ratepayer money. There will be a large number of ratepayers who either are not interested to use it or live too far away to be able to use it and whose finances will be drained for no good reason to them.

There are also those whose health is not good enough to visit the Centre - and in any case there is no proof that such visits will give them stress-relief, self-esteem and give "greater community connectedness", whatever that means. Also, your claim that the Centre will "protect against injury" appears fatuous.

This proposal is completely out of order, doubtful as to its legality and outside the Council's responsibilities to its ratepayers. The Council has no business to tell ratepayers what to do in their leisure time.

The proposed charges are oppressive and crippling to already overloaded ratepayers. Those who want to swim and exercise should pay for their activities and not expect other ratepayers to support them.

The project should not to be funded by ratepayers. Monies for it should come from the State and/or Commonwealth Government.

**21/09/2015 Lorne**

Firstly I draw attention to your recent correspondence sent to me and referring to me as a non-permanent resident ratepayer. I assume this presumption is based on the fact my mailing address is different to my actual Lorne address; however I wish to clarify my Lorne property is actually my principal place of residence - I travel very extensively for my employment thus have a postal address for this reason. With respect to the proposal for the aquatic centre at Torquay I am completely opposed to being asked to contribute in any way whatsoever to this. My reasons for this are-

- Rates for Lorne are already disproportionate with lack of services and infrastructure being provided
- Levies specific to Lorne ratepayers have been struck on more than one occasion for works with no real benefit to ratepayers only tourists and yet Lorne has been expected to bear these costs - no contribution from Torquay residents at all
- Swimming pool at Lorne could not even achieve being closed in and heated; and now you ask ratepayers to fund a project miles away at Torquay which Lorne residents would not use at all
- There is already an enormous aquatic centre at Waurnd Ponds - this should be more than sufficient for current needs and is relatively close for Torquay residents
- I consider this entire aquatic centre proposal an absurd waste of money when so many more urgent things need addressing at the surf coast.
- IF TORQUAY RESIDENTS WANT THIS AQUATIC CENTRE - TORQUAY RATEPAYERS MUST HAVE A LEVY STRUCK AND THEY ALONE SHOULD PAY

**21/09/2015 Anglesea**

This is a Torquay matter - not a Surfcoast responsibility.

Even Torquay residents could just as easily rely on pool facilities on the outskirts of Geelong.

Financially irresponsible - the very fact that this proposal is even being circulated causes me great concern in the common sense and commercial calibre of our current councillors and Surfcoast management.

For too long Surfcoast Shire has raised rates each year well beyond reasonable expectations, and this shire would likely be one of the primary targets for the Victorian State Governments announced intentions to undertake closer examination and control of overzealous local Council capital programmes and expense management controls.

**21/09/2015 Torquay**

Hello Testing the Waters

We have tried to submit all the comments made by community members to SCALCAG's Facebook page, and subsequently uploaded onto our website with their consent via your Aquatic Centre Submission Form, but it is limited to how much data is allowed.

Therefore we have copied it all below and hope for these comments to be documented and recorded as part of the community consultation.

I don't understand what the hold up is, as we all know Waurnd Ponds is the closest Leisure centre available and this is always packed and not suitable to hold the number of attendees. Look at towns like Warrnambool, they have the most beautiful beaches, but they also have indoor centres and the

Olympic Pool has been there for more than 30 years, get on board Surfcoast Shire literally and spend your money where we need it.

**Name supplied – 7 March 2013**

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Dear Councillors .. please do this for our community .. we NEED THIS POOL!!!!

**Name supplied – 14 June 2015**

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I need a pool for my three kids to squad swim in so they can save lives in the ocean on patrol

**Name supplied – 14 June 2015**

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Please, we really do need an aquatic centre

**Name supplied – 14 June 2015**

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The Surfcoast needs an Aquatic Centre!

**Name supplied – 14 June 2015**

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It's about time the communities wishes for a pool were taken seriously not just to get politicians a yes vote. Having recently had spinal surgery it is recommended I have hydrotherapy but as it also advised I limit travel my options are very limited. By keeping active many health problems can be averted or minimised which in turn helps ease the pressure on community resources.

**Name supplied – 16 June 2015**

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Bailey Patman was found lying face down in the water at Seaford Beach after splashing about in the shallows with his friends on January 19, 2012.

The coroner investigating young Bailey's death has come out urging that Primary School Swimming lessons be made compulsory so that this never happens again.



The comments come off the back of a recent Life Saving Victoria study that found almost 60% of children are leaving primary school without the ability to swim.

Ok shire if viability is an issue there are three primary schools, a secondary school and proposed further primary school within the Torquay area, surely this supports the call for a pool? I dont ever want to read "Torquay child drowns", do you?

**Name supplied – 17 June 2015**

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As competition manager of a local lifesaving club I am well aware of the number of Families who commute into Geelong each week to ensure their Kids have the swimming skills they require not only to compete but more importantly to patrol and keep our beaches safe over summer. These Families are all volunteers and with the population growth we are experiencing on our coast it IS time we supported these volunteers who will be the next generation of lifesavers providing valuable services to our community. It's time to acknowledge the growth in our community and provide services and infrastructure that will support this growth long into the future.

**Name supplied – 17 June 2015**



Hands up if you have a 3228 postcode. This is only one many swim squads consisting of locals who left the Shire to train this morning .

We didn't ask for a Bunnings in Torquay and we got it!

We didn't ask for a Mc Donald's in Torquay and we got it!

We didn't ask for a Coles in Torquay and we got it!!

Now we ask for a pool and we DON'T get it!!

I don't get it!! Come on Surfcoast Shire Council, GIVE US A POOL!!!

**Name supplied – 14 June 2015**

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Miles....or kilometers anyway... in the pool are a big part of the training regime for many things, including surf lifesaving. They're not only competitive athletes, one day they might have to save your life. My son won his swimming events at the school sports today as well. Hopefully soon he will have somewhere local to train too.

**Name supplied – 25 February 2014**



I grew up in this town and I'm now raising my two here as well. This is a great place to raise kids, but it is missing something. Unless your teenage children surf or skate, there really is nothing for them here. A Surf Coast Leisure Centre would be a great place for teenagers to meet up. There would be a pool to swim in all year round, fitness classes that could keep them active, water slides & stuff for fun & all would be supervised by trained professionals. This town NEEDS something that all ages can benefit from, and an aquatic centre would fill that brief.

**Name supplied – 14 June 2015**

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I am in utter disbelief that a public swimming pool does not appear to be seriously on the Surf Coast Shire's agenda!

In 1979 in the outer suburbs of Melb my public primary school built a swimming pool with strong school community support! We were fortunate that in the 1970's the benefits of swimming and learning to swim were deemed so important!

Now some 35 yrs later I drive for 30-40 min (each way!) weekly so that my kids can reek the benefits of swimming.

And I don't live beyond the black stump, I live in a town with 3 supermarkets, Bunnings, 2 servos, 3 primary schools, 1 high school, 2 surf life saving clubs, at least 5 churches, outdoor sporting fields etc etc....

Colac, Ocean Grove and Warrnambool each have an indoor facility, even Terang and Camperdown have a pool each.

It is 2015....the many benefits of swimming, water exercise and water play are simply common

knowledge ....the Surf Coast population is expanding continually ..... Yet why is this pool still on the back burner??

The demand is there Surf Coast Shire, the ever expanding community want it and need it so please build it .....NOW!!!

**Name supplied – 15 June 2015**

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A pool is long overdue in Torquay (the largest town in australia with out a pool apparently). It is such a shame we all have to drive to Geelong just to swim when there are so many swimmers living in Torquay. Swimming is the best form of physical activity and social benefits to the community are immense. We need a pool!

**Name supplied– 01 October 2012**

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Torquay pool will be much appreciated by many of us further down the Surf Coast as well. I'm heading into Geelong tonight for swimming lessons and don't get home until 8:45pm. Too late for primary school aged children...and their Mum!

**Name supplied – 23 June 2015**

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A Surf Coast Pool for us all.



Name supplied (Age 10) – 08 July 2015

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My kids are Nippers & we are involved with Jan Juc Surf Club. Lucky for us we have a local swim instructor because without her there wouldn't even be a place for my kids to get some quality Swim Squad action. The Swimming Clubs are great for kids that want to compete at Pool Swim Carnivals but for kids that just want to get fit and be competent in the water there is no place for us. I thought I would share the minimum requirements set by Surf Life Saving Australia that children need to do Nippers, & therefore be confident in the water. Really this is the minimum for all our kids that want to swim & surf safely on the Surfcoast in any activity.

Under 8s/9s/10s 25m swim, 1.5 min survival float

U11 50m swim, 2 min survival float

U12 100m swim, 2 min survival float

U13 150m swim, 3 min survival float

U14 200m swim, 3 min survival float

Then each child must obtain their S Badge to compete or be involved in our Nipper Training Squad.

We legally cannot have children in the water without them obtaining this. They must do these swims within the time and without any hesitation. i.e. popping their heads up to look around & catch their breath is not allowed.

Under 9 Minimum 150m open water swim in 12 minutes

Under 10 Minimum 150m open water swim in 11 minutes

Under 11 Minimum 288m open water swim in 12 minutes

Under 12 Minimum 288m open water swim in 10 minutes

Under 13 Minimum 288m open water swim in 9 minutes

Under 14 Minimum 288m open water swim in 9 minutes

Our Nipper program has been steadily growing over the last few years. We have approx. 200 Nippers in our long training program from Oct – Mar. (135 of them went on to compete at the State Championships in Warrnambool in March) A further 80 last year came to the club for the 3 week program in January. 95% of these children are local. This isn't even considering Torquay and Anglesea Surf Club's program. We then try & encourage our Nippers to stay on and be fully fledged lifesavers. This promotes a healthy lifestyle & wonderfully healthy relationships.

Parents want their children to be competent in the water, the only way to do this is to get them into the pool. How can working parents do this if they are constantly driving in & out of Geelong? Our community is growing rapidly with young families & they need to be competent in the water.

Don't even get me started on the fact that my mother who has MS has to go into Leisure Link for her swimming class once a week. Grrrrr! I would love for her to get in the pool more but this just isn't possible.

Build it & we will swim!!!

**Name supplied – 16 June 2015**

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I would like to echo the sentiments of fellow posters of this group.



I have two children active in the nipper program, to train for this program, as well as encourage proficient swimming skills for leisure swimming at the beach, we attend swimming lessons every week in Geelong all year round.

We would also like to join a squad but along with many other sporting and work commitments a second trip into Geelong , probably early in the morning, is just not feasible.

In addition to this, having a local pool ticks so many boxes for council i.e. addressing their “Living Green” and “a place of well-being” initiatives.

I would love to reduce my carbon footprint by less driving, and I am trying to raise healthy well balanced children who will contribute positively to our community , but not having a local pool just places unnecessary hurdles in our path !

**Name supplied – 17 June 2015**

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As an ex-ratepayer and now rent-payer I wonder how big a stake people in my situation have in all of this? Will the rate-payers have a special pool pass, or perhaps gatekeepers’ pass while renters and holiday makers have a groveller’s ticket? Maybe non-ratepayers could have a large red ‘P’ for ‘pov’ stitched on any swimwear they own so that when the community is using the pool (funded, apparently, by those long-suffering rate-payers) all the freeloading renters can be indentified and shunned accordingly? It’s not a feudal society folks. We abolished that a few hundred years ago.

**Name supplied – 17 July 2015**

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We moved to Torquay 3 1/2 years ago. I initially had swimming lessons for my little boys in leisurelink Waurnd Ponds. When the first one hit school age, I found it to far and too late for them to actually have a energetic swimming lesson. I found the swim school in Torquay, which is great. Though now the oldest is swimming, I think he should have swimming lessons in a deeper pool, to work on confidence and stamina. I don't look forward to travel again to Waurnd Ponds or futher a field. I want my boys to be confident swimmers and continue swimming on cold and wet days. We want a pool in Torquay!!

**Name supplied – 14 June 2015**

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Where I come from there's a couple of schools that have teamed up with the local council and a swimming school to build a facility that is used by the general public and the school and the swimming school. the facilities are built on the school land and the collaboration means that there is a situation where there are lots of winners and the funding/costs are spread over a number of parties. it's a creative solution....

**Name supplied – 17 June 2015**

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My gorgeous elderly neighbour swims and/or does aqua aerobics almost every day – she is an inspiration in her quest to stay fit, healthy and active as she grows older – taking charge of her own health not being a burden on the health system. She is fortunate to be able to afford a membership at RACV. Many cannot afford this.

My kids, like many others get driven in to do swimming weekly – this is not an easy task for our family as we are both working parents so have to drive into Geelong daily, work, drive home to pick them up, then back into Geelong for swimming – many cannot do this due to the time or inflexibility of work commitments. We struggle with this as well at times.

Our town has many wonderful community volunteer lifesavers that donate many hours of their time for the safety of our community and the tourists that visit our beaches. Yet to keep their swimming skills strong and stay competent in the water we reward them with having to travel into Geelong for find a pool in the winter months.

A public pool is not just a place to gain fitness or to learn swimming – it is a place people can go to connect with others, have some fun, that is accessible to all.

Lets make fitness, health, community connection and life skills affordable and accessible for all – provide a public pool for our community now – we are definitely behind the times on this.

Please let us know what we can do to lobby harder for this – make it easy for people – provide email addresses of who we need to pester etc so we can all be proactive on an issue we shouldn't be having to fight so hard for.

**Name supplied – 15 June 2015**

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I don't believe the council unaware of the community sentiment regarding the need for a pool and it seems ridiculous that after all these years we are still waiting.....perhaps we should ask a multi-national supermarket chain to make a request on our behalf....council seems to be able to say "yes" to woolworths and Coles?!?

**Name supplied – 14 June 2015**

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We need a facility so our children can learn water safety. We live on the ocean, its a no brainer.

Can't believe council still in the sand about this. Let alone support the local Businesses in  
rehabilitation and create jobs.

**Name supplied – 15 June 2015**

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Getting ready to go into Geelong yet again to my swim lesson, come on Surf Coast Shire build a pool  
I will swim!!!!

**Name supplied – 04 June 2015**

*(end of group submission)*

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**21/09/2015 Lorne**

I am not in favour of special Community Funding for the proposed centre. As a property owner in Lorne my family would never use it. Also, In these days of general community belt tightening I would think living within its means, and building only essential community projects should be the focus of Local Council. There is a beautiful coast immediately adjacent whats wrong with swimming in the sea

**21/09/2015 Lorne**

I am the owner of... Lorne and have received information from you regarding the proposed Torquay Development.

As there is an Aquatic Centre at Waurm Ponds, extensive facilities at the RACV development on the outskirts of Torquay and three facilities within the Geelong area, I am against the proposed development at Torquay.

The cost to all rate payers within the SurfCoast Shire is not acceptable.

**21/09/2015 Torquay**

I am an absent resident in Torquay and I strongly object to the additional fees required to build this centre. I feel that the council rates are far higher in Torquay as it is compared to Metropolitan Melbourne, so for this reason my vote would be a NO! There are plenty of health benefits by just walking along the beautiful beaches. There is a centre in Waurin Ponds so we do not need another one on Torquay. You can contact me my email if you wish.

**21/09/2015 Deans Marsh**

Due to no forum being arranged in Deans Marsh (fulltime residential populations greater than Lorne's!), a petition was arranged at the General Store for people, who felt unable to drive down the treacherous Deans Marsh/Lorne road especially in the dark, so that they could register their opinion on building an Aquatic and Leisure Centre on the boundary between Torquay and Geelong.

There have already been many signatures (not one in favour!) and I would like you to confirm the latest date for which these forms need to be returned.

Also would you need the originals or would photocopies suffice?

**21/09/2015 Gnarwarre**

I am opposed to the Proposed Aquatic Centre at Torquay as proposed.

**21/09/2015 Jan Juc**

My name is ... and I have a holiday house at ... Jan Juc

I would totally oppose having to pay additional rates to cover the construction and ongoing operation of the centre

I am only there on a part time basis and would not use the facility.

I believe if the council cannot afford to build and operate the facility it shouldn't be built.

As a rate payer I have already have to pay for pathways and now you want ratepayers to pay more.

The rates are already very high when compared to my domestic residence.

**21/09/2015 Township not stated**

I am unconvinced that the Surf Coast Shire have adequately sought costings for the construction. There are many examples of similar centres being built for significantly less than \$29 mil. The supposed \$1,000,000 loss, more than half of which goes to a notional facility replacement fund, is ridiculous. This effectively means that we pay for the centre twice. Is this the same costing method used for every capital works that council undertakes eg.. pre-school centres, indoor sports courts, pavilions, council offices etc...

The suggestion that the centre would only attract 350 members is quite frankly silly. When I used to

work in non- council fitness centres (as they were called then) even moderately sized ones would expect 1000 members.

**21/09/2015 Anglesea**

As non resident rate payers with a home in Anglesea, we object to paying for the building and running of an aquatic centre that we would never use. The beach is the main attraction of this area and money toward protecting and maintaining this natural environment is of far greater benefit to the community.

To expect all ratepayers to contribute to something that I would assume the majority would not use, but is far more likely to be used by young families residing in Torquay seems unjust.

**21/09/2015 Anglesea**

please accept my comments as a rate payer regarding the proposed aquatic centre

overall i am opposed to it

\$29m seems an incredible amount to pay for a 25m pool numbers don't stack up business wise

much better ways to spend money for improving recreation spread throughout surf coast users are likely to be restricted to locals in torquay

we're on the coast so its not as if we need a place to swim too far to drive for a small pool go to geelong for serious training (50m pool)

email me know if you require any further information or my details

**21/09/2015 Anglesea**

I do not wish contribute to the funding model as I will not receive any benefit from an Aquatic Centre being built in Torquay.

If you were to consider moving this centre to Airey's Inlet or Anglesea I would review my support.

**21/09/2015 Township not stated**

We both oppose the building of an Aquatic & Health Centre as by the time the loan is paid for in 20 years !!!!! the building would be out dated and more millions would be needed to bring it up to scratch and then the next Generation will want something entirely new & different so more millions and so it goes on, we live in Colac and see what has happened to our Blue Water Fitness & Pool Centre which just seems to be going on and on and us the rate payers have to keep paying more in our rates so when does it ever STOP !!!!!!!

**21/09/2015 Township not stated**

The proposal to build a hugely expensive Aquatic and Health Centre cannot be supported. The centre would only be available, from a practical viewpoint, to residents living in close proximity to Torquay.

Torquay is situated at the periphery of the Shire and a Centre located there would be impossible to access for residents more than 15 km away.

I note there are already two 25m pools in Torquay.

I am strongly opposed to the proposal and feel aggrieved that the Council would consider placing a levy on all rate payers.

**21/09/2015 Aireys Inlet**

I am responding to the information received regarding the Aquatic and Health Centre.

I am a non-residential rate payer in the outermost zone, Airey's Inlet. I therefore state up front that my personal access to a Centre located in Torquay is of no benefit to me or my family.

I regard this proposal as being of exclusive benefit to the Torquay residents and holiday makers.

The burden of paying for this facility being placed on the wider community is both unfair and unreasonable.

I am aware that improving the general amenity of the Surf Coast in general terms sees flow on benefits to the wider community and therefore spending in one area can see benefits further a field. However, Torquay as a destination for holiday makers is as a beachside resort – a pool/aquatic Centre is not essential to draw holiday makers.

Furthermore – in terms of access to a modern well equipped Aquatic Centre- Waurin Ponds is little more than 15 mins from Torquay. Any Melbourne resident will testify that this represents easy and relatively close access.

I am therefore firmly opposed to this venture on the following grounds:

It benefits only a small portion of the wider Surf Coast community,

Access to an alternative facility is readily available

Cost benefit analysis does not favour the venture.

Expecting the wider community to fund this facility is unfair.

**21/09/015 Bell Brae**

We wish to lodge our objection to an aquatic centre in Torquay.

Our address is ... Bellbrae.

Our reasons are as follows.

Council should assess the basis for their existence – what are the services that really should be provided by local councils. Council should concentrate on traditional services provided for

ratepayers. Building and running a non-profit business should be way outside what a local council gets involved in.

If the rate payers have to subsidise the running of the pool to the extent of \$50 per property the expected usage must be too small or the catchment area is too small to generate enough usage to pay its own way.

The initial cost is too high for one local community to be committed to. The cost is enormous considering it is only a 25m pool – over 1m per metre.

There is a relatively new pool in Geelong that can well service the needs of Torquay – only 10-15 mins away.

The ongoing costs are too great to be added to our rates. Cost estimates normally increase over time so the annual running cost to each rate holder will most likely be more than the estimate of \$50.

Our rates are already too high considering we only live in the country area of the surf coast and do not get the benefits of living in Torquay or other major coastal towns. Certainly the traffic we have to put up with would be something council could spend money and time researching and doing something about rather than a community pool.

Council have far more important ways to spend resident money than on a pool/ aquatic centre for a few in the community. Even the cost of researching the proposal has been a drain on ratepayer contributions.

Rates are not an exhaustive source of funds and Council should be looking at ways to reduce rates not increasing them.

**21/09/2015 Lorne**

We are ratepayers with a property at ... Lorne.

We wish to lodge our objection of the proposed levy that we will have to pay for the aquatic center. It will only benefit the residents of Torquay and close by residents. It is of no benefit to ratepayers in Lorne or other towns that are not close to Torquay. There are sufficient facilities at present that would meet the requirements of Torquay residents without another one being built. Also, Lorne has its own facilities, and Mountjoy Pde upgrade, which were built and upgraded without any levy being imposed on Torquay residents, only Lorne residents. Why should levies then be imposed on Lorne residents when the benefit is for Torquay residents. It seems the Council only imposes levies on Lorne residents when projects are done in Lorne, but when the project is in Torquay everybody has to pay. It is discrimination on Lorne residents. If Torquay wants the center, levies should be only imposed on Torquay residents, the same as happens to Lorne residents when projects are done in Lorne.

**21/09/2015 Township not stated**



I just hope the people's preferences are seriously taken on board unlike in the past when elderly Aireys Inlet residents were forced to take action to put a stop to unwanted so-called improvements and associated fees that would have been a major burden to many residents.

**21/09/2015 Township not stated**

While an aquatic centre may have certain benefits for the community, it comes at enormous ongoing cost to ratepayers.

In the current economic climate Council should not consider borrowing money to fund a project that has only partial community support.

In recent times Council has been criticised for being too Torquay-centric and for being too inclined to foist special charge schemes on ratepayers.

Please consider the wishes of all ratepayers, including the large number in outlying districts, and focus on using rates revenue for high priority roads, footpaths, reserves etc.

I welcome your feedback.

**21/09/2015 Torquay**

To whom it may concern

Recently we received information via mail regarding the Aquatic and Health Centre Proposal and inviting ratepayer feedback.

My feedback is this:

I definitely do not support the proposal.

I do not understand the need for an aquatic centre given that we enjoy one of the best coastlines with ample beach which surely is the drawcard for the area rather than an aquatic centre which would be more in tune with suburban Melbourne which does not have access to the beach.

The suburbanisation of Torquay is, I feel, really tragic.

Your proposed funding model is ludicrous. Given that we currently pay huge rates it is an outrage that Council would further want to burden ratepayers by those amounts and for that period of time.

My belief is that Council should be fiscally responsible and should not undertake projects which are beyond its capacity to pay.

Council cannot be all things to all people and should be spending ratepayer money effectively and wisely.

There are plentiful avenues for the 'building of connectedness and self esteem' in the Torquay precinct.

I am more than happy to discuss these views in greater detail.

**21/09/2015 Anglesea**

This email is in response to circular received 18th September.

Please register our displeasure about the possibility of being asked to contribute through rate increases for the next 20 years or so for the proposed construction of an aquatic and health centre in Torquay North.

Being non resident rate payers in the Anglesea area we would like to advise that as retirees occasionally visiting the area we could not imagine that we would ever avail ourselves of the services offered from such a centre.

We can appreciate the benefit of such a centre for a younger demographic living closer to the area we object to having to contribute for the next 20 years.

Also, we have concern that the possibility of contributions decreasing as population increases may never eventuate.

On another note, the circular was received on 18th September was past the date of several of the information sessions which have already been held.

We live outside the area with no access to local papers and this is the first we have heard of this proposal.

Again, we do not agree with the proposed funding model for the Surf Coast Aquatic & Health Centre.

**21/09/2015 Township not stated**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Aquatic Centre.

As owners of a holiday home on the Surf Coast, my husband and I are strongly opposed to the proposed funding model. Our use of our holiday home is intermittent and I cannot see us being able to avail ourselves of the benefits such a Centre may well afford permanent residents.

Should the Centre proceed to building stage, surely funding could be better sourced form a "user-pays" philosophy. Assessing a likely take-up rate for the mooted Centre would inform a necessary funding scale for users.

We are members of a local fitness centre in Melbourne and pay a fortnightly fee to access it - which we do regularly. We appreciate the opportunity our Melbourne council has given us through the construction of the local amenity and we happily pay for the privilege. So we are not averse to recreational facilities - far from it! We simply seek a fair consideration in a region where non-permanent residents are fairly prominent.

Good luck with your decision-making.

**21/09/2015 Lorne**

As a holiday house owner at Lorne I do not classify myself as a non permanent resident. I am simply not resident. When I holiday at Lorne the idea of travelling 40 kilometres around the Great Ocean Road to an aquatic centre at Torquay is just not attractive. I go to Lorne to have a holiday at Lorne. Its aquatic centre is Louttit Bay plus an outdoor fresh water pool. I don't even drive through Torquay on my way to and from Lorne. I never go there. It is not part of my community. Expensive aquatic centres might be ok for a densely populated community that can support it but it doesn't make sense to put it on distant ratepayers to provide charity funding for a different community. The rates at Lorne are already very high. My house in Malvern is valued at much more than my little house at Lorne but the rates for Malvern are much lower.

**21/09/2015 Bells Beach**

Currently my rates at Bells Beach are substantially more than the rates I pay in Brighton on a comparable capital improved basis. I would be less than happy to see this differential become even higher, should rates be increased by up to \$200 per annum to fund an aquatic centre. A large part of the surfcoast's attractiveness is its beaches and I see no value or logic to having an aquatic centre, especially as it would probably get little use other than from some Torquay residents. From the proposed funding proposal it is fairly obvious that the Shire is not flush with funds. Council resources would be far better utilised reducing or controlling rate increases.

**21/09/2015 Lorne**

*Shire consultants say the bulk of users will come from within 10 min drive of the proposed Centre.  
Shire consultants say it will be easier for residents from Anglesea and beyond to get to the Waum Ponds Aquatic Centre.  
Shire consultants say the proposed new Armstrong Creek Aquatic Centre will impact on the viability of the Torquay Centre.  
Shire consultants say that in addition to the required operating cost subsidy, Council will need to make an allowance of approximately \$750,000 per annum for future capital maintenance upgrades (2009 estimate).*

We implore the Surf Coast Shire councillors to be influenced by sound economic management principals and cost V benefit pertaining to all ratepayers rather than a narrow interest group.

Dear Planning Officer

We strongly oppose building the proposed Torquay Aquatic Centre should it result in an increase in the rates or reduction in services for Surf Coast ratepayers in any other wards than Torquay Ward. The proposed Centre will be of minimal or no benefit to residents in the shire who live more than 10 minutes' drive from the Centre, consequently not benefitting Lorne ratepayers such as us nor our families, rather adding excessive additional living costs.

Mayor Margot Smith acknowledges the contentious investment would have implications well beyond the Torquay township. "With these figures in mind, the project would result in a substantial impost on the whole Surf Coast community — be it through cutting other services or infrastructure, deferring projects or through special rates and levies depending on how the Victorian Government's plan to cap council rate rises works," she said. None of these scenarios is acceptable to the vast majority of Surf Coast ratepayers. We wholeheartedly agree !

Council is now predicting it will take 20 years rather than 10 years for the Centre to conceivably break even. Shire wide rates were predicted in 2009 to require an increase of up to 9% specifically to fund the Torquay Aquatic Centre. The current uncertain economic times, exacerbated by reduced federal government funding of councils, will see serious inaccuracies with past predictions of construction, funding, operating and future capital maintenance and upgrades costs.

*Shire consultants say Torquay hasn't the scale of population for a further 10 years to support the proposed Centre.*

**21/09/2015 Aireys Inlet**

I am a non-permanent resident at Aireys Inlet, and I am a very frequent (twice weekly) water exercise participant in the Mount Alexander and Bendigo City Shire swimming pools.

I am strongly in favour of swimming pool facilities being available to rate-payers, and support the proposal of a new aquatic centre in the Surf Coast Shire.

I am willing to pay an extra charge for improved aquatic facilities.

Because I live in Aireys Inlet (part-time) I probably would not use the facility in Torquay very often, so I also support the proposed graded extra charge structure.

**21/09/2015 Lorne**

Dear survey, As a Lorne rate payer I already have access to a fantastic Lorne pool and Gym on our foreshore, so I am completely opposed in funding a similar development in Torquay with a rate hike as outlined. To ask the Lorne community to help fund a centre which they will not benefit from is opportunistic at best.

**21/09/2015 Torquay**

We would like to lodge our strong resistance to the proposal for an aquatic centre in Torquay – funded by Council. The 20 years plus impost on all the Shire’s rate payers is ridiculous, considering that most wouldn’t use the facility. The additional monetary value to be paid is especially high for those living closest, and deemed to most likely use the facility.

As per many well written newspaper articles and “letters to the editor” in recent newspapers:

- The Waurm Ponds aquatic facility, and the proposed Armstrong Creek aquatic facility are in close proximity to Torquay, thus making the viability of Torquay aquatic centre less achievable.
- There are already swimming pools in Winchelsea, Lorne and Torquay, all with great learn to swim programs.
- Seeking investment from State and Federal governments for the aquatic facility is ludicrous when Council has already worked out a list of far more demanding priorities for capital spending. Why would Council seek any funding from State & Federal governments for an aquatic centre, and thus deny or waste the opportunity of receiving more money that should be and would be spent in other areas?
- The funding proposal is very onerous if living in Torquay, paying for something we won’t ever use.
- The funding proposal is very onerous for pensioners owning property in Torquay, and does nothing for housing affordability across the Shire.
- Investors will pay several times for the same facility, if one owns multiple investment properties in close proximity to the proposed new facility. Tenants will bear the cost of this in addition rent, and thus does not improve housing affordability across the Shire.

We both use the beach for our recreation (aquatic?) facility, and haven’t been in a swimming pool for decades. If the facility was privately funded, and was run as a business, and was independently self-supportive, we would not have any strong views either way.

**21/09/2015 Lorne**

The meeting last night was very disappointing with the loudest voices determined to close it down, a lack of respect for the moderator and shire officers, and no opportunity for calmer exploration of alternative proposals.

I carelessly dropped my token in the totally negative vase but I want to record that I am not opposed to a pool facility in Torquay, nor the charge on Lorne ratepayers of \$20 a year. My more important concerns are the Shires' future access to finance for other projects and the size of the pool making it unsuitable for school learn-to-swim and events.

The meeting appeared to have no representation from young families, not possible at that time or perhaps at any time, however they are the real beneficiaries and would probably be prepared to drive to Torquay. A swimming pool was the centre of my youth and later as a parent. Most children do not learn to swim in the sea, especially surf beaches.

A further concern is the cost of the necessary major works, replacement of machinery etc. in ten years.

I believe that regardless of the results of these public meetings there is room for more discussion and exploration of alternatives.

Thank you for your representation.

**21/09/2015 Lorne**

No. The cost is prohibitive, the benefits marginal, and only a few residents, mainly in Torquay, will benefit. As Lorne rate payers we are offended that this proposal is already costing us with scoping work.

With thanks

**21/09/2015 township not stated**

Regarding the proposal for the Aquatic Centre, after reading the information sheet I am against the Centre. If the proposal is not self funding why build it?

The actual cost to ratepayers is between \$70 and \$200 per year for the first 15/20 years, plus admission and membership. Then ongoing costs of \$50 forever.

What happens if these charges do not cover operating costs?

Is it fair to impose these costs on people that will more than likely never use the facility both residents and non residents.

Living in a Coastal environment there are many activities that can be undertaken that provide Health and Wellbeing benefits that are free or minimal cost.

**21/09/2015 Aireys Inlet**

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to say I strongly object to the proposal to build an Aquatic and Health Center with the expected extra contributions as proposed in the letter dated 14 Sept 2015.

WI live at Aireys Inlet and struggle to pay the existing rates.

We would certainly not be driving to Torquay to use the facility anyway

**21/09/2015 Boonah**

As we are listed on the Surf Coast Shire Council's database as a non-permanent resident ratepayer, I hereby inform you that WE ARE OPPOSED IN CONTRIBUTING EXTRA PAYMENTS towards the funding of the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre.

**22/09/2015 Lorne**

I do realise that the Surfcoast council is Torquay centric but expecting all taxpayers to fund your aquatic centre is NO GO ZONE.

To date we have funded your new council buildings, your skate parks, I do not want to support your aquatic centre.

I am a rate payer from Lorne, I will not use the centre, I will use the sea...

So no thankyou, do not bill me for your Aquatic centre

**22/09/2015 Lorne**

We reside in Lorne on a part time basis at present with the view to possibly retire in the next few years. We have already paid levies for Drainage, and the Lorne streetscape and we would be against further levies being imposed for something which we definitely will not use and which is 40 - 50 kilometres away.

Please register our objection!

**22/09/2015 Lorne**

This email is in response to information about the proposed Aquatic Centre mailed to us as owners of a property in Lorne 3232.

We strongly object to any levies or charges that are proposed to finance the building and operating of an Aquatic and Health Centre located in Torquay. It will have no benefit or attraction to us located in Lorne, will never be visited by us and will only benefit residents living in close proximity to the Torquay centre, presumably within 10kms. The history of cost estimates would suggest that it is highly probable that both building and operating costs will be exceeded and if so, this would automatically flow on as a further penalty to ratepayers, including those that will never use or benefit from the centre. It is likely that it will be used by a small percentage of ratepayers who will be subsidised by the majority of ratepayers.

I suggest that the feasibility be based on recovering building and operating costs from ratepayers most likely to use the centre, eg within 10km of the proposed location, and pool admission fees set at a level to more accurately reflect a user pays contribution to cover operating costs. Ratepayers

within 10km of the centre could have a lower entrance fee and non ratepayers or those residing outside the 10km zone would pay a higher entrance fee. That would be a fairer and more equitable approach to the proposal. If the estimate based on the above suggestions indicates that entrance fees would be too high, then it is obvious that the centre would not attract sufficient numbers and should not proceed

**22/09/2015 township not stated**

I understand the health benefits but I am opposed to the additional impost on the ratepayers.

I may use the facilities.

I believe that the centre should be factored into the long term Council budget for the construction. Operation of the centre could be tendered out .

**22/09/2015 Lorne**

I do not want to contribute \$20+\$50pa for 20 years (\$1,400) for a pool/centre I will never use. I live in Melbourne, am retired, and have had a holiday house in Lorne for over 25 years. We have a pool in Lorne with associated facilities. Lorne people do not need to finance another centre.  
Strongly against this proposal

**22/09/2015 Anglesea**

I am opposed to the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre because many of the ratepayers who are being asked to provide the funding will rarely if ever have the opportunity to use the Centre. Many ratepayers, including myself, use their properties as holiday homes and are not permanent residents. Our house is at Anglesea, and it is unlikely that we would ever drive to Torquay to use an Aquatic Centre when we have so many beaches on our doorstep.

In my opinion if the Council does decide to proceed with this project, the only equitable funding scheme would be based on a user pays principle.

**22/09/2015 Jan Juc**

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Council for the research and community consultation undertaken in considering this proposal for the Surfcoast community.

However, I do not support the proposal for a number of reasons. Council is already under pressure to maintain and improve upon the excellent range of services already offered to our community. The smallish capital works budget is also extended and while Council, in the main, uses its limited resources well, there is still much more to accomplish. By way of example, I would point in the direction of Gilbert St, Torquay. If ever a streetscape needed a makeover we need to look no further.

In addition, the state government intends to pursue the idea of a rating cap on all councils across the state. This will act like a giant stress test on councils with the long term impacts on the delivery of

services and capital infrastructure unknown. As a small growth council, Surfcoast will be impacted heavily, and probably, adversely.

To take on a \$25m+ single capital project, however funded, at this stage of the Council's life is too much. All ratepayers will be heavily impacted in some way whether directly through the rate or through some sort of special charge.

Your own excellent research document sums up under "Weaknesses" what's wrong with the project: Namely:

- A smaller than ideal catchment size that will require a substantial annual subsidy
- Proximity to Leisure Link Waurin Ponds.
- Planned Aquatic Centre in Armstrong Creek.
- Strong forecast growth based on continuation of current trends. Actual growth rates may vary due to unforeseen changes in economic, social or demographic trends.

For these reasons and many more, I implore Council to reject this proposal at this time.

**22/09/2015 Lorne**

We are residents of .... Street, Lorne. It is our permanent place of residence. We object strongly against further rate rises for Lorne. Lorne have the highest rates of the surfcoast shire. You are driving permanent people out of their homes. Is this what the Surfcoast shire wants for Lorne just a holiday resort. We vote NO to the aquatic centre for North Torquay.

**22/09/2015 Lorne**

I cannot support an increase in our rates to help to pay for a pool in Torquay.

We have a holiday home in Lorne which we use often. We do not however go near Torquay and have no intentions of doing so.

I believe if it's something that Torquay really needs then perhaps it should only affect Torquay rate payers or separate fund raising should be organised to pay for it.

**22/09/2015 Torquay**

Good morning,

We are the owners of 2 units (Dual-keyed) @ The Torquay Resort and as such are Shire rate payers. As we and guests enjoy wonderful pool/water facilities @ the Resort, for which we pay a large "Management Fee" for the operating/maintenance cost of the pool and aquatic facilities. We are struggling to pay the current council rates, water, power and all other operating costs as it stands without accepting further rate increases that will not benefit us at all so my response is not to support the "Funding Model" proposal.

**22/09/2015 Lorne**



As a part owner of a residence at ... Street, Lorne, I am opposed to the idea of any of my annual rates contributing to either the construction or ongoing maintenance of the above Centre, for the obvious reason that my family would derive no benefit at all from the Centre, with it being located so far from Lorne.

Our family, as Lorne ratepayers, have recently paid special charges for both the Lorne streetscape (\$413) & the Lorne Roads & Drainage Catchment L7 & 8 (\$1,432.56) and I feel fairly confident in saying that the residents of Torquay did not contribute to the costs of these projects, so I see no reason why we should contribute to their project.

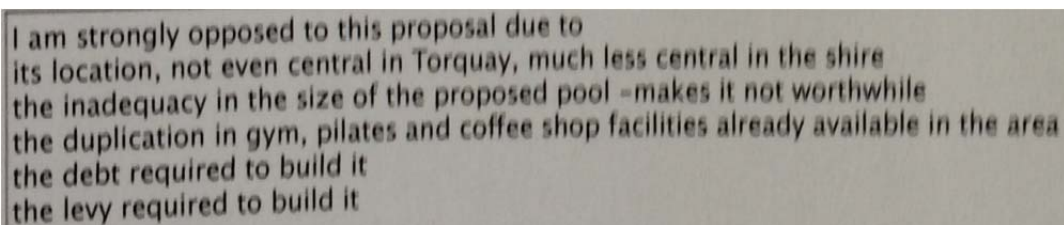
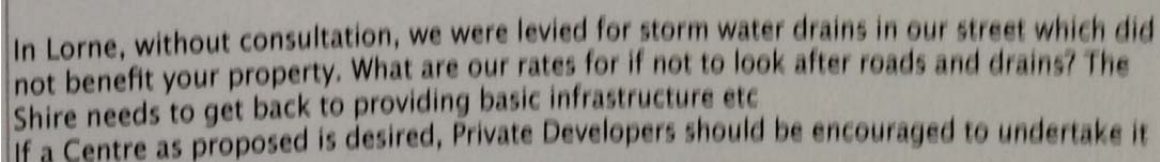
**22/09/2015 Anglesea**

As a property owner in Anglesea primarily used as a holiday house and used by family 40% of the year I'm opposed to the construction of the centre that requires additional and ongoing funding from surf coast ratepayers for a facility that will have no benefit for our family whilst residing in Anglesea. If we need to access pool and recreational facilities a short drive to Waurn Ponds where these facilities are readily available is what we can do.

We chose Anglesea for the ready access to the wonderful surf coast beaches and surrounding hinterland - why the need for a small 25m pool?

After discussion with our family we have agreed to totally oppose the proposal which will have no benefit for us. Let Torquay residents pay! Seek Federal and State Funding but not through an ongoing rate fee.

**21/09/2015 Lorne**

A photograph of a document with handwritten text in black ink. The text reads: 'I am strongly opposed to this proposal due to its location, not even central in Torquay, much less central in the shire the inadequacy in the size of the proposed pool -makes it not worthwhile the duplication in gym, pilates and coffee shop facilities already available in the area the debt required to build it the levy required to build it'.A photograph of a document with handwritten text in black ink. The text reads: 'In Lorne, without consultation, we were levied for storm water drains in our street which did not benefit your property. What are our rates for if not to look after roads and drains? The Shire needs to get back to providing basic infrastructure etc If a Centre as proposed is desired, Private Developers should be encouraged to undertake it'.

**22/09/2015 Anglesea**

Whilst one can well appreciate that some citizens of Torquay would like to have this proposed facility, I am absolutely astonished that your Proposal includes the concept that ALL ratepayers within the WHOLE municipality would have to contribute to the costs by an annual levy in addition to the normal very high rates and service charges.

Having already spent \$40,000 on the feasibility study and survey, it almost beggars belief that you also agreed to conduct Community Forums in Anglesea, Lorne and Winchelsea, thereby incurring more expenses with Council representatives travelling to and from and attending such forums.

If the ratepayers of Torquay are so eager to obtain the facility, they should be quite prepared to meet not only the establishment costs but also any deficit resulting from annual running costs. The few outsiders keen to use the facility from time to time should be quite willing to pay reasonable entrance fees.

Frankly, the proposal does NOT seem to accurately reflect the Council's "focus on sound financial planning" as emphasised in the July "Groundswell".

With respect, using the vernacular, the concept is a "no brainer", and should be dropped or terminated forthwith.

**22/09/2015 Township not stated**

To whoever at SCS collects comments and listens to the ratepayers.

Having read the overwhelming consultant's report that rate payers would only favour the centre if they **didn't** have to pay for it, **that is, the MAJORITY are not in favour**, why is the Council pursuing the matter and wasting ratepayer funds? Doesn't the Shire get the message – that is the funds are owned by the ratepayers, not the Shire. The Shire is there only to collect and distribute the funds according to the rate payer's wishes. In this case, wasting more funds pursuing the matter is not only futile, it's bordering on a criminal prosecution. The ratepayers will have their turn to send you guys the message at the next Shire elections. The overwhelming vote is No No No to this extravagant and unnecessary concoction that will never equal the natural beaches of Torquay. So why do we need a germ laden, enclosed chlorine filled disease spreading building when we have the natural beach. Daw!!

A disgusted ratepayer

**22/09/2015 Torquay**

I have received information on the proposal to build and Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay.

We are non-permanent resident ratepayers with both a holiday house which we use for our own benefit and a property which is permanently rented both located in the township of Torquay.

Whilst we can see that there may be some benefits to the community in having such a centre, we are strongly opposed to the funding model and therefore DO NOT support council building such a facility. Rates in the Surf Coast Shire are already significantly higher than those of our permanent residence (Manningham City Council) and to be potentially hit with a further special charge of \$150 x 2 plus \$50 x 2 added for maintenance equates to an annual increase to our rates of \$400 per year for no added benefit to ourselves. These costs obviously do not include additional admission or membership charges should we choose to actually use the facility. I am basing this opinion on the assumption that although we do not permanently live in Torquay, the special charge would still apply to our two rated properties that we own. If this is not the case then I would be happy for you to clarify this for me

When we are down at Torquay we actively walk and swim in the ocean. If we felt the need to either swim in a pool or go to a gym, we already have options available at both the RACV club and Torquay Sands Golf Club. We would therefore have no reason to use the proposed facility. I believe the same options would also be available to many others that may want to avail themselves of such facilities.

We do appreciate being provided with detailed information on the proposal and also the opportunity to provide feedback.

If you have any queries on any of this I am happy for you to contact me via email at any time.

**22/09/2015 Lorne**

I have a holiday property in Lorne and would like to say that I think it is a bit rich of the SunCoast Council to hit up the Lorne Residents for an Aquatic Centre in Torquay.

Most Lorne Residents that I know, would not use the Aquatic Centre and avoid Torquay like the plague, as it is really now just a suburb of Geelong and has a completely different demographic.

**22/09/2015 Torquay**

We agree to have it built and contribute but we feel residents of Torquay should have free admission and other residents in nearby

Localities should pay admission based on what proportion of rates they pay towards the aquatic centre. Visitors not contributing to

The centre who do not live nearby should pay full admission fee. We feel it is unfair that visitors not living in the municipality contributing towards

The cost of the centre should pay the same entry fee as those contributing extra in rates.

**22/09/2015 township not stated**

The idea to build the Aquatic and Health Centre is good benefit for the community provided that the contribution of the ratepayer should be affordable.

The proposed Funding Model charges between \$20 to 150 dollars is too much for single family. Plus ongoing extra \$50 to run it and to add to average rates bill, plus ongoing fees for 20 years is not affordable. The fees will escalate higher because of foreseeable future as well.

- ☐ The ratepayer should only pay extra to build it.
- ☐ Once the building completed the ratepayer should not pay any extra extra to run it.
- ☐ The building itself will make money once the building completed and operational.
- ☐ The Aquatic and Health centre will make money from charges when entering the vicinity. The Aquatic centre will pay itself once its operational.
- ☐ The Ratepayer should not be the brunt to fund the model for 20 years.

**22/09/2015 Lorne**

Thank you for sending the Proposed Aquatic and Health Centre Information sheet. I am the owner of a property at Lorne, and as a regular visitor to the area, I believe that it is inequitable to consider charging people, who will not use the proposed facility, both to construct the proposed centre as

well as to operate and maintain it. While I can understand that the centre would be of benefit to residents in the Torquay area, the proposed centre will be of no benefit to people in areas remote from the proposed centre. I therefore strongly object to the proposed aquatic and health centre in Torquay.

**22/09/2015** township not stated

As non permanent resident rate payers we do not feel that the proposed aquatic and health centre adds any significant value to our lives. We are surf club members - use the beach regularly in summer and shoulder months and are happy to drive to Waurm Ponds on the few occasions we wish to utilise an indoor pool. We ride bikes, run on tracks and the beach regularly and surf. We feel that our priorities lie with the facilities that nature has already provided and would prefer our rates/taxes are put towards maintaining these natural resources and roads.

**22/09/2015** Lorne

We are responding to your recent pamphlet regarding the above.

As the owners of ... Avenue Lorne we wish to advise we strongly disagree with the proposal for Lorne ratepayers to pay a levy for the next 20 years and also to have a \$50 increase in rates to pay for Aquatic Centre operating costs. We, like virtually all ratepayers in Lorne, would never use the proposed facility.

If people who reside in Torquay and nearby wish to have an Aquatic Centre the Council should adopt the same funding arrangements as they did for the upgrade of the Lorne Streetscape and various drainage projects in Lorne. That is, a special levy for the ratepayers of Torquay and nearby. This would be a fair arrangement whereby those who benefit from having the Aquatic Centre pay for it. Any persons who wish to use the Centre but who are not Torquay residents could be charged a higher entrance fee.

Lorne residents have been in negotiations with GORCC and others for several years to provide heating for the existing Lorne pool. There is absolutely no interest in Lorne for an Aquatic Centre in Torquay and it would be inequitable and unfair to force Lorne residents to fund the proposed project.

**22/09/2015** Township not stated

I strongly support the development of such an aquatic centre that is much needed for the surf coast region. It will bring enormous health & recreation benefits. However, I believe that an alternative form of funding needs to be investigated as simply increasing rates and / or one off rate payments will be a bitter pill to swallow for most residents, as suggested by the recent random phone survey.

**22/09/2015** Lorne

I strongly oppose building the proposed Torquay Aquatic Centre should it result in an increase in the rates or reduction in services for Surf Coast ratepayers in any other wards than Torquay Ward.

The proposed Centre will be of minimal or no benefit to residents in the shire who live more than 10 minutes' drive from the Centre, consequently not benefitting Lorne ratepayers such as us nor our families, rather adding excessive additional living costs.

Mayor Margot Smith acknowledges the contentious investment would have implications well beyond the Torquay township. "With these figures in mind, the project would result in a substantial impost on the whole Surf Coast community — be it through cutting other services or infrastructure, deferring projects or through special rates and levies depending on how the Victorian Government's plan to cap council rate rises works," she said. None of these scenarios is acceptable to the vast majority of Surf Coast ratepayers. We wholeheartedly agree !

Council is now predicting it will take 20 years rather than 10 years for the Centre to conceivably break even. Shire wide rates were predicted in 2009 to require an increase of up to 9% specifically to fund the Torquay Aquatic Centre.

The current uncertain economic times, exacerbated by reduced federal government funding of councils, will see serious inaccuracies with past predictions of construction, funding, operating and future capital maintenance and upgrades costs.

Shire consultants say Torquay hasn't the scale of population for a further 10 years to support the proposed Centre.

Shire consultants say the bulk of users will come from within 10 min drive of the proposed Centre.

Shire consultants say it will be easier for residents from Anglesea and beyond to get to the Wairn Ponds Aquatic Centre.

Shire consultants say the proposed new Armstrong Creek Aquatic Centre will impact on the viability of the Torquay Centre.

Shire consultants say that in addition to the required operating cost subsidy, Council will need to make an allowance of approximately \$750,000 per annum for future capital maintenance upgrades (2009 estimate).

We implore the Surf Coast Shire councillors to be influenced by sound economic management principals and cost vs benefit pertaining to all ratepayers rather than a narrow interest group.

**23/09/2015 Torquay**

As a long term resident of the Surfcoast Shire I would like to voice the need for an Aquatic centre within the region . It would bring great health benefits for people of all ages. However I am opposed to rate hikes to the Shire s residents an alternative method of funding needs to be reached.

**23/9/2015 Township not stated**

As a ratepayer (no longer a permanent resident) I am strongly opposed to this development. Most concerning to me is the business model proposed. From information sent out to ratepayers recently it appears the business model under consideration does not deliver sufficient revenues to cover operating costs, as is evidenced by the ongoing \$50 per annum subsidy ratepayers will have to provide to meet operating costs for the centre.

Operating costs should at minimum be covered by admission charges, even though I acknowledge the centre is a public good. Should this not be achievable due to the insufficient population density in the Shire the development should not proceed.

Going by rate assessment numbers on the Shire website, it appears the shortfall on an annual basis is somewhere between \$850K and \$1.1M (based on a \$50 annual charge per rating assessment, depending on whether general ratepayers or all contribute). This equates to the \$1M operating cost mentioned in the promotional material. If so, where are admission and membership revenues being diverted? Further, operating costs are running at 3.4% of upfront capital costs (ex-debt servicing; in reality much higher), a high number for a facility such as this. Viewed in sum, this is a very poor deal for the ratepayer and borrowings of \$21M represents leverage the Council should not be taking on for a marginal business case.

Ratepayers in the Shire are well served for their health and wellbeing needs through a combination of private sector offerings (RACV) and those offered by the adjoining municipality in Geelong. Introducing an additional offering into a well-serviced marketplace, and taking on significant debt to do so would be a reckless decision and represent a poor discharge of the duties and responsibilities required of Council.

I am happy to discuss this further and look forward to the release of the business and financial models for public comment.

**23/09/2015 Lorne**

As a ratepayer I do not support the proposed aquatic and health centre at Torquay. With the ocean nearby it is unnecessary to spend money on such a facility. Being a Lorne resident, my family would never utilise such a facility and so we wish to register our disagreement with the proposal.

**23/09/2015 Torquay**

Hi everyone, some of you may know me and others may not. I have been one of the members of the Surfcoast Aquatic Leisure Centre Action Group for nearly ten years. As you would guess I believe a community leisure centre would be an amazing asset for a large percentage of our Shire's population.

I am writing to say I think the current community consultation process has been both disappointing, unprofessional and divisive for our communities across the Shire. We have had Facebook pages set up to knock the people of the Torquay area's well founded desire for this facility. We have had many residents just think the whole thing is "too hard". We have a confused community who either do not understand if there is another financial model possible or what the next steps in the process will be. All in all I do not believe that the process undertaken has shown our Shire in the best light.

I could point out what I believe the flaws in the process and the modelling are but what I would like to do is to show you that these facilities are still being built all over our country. They are being built through all sorts of processes that include community fundraising, government grants, communities physically working on the projects etc . What does shine through in many examples is that the local councils have clearly articulated to their community the benefits of such facilities and have actively engaged with the community using positive processes to find a way forward.

I am not someone having a whinge because some members of our community do not want a pool to be built in Torquay. I understand that everyone has a right to their point of view. I am a community member asking you as our representatives to acknowledge the benefits a Leisure Centre

could bring and to work with the community in a positive manner in an attempt to find a process and a model that works for our community. You are the community's link to our CEO and council officers and I ask you to please get positively involved in this process going forward.

Thank you for your time

**23/09/2015 Jan Juc**

I wish to register my objection to any funding of the proposed Aquatic Centre.

I am soon to retire, I do not (and cannot swim), I never go to pools and see no reason why non users should fund this facility.

Either it is justified to come out of normal capital programmes that our rates already fund (not in addition to) and it is capable of operating on a commercial basis (that being entrance fees cover the ongoing operation and maintenance) otherwise it gets shelved. I would be paying an extra \$200 a year for 20 years for something I have absolutely no use for.

**23/09/2015 Township not stated**

I strongly support the development of such an aquatic centre that is much needed for the surf coast region. It will bring enormous health & recreation benefits. However, I believe that an alternative form of funding needs to be investigated as simply increasing rates and / or one off rate payments would not be fair and be a huge cost worn by home owners that may not benefit from the pool.

**23/09/2015 Township not stated**

I am not in favour of a new Aquatic and Health Centre as neither I nor my family will use it. We live too far from North Torquay and if we were to use a swimming pool, we could go to an existing one in the vicinity of Torquay or Geelong. I believe it would be unfair to get us to pay for something we are not going to use, especially when the rates are already high.

**23/09/2015 Anglesea**

I would like to respond by saying as a ratepayer who lives in Anglesea, I am not willing to pay extra rates to fund the new Aquatic and Health Centre.

My view is it should be funded by membership and admission only as I would certainly not drive to Torquay to swim. User pays is my view.

**23/09/2015 Aireys Inlet**

I am writing to express my views re the proposed aquatic centre in Torquay.

I am a resident of Aireys Inlet. I am also a very keen swimmer. I compete in 15 to 20 ocean swims per season and train regularly for competition. During winter I train 3 to 4 times a week in a pool and 5 to 6 times per week during summer ( pool and ocean)

At least 3 times a week I drive into Geelong to train at Kardinia pool when open and Leisurelink otherwise.

A pool in Torquay would be a bit closer for me, but I still have to drive to training Torquay or Geelong doesn't make much difference. My preference would still be to drive to Geelong to train in a 50 meter pool and outdoors when possible.

Most keen swimmers prefer to train in a 50 meter pool and outdoors even better

Geelong has good pool facilities and I strongly object to the proposal to charge ratepayers to build and maintain an aquatic centre in Torquay.

Only a small percentage of the coastal population seem to use pools regularly if the Torquay pool goes ahead will this percentage increase ? I doubt it as it still means driving to facility. So why is the whole community of the Shire being asked to contribute?

If built the number of new pool users from Torquay may increase as it will be 'just round the corner'. But proposed usage will not be enough to provide funds for ongoing running costs , hence 20 year rate increase. If high enough demand not there why go ahead ? To appease a vocal minority of we want a pool agitators?

The Torquay public already has access to pools at RACV and The Sands. Torquay Swim School is available for learn to swim. Also the Geelong pools are very close at hand. Sure these pools are probably not 'leisure pools', but is a pool required for leisure swimming, that has to be funded by a special charges scheme and ongoing rates charges ( for the whole Shire) really required ?

Lorne already has a pool. Money spent on it , covering and heating, would be a better option for that end of the Shire surly. But still not by using special charges schemes !

If people of Torquay want a pool and council can't afford to fund/maintain it then the people of Torquay need to raise funds to make it happen.

**23/09/2015 Township not stated**

It is unfair for owners of 1 and 2 bedroom units to have to pay a levy the same as owners of 3+ bedroom properties.

It is obvious that smaller units are occupied by less people and therefore less require a facility designed for families.

**23/09/2015 Lorne**

We are not in favour of your proposal for a special charge to fund an Aquatic Centre.

Rates are already too high.

The centre if it proceeds should be funded on a user pays basis, not by ratepayers, especially those from Lorne who will get no use from the facility.

**23/09/2015 Township not stated**

I support the push for a pool in Torquay. Preventative health activities like swimming and aqua aerobics should be encouraged by our local council. However I do not support the suggested funding model. Please research other funding options.

**23/09/2015 Township not stated**



I am a non resident property owner and do not agree with the additional rate charges to fund an aquatic centre.

I am not against council funding services of which I don't use or get benefit from (e.g.kindergartens or aged care support) but aquatic centres are notoriously expensive for a community with limited direct benefits across the community per dollar/per resident.

I understands there is a small pool in Torquay for water skill development and this should be assisted with funding for the learner population.

If the local user community wishes to have this centre then fund raising activities from that population should be encouraged. Non users should not have to pay for this.

**23/09/2015 Township not stated**

I recently attended one of your forums which I found very informative but also extremely disappointing in the way it was run throughout the evening

I along with the majority of the surf coast shire would use a pool and support the building of a pool in the shire it's clearly needed By being surround by water and surf it's essential that all children should have the opportunity to learn how to swim and survive in a local pool

A prime example of need is the membership of the RACV who were originally going to cap numbers at 250 and within two years memberships are over 1000 That does not include golf members who the majority are over 50 years old also use the pool spa and sauna facilities The facilitator who conducted the meeting at the Jan Juc meeting was very dictatorial and more often than not cut community members off before they had a chance to speak up and add comments. It seemed that the meeting was only conducted in the manner in what the shire wanted and they have made up their minds as to what they want not what the community wants A lot of members of the community don't attend meetings or voice their opinions as they are of the opinion their voices won't be heard Yet they will always support a pool but not on the current model the shire has put forward Many other pools have been built for a lot less than the proposed model set out by the Shire Allied health services will be used by the community and also subsidize costs by their rentals Water polo could be played and the shire could be put on the map and get grants to play polo MSAC Victoria has just won the rights to host the national league water polo finals in 2016 Schools would save alot of money by not traveling into pools in Geelong for lessons along with saving families money and time traveling into Geelong for lessons and squad training We are a healthy shire that needs and would use a pool Give us a pool and stop wasting time and grants on conducting surveys that are meaningless Let our voices be heard

**23/09/2015 Torquay**

I am writing this email in regards to the proposed funding of the new Aquatic Centre. Although we are not opposed to the aquatic centre being built we are strongly opposed to having to fund this centre to the tune of \$150 a year for 20 years. We are not full time residents and in fact live on The Sands so we have access to the pool there. We will probably never use the centre, especially as we are not down there a lot of the time. \$150 a year for 20 years is ridiculous to say the least. On top of that we would have to pay another \$50 a year for maintenance. I think it is ridiculous to suggest that we pay \$200 a year for something we may never use and even if we do we would have to pay admittance. I have never heard of such a ludicrous idea. Maybe if it was a one off payment of \$150 we could wear that but certainly not for 20 years. If you cannot come up with another way to fund this project then you need to ditch the proposal.

Hoping to hear of any further developments.

**23/09/2015 Torquay**

I do not think this aquatic centre should proceed. It will a) put the surf coast council under significant financial stress - which will consequently remove any capacity to resolve potential issues in the future b) Torquay/Surf coast does not yet have the population to support the facility c) I do not want to pay more rates on top of my already excessive rates and charges.

To put it simply the council cannot afford this facility if they require additional rates and taxes to pay for it!

Please let these facilities be built by free enterprise as it will be built efficiently and only when there is a business case to do so!

**23/09/2015 Torquay**

Shortly after my wife and myself arrived in Torquay in 1975, the then Council, asked all ratepayers what facilities they wanted in Torquay – the #1 by a large margin, was a pool! 35 years later we are still waiting, and completion seems as far away as ever!!!!

5 years ago I was part of, one of a series of community “pool committees”, and as this was shortly after the new pool was opened at Ocean Grove, I was asked to investigate this project. I visited the pool, and had a detailed discussion with members of the management committee, who were very cooperative. The pool is very similar to what was being proposed for Torquay. Significant results were as follows:-

- Total cost (on Council land), including all equipment was \$8 million.
- Detail plans were provided.
- Pool usage was far exceeding Council estimates.

Shortly afterwards, modified plans were submitted to the Surf Coast Shire Council, and several months later Council responded, with their own costing of \$19 million!!!!

Every town needs an all weather pool, particularly in a coastal environment, to teach children to swim competently, to maintain good physical fitness in all age groups, exercise for the elderly and disabled, a fun venue for family outings, a safe and enjoyable environment for children to play, etc. etc. etc. I have often heard the expressions “why a pool, when we have the largest pool in the world on our doorstep”, and “why do we need a pool in Torquay, when there is one already just down the road (Waurm Ponds)”, both of which are silly responses, from people who would never use a swimming pool anyway.

I found it disturbing to hear, that the Shire has a list of 45 priority items for funding over coming years, and a swimming pool is not included – after all that has been discussed! The recent funding model gives the strong impression, that it was developed with the objective of killing the project – of course the majority of the Shire residents will reject the proposal as presented! Have alternative sources of funding been fully investigated? Federal and State Government grants (particularly the

education department), community fundraising events, local benefactors, public private partnerships and sponsorships - what is the potential income from these sources?

If the Surf Coast Shire Council wanted a pool, I believe it would have happened years ago. What is the real problem.

**24/09/2015 Torquay**

I am opposed to the new centre and funding model as it will add an unacceptably high premium to everyone's already high rates bill. Torquay is surrounded by ocean that is good to swim in. \$200 per year for 20 years = \$40,000 - I can build my own pool for half that. Council should be realistic when asking for community financial contributions!

**24/09/2015 Township not stated**

I am opposed to the pool if costs relate to an increase in rates.

**24/09/2015 Torquay**

I write regarding the proposed model for this centre as I have a great deal of difficulty understanding why it is necessary to put such a burden on local rate payers.

This pool, and accompanying amenities have been long overdue in Torquay, Council has avoided this issue for decades, resulting of course in increasing expense, and the longer it is postponed the more expensive it has become.

A community aquatic centre is a public facility that can be used by all ages, not just the young and sporting minded like the basketball and football facilities you have no trouble in providing. I realise funding is an enormous problem, this should be rethought and a more useful model introduced that doesn't put a burden on rate payers who will not be able to access this facility.

I am 67 and have many orthopaedic problems and need a facility that includes a rehab pool, before this happened to me, and when it first opened I was swimming at Waurm Ponds, but as the usage increased and the Library was build next door access became difficult so I had to seek local facilities of which were not a great standard until RACV opened, this pool is a vast improvement but, still has limitations, and is also expensive so excludes most of the community.

This community deserves a facility for ALL AGE GROUPS not just the young, if fact it is almost discrimination to only provide facilities for young people.

You only have to look at the growth corridors of Armstrong Creek (I know they are not in the rate catchment area) to see it would well patronised and if several other health related business were incorporated in the design some of the expense could be off set.

Botton line this is a community service, a health service, and with the rates of obesity growing at plague proportions a necessity.

Certain exercise groups have been driven off the beach and foreshore by GORC this is not a good look and speaks volumes about the attitude to older people getting fit in this area and would not make a pretty headline.

Build it and I will swim

**24/09/2015 Lorne**

As a rate payer, I am strongly against the proposed building of an aquatic and health centre in Torquay. Why should rate payers of Lorne be saddled with increased rates when it is highly unlikely that residents in Lorne will ever use this facility. If the residence of Torquay want such an extravagant development then let them foot the bill. The relatively recent development of the Lorne pool ended up a dismal failure. How disgraceful spending all of those funds on a pool in Lorne and then at the last moment, withdraw the funding to actually heat it. We are lucky to get 4 weeks use of the pool all year round. Again, another example of rate payer’s money misused.

I am sure you are simply going through the motions by requesting feed back from residents. You the council have no doubt already decided that this facility will be built. As usual, we the ratepayer will be lumbered with ongoing incompetence demonstrated by council on numerous occasions in the past. Should this project proceed, it will again demonstrate the self indulgement mindset of this Council.

**24/9/2015 Township not stated**

We do not support this proposal. The pool must be self maintaining via a user pay system to be viable. Private investment required.

**24/09/2015 Fairhaven**

My family owns a weekender at Fairhaven, which we have owned since 1970.

I strongly object to paying any additional “surcharge” on my rates for the next 20 years, plus the on-going “operating costs”.

We have only just paid the last instalment for the Road Construction at Fairhaven, i.e. “Roads Charge”, for a road we didn’t want –and which I must add, is already in a sub-standard condition.

We would never use the Aquatic Centre in Torquay, since it’s too far away for us to consider driving to.

In addition, the rates for Surf Coast are already far too high.

My permanent residence is in the city of Boroondara (an inner eastern suburb around 11 km from the CBD) and my rates are only \$2,256.47 versus \$3,155.80 for Surf Coast

See the following comparison:

|                        | Boroondara  | Surf Coast |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Annual Rates           | \$2,256.47  | \$3,155.80 |
| Site Value             | \$955,000   | \$861,000  |
| Capital Improved value | \$1,020,000 | \$932,000  |

As you can see, for comparable property values, the rates for Surf Coast are **already 39.9% higher** than our city house!! In addition, although I enjoy many of the projects the Shire undertakes, it still

does not justify the relatively high rates in my opinion –that’s without the additional “surcharge you are proposing. You hardly even ever collect our waste garbage!!

**24/09/2015 Lorne**

As non-resident ratepayers we vehemently oppose the proposed Aquatic Centre.

If there is a demand for such a centre then let it be built on a total user pays principle – at no cost to ratepayers. Let the private sector fund the centre using the BOOT system – Build, Own, Operate, Transfer.

We will never use it. Like most non-resident ratepayers we believe that there are a number of superb aquatic centres in the Surfcoast areas – they are the beaches. That is why we have built our house on the coast.

Look at how few use the Lorne swimming pool.

**24/09/2015 Torquay**

Thank you for the opportunity of promoting community engagement in relation to the proposed aquatic centre at Torquay.

I am a non-permanent resident with a property in Torquay that we use regularly and have been involved with the Jan Juc Surf Life Saving Club since the 70's.

In my previous role I commissioned a significant piece of work to provide Councils with objective advice and information when contemplating the building or refurbishing of aquatic and recreation centres.

The resultant **Indoor Aquatic Recreation Facility Development Guidelines** can be found on the ARV website at:

<http://www.aquaticsandrecreation.org.au/IndustryServices/360/DesignandConstruction.html>

Two other sets of Guidelines related to facility development can also be found on this page for Council's use. (if you have trouble downloading the documents, I can provide copies for you)

I have been aware for some time of the proposed aquatic centre development and the push to see it become a reality. I am also aware from previous discussions with The Greater City of Geelong, that it intends at some stage to build an aquatic and recreation centre in the Armstrong Creek Development corridor to accommodate the population expansion in this area. Given that Torquay's permanent population is around 12,000 and unsurprisingly, the recent phone survey suggests that only those within 5Km of the proposed site really support the development of the centre, Council can only consider a Level 1 or 2 development which requires a minimum catchment population of 10,000 people to ensure some form of viability. (see pg 20 of the Guidelines).

Having also worked in local government in recreation and leisure and had to deal with community angst over the building and redevelopment of 3 centres I can understand the situation that Council is facing. Although there is always passionate support for these facilities, the reality for Torquay is that Council will not have the catchment population to support the on-gong operation and upgrading of a facility over the next 20+ years and when an Armstrong Creek facility opens, it will (as Waun Ponds does now) draw on Torquay as part of its catchment area. This will exacerbate Council's financial

model for the proposed centre and increase future operational subsidy requirements (and once it's built, the community will not let you de-commission it, even if it is costing Council significant levels of financial support- there aren't too many Councils that have managed to close a pool!).

My suggestion is to work with City of Geelong in a partnership arrangement in a future development that sees Council obtain benefits for its residents without having to finance significant capital expenditure, as it's a very short drive to Armstrong Creek.

I'd be happy to discuss further and help if required.

**24/09/2015 Lorne**

Dear Surf Coast Shire Council,

As a non resident, but ratepayer for our holiday house in Lorne, I am strongly opposed to the building of an Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay North.

I would never use such a facility as our reason for going to Lorne is to walk in the bush and along the coast, to swim in the ocean and to visit any facilities as close as possible to our holiday house in Lorne. There is already a swimming pool in Lorne in any case, although none of my family have ever used it. We love the ocean and natural features.

We have also recently paid special charges for street improvements in Lorne and Sewage upgrades in the Dorman Street area and feel our ordinary rates should cover further council needs.

**24/09/2015 Anglesea**

I do not favor the council expenditure outlined and at this stage facilities in Geelong are adequate. If this was a commercially viable project then private enterprise should take it on. The demand is insufficient to justify the capital expenditure. There are in addition adequate aquatic facilities in the nearby ocean. This should not be a ratepayers concern. The proposal is ridiculous and I am strongly opposed to it. More attention should be given to the roundabout at Anglesea which has the potential to result in serious loss of life if bushfire resulted in panic evacuation from the coast west of Anglesea.

**24/09/2015 Lorne**

I refer to your letter to non- resident home owners dated 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

As a rate payer I am totally against the project as it gives no value to Lorne residents at all. It seems a completely Torquay centric project.

I cannot understand how the council possibly/seriously ask rate payers outside a 10 km radius to contribute any further funds to the project because they would not use it. You only have to study the map shown on the back of your letter to see how stupid the idea is. We would simply be paying for nothing. Besides that, spending up to \$30m. of public money for the use of people in such a small area of the shire would be outrageous.

I sincerely trust you see the error in your ways and disbanded the project.

**24/09/2015 Township not stated**

I strongly object to this proposal.

Firstly, as a council you investigated putting up the rates of rate payers who rent their property. What justification you can put on this I have no understanding of. If anything I should be applying for a reduction in rates as I do not seek rubbish removal 52 weeks a year. But let's keep this for another day, as I know you are.

Secondly why would or should residents nowhere near this planned facility fund a pool that they will never use. If torquay residents are so strongly for it then ask them to fund it.

I trust that my voice is counted

**24/09/2015 Torquay**

Hi , this is the submission from the Surf Coast Aquatic & Leisure Action Group. As a group and as individuals we have already had a large amount of input into your process. We have documented our opinion of the process used but as that is the path the Shire has taken we would like to input the following in regard to the modelling.

It should be noted that there has been a great amount of information and figures put into the public domain over the past six months. Most of this we have been able to understand but there are still some area of the financial modelling that are not completely clear to us. From comments and answers to the public's questions we would assume that there are also some areas that are not completely understood by some of your council officers.

We firmly believe that it was too early to go to the community to ask them if they wanted this facility with the financial model presented.

The reasons for this are...

- 1/ To ask infrequent or non users of a facility if they would like to pay more for the facility is a question that will always illicit a negative response.
- 2/ The model is not complete and often uses ball park figures and statewide averages without clearly explaining this to the community.
- 3/ There is little possibility of the facility costing more to build or more to run but there is a high possibility of the costs of both being less than quoted. Again this has not been clearly communicated to the community.
- 4/ We believe there are savings that could be made in a variety of ways as detailed below.

Our group would like to be involved into the future in regard to this facility and ask the Shire to use the community in a much more open, consultative and informative manner. The Taskforce, although having some input into decisions was at most times just rubber stamping the ideas of council officers and consultants. If this process goes further we would hope that the Terms of Reference for the Taskforce are much broader.

Our group believes that there is no need for a special charge and that there is potential to build and operate a facility with either no specific rate rise or with only a rate rise. We cannot give you the exact amount of savings that the following could bring but would be more than happy to be engaged more closely in investigating.

The areas in which we would like the Shire to do further research are....

### **1/ Revisit the DCP.**

The level of community consultation attached to what the money from the DCP would be used for was minimal at best. Keith stated that it is possible to revisit this process and we believe that to overlook the building of a Leisure Centre as a part of this process means that the community's ideas and wishes were not adequately identified or acted upon. The idea that the leisure centre can only be built as an extra facility and not be funded partly or wholly through normal means is flawed in that this has not been tested with the community. If the question was asked of the community, "Do you want us to fund an Aquatic Centre through normal means even though this may mean you do not receive some of the assets planned into the future?" , the answers you receive would be vastly different to those you are receiving now.

### **2/ Federal funding**

The model has taken into account 7.5 million in grants from State and Federal governments. Whilst understanding that this is the average over past years this does not take into account our status as one of the most marginal seats in both State and the Federal elections. We should ensure that party politics are kept aside from decisions about community facilities and that the Shire lobbies both sides of politics to ensure the maximum amount of funding is gained. The 3 million from Better Pools should be accessed relatively easily. With up to ten million available and only 4.5 million estimated to come from the Federal government it is an area worth serious consideration and investigation.

### **3/ Growth in the population**

As stated by Keith the rate rise will sit there and will be collected even from new rate payers. With an estimated 500 new rated properties per year this is very large amount of money. This is especially so in the period five years and on.

### **4/ Accumulative monies from rate rise**

Has this been taken into account? This is a grey area that we don't believe has been factored in to your figure or clearly articulated to the community. With any further "normal" rate rises coming on top of the 2.75% or any other one off rise there is large amount of money that is made. i.e A "normal" rise of 3% on top of a \$50 rise will accrue \$1.50 extra the next year. Multiplied by 20000 rate payers this is \$30000 that doesn't appear to be accounted for. This amount will continue to grow as the years pass. This is not money that the shire would have raised if it weren't for the one off rate rise.

### **5/ The cost of managing the "Company limited by guarantee"**

The figure per annum for doing this was quoted by SGL as \$80000. This has risen to \$200000 on what basis? Why was their figure out by 150%. The Shire has taken SGL's figures in all other areas except this and dealing with renewal/ major maintenance. This should be investigated further.

### **6/ Depreciation / major maintenance**

Whilst we understand the premise behind this amount being put aside we do not think that on top of the planned charges and rate rises that this is a good decision for the community . The messages about this money have been mixed. Obviously the financial model did not include this figure. It is not something that has been factored in this way before. The figure for normal maintenance on an annual basis was \$130000 p.a. On top of this was \$350000 every five years for major maintenance.



The figure of \$660000 p.a has been stated as being for major maintenance, for renewal of the centre in 25- 40 years time , for renewal of any facilities in the shire. What this money will be used for needs to both investigated, clarified and communicated to the community. We ask the Shire if the 45 projects planned to be funded through rates and the DCP have factored in depreciation in this manner? This figure blows the annual operating costs from in the low hundreds of thousands to close to a million a year. This is a major stumbling block for the project.

### 7/ Capital costs

It would appear that to determine the actual costs of building a centre the Shire will need to take the next step and have detailed plans and costings delivered. We understand the cost of this but believe that the project may be able to be delivered for millions less. We would encourage the Shire to get these costings completed on the preferred model but also to have them completed for a lesser model with the possibility of add on facilities into the future. As discussed at one of the forums this could be with a maximum figure quoted and then determine what could be included in the design at that cost.

### 8/ Operating income

We understand that actual attendance figures are hard to estimate but here are some areas that require further investigation and would most likely raise revenue well beyond the figures quoted.

**School swim figures-** SGL has used standard figures again and have not taken into account the large number of students in this town. There is a growing student population with the new secondary college growing rapidly and a new primary school and private school planned for the area. Our communication with the three main primary schools is that they have lessened swim lessons due to costs in transport and would be highly likely to swap to a local facility in the first instance. Potential school users such as Anglesea Primary, Mt. Duneed Primary, the Lutheran College and the proposed school for Armstrong Creek have not been factored in.

**Catchment** – It is not at all reasonable that some percentage of the population of areas such as Anglesea and Armstrong Creek were not used in the figures quoted. Although a facility is planned for Armstrong Creek this will not be built for at least 10-15 years. If a facility on the Surfcoast came on line in the next five to six years this would allow for many years of patronage from that suburb. A facility here would be much quicker to travel to than any facilities currently operating in Geelong.

**Memberships-** SGL's figures are unclear as they quote income from aquatic and fitness areas and also a figure for memberships. It appears they have assumed a model where memberships can be purchased for each area. It is impossible from their figures to determine how much of the income from any area is from a membership, from casual entry or from swim lessons etc. These figures should be broken down and then investigated. We believe these figures may have been underestimated.

**Our affluent and healthy population-** All figures are again based on the averages used by SGL. We are not an average area in regard to both affluence and therefore affordability of leisure centre attendance. We are also not average in regard to health/ fitness and our desire to exercise across all age groups.

### 9/ Partnerships

Partnerships of all sizes and styles have not been adequately investigated. Again we understand that some partnerships would not be able to be determined until further along in the planning process. This is another reason why taking this model to the community is a premature decision.

Partnerships with COGG or other large organisations such as Barwon Health could lead to a large reduction in capital costs.

Partnerships with organisations such as power companies could lead to a large reduction in operating costs.

Partnerships with organisations such as GMHBA or other health insurers could lead to large increase in membership ( subsidised by GMHBA )

Partnerships with community benevolent organisations such as Torquay Community Enterprise, Torquay Improvement Association, Rotary etc could also lead to external income resulting in a boost to operating results or a lessened capital cost.

Partnerships with the surf industry should be investigated. Surfing Victoria would be very likely to be open to discussions if facilities were planned to aid in training professional and semi professional surfers. The commercial surf industry may be involved if there were some sort of wave riding facility involved.

#### **10/ Community Fundraising**

This is an area that has not been adequately explored but has been used to good measure in similar situations across the country. Figures raised of half to one million dollars raised are not unheard of. Again we have an affluent community with many means to fundraise and also many large and successful companies who have their base in Torquay. Fundraising either for capital costs or ongoing for operating costs could have a big influence on total costs to ratepayers.

Ideas such as paying now for future memberships, names on bricks, bequeaths, etc can raise hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Thank you for your time

#### **24/09/2015 Township not stated**

I would like to say that I am a member of the RACV and although it is a great facility it does not have the features of a community leisure centre. This includes scope for children to enter, swim lessons, family memberships etc.

I am more than willing to incur the costs that the shire has proposed to have a facility built in the town for all the community.

Access to health and fitness facilities should be for all ages and abilities.

I understand that many residents have not been keen on the extra charges proposed. Although I am happy to accept these costs if the shire is not going to go ahead with the building of the facility with extra charges attached it should then keep the idea open and rethink the way that it would be funded.

#### **25/09/2015 Anglesea**

As A rate payer I am opposed to such a huge investment in a swimming pool/health centre.

Apart from the cost it is as usual Torquay centric.

As the council meets in Torquay it doesn't mean that major spending and projects should be in Torquay.

Why not a smaller project in Lorne and Anglesea that all ratepayers can enjoy .

Say a pool of \$3m/\$4m in Lorne and a similar pool in Anglesea.

Then \$8 m in Torquay.

Crazy to put so much debt and infrastructure in one location.

### 25/09/2015 Aireys Inlet

As a current part time and future permanent resident of Aireys Inlet (and previous resident of Bellbrae) I would like to offer my support for Scenario 1 or Scenario 2 of the Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay.

As a 55 yo male member of the community I would definitely use the 8 lane 25m pool. I would not use the other facilities.

As a parent and educator I would like to fully support the pool aspect of the centre for use by young people on the Surfcoast.

Here are my main thoughts:

- ☐ I surf on the surfcoast up to 50 days per year – always with my 12 yo son and his 12 yo friends. **I am always astounded at how few local children are in the ocean.** I believe that part of the reason for this is that coastal kids do not have easy access to swimming lessons or involvement in competitive swimming. I know that you can learn-to-swim in Torquay – but it is not in a proper pool.
- ☐ I believe it is critically important that the pool is at least 25m in length and has at least 8 lanes.
- ☐ I believe it needs to have some spectator seating so as to enable it to be used for short-course swimming events
- ☐ Note that there is no indoor facility on Geelong well suited to doing such – the Waurn Ponds pool facility is a tremendous pool but it has no seating and is not used for events
- ☐ Kardinia is the only pool in Geelong commonly used for events and can only be used in Summer – and even then it is very exposed to poor weather – both cold and extreme heat and UV exposure
- ☐ As a school teacher with over 30 years' experience I believe that competitive swimming is the healthiest and best sport option for younger students – it creates super healthy bodies, teaches the importance of hard work, is a lifesaving necessity for kids growing up in coastal communities and is good fun. It creates fit kids who can go on to success in all other sporting areas due to their superior fitness. It means they are confident to surf, do lifesaving or triathlons etc etc
- ☐ Given the popularity of coastal surf lifesaving activities in Summer these need to be supported by a suitable coastal aquatic centre where local children can learn to swim and develop their skills and fitness all year long

I am very happy to pay something each year to allow this to happen.

### 25/09/2015 Torquay

Hello,

As a ratepayer in Torquay I would like to express my opposition to the proposed aquatic centre.

Torquay is a beach town with a huge emphasis on surfing as well as extensive family friendly beaches.

The proposed centre is an unnecessary addition which will undoubtedly incur unnecessary continuing and establishment costs.

**25/09/2015 Anglesea**

Please accept our submission to the council in regard to the proposed Aquatic Centre.

This aquatic centre proposal will most benefit the Torquay based young families and retirees at the cost of the whole area rate payers.

This proposal is extremely unfair and unreasonable for the general ratepayers to be levied for capital and maintenance for the niche aquatic centre

May I propose that the council investigate the business case to introduce payed parking at the various seaside areas to fully fund the centre if required as the aquatic centre is of no use to the majority of rate payers.

I have dicussed with many of the residents / casual residents in our area at Anglesea and the local pole is that the centre is not required and therefore we ask no longer be considered

Thank you and regards

**25/09/2015 Township not stated**

To council and community taskforce members, As a non-resident ratepayer, I am completely against the proposal to build the aquatic centre by adding additional costs to the rates, either as a levy, special charge, on-going extra charge or whatever form is suggested. Ratepayers pay more than enough on a yearly basis as it is. The aquatic and health centre ought to be funded in the same way as schools, hospitals and other community resources, not by slugging anyone and everyone, user or non-user.

I urge council to fully reject burdening ratepayers with this unfair notion of 'you can have it if you pay for it' and not to be swayed by noisy pressure groups wanting to be heard. It is a coastal region and there are pools nearby. If Torquay wants the centre, let Torquay residents pay for it. Then let's see how many local Torquay residents really want it.....

**25/09/2015 Township not stated**

Hello - I wish to receive email updates to the aquatic centre proposal – see email address below - however at this early stage I wish to say that I am opposed to the concept given the impost to ratepayers for the next 20 years – I am already paying rates that I think are reasonable but do not wish to add to that cost for an aquatic pool.

**25/09/2015 Lorne**

Thanks for the well-coordinated consultation process. I think you have done a good job giving ratepayers the opportunity to contribute to the discussion.

As a Lorne rate payer and non-resident I am coming from the perspective of someone who will **never** use the facility.

I am also paying well over the average rates for the shire.

Having said that I am always willing to donate to causes that will enhance community and society wellbeing.

In my opinion there are far more important priorities than a million dollar a year swimming pool.

That is \$3000 per day to run! Plus the capital cost – if depreciated over 30 years is another \$3000 at least.

We have beautiful beaches that need care –a massive population increase that is rapidly degrading assets all along the coast through increased usage and cost of living increases continuously pushing up rates.

A very nice to have project but in my opinion ill-advised.

**25/09/2015 Fairhaven**

As a rate payer at Fairhaven I am very unhappy with this proposal.

Currently I live across the park from a similar facility and I do not use the pool.

When I am at Fairhaven I choose to surf . My family has never used the Geelong pool or the Lorne pool in the forty years of enjoying the coastal environment.

Those people interested in using a pool should visit the Geelong pools.

I am totally against the special charge for such a “white elephant”.

Pools are not cost effective and have run at a loss in the Boroondara community.

I am over 50 and exercise daily and would never use this facility.

**25/09/2015 Anglesea**

We (Graeme Maguire and Caroline Llewelyn) are writing as owners and rate payers for the above property regarding the proposed centre.

We would like to indicate that we are strongly opposed to this initiative as we believe it:

1. does not represent value for money for rate payers in the Shire based on its potential health benefits. In this regard we believe creating a Shire-wide strategy for physical activity that includes a network of regional fitness facilities/gyms with dedicated community-activity officers would be more effective, sustainable, accessible and equitable.
2. is inequitable regarding the fixed surcharge for ongoing costs irrespective of place of residence and likely utilisation
3. replicates existing services – in this case anyone outside Torquay could just as easily access the Warne Ponds aquatic centre
4. fails to recognise we are extremely fortunate to live by the ocean. Surely if we want to swim perhaps residents should be encouraged to swim in the sea and to purchase wet suits if they find the water cold
5. allocates costs to residents when savings in term of enhanced health and reduced (particularly age-related) disability would accrue to State and Federal Government health

and aged care authorities. Either these authorities should be expected to meet the cost of what is argued is an affective preventive health initiative or if such authorities don't believe this will generate real savings then the underlying economic rationale for the Centre must be viewed as flawed.

6. sets a dangerous precedent whereby a short term elected local government (and particularly this Shire) feels it can create essentially an increase in long term taxes. What happens the next time you want to provide a new service that the Shire feels is not part of their 'core' services?
7. appears very expensive and does not reflect a reasonable person's perception of value for money as we will need to pay for the loan and to run it and then (to add insult) pay to use it! We can go to Warne Ponds and pay the same without needing to pay \$100/yr in extra rates.

We hope you take these points into consideration and would request the Shire does not pursue further the idea of developing a Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre paid for by a longterm levy on existing rate payers.

**25/09/2015 Fairhaven**

As a rate payer with a property at Fairhaven (over ten years) and visiting the surf coast for 40 years I wish to register my disapproval of the proposed aquatic centre.

If the Torquay community want it then they should pay for it. That would be a test of their perceived "need" and desire for such a centre.

Our family will never use this or any other pool as the beach is our preferred destination.

I am very unhappy about paying for any extra special charges while other facilities exist in Geelong for community fitness and connectedness.

**25/09/2015 Fairhaven**

As residents of Fairhaven, we are strongly opposed to our community investing in an aquatic and health centre located in Torquay. People living here should **not** have to fund this project. We are critical of the proposed special charge scheme, when we and most of the residents here would receive absolutely no benefit from it, and therefore should not have any role in paying for it. We are against this idea totally!

**25/09/2015 Jan Juc**

I live in Jan Juc and am not supportive of the new aquatic centre funding model

**25/09/2015 Aireys Inlet**

Hi, as a resident and ratepayer of Aireys Inlet my wife and myself wish to take the opportunity to register our opinion of the proposed funding model.

We believe it is a very unfair method of funding this centre as it is only really going to be a benefit to people that live in Torquay or people that visit and wish to use it.

A much fairer way would be to have Torquay rate payers and admission fees pay for the centre.

Let's be realistic how many people are going to travel from Anglesea, Aireys Inlet, or Lorne to use it.

If Lorne decided to put in a centre would the proposal set a precedent and it would only be fair to fund this in the same way. And then why not Winchelsea's and Anglesea's.

**25/09/2015 Torquay**

I would like lodge my objection to the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre.  
I am a property owner and object to the huge amount of money this centre would cost.  
The rates are high enough at present.

**25/09/2015 Moggs Creek**

RE NEW AQUATIC CENTRE

No - I do not want to pay for a facility I will not use - it should user pays funded only.

Same for any other such facilities.

**26/09/2015 Township not stated**

I would like to express my very strong rejection to the proposed Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre.

If such a centre is to be built there should be a cost recovery model. Those who do not want the Centre should not have to support those who do. Council does not need to provide services of this nature to the community. If it not sustainable as a business operation, it should not exist.

**18/07/2015 Winch ward**

Thanks for the heads up Councillor Carol. Yet again we have a Surf Coast Shire Torquay-centric focus. I am incredibly frustrated that my rates may go toward their Aquatic Centre, which will not remotely benefit me, or my neighbours. If Torquay wants this, good for them. Raise their own funds instead of pilfering from those of us who don't reside in that area. Grrrrrrr. I will follow thus with great interest.....

**19/07/2015 Winch ward**

Dear Carol

I have been think about this since I received your email. I would like to see such a venue, in the Shire, but what worries me is that, unless I have got it wrong I will be paying three times.

- Council Rates
- % or Rates will be capped?
- Increased membership fees which are already about to have an increase

One idea that I had is that the Ratepayers form a Co-OP and take out shares. They would have exclusive use of the facility. You might be able to find out if this is feasible as well as the legalities. I know that there has been a stong campaign for a pool etc. We must also remember if we vote for such a venue, what happens to our pool in Winchelsea which also needs to be reverbished.

Sorry that I did not get to the last dinner, but should be at the next one.

**20/07/2015 Winch ward**

This is a most definite and emphatic " NO"

Enjoy your day

**20/07/2015 Winch Ward**

If it will swallow up the entire capital budget for two years, you have got to think that there are more pressing needs across the shire than spend it all on Torquay.. So don't have an objection in principal, lovely thing to have, and the Ocean Grove one is a hit.. but funding it seems beyond the budget..

Alternatively if its financially viable couldn't a private developer operate and construct it.. > the Torquay community that will use it are generally well heeled enough to pay for the use and council could spend the million it saves in operating costs to subsidise access to pensioners etc.. Adventure park in Wallington is a great example of a private development..

My 2 cents

Cheers

**28/08/2015 Winch Ward**

just in case I do not get there

The cost of the pool will not just be the capital initial cost \$29 m- it will be the ongoing cost of repairs and running the centre such as heating and staff is another really big cost say \$3 or 4million per year and then the whole thing will need replacing in 10 or 15 years time and we get to pay for that as well.

For example council cut the hours of the Winch pool because it was not making enough to cover the cost of having life saving staff employed.....yet it is going to build another pool - it is a no brainer

I have not seen any predictions of the income that the centre is supposed to be going to generate! which means that the rate payer gets to pay yet again

Also note that every time that council increases the rates to pay for something, they do not put the rates down again the next year because they have bought what ever it was. They just keep on increasing their revenue

I could go on for ever on this topic let me know if you have any questions

**16/09/2015 Winch ward**

Dear Carol I am sorry that you are not feeling the best. I attended the meeting tonight but did not stay as I could not take the heckling.

I know that we do not always agree with the Council and staff whether paid or as Officers, but the the thing that I did not find nice tonight was the isolated thinking and not thinking of the Shire as a



whole. I would like to say that I support the project and I am quite willing for you to put this letter forward to the Submissions Committee. As I said early I will have probably have fallen of my perch by the time it gets paid, but that is not the point. I have used the facilities in Torquay and JanJuc as the family used to come down for surfing holidays, so now it is time to put some money up front. The fundraising committee have also worked hard to raise money and the profile of the aquatic centre so shouldn't they be rewarded in some way? The only thing that concern me was the small number of surveys taken which does not really reflect the whole shire. I am quite willing to help in any way I can, and if this letter will be of assistance then be feel free to use it.

I will not be at the next dinner as I will be at the Masters Games in Adelaide.

**26/09/2015 Township not stated**

I congratulate the Shire for the way in which you have presented the true cost of this project as an annual cost to ratepayers.

Historically local government would not have done this.

Please record my strong NO to this project. Even if I was a permanent resident I would not use the facility. I do not want to be burdened with an extra \$200 on my annual rates.

It would be interesting to know what the cost per use will be for the expected number of users and the level of subsidy provided by the majority for the minority.

This proposal doesn't make financial sense and should be abandoned.

Other points to note:

- There is an excellent facility in Grovedale only 15 mins from Torquay (accessible by bus) that can be used by Surfcoast Shire residents. The proposed facility would be much further away than 15 mins for the majority of residents in the Shire. If it could be justified, which it cannot be, it would make more sense to locate the facility more toward the southern end.
- Health Clubs should be provided (owned and operated) by the private sector

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**26/09/2015 Torquay**

I have lived in the Surfcoast Shire for over 20 years and had hoped there would have been a public pool in Torquay by now.

However, in that time we have seen excellent indoor pools built at The Sands and The RACV in Torquay that, at a price, accommodate the needs of those seeking to swim laps in a 25m heated indoor pool.

Having enjoyed lap swimming over many years, including being a frequent user of Prahran and Harold Holt pools in Melbourne, and Kardinia in Geelong, I value the opportunity to swim in a 50m outdoor, slightly heated pool i.e. one that makes lap swimming enjoyable, unlike indoor pools that are often heated to exceptionally high temperatures and require frequent turns.

Like the hall at Aireys Inlet, constructed many years ago and to save money was left too short to accommodate a basketball court, why would council waste rate payers money on a sub optimal facility such as a 25m pool? For any competitions, 50m is regarded as the standard. And for any serious swimmers, 25m is simply too short.

I now live in Torquay and would genuinely consider contributing to a 50m heated outdoor pool and related complex as a special charge, but will not contribute to yet another heated 25m pool. Please either do it properly or don't bother. We have enough special charges for unnecessary projects already.

**26/09/2015 Aireys Inlet**

Tried to use the link to the submissions but the page could not be found – not a good start.

As we live over 20 km(Aireys inlet)from the proposed site we are not in favour of contributing for over 20 years to building this centre.

We can access the Aquatic centre at Waurn Ponds and find this meets our needs.

**26/09/2015 Lorne**

Please note rate payers of .... Rd Lorne understand the benefits for the Torquay community in establishing an aquatic centre.

However, Lorne is not in the immediate area and it can not be assumed that the rate payers would use the facility due to distance and lack of public transport.

We do not support any levies or charges for this project being applied to the rate payers of Lorne or the outer regions of the Shire.

Funding would better sourced from the end users, such as the inclusion of other communities closer to Torquay in other municipalities, including outer Geelong.

**26/09/2015 Township not stated**

I am against the Aquatic and Health Centre mainly due to the increase in rates.

We do not live in the Surf Coast Area but rates on our vacant block of land are already far too high.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

**26/09/2015 Township not stated**

The rates in this area are already too high compared to other similar areas. We are paying for facilities that are used by the many tourists that visit the area and not just the locals

In saying that my property is a rental property and i reside in Geelong and am a member of Leisure link in which i pay my annual fee, thus i would never use this new facility.

This is fairer being user pays. .

Over 50 % of these properties are investment properties so why should we subsidise tenants and pay an additional \$150 yearly. for their use.

**27/09/2015 Fairhaven**

We are in the process of a return building project in Fairhaven & have just received your invitation to comment regarding this project. As this stage & if we are to take up permanent residency in the future I could not foresee us using this facility. I'm wondering about the financial viability with a proposed need to lock in contributions from ratepayers for the next 20 years? Rates are already in the higher bracket. Even the worst of bailouts/disasters that tax payers/rate payers were levied, have had much shorter timeframes. Or have they? If you requested a full & transparent breakdown of the levies they form part of our current rate notices I wonder about the real allocation. Perhaps you could shine a light on that.

We believe our Surf coast is a jewel that should be afforded all the protections alongside sensitive & considered developments. We are indeed fortunate to be returning to eventually reside. My footprints are along this coast since my teenage years, it's a home place of significance importance. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**27/09/2015 Aireys Inlet**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the information provided in the testing the water brochure.

My wife and myself are rate payers of the property at ...Road, Aireys Inlet.

This property is a holiday house for our family, with our principle residence being in Essendon.

As such it is highly unlikely we would receive any benefit from the proposed aquatic centre as we spend our time holidaying at Aireys Inlet and would not use the aquatic centre.

In view of this we do not support the increase of rates to fund this project or to sustain the annual running costs of the aquatic centre.

**27/09/2015 Township not stated**

I am opposed to your \$29 Million ( plus budget overrun )Aquatic centre.

A little more focus on roads and footpaths would gain my support.

You seem to be drawing up plans to spend other peoples money.

**27/09/2015 Township not stated**

Dear testingthewater

I thought this was a joke, but I now realise you might be considering this crazy scheme.

Who outside of a Torquay resident who likes to swim would support this proposal?

As if people who live in Deans Marsh or Winchelsea would welcome the opportunity to pay for Torquay people to swim - for the next 20 years?

Please abandon this stupid idea.

27/09/2015 Jan Juc

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the debate re a public funded swimming pool facility for the Surfcoast Shire.

This is my opinion at the moment:

My guess is per head of population the Surfcoast Shire and COGG residents have more private and/or public swimming pools than at any time in history.

In the Surfcoast, we have access to a mix of public and private pools, many other sports related facilities, health and wellbeing practitioners which include:

- 3 indoor heated pools RACV, Wyndam, The Sands in Torquay.
- Lorne Pool
- Winchelsea Pool
- a 50m x 8 lane outdoor pool at Aireys Inlet.
- Baines Court LTS
- private back yard pools both outdoor and indoor.
- private outdoor and indoor spas and saunas.
- private gyms and backyard gyms and weight rooms.
- sports halls and exercise rooms.
- business yoga and Pilates rooms.
- Personal Trainers and Pilates on the beach.
- Surf club facilities, Football, Cricket, Tennis, Golf, Soccer, Bowls club facilities.
- Professional sports, fitness, health and wellbeing practitioners and therapists.
- Walking and bike riding trails and groups and many other outdoor and water based activities.

I'm sure I've missed quite a few here so I'll add, etc etc.

A pool has been on the agenda for many years and I recall a proposal for one to be built opposite Surfworld. Over time maybe all of the above have filled the void. Whatever, one could say as a community, we're well placed when one looks at the overall facilities and opportunities we have to exercise and improve our health and wellbeing.

Maybe we could investigate how to better promote and access the above? For example, if one of the issues is about more local Learn to Swim Programs, could the Shire start discussions/negotiate with RACV, Wyndam, The Sands? There's money in LTS so could be a win/win outcome.

As for the financial cost of building and operating a public pool facility, well look at Geelong. I don't think that's a model the Surfcoast should follow now.

We're a growing community and if there is an opportunity to invest millions of dollars then some of the things important to me are:

- taking care of the natural environment that brought everyone here and sustains us.
- creating and supporting real businesses, jobs and careers for our young people.
- respond to climate change and embrace the future.
- address the illegal drug and alcohol problem.
- continue to promote and invest in the Arts.
- develop a creative business hub.
- invest in community gardens.
- build a performing arts centre.

Ok I've ran out of time so that's it for me.

Glad to be living in 'The Place of Wellbeing.'

**27/09/2015 Torquay**

This is an important day-the first time I have ever replied to or taken up the opportunity to comment on a public proposal.

There are many reasons why council should not build an aquatic centre.

Torquay is near the sea, an aquatic centre is not needed.

The cost is too great, the ratepayers cannot afford it this is not only obvious, you are also admitting it by suggesting that some form of additional rate is needed.

Aquatic centres are rarely successful, particularly from an economic perspective.

Often there are requests from a small minority of people who do not understand the costs and actual usage rates, this does not mean that you would build one.

You mention "health facilities" in the advertising material. This I feel is deplorable since the proposal includes no "health facilities" is this to help criticise any one that criticises the proposal?

With respect to the financing, a special charge is a good option since it would be subject to the 50 per cent rule, then those that make the majority could defeat the scheme.

By all means complete the consultation take the correct decision and then put the proposal to bed.

The vast majority of your ratepayers do not want a facility that costs a fortune, and is not needed, for goodness sake, Torquay has perhaps the best beaches in the world, and does not need an unhealthy expensive indoors facility that costs \$50 every time someone visits it and is only used by a fraction of the population.

Finally, thank you for providing an opportunity for the silent majority to have their say, it is reassuring to know that we are being taken into consideration.

Thank you

**27/09/2015 Lorne**

I am a Lorne ratepayer and wish to make some comments on the proposal - I have accessed the website and viewed videos as well as being in receipt of the 14 September ratepayer letter from the Shire Council.

I am very unhappy with the proposal. My reasons include:

1. It is absolutely inequitable for outlying areas to subsidise a centre which is exclusively for the benefit of a closed geographic group,; no "user pays" concept here! Your proposal uses concentric rings to weight consequent rate rises. Necessarily, this admits the fact that usage of the Centre is confined to a small geographic area. I suggest it is nonsense to suggest, as the proposal effectively does, that outer concentric rings will use the Centre AT ALL. The proposal is a ripoff.
2. There is no guarantee that your sums are right. There is no cap on what you are going to slug us.
3. Your letter and video are unacceptably misleading. The letter states that our rates will go up only \$20 a year. However, you also state that there will be ongoing costs of \$50 for the average ratepayer to run the Centre. so, where does this come from? Well obviously this comes from rates and hits ratepayers proportionately, certainly not, as far as I can see, on the same basis as the concentric rings give rise to the assertion that I would pay \$20. This is deceitful.
4. Compounding this is the assertion in the video that the Centre proposal cannot mean any change to Existing Shire Programs. How on Earth can this be so if it is going to cost \$50 per average ratepayer to run the Centre! Does that sum come out of the ether?
5. Compounding this is the effective admission in the video - though notably NOT in the letter - that the borrowing associated with the Centre will mean that under Government guidelines funds will not be able to be borrowed for other infrastructure opportunities. so what are the things the Council will NOT be able to do if it proceeds with the Centre?

Thanks for this opportunity to comment; it is appreciated

**27/09/2015 Torquay**

I am a Torquay rate payer and I intend to retire permanently to Torquay at some date in the future. This being stated, I am deeply concerned at the lack of foresight and planning relating to the proposal to build a pool at Torquay. I have followed with interest the ongoing debate regarding this construction.

I am a self employed businessman of 30 years and the projections and budgets predicted by consultants to my observation would amount to a financial disaster for this popular seaside town. When you consider that a pool complex situated 15 kil. away in Waurm Ponds and a similar complex to be established in Armstrong Creek over the next few years, I wonder at the need to go down this path.

Country towns over the years have relied on communities to raise considerable funds to build pools. E.g. Benalla raised \$500,000.00 with a population of 7000. Surf Coast Shire with a population of 29,000 at this stage have not fundraised a thing to go towards the building of a pool complex. In my

opinion, fund raising should have started ten years ago when the idea was first floated. It is up to a community to pull together to raise funds for this type of infrastructure...I have seen nothing occurring on this front apart from bathers hanging on a fence... At a recent September community meeting regarding this proposal, it is my understanding that only 80 people attended..If the majority of residents in Torquay want this pool, that room should have been overcrowded.

I do wonder why it was that the adventure park with the inclusion of a community pool was not given consideration.....I understand that this land would have needed to be rezoned from residential zoning...this certainly did not stop Mr Grossman from going ahead with the Kithbrook retirement village ...it would have taken re zoning of this parcel of land for this development to occur.

In conclusion I do not believe it is viable and fair to expect ratepayers to pay a large sum of money for at least 20 years ..which of course may well increase if patronage is low and interest rates undoubtedly increase.

**27/09/2015 Fairhaven**

We are ratepayers from Fairhaven and received the information regarding the aquatic centre in the mail recently.

Whilst we understand the benefits such a facility could provide we are not supportive of the proposed funding model. The cost impact for ratepayers is too high and most will probably never utilise the facility.

Based on this proposal we do not support the development of the centre

Please let me know if any further questions

We appreciate you forwarding the information and seeking feedback

**27/09/2015 Anglesea**

As a rate payer and Anglesea resident (part-time) my family and I would have no use for this facility. I am far from enthusiastic about the potential for a significant increase in my rates for a facility that is essentially aimed for Torquay residents.

**27/09/2015 Lorne**

I have a holiday house in Lorne . I object to supporting the project in Torquay.i will not contribute any money

**28/09/2015 Anglesea**

In response to the recent letter sent out by the council and as a ratepayer in Anglesea we see this proposal as being of no benefit to us and therefore we are against it.

Being outside the area we would object to paying an extra rate charge, for 20 years, for something that would not enhance our community at all.

**28/09/2015 Lorne**

As the survey found people think there are far more important projects to spend \$29 million on than an Aquatic centre that only benefits Torquay.

What a waste of money even proposing the idea that would limit the council borrowing for other projects for 20 yrs. Kids can learn to swim in Waurin Ponds or build an outdoor pool that costs \$5 million not \$29 mil.

Gyms and kid centres can be left to the private sector to provide not the council.

**28/09/2015 Lorne**

I attended the consultation meeting held at Lorne on 15 September and I strongly support the opposition expressed at that meeting to the proposal to build an Aquatic and Health Centre at Torquay.

I cannot see how Council can in conscience justify the financial burden which proceeding with this project would impose on ratepayers over the next 20 years at least in the light of the following:

- the fact that a clear majority of ratepayers across the Shire do not support the proposal and over 50% are strongly opposed
- the extremely high level of debt which the Council (ratepayers) would incur would preclude the Shire from undertaking or supporting other necessary/highly desirable projects throughout this time. (The impact of future capping is also noted).
- the fact that aquatic and health facilities are already available in various Shire communities or in adjoining communities at costs which are probably comparable to or cheaper than what will be available through the new facility if it is to keep running costs within manageable bounds. Additional services can be provided if required in a targeted and cost effective way within local areas.
- locally provided services will minimise the transport/travel costs and risks which will arise for many in accessing a hub sited in Torquay.

The Special Charge Scheme and the proposed rate rise of about 2.75% will have a severe adverse impact on the less wealthy (or poorer) ratepayers and residents, possibly forcing some to move out of the Shire. This includes those who purchased their property many years ago and who are struggling to pay the very high Surfcoast Shire rates. Many in this category will have already paid special charges for the making of roads, kerbing and drainage and upgrade of local shopping centres.

I seek clarification of the statement in FAQs that if you sell your property before the Special Charge Scheme is completed (20 years?) you will be required to meet any outstanding amount as part of settlement costs. Does this mean that a Torquay ratepayer could be liable for an advance payment of \$2,500 if they sold their property 5 years into the scheme. This would appear rank injustice!

**28/09/2015 Lorne**

We are not in support of adding extra charges to our Annual Rates regarding the costs for the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre for the following reasons:

1. We are Rate Payers in Lorne - holiday house for the last 30 years
2. We will not be using these facilities as we are living in Melbourne and will use our facilities round the corner from where we live ( Hawthorn)
3. We would have preferred our Pool in Lorne to be heated for all year round use,



and that was declined

**28/09/2015 Township not stated**

Thank you for your information re the proposed Aquatic Centre and seeking community feedback.

As non-permanent residents rate payers, we are totally opposing the proposal to build this centre not because we don't believe in the concept of health and well being benefits that the building could provide but because

1. We are already paying enormous rates and basically, aside from the occasional road levelling, don't feel we receive much for our rates anyway
2. There is already a wonderful swim/health centre in Geelong that can be accessed if required
3. Torquay is a beach seaside resort with obviously ample opportunity to use the natural environment to gain the benefits you purport.

Hence we do not agree to pay the extra \$20 to \$150 per year for 20 years, for a structure that we will not use.

**28/09/2015 Torquay**

I have been a non resident owner of property in Torquay since 1980 and despite living in WA I continue to be a regular visitor.

I congratulate the Shire for the way in which you have presented the true cost of this project as an annual cost to ratepayers.

Historically local government would not have done this.

I wish to send a strong NO message to this project. Even if I was a permanent resident I would be unlikely to use the facility. I do not want to be burdened with an extra \$200 on my annual rates.

It would be interesting to know what the cost per use will be for the expected number of users and the level of subsidy provided by the majority for the minority.

This proposal doesn't make financial sense and should be abandoned.

Other points to note:

- There is an excellent facility in Grovedale only 15 mins from Torquay (accessible by bus) that can be used by Surfcoast Shire residents. The proposed facility would be much further away than 15 mins for the majority of residents in the Shire. If it could be justified, which it cannot be, it would make more sense to locate the facility more toward the southern end.
- Health Clubs should be provided (owned and operated) by the private sector

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and please note I am not expecting a reply from you as I realise you will be receiving many emails over this project but a read receipt acknowledgement would be appreciated.

**28/09/2015 Lorne**

,

In response to letter received 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015.....

As a non-permanent rate payer we hereby advise that we are NOT willing to pay ANY amount of money

to fund an aquatic complex in a town located over 45 kilometres and 50 minutes travel time from our residence in Lorne.

We will have no hesitation in commencing legal action to rescind any special charges applied relating to this facility.

We are flabbergasted that the council would even consider charges ratepayers outside of Torquay for this proposed facility.

We await your acknowledgement/ reply to our objection of your proposal.

P.S. We did not see any contributions from Torquay for the upgrade of Mount Joy Parade in Lorne!

**28/09/2015 Lorne**

We wish to lodge a strong objection to the proposal to build an Aquatic & Health centre in Torquay on the following grounds:

1. The pool proposal has little value to anyone living outside Torquay.
2. People won't travel long distances to attend such a facility.
3. Residents in areas like Lorne, Deans Marsh & Winchelsea shouldn't have to contribute extra rate payments for 20 years for a facility that only really benefits the people of Torquay.
4. If Council want such a facility based in Torquay, then let their local community pay for it.

**28/09/2015 Township not stated**

No pool, we live on the side of the biggest pool, it's called the ocean. Imagine building a 25 meter pool when 3/4 of the population is very active and would all use it. Omg you wouldn't be able to move in it or even swim as all the lanes would be used up. Use the money to make our rates cheaper not more expensive. I have not had a pay rise for over 10 years but every year my rates go up. Please think about the average worker and their family.  
Privatize a pool if you have to, but make sure it's at least 50 meters.

**28/09/2015 Jan Juc**

I **strongly object** to the current proposal for funding the the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre for the following reasons:

- the Centre will be a financial burden to all rate payers for the foreseeable future
- the model is inequitable as it bears no relationship to the users of the facility
- the rates in the Shire are already high and further increases penalise long standing members of the community
- the model is an unreasonable impost on families that have holiday residences and are unable to use the facility on a regular basis even if they wished to

In summary this facility should only be built if it can be funded on a user pays model. If this cannot be done the minority of residents that would use such a facility have access to swimming pools in Belmont and Geelong a short distance from the Shire offices.

**28/09/2015 Township not stated**

I strongly oppose this idea.

I as a non resident ,have subsidised the living standards of residents for 24 years via Council Rates , including the compulsory garbage levy.

If permanent residents are keen for such a centre they should pay an extra levy on their rates, or travel to Waurm Ponds.

**28/09/2015 Township not stated**

I do not believe that an aquatic health centre is required within the Surfcoast area. Building the aquatic centre would be a regressive step for the council and will run at a loss (a model to learn from is Warrnambool) The move would be a further step away from the "seaside town" that makes Torquay a brilliant place to live and visit. Locals can make use of the beach and water at their doorstep and continue community involvement in the condition of the foreshore, rather than increase the energy footprint of the council and build a swimming pool. There is an existing aquatic centre in Waurm Ponds that can cater for residents needs if required. A centre in Torquay would only be utilised by a small percentage of the population, funding would penalise low income earners and further gentrify the area. The impact of cars travelling to the centre would add a further burden on the traffic problems faced in and around the Torquay area.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion,

**28/09/2015 Torquay**

**Re – Proposed Funding of Torquay North Aquatic & Health Centre**

We write as ratepayers to advise of our family's strong opposition to the proposed pool funding. Why do we need a pool when we have such amazing world-class beaches right on our doorstep? We are a 'swimming' family and when the beach is not an option eg in Winter, we can just use the existing Waurm Ponds pool, a great facility, which is a very reasonable 10 minute drive away, a trip that many Torquay/Jan Juc residents make regularly, given it is our largest shopping centre in the area.

Any pool should be based on a user-pays system of funding. If a pool is to be constructed, our family will use it and happily pay for its use at such time.

Further, the proposed amount of funding to be sourced from ratepayers is extremely high and unreasonable, particularly for the Shire's lower income earners, retirees and pensioners and exorbitant for non-residents (a high number making up the ratepayer population of Torquay). We would also think even the average family would find this increase unacceptable. We already pay high rates and the proposed \$200 plus annual increase to all rates from all ratepayers regardless of age, resident-status, income etc, to fund one facility, with no regard to whether the ratepayer/s can and will use it seems unfair. If the Shire / government cannot pay for new facilities from existing rates/funds, then they should not be provided.

**28/09/2015 Eastern View**

We have a property at Eastern View and wish to object to the above proposal.

It would be of no benefit to our family and would not accept the cost of \$20.00 added to our rates.

The cost and project is a Torquay concern.

**28/09/2015 Lorne**

I wish to record my opposition to a proposal for special rate and charge scheme to fund an aquatic facility at Torquay.

As a non permanent resident ratepayer the facility would not provide any special benefit for my property in Lorne. I simply would not travel the distance to use the facility and enjoy any benefit.

Building a \$29m facility and then imposing a net operating cost of \$1m demonstrates that the facility is not viable in current circumstances. If the admission charges cannot provide a net positive return then the project is not feasible.

If the community is committed to eventually having a pool then I believe it is prudent for Planning provisions to be made for the aquatic facility. However it should not be Council's investment but rather a private developer. The planning would encourage private investment when the business case would indicate the project is viable.

Building and operating an aquatic facility is not core business for council in my opinion. The obligations on council to deliver on core services impose significant higher priorities which council should carefully explain to ratepayers.

It is suggested that the Wyndham aquatic centres operating model should be looked at carefully which indicates that partnership models can reduce council's exposure to high cost management models.

Given the imposition of rate capping it is inappropriate that the shire is exploring a special rate and charge scheme as a means to fund this project. As I understand it special rate and charge schemes are exempt from the cap. If this funding mechanism was to proceed it would set a very unsatisfactory precedent for the shire to fund projects outside of rate funding.

Thank you for receiving my submission.

**28/09/2015 Lorne**

We are completely opposed to Lorne and other residents contributing to Torquay pool

**29/09/2015 Torquay**

I have had the pleasure of growing up in Torquay. My grandparents first came here in the early 1920s. I have enjoyed and participated in many of the wonderful community groups and businesses around our town and have watched with pride how our small holiday town has grown into a thriving, vibrant community. I now am raising children of my own here and hope for them the very best of childhoods.

I became involved with the Surf Coast Aquatic Leisure Centre Action Group years ago. It had always baffled me as to why our coastal, fit, healthy, water-obsessed town had had to fight so hard to get a much desired aquatic centre.

I was in no way ready for the negativity and the game playing that being involved in this community group would bring. For decades really the Surf Coast Shire has been playing delay and defer tactics with this project. The council have been told through countless petitions, online surveys, feasibility

studies and now taskforces that the community strongly desires an aquatic leisure facility. It is outrageous that there has been no real strategic planning put in place to make this happen. And the level of apparent contempt for this project make no sense at all.

I would strongly like to make clear that I believe an aquatic centre is a vital piece of infrastructure for the Surf Coast but the model of funding and finance put forward by “Testing the Water” is appalling.

SCALCAG and the Aquatic Leisure Centre Taskforce have both put forward many, many alternative models and suggested ways that a Surf Coast Pool could become a reality. It is gut wrenching as a community member of SCALCAG to see how the Surf Coast Shire have poisoned the viability of what could be a fabulous project, by scaring rate payers (especially those from wards far away from Torquay) by a completely unprecedented 20 year special charge and rate rise. I suggest that never before has a piece of community infrastructure been put through such a negative proposal and community ‘vote’. A divisive model which has pitted interest groups and wards of our shire against one another. To hear people in Winchelsea and Lorne being so vehemently against this project because it may benefit “Torquay” alone, and to read the vitriol that has been spurted about this project is completely disappointing. May I remind you all that money from my rates goes to fund projects in Lorne, Winchelsea, Aireys Inlet, Deans Marsh, Anglesea etc. I do not recall ever being asked how I would like my funds dispersed. This is dangerous territory and totally unacceptable.

I also do not understand why the premise of “Testing the Water” was to suggest that no change in Shire priority be made? Why could we not alter some of the 45 projects suggested in the 2009 DCP? Why could we not allocate future DCP funding to an aquatic centre? Why could we not realign our strategic planning to include this project?

I also need to identify that the costings of the project as presented in “Testing the Water” are completely over the top. I have previously sent the Shire details of projects currently under construction today which are nowhere near the costings of this centre. I am suspicious that the cost was intentionally high in order to scare residents even further. Let’s face it Leisurelink only cost around \$30m and it has a 50m pool and two huge waterslides! There is also evidence of many projects reducing their initial cost when a construction QS is completed. If this was a private commercial project priced like this, it would never get off the ground. (funny about that?!)

Flaws of the consultation have also been previously registered by me and were honestly embarrassing at times. Surely finding facilitators with working technology and setting up links for people to comment on which actually work are not too difficult?

I am still at a loss to understand why the council jumped head long into this type of consultation without any real working drawings or documentation for an aquatic centre. It is common knowledge that projects need to be ‘shovel ready’ before they can attract or even apply for any specific funding. And to be told on more than one occasion by both councilors and council officers that this project would not meet criteria for funding from the federal NSRF when it most clearly would, is baffling. Perhaps it is the absence of matching funds which is the problem?

Instead of spending money on this consultation, council could have contributed this money to actual drawings which could be used in the future to seek such funding. This would have been far more logical and realistic. It also would not have created such an ugly divide in our community.

The benefits of an aquatic centre have also been largely ignored by this consultation. Not only do we need our children to know how to swim well in the ocean to reduce drownings, but many of them will go on to be the protectors of others in our oceans through the Life Saving Clubs. Our elderly population and those less able need a place to establish and retain social and physical well being. Our budding athletes need a place to train and become the best they can.

Our community is not getting smaller. The desire of our community for an aquatic centre will not dissipate. I suggest that the Surf Coast Shire reignite some passion and some innovation when it comes to this project. As a tourist mecca and birthplace of several international surfing brands, it makes no sense for the shire to be diametrically opposed to this project. Water sports and health and wellbeing are key elements to our community. An aquatic centre is a valuable piece of public infrastructure which cuts across the demographic of our community - whether young or old, athlete or recreational swimmer, agile or rehabilitating, wealthy or less well off - a public, easily accessible Surf Coast pool has much to offer all of us

Embrace it. Support it. Build it, and we will swim.

**29/09/2015 Torquay**

It is pretty obvious by now that the town of Torquay are wanting a pool. There are many young families (and more moving here) in Torquay and surrounds that would use this facility daily if it was built.

As a mother of 3 I drive to Ocean Grove and Waurn Ponds to use their pools. This is such a waste of time and not an energy saving exercise - killing our environment by using up more petrol along the way.

I am also a PE teacher and am very concerned about all the over weight people in our town. From very young ages to old. We need to offer these people options in a safe environment to become healthy people again. Another frustrating thing I have seen is all the time and unnecessary money spent busing the school kids to Leisurelink every year for swimming lessons!! This is a ridiculous exercise that could become an easy one if we had a large pool in Torquay. Every child needs to learn how to swim. It is our duty of care and a life skill that must be offered to our children, especially if living near the beach.

So come on SCS - Build a pool in Torquay and we will swim!!

**29/09/2015 Bellbrae**

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to building this pool. We simply cannot afford the cost and as a family we utilise the Waurn Ponds facility or the fabulous beaches at our doorstep. The benefit ratio suggested by council has other wards subsidizing Torquay ward to the tune of \$235,000 p.a. on capital costs before running costs. There are 12,405 rateable properties outside of the 5km zone and I just don't think it's fair given the proposed funding model. I suggest alternative funding models be sought before forcing ratepayers to foot extra rate hikes.

**29/09/2015 Lorne**

Re. Aquatic and Health Centre

We feel that something of this size, cost and location, if built, should be left to private enterprise.

We do not feel that ratepayers funds should be used, or extra charges landed on ratepayers who will, due to location, never get to use it or ever get any benefit from the centre.

We would prefer our rates were used as they should be used by council, ie roads, rubbish, parking and facilities that benefit all ratepayers, not just those in one town.

We say a very loud NO, NO and NO to this project !!!

**29/09/2015 township not stated**

I feel that the benefits to our community far outweigh the negatives when looking at an infrastructure like a leisure & aquatic facility. I'm frustrated to see a negative focus being put on division between different regions under our council. Torquay residents were not put up against other communities to stop development of key infrastructure in other regions of the council. I think the majority of us can understand that development in ALL the regions within our council are to the benefit of everyone.

The businesses and services that can evolve from this type of facility add growth to our community and they also need to be considered.

I'm also very disappointed in learning that our council fails to seek funding for key projects. I will be looking into this further when looking at who is put forward to represent our community in the future.

I support the quest for an aquatic Centre but I do not support the councils funding model. I have been travelling to Geelong for swimming lessons, squad sessions, aquatic play, divisional swimming and nipper sessions for 15 years. In addition my four kids have wasted precious school hours commuting for school swimming. A pool is a necessity/need not a want for a community that lives by the ocean. The ocean is too cold to utilize for swimming for children more than four or five months of the year. We have one of the biggest nipper programs outside metropolitan Melbourne that would benefit from a pool, not to mention an ageing population and many adults who are time poor and can't afford to sacrifice time driving to Geelong. A pool in Torquay would keep petrol, grocery and other expendables in the Surf Coast Shire. Please build us a pool. We have so many people in our community who are willing to do the hard yards on applying for funding who also have huge expertise. Come on Surf Coast Site don't put it in the too hard basket.

**29/09/2015 Township not stated**

**29/09/2015 Anglesea**

I have not been able to submit this form after re-doing it a number of times - frustratingly!  
So here is my comment ... "As non-permanent residents, we are not willing to pay more in rates  
towards an Aquatic and Health Centre we will never use. We feel we are already paying for a  
number of services we are not able to use."

**29/09/2015    Torquay**

I write to express a negative feeling about the shire spending so much and charging a levy for a  
swimming pool in Torquay. We already have a Mcdonalds, we don't need a pasteurised,  
homogenised hole in the ground for a minority of wannabees to wallow in. There's a wonderful  
ocean out there; a lot of us came here to enjoy that. There's a pool 15 minutes away, so now they  
want one 5 minutes away!

Anecdotally, I came here in 1997 as a dedicated daily lap swimmer and haven't been in a pool since.  
Ocean wins every time. If you need heated water go and live in Waurn Ponds. Otherwise, just  
toughen up and get in there.

I'm against the pool.

Thanks for the opportunity,

**29/09/2015    Anglesea**

I found it impossible to send the form as it kept reverting to a new code.

I oppose the proposal.

It will be expensive (about \$200 per household per year, a calculation which should have been  
included).

It will benefit a minority of ratepayers (perhaps one third, or less if summer visitors are included).  
There are many activity alternatives, including swimming in the sea, which are not canvassed.  
The health benefits are exaggerated, and as the Taskforce notes the Shire's residents are more  
active than the Victorian average so the additional benefits will be less.

There seems to be no discussion of an entry charge, which is the real test of interest. (The financial  
appendix has only a cross reference to a Council paper, and no information).

The Council should focus on less grandiose proposals which are spread across the Shire, or better  
still reduce rates (since the inflation of land values gives an automatic revenue increase).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**29/09/2015    Township not stated**

Torquay desperately needs a community pool.. But not just a pool.

If you want to see an example of a great community pool & recreation facility, check out this one in  
Okotoks, Alberta, Canada near my home town :

<http://www.okotoks.ca/parks-recreation/facilities/recreation-facilities/okotoks-recreation-centre>

They have a swimming pool as well as many other facilities.. Gym, hockey rink, cafe.. Next to lovely  
green parkland with plenty of parking. Yes this may sound a little grand but a facility like this not only  
caters for people's health & well being, but it is a MAJOR draw card for tourists.



Torquay is an active town and many people visit here with their kids. Imagine having a place that is world class that people would actually make an effort to drive to? Instead of just a pool it could be an attraction! Think of Dubai... Where do families migrate to when they visit there? The fun places where kids are welcome! You could maybe even have an aquarium attached or a bowling centre.. These things people would use year-round. I'm telling you now, locals would use it and be PROUD of it, if it is done properly! If you build a pool with EXTRA opportunities for fun, even those who come just to the beach may decide hey, let's go "bowling centre/massive indoor skate park.. and to the aquarium cafe after! It's an up sell! It also means it will get 'year-round' patronage.

Even adding something like an additional water 'spray park' (just somewhere where kids can run around under sprays of water...) You've got yourself a winner! These types of places exist all over North America. This is an outdoor one but you could have a brilliant indoor version adjacent to the pool - there could be an option for people to go to one or both. People with babies and toddlers would absolutely LOVE this! :

<http://www.mountvernonchamber.com/kiwanis-park/>

People keep commenting there is a pool at Waurm Ponds 5 min up the road. For one, it's not 5 min up the road. It's about 15-20 one way. Secondly, by the time you find parking (if you can find parking...) there's another 5-10 min gone. Then you swim in the frigid cold water and/or the kids do their lessons.. And the trek home is on again. So you basically need to add about 40-50 minutes drive/park time to any general swim time. Why should Geelong get all our money? There are hundreds of families driving to Geelong to do swim lessons..and taking their money out of the community! When my kids went swimming in Geelong, I then dined in Geelong, shopped in Geelong... It's this wider retail opportunity that Torquay is missing out on when we don't have a pool here. Shameful when you consider Ocean Grove has a pool as well as many other communities our size or smaller have pools too.

I am crossing my fingers. Hopefully a bit of positivity goes further than the negativity being presented. You know the old saying... If you build it, they will come!

**29/09/2015 Lorne**

As a surf coast rate payer at Lorne for 40 years I wish to express my concern at the enormous cost of the Aquatic and Health Centre development being considered.

My family can see little benefit of such a proposal to our residents.

We believe the cost estimates to be very vague and are sure to escalate over time.

We are not in favour of such a huge facility which will really only benefit the residents of Torquay at best.

Thank you,

**29/09/2015 Anglesea**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the work done to date. We are ratepayers and presently part-time residents of Anglesea. (We object to the nonsensical term "non-permanent resident ratepayer". Ratepayers are either full-time residents, part-time residents or non-residents.) While the principle of a facility in Torquay has merit, particularly benefit for Torquay residents, we cannot see how such a facility will have benefits to residents of other communities. The funding

model being discussed is all being asked to pay for the benefit of relatively few. We **do not support** this funding model.

What has not been clarified very well in the literature is why the Shire would take sole responsibility for build, own and operate (sub-licencing certain services). If the development was open to commercial interests, in some form of public/private partnership perhaps, other funding possibilities would seem to open up. We also note Council's concerns about developer contributions, but we are not clear on what that means.

We are also concerned that the lobbyists have not been identified, nor their respective agendas. It is unlikely that there are not people with a profit motive urging the project to proceed

**29/09/2015 Lorne**

My name is ... and as a ratepayer for 35 years in ... Street, Lorne, I strongly object to paying extra rates for the proposed aquatic and health centre, that I am too far away to ever use.

Our pool in Lorne desperately needs heating but funding for that was granted and then taken away despite years of hard work by the Lorne community.

Also we were made to pay extra rates for an upgrade to the Lorne main street and even for drainage works just recently. Were Torquay ratepayers asked to pay for the equivalent in their town?

**29/09/2015 Lorne**

I am a rate payer at Lorne with a holiday house.

I strongly object to the proposed funding model for the Torquay.

This facility does provide any amenity for Lorne and I can see no valid reason for any ratepayers outside of the immediate Torquay area contributing to the funding .

In terms of economic geographic principles this proposal would not pass the distance/time test for any benefit to the Lorne Community

I have bought the holiday house in Lorne to go to Lorne and enjoy the experience and country atmosphere there .If I had wanted to move into a semi urban/Urban beach environment such as torquay I would have purchased there .

I think the concept of non users subsidising the facility is basically flawed .

This should be a case for the "user pays "

**29/09/2015 Lorne**

I ... of ... Street have great concern that ratepayers from Lorne should pay for such a large infrastructure.The cost of the project as well as the ongoing cost for up to 10 years is unacceptable.The ratepayers of Lorne and surround will not get a very good return for this large investment.In fact the distance to Torquay would not be very helpful for Lorne residents to be able to use the new facility frequently.....if at all!

I therefore object to the large rate commitment that will be imposed on many ratepayers who will never be able to utilise the new facility.

**29/09/2015 Gnarwarre**

I live in Gnarwarre, and I am against the proposed aquatic & health centre for our shire. The proposed enforced rate increase to every property owner in the shire to pay for a facility that will only benefit those close by is inequitable. If it does go ahead then those that use it should pay for it - user pays, just like if we wanted our road asphalt we would be made to pay for it.

**29/09/2015 Torquay**

It appears the only concern councillors and "anti-pool ratepayers" have to approving a pool for Torquay is the costs.

I draw your attention to the surfcoast slogan of "the place of wellbeing". As a chiropractor and wellness coach I can unequivocally attest to the importance of water based exercise in maintaining health and wellbeing through all ages. It is time to take a proactive rather than reactive approach to health services in all communities and the costs of treating chronic-poor-lifestyle-choice health issues most western societies are afflicted with far outweigh the costs of preventative wellness choices many times over.

Notwithstanding this, Torquay population and housing and therefore ratepayers has more than tripled in the 13 years I have resided here. Where is all that extra rate revenue being spent? Certainly not on any extra services for the community. Funding for the pool should certainly be afforded from the extra "pool" of revenue being collected by the council already, and therefore there should be no need for any extra rate payments, this is absurd. Council should have negotiated better with developers in the first place to include community resources like a pool and gym. If it can be included in the Armstrong Creek development then why wasn't it required in Torquay North???? Poor performance by surfcoast shire...again!

We are a tourist town based on water sports. We have a climate where tourists would be attracted to spend money for pool entry when conditions make outdoor water sports unattractive. Simple maths of tourist numbers by pool entry fees would see ample income to further fund a pool. Furthermore we have adequate young permanent population seeking swimming lessons. Currently spending \$110+ per term per child at Geelong based pools. We have sporting clubs requiring access to pool based training and rehab currently spending \$\$ in Geelong pools. We have older citizens seeking water based exercise classes in Geelong pools.

A pool should be easily afforded by council and federal government funding has been offered. Colac has just recently extended its aquatic centre for a town population of equal number to Torquay, without the tourist (dollar) influx Torquay enjoys. Winchelsea has a pool, Lorne has a pool, each has less than 10% of the population of Torquay. If the numbers add up as viable to run pools in these towns then why not Torquay?

Get the design right, keep the initial structure simple and affordable and able to easily be extended to offer hydrotherapy pools, gyms, allied health services etc as demand and funding increases for these additional components of a recreation centre. But first just build a lap pool.

Build it and we will swim!

**29/09/2015 Township not stated**

Please accept the following as my brief submission to this issue.

I support the principle of a pool in Torquay – I do not propose to go into the reasons, as they are consistent with plenty of other submissions I have read, and I'm sure Council is familiar with the justifications.

The heart of this submission is a view, and a view which I do not think is completely naïve, that the proposed cost and nature of the pool is preventing any proper consideration of the proposal. There just have to be cheaper options than the \$26 million proposed. I have read the investigations etc., but I am unconvinced that a financially sustainable pool complex needs to be in that order of cost. That \$26 million, the stress it places on Council's finances, and the subsequent options of rate increase and special rates and charges make it a very unattractive proposal.

My submission is to go back to the start, look at a much more modest proposal, which may not be as capable of recouping costs, but which is more affordable to deliver, even in the long term with operating costs. It is incumbent on Council to exhaust the possibilities of actually delivering this community service, and to use innovation and alternative approaches to do so.

**29/09/2015 Anglesea**

Before commenting we would advise that we believe that the cut-off date for comments of 30 September, given the date the notice was received, did not provide sufficient time for consideration and discussion. That said, this project will not benefit us in any way. We rarely use our holiday home and yet we pay full rates for services that are not provided. Obviously there are also Aquatic and Health Centres in Melbourne that we can avail ourselves of, should we so desire. For your information we do not, and accordingly would not do so on the coast. We use our holiday home for about 6 to 8 weeks per year to enjoy the peace and recreation that it affords us. Clearly, this project holds no interest for us and is not something that we as non-permanent residents should be called on to contribute to.

This project's benefits are overwhelmingly for the benefit of permanent residents, and accordingly, it is those residents that you should be looking to for funding.

**29/09/2015 Anglesea**

We are not in favour of being charged extra rates to fund an aquatic centre in Torquay North. For residents of Anglesea it is not much nearer (if at all) than going to Waurn Ponds. Paying the extra rates for a period of 20 years is far too long plus the cost of annual upkeep and then on top of all that charges for entry.

The proposal is far too elaborate and IF the pool does get built it should be to a much simpler plan with a lesser burden on rate payers and lower costs to ratepayers when they use the pool.

Overall - not in favour of the proposal.

**29/09/2015 Torquay**

Hi , this is the submission from the Surfcoast Aquatic Leisure Centre Action Group.

As a group and as individuals we have already had a large amount of input into your process. We have documented our opinion of the process used but as that is the path the Shire has taken we would like to input the following in regard to the modelling.

It should be noted that there has been a great amount of information and figures put into the public domain over the past six months. Most of this we have been able to understand but there are still some area of the financial modelling that are not completely clear to us. From comments and answers to the public's questions we would assume that there are also some areas that are not completely understood by some of your council officers.

We firmly believe that it was too early to go to the community to ask them if they wanted this facility with the financial model presented.

The reasons for this are...

- 1/ To ask infrequent or non users of a facility if they would like to pay more for the facility is a question that will always illicit a negative response.
- 2/ The model is not complete and often uses ball park figures and statewide averages without clearly explaining this to the community.
- 3/ There is little possibility of the facility costing more to build or more to run but there is a high possibility of the costs of both being less than quoted. Again this has not been clearly communicated to the community.
- 4/ We believe there are savings that could be made in a variety of ways as detailed below.

Our group would like to be involved into the future in regard to this facility and ask the Shire to use the community in a much more open, consultative and informative manner. The Taskforce, although having some input into decisions was at most times just rubber stamping the ideas of council officers and consultants. If this process goes further we would hope that the Terms of Reference for the Taskforce are much broader.

Our group believes that there is no need for a special charge and that there is potential to build and operate a facility with either no specific rate rise or with only a rate rise. We cannot give you the exact amount of savings that the following could bring but would be more than happy to be engaged more closely in investigating.

The areas in which we would like the Shire to do further research are....

- 1/ Revisit the DCP.

The level of community consultation attached to what the money from the DCP would be used for was minimal at best. Keith stated that it is possible to revisit this process and we believe that to overlook the building of a Leisure Centre as apart of this process means that the community's ideas and wishes were not adequately identified or acted upon. The idea that the leisure centre can only be built as an extra facility and not be funded partly or wholly through normal means is flawed in that this has not been tested with the community. If the question was asked of the community, "Do you want us to fund an Aquatic Centre through normal means even though this may mean you do not receive some of the assets planned into the future?" , the answers you receive would be vastly different to those you are receiving now.

- 2/ Federal funding

The model has taken into account 7.5 million in grants from State and Federal governments. Whilst understanding that this is the average over past years this does not take into account our status as one of the most marginal seats in both State and the Federal elections. We should ensure that party politics are kept aside from decisions about community facilities and that the Shire lobbies both sides of politics to ensure the maximum amount of funding is gained. The 3 million from Better Pools should be accessed relatively easily. With up to ten million available and only 4.5 million estimated to come from the Federal government it is an area worth serious consideration and investigation.

- 3/ Growth in the population

As stated by Keith the rate rise will sit there and will be collected even from new rate payers. With an estimated 500 new rated properties per year this is very large amount of money. This is especially so in the period five years and on.

#### 4/ Accumulative monies from rate rise

Has this been taken into account? This is a grey area that we don't believe has been factored in to your figure or clearly articulated to the community. With any further "normal" rate rises coming on top of the 2.75% or any other one off rise there is large amount of money that is made. i.e A "normal" rise of 3% on top of a \$50 rise will accrue \$1.50 extra the next year. Multiplied by 20000 rate payers this is \$30000 that doesn't appear to be accounted for. This amount will continue to grow as the years pass. This is not money that the shire would have raised if it weren't for the one off rate rise.

#### 5/ The cost of managing the "Company limited by guarantee"

The figure per annum for doing this was quoted by SGL as \$80000. This has risen to \$200000 on what basis? Why was their figure out by 150%. The Shire has taken SGL's figures in all other areas except this and dealing with renewal/ major maintenance. This should be investigated further.

#### 6/ Depreciation / major maintenance

Whilst we understand the premise behind this amount being put aside we do not think that on top of the planned charges and rate rises that this is a good decision for the community .The messages about this money have been mixed. Obviously the financial model did not include this figure. It is not something that has been factored in this way before. The figure for normal maintenance on an annual basis was \$130000 p.a. On top of this was \$350000 every five years for major maintenance.

The figure of \$660000 p.a has been stated as being for major maintenance, for renewal of the centre in 25- 40 years time ,for renewal of any facilities in the shire. What this money will be used for needs to both investigated, clarified and communicated to the community. We ask the Shire if the 45 projects planned to be funded through rates and the DCP have factored in depreciation in this manner? This figure blows the annual operating costs from in the low hundreds of thousands to close to a million a year. This is a major stumbling block for the project.

#### 7/ Capital costs

It would appear that to determine the actual costs of building a centre the Shire will need to take the next step and have detailed plans and costings delivered. We understand the cost of this but believe that the project may be able to be delivered for millions less. We would encourage the Shire to get these costings completed on the preferred model but also to have them completed for a lesser model with the possibility of add on facilities into the future. As discussed at one of the forums this could be with a maximum figure quoted and then determine what could be included in the design at that cost.

#### 8/ Operating income

We understand that actual attendance figures are hard to estimate but here are some areas that require further investigation and would most likely raise revenue well beyond the figures quoted.

School swim figures- SGL has used standard figures again and have not taken into account the large number of students in this town. There is a growing student population with the new secondary college growing rapidly and a new primary school and private school planned for the area. Our

communication with the three main primary schools is that they have lessened swim lessons due to costs in transport and would be highly likely to swap to a local facility in the first instance. Potential school users such as Anglesea Primary, Mt. Duneed Primary, the Lutheran College and the proposed school for Armstrong Creek have not been factored in.

Catchment – It is not at all reasonable that some percentage of the population of areas such as Anglesea and Armstrong Creek were not used in the figures quoted. Although a facility is planned for Armstrong Creek this will not be built for at least 10-15 years. If a facility on the Surfcoast came on line in the next five to six years this would allow for many years of patronage from that suburb. A facility here would be much quicker to travel to than any facilities currently operating in Geelong.

Memberships- SGL's figures are unclear as they quote income from aquatic and fitness areas and also a figure for memberships. It appears they have assumed a model where memberships can be purchased for each area. It is impossible from their figures to determine how much of the income from any area is from a membership, from casual entry or from swim lessons etc. These figures should be broken down and then investigated. We believe these figures may have been underestimated.

Our affluent and healthy population- All figures are again based on the averages used by SGL. We are not an average area in regard to both affluence and therefore affordability of leisure centre attendance. We are also not average in regard to health/ fitness and our desire to exercise across all age groups.

#### 9/ Partnerships

Partnerships of all sizes and styles have not been adequately investigated. Again we understand that some partnerships would not be able to be determined until further along in the planning process. This is another reason why taking this model to the community is a premature decision.

Partnerships with COGG or other large organisations such as Barwon Health could lead to a large reduction in capital costs.

Partnerships with organisations such as power companies could lead to a large reduction in operating costs.

Partnerships with organisations such as GMHBA or other health insurers could lead to large increase in membership ( subsidised by GMHBA )

Partnerships with community benevolent organisations such as Torquay Community Enterprise, Torquay Improvement Association, Rotary etc could also lead to external income resulting in a boost to operating results or a lessened capital cost.

Partnerships with the surf industry should be investigated. Surfing Victoria would be very likely to be open to discussions if facilities were planned to aid in training professional and semi professional surfers. The commercial surf industry may be involved if there were some sort of wave riding facility involved.

#### 10/ Community Fundraising

This is an area that has not been adequately explored but has been used to good measure in similar situations across the country. Figures raised of half to one million dollars raised are not

unheard of. Again we have an affluent community with many means to fundraise and also many large and successful companies who have their base in Torquay. Fundraising either for capital costs or ongoing for operating costs could have a big influence on total costs to ratepayers.

Ideas such as paying now for future memberships, names on bricks, bequeaths, etc can raise hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Thank you for your time

**29/09/2015    jan Juc**

I strongly object to the ratepayers having to pay additional levies to fund this project in Torquay. I have just completed paying an extraordinary levy for footpaths in Jan Juc that did not go outside my property in any way.

Council needs to learn to show financial competence and infrastructure planning to manage within the rates that are paid by residents which already are among the most expensive in the state.

**29/09/2015    Torquay**

As a long time resident and rate payer in the Surf Coast Shire I support the building of an Aquatic centre .

The sooner the Shire moves to approve this much needed facility the more affordable it will become. The Surf Coast Shire officers should look at the project as a profit making venture rather than spreading fear off extra cost to rate payers .

Vision for the future is paramount . Building of infrastructure for health and well being for all age's should be of the highest priority .

**29/09/2015    Mt Duneed**

To the Mayor and Councillors

We do not support the proposed aquatic centre irrespective of the proposed funding method.

The issues arising for this proposal include:

- Adequate existing facilities.
- The funding model and ongoing operating costs
- Equitable expenditure and comparative standards on recreation style facilities across the shire.

The original study in 2009.

This study highlighted that 85% of users would come from a relatively close proximity and that ideally a catchment population of 40,000 people is needed. The population of the entire Surf Coast Shire is not expected to reach this level until about 2036. At the time of the study the only indoor facility was the Baines Court Facility.

Since the original study aquatic/allied health type facilities at RACV and The Sands have opened in Torquay and Leisure Link opened in Waurin Ponds as well as two very large fitness centres, Fernwood and Goodlife at Waurin Ponds.



These developments change the perception that may have existed of lack of access to the health and well being benefits associated with this type of facility particularly for those who live within close to direct routes to any of these facilities.

The Villawood Armstrong Creek facility, including 25m lap pool, children's areas and gym is already under construction. Geelong also has plans for an Aquatic and Recreation Centre off Burville Road which is only 8 kilometres from the proposed site at Torquay.

Existing facilities are readily accessible to both committed and casual users.

There are other existing gymnasium facilities including Jetts, The Quay Health Club, Torquay Boxing and Fitness, Balance Studio and in Waurin Ponds further fitness centres including Fernwood and Goodlife Health Club.

A range of fitness programs are already available for age groups from 18 months to the elderly and include gentle exercise , rehab, personal training, floor and aerobic activities.

There are now 3 indoor 25m pools in Torquay, plus the solar heated pool facilities at the caravan park with the 50m Leisurelink pool only 13 kilometres away from the proposed site.

Two of the pools in Torquay offer learn to swim classes, the RACV One lifestyle fitness centre has a pool hoist for disabled access and operates from 6am till 9pm 7 days a week. Further learn to swim classes and water safety classes are also offered and utilised at Christian College.

Membership prices of the privately owned facilities is highly competitive with the Leisure link facility. The Sands is also available for casual users at \$20 a visit.

The relative proximity of these facilities to Torquay North suggests that any benefits to the health and well being of residents will at best be incremental. Many residents are already using existing facilities both at Torquay and elsewhere.

The 2014 financial model report states that the most active users of aquatic facilities are aged up to 40 years and the 2011 census profile identifies well over 92% of those in the Torquay area as owning at least one motor vehicle. Irrespective of which facilities are accessed all involve a journey by car and that also applies to a facility built at Torquay North. A few extra kilometres of travel to existing facilities is not a barrier to reasonable access.

Other areas of the Shire do not have the same access to either indoor pools or the proximity to the beaches that Torquay enjoys.

#### The Funding Model

Historically Surf Coast rates have increased in excess of 5% for many years and been at the upper levels of rate increases within the state. The current rate base of marginally over 24,000 rateable properties is insufficient to carry the burden of both the capital and operating costs of an Aquatic Centre. With debts of \$16.149 million in addition to unfunded liabilities for Aged Care Units \$0.6 million and unknown costs of remediation works for Winchelsea Common and future shortfalls

under the Defined Benefits Scheme the Shire does not have the capacity to absorb any potential blowout in building costs or cover failure to secure grant funding.

The proposed Special Rate Charge to pay for the Capital cost is highly contentious and under local government provisions must be shown to be of benefit and have majority support.

If it were introduced there will be many who challenge in VCAT. Properties that are vacant land, farm land, multiple property ownership by individuals, properties outside the main catchment may contest the benefit ratio suggested in the funding model.

The special rate will have to be re-struck at intervals to include newly built residences contributing their share particularly when they are most likely to be built within close proximity to the facility. Each time there is a re-struck special rate Council may well be challenged again in VCAT. Defending these challenges will be added costs that will require redirecting funds from other budget items. Those that are decided in the ratepayers favour will also reduce the estimated contributions from any special rate scheme.

Based on figures provided from Council - 9360 properties @ \$150 within the 5 kilometre radius - an annual collection of \$1.932 million, 85% of users come from within a 5 kilometre radius. It would not be unreasonable to suggest that the contribution from those within 5 kilometres should be at least 85% and therefore a contribution of \$175 is appropriate.

#### Ongoing Running Costs

The original 2009 report identified an ideal catchment of 40,000 people for the project to be financially viable. Achieving that size catchment within the 5 kilometre radius will not happen in this and probably the next generation, nor would it be welcomed. With competing facilities now available within easy reach the prospects of this facility ever running at break even are negligible and will be a constant drain on Council finances.

The proposed rate hike of 2.75% to cover the running costs may well be insufficient.

Weaknesses identified in the catchment included

- Catchment smaller than ideal
- Proximity to Leisure Link
- Planned Centre at Armstrong Creek
- Potential lower or slower growth than used in forecasts.
- Lack of public transport links to the site.

The conservative model of ongoing funding at 10% less than the base case is potentially over optimistic in estimates of patronage. At 20 to 25% less scenario Council may well need to find more than \$1 million per annum to fund the operating costs or alternatively reduce operating hours or other services. Council may also not be permitted to exceed any rate capping introduced. It is also questionable as to the equitable use of rates to fund the running of a facility that clearly will be of little or no benefit to many ratepayers. It is in effect asking the ratepayers for a further subsidy for a single facility.

Very few residents would appreciate this rate rise on top of a planned 5% rate rise, when the State politicians acknowledge that rises above CPI combined with increasing property valuations are placing undue pressure on citizens in an economy that is contracting and potentially on the verge of recession.

#### Equitable allocation of Grants and Capital expenditure on recreation facilities.

A sharp comparison can be drawn by the allocation of \$60,000 for improving the Winchelsea pool and this proposal for an Aquatic Centre at Torquay.

The Community Sports Infrastructure Fund provides grants from \$200,000 to \$3 million for 'Better Pools'. It is curious as to why there is not an application to this fund to improve and roof the Winchelsea facility. This would fit with the growing Winchelsea Strategy, provided employment in an area with a far higher unemployment rate than Torquay and provided access to Learn to Swim classes for children outside of the coastal towns that is otherwise non-existent.

Councils 2015/16 capital expenditure budget on sport, recreation and community facilities (e.g. Men's Shed) reveals a heavy bias towards allocating grants and ratepayer funds to providing facilities in Torquay/Jan Juc. Inclusive of grants \$3.9 million is allocated for sports, paths, cricket nets, lighting playground facilities in the Torquay area. In comparison it appears that less than \$600,000 is being spent in all other wards. In comparison the standard of facilities in wards outside Torquay have suffered from years of neglect and are in need of major upgrades.

This same scenario would be apparent in previous budgets. Based on Council information more than 53% of ratepayer funds come from outside the Torquay/Jan Juc area. There are 11,000 rateable properties outside a 10km radius of Torquay (6750 greater than 20 kilometres) and 9360 properties within a 5 kilometre radius. The forecast growth of 400-500 properties across the shire per annum would suggest it will be at least 5 years before the growth in Torquay equates to half the rateable properties.

With these figures are current ratepayers who don't reside in Torquay are unfairly shouldering the burden of providing facilities for current and future residents of Torquay?.

#### Personal Perspective

- Live at Mount Duneed
- Access doctors, dentists, Medicare etc Waurn Ponds
- Access Library, Cinemas, Shops at Waurn Ponds
- Already use Leisure Link - wouldn't change
- Coffee, Restaurants - Geelong area
- Rarely go to Torquay (access Pet Vet)
- Rural supplies purchased in Winchelsea and Colac
- Two farming properties in Shire - (one property vacant land)
- Adult children live elsewhere

#### Summary

1. The Aquatic facility is unnecessary and will provide only incremental benefits to very few.

2. Funding the facility will place constraints on Council's flexibility to deliver other projects.
3. The funding model is inequitable even on a reducing benefit ratio.
4. Ongoing operating costs are unpredictable and expensive.
5. Rates are already excessive in comparison to neighbouring and similar areas.
6. Rate capping will further strain ability to deliver existing services.
7. Concentration of facilities in one location is undesirable.
8. Equitable allocation and delivery of infrastructure across the entire shire is required.

**30/09/2015 Lorne**

We strongly object to paying for a service that it not close enough for us to use.

**30/09/2015 Township not stated**

As a non resident ratepayer who is highly unlikely to ever use the facility, I object to both the initial charge but in particular the ongoing maintenance charge. If the centre cannot operate at a profit, as do centres in Melbourne such as Gesac, Msac & Waves, to name a few, it should not proceed. Non residence ratepayers already subsidise the rest of the community, as we do not use most services available due to the limited time we spend at our properties. We are even charge additional rates if we rent them out. Enough is enough, don't build another white elephant or build a pool that's affordable & if operating at a profit extend over time.

**30/09/2015 Torquay**

I am a father of 2 kids living in Torquay , and twice a week we travel to Geelong for swimming lessons , I totally support a Torquay aquatic centre

**30/09/2015 Township not stated**

Opposed to the idea

Not willing to pay extra to fund this

Plenty of water at the beaches

**30/09/2015 Torquay**

Good morning,

I am a rate payer in Torquay and would most likely be considered to be in the closest vicinity to the proposed Aquatic & Health Centre.

When I purchased my land and built my home (moved in not quite 12 months ago) I was unaware that in the coming future I may have to pay for such a facility. Perhaps it would have been nice of Council to inform me of this possibility prior to the stamp of approval on my house build.

Whilst I am not opposed to such a proposed facility with regard to the benefits to the community, I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to a fund raising scheme that would require rate payers that by sheer chance, live closer to the proposed facility, to pay a higher contribution.

**Will every ratepayer be expected to pay?**

"If Council decides to proceed with building an Aquatic and Health Centre and a special charge scheme is adopted, every Surf Coast property would pay the charge. These charges would be lower for properties located further away from the facility. Should Council decide to declare a special charge scheme, there would be additional opportunities for affected ratepayers to comment on the charge itself."

There are three of us living at home. Myself, my partner and my son. Of the three of us, it is most likely that only one of us would use the facility if at all. And then to be told that we would have to pay the same admission fee as everyone else is deplorable.

**Will I get free membership if the centre proceeds?**

"No, the funding model is being proposed to provide money to build an Aquatic and Health Centre and provide for operating costs including maintaining the facility over the long term. There would still need to be an admission charge if the centre was to be financial viable. Admission charges would be based on typical costs at comparable facilities."

We have to pay more for not only ourselves but others to benefit from the use of the facility but are not going to be compensated in any way. **Please explain how this is fair?**

Not to mention that clearly in the warmer months, traffic would increase on the roads in the area directly around our homes and quite possibly we may experience cars parking in our streets, taking up the already limited spaces provided for residents.

Again, impacting on those of us who just happen to live nearby and who may have chosen to build their homes further away had they known prior. And we are going to pay more than others for the privilege of this negative impact?

I am more than disappointed with the currently proposed funding scheme and being put in a position where **my family will be considerably financially disadvantaged**, simply as a result of where we chose to build our home.

**30/092015     Jan Juc**

I am writing to register my interest in an aquatic Centre in Torquay but NOT if rate rises and special charge schemes are to fund it. I am already paying for footpaths I hardly walk on. As far as community in the likes of Winchelsea, Lorne and other outer areas being subjected to rate rises if this project gets the green light is utterly shameless. Many other Shires and councils manage centre's without slugging their residents. This needs a huge rethink. I would rather drive to Waurn Ponds or pay to swim privately if this goes ahead as proposed.

**30/09/2015     Torquay**

I support the building of an Aquatic Centre in Torquay. Besides all the health & community benefits that I'm sure others have mentioned I support an Aquatic centre for my own personal reasons.

I have MS & struggle to get around. Days like today I can barely use my legs & the fatigue is akin to narcolepsy. I only have very short bursts of energy on good days. I find it very very difficult to access Leisure link (which is really the only place where I can enter & exit a pool easily) MS fatigue also means that physically it is very hard for me to travel to Waurn Ponds then change then get in the pool exercise get out get dress & travel home. It doesn't sound like much to you but for an MS sufferer it's like asking us to climb a mountain!

I also have children. Unlike a lot of people sending my kids to school in Geelong was never going to be on the cards. I support my local community in every way I can. I just wish our Council would support us in the same way. We currently have 4 schools in the immediate area with 2 more by 2018. Then there's the 3 schools on the fringe (Mt Duneed & Anglesea & Steiner then there are schools further down the coast. Soon enough there will also be schools in Armstrong Creek. That is an awful lot of students that currently have to travel to Geelong to access a pool for lessons & safety. I know I pay around \$100 per child per year for swimming lessons. More than 50% of that cost is Travel fees! It seems ridiculous to have to do that when we should have a local facility. Children need to learn how to swim before they swim in the ocean. They need to be confident & competent before going in the sea.

These are just my personal reasons for a local pool. Every person in my family would use it & benefit from it. Now is the time for Surfcoast Shire to finally provide an Aquatic Centre.

30/09/2015 Township not stated

The following are our thoughts on the proposal and cautions given 30 years of experience in the Aquatic industry including seeing many Council Pool developments and re-developments.

My wife and I own and operate ... Swim School in Melbourne.

We come from a competitive swimming background and have and still are involved with swimming and water polo. With our son we are also involved with the Torquay Surf Lifesaving Club.

Firstly I would like to say that the way in which you have presented the type of facility, the costing and financial impact on the ratepayers is to be commended.

This gives a clear understanding to ratepayers of the obligation they take on if a project like this is to proceed.

Whilst we are not completely against the project, we are cautious about the long term financial impost on Council and hence ratepayers

- As a non-resident ratepayer we would not be interested in our rates going up to pay for construction, running and ongoing maintenance of the facility. The ongoing cost for running and maintenance never goes away
- Having been involved with a local Council in a day of assessing the aquatic needs of the municipality, part of the discussion centred around other facilities close to the municipality. Banyule had just spent some \$50mil and Hume ready to spend a similar amount. With the Warn Ponds and Kadinia facilities and the potential for the RACV club for local residents and the fact that the ocean is accessible, we would doubt the need for a facility in Torquay. I swim at both public facilities and note that the Warn Ponds pool seems to be mostly underutilized from a lap-swimming point of view and is only 15 minutes away. Convenience often gets in the way of sensible decision-making regarding Aquatic Facilities. Also, the desire to have what the other Municipality has can be a fault.
- A consultant conducted the session. Coming away from that day my conclusion was that the officers and the consultant were making the decisions based on their own ideas and not what the ratepayers necessarily wanted or needed. This is common. The comment that if you provide a certain amount of meters squared you can fit more people in to my mind in the context of a council aquatic facility is fraught with financial danger. The comment that

“we have to provide people with things to entertain them in such a facility because people only know what they know in terms of just a pool” is in my opinion ridiculous.

People love to go to the beach and other watercourses and know what they know. Again an example of the better process Surf Coast Shire is adopting.

I guess the main question for Council is what does the municipality need? What services do the ratepayers need as a matter of priority? If these are satisfied then what do ratepayers want? Are there sufficient facilities in reasonable proximity? Are there plans by others in reasonable proximity to provide facilities? Or does Council need to provide such facilities?

The healthy lifestyle that exists as a result of location is already a plus. With most developments or re-developments, community groups such as swimming, water polo and life saving clubs have not been included for access and pay a premium for pool hire to provide the services to the community that one would argue is what a public Aquatic facility is there for.

This is largely due to the massive cost of constructing these facilities and defeats the basic principle of Councils Community based mandate.

Having said that, if Council is faced with overwhelming demand and support for an Aquatic Facility then the ratepayers have spoken. It may be that it is in the best interests of the ratepayers of the Surf Coast Shire. We certainly love the aquatic industry and would love to see pools everywhere. However we know the capital cost, the running cost and the ongoing maintenance costs and know that while a pool is wonderful, it takes up a lot of financial resources.

In the mean time we hope that our insight may be of some help in the decision making process.

**30/09/2015 Anglesea**

I refer to the letter sent to me as a non resident ratepayer dated 14th September.

I am NOT in favour of the proposed facility.

Such amenities could suit the urban nature of Torquay but I would not travel from Anglesea to use such!

**30/09/2015 Torquay**

I would like to support the Aquatic and Health Centre and happy to pay the levy. it will be a good community asset for everybody!

**30/09/2015 Township not stated**

I am in favour of a pool for the Surfcoast Shire but am against the proposed 20 year financial burden on all ratepayers.

I would be in favour of a reasonable one off payment through our rates. The additional funds needed could be raised by a yearly special events program which I am sure the ratepayers would support.

**30/09/2015 Lorne**

I wish to provide feedback, as a ratepayer from Lorne.

**VERBATIM COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH TESTING THE WATER  
EMAIL AND OTHER EMAIL ADDRESSES, ON-LINE SUBMISSIONS  
AND LETTERS**



I am STRONGLY opposed to Lorne residents contributing towards a levy to enable the facility to be built in Torquay. We the Lorne residents have contributed towards levies for streetscaping and drainage works IN LORNE, and we are in fact still paying off the drainage levy - which contrary to Council statements has made absolutely no difference to my property.

We would never use the facility in Torquay, and should therefore not be required to contribute towards the costs. If we wanted to swim in a pool, we would attend the Lorne pool - if it was heated!!

It should be noted that the Torquay residents have not participated in the payment of levies imposed upon Lorne.

I frankly am astounded that Lorne residents should even be asked to consider paying such a levy.

29/9/2015 Township not stated

⑤ We would not be in favour of contributing for the next 20 years → our rates are going to increase.

Testing the Water Response

① We are not in favour of a 29 million dollar Aquatic or Health Centre

② There is one at Warram Ponds

③ There is the beach!

④ Money could be better spent on roads, day care, Kindergartens reserves, beaches and old age centres etc.



Should be looked at for exercise classes in the parks, to connect people with the centre in Ponds. beaches or building a beach that is 500m from the water - day by the tide water in the sea.

Using ...

Thankyou for consulting the rate payers.



**25/09/2015 – Freshwater Creek**

To The Mayor and Councilors,

We consider the 29 million dollar estimated cost to construct the proposed aquatic centre to be excessively high. While the health and social benefits may appear beneficial, the additional financial burden to be carried by the shire and the rate payers significantly reduces the attractiveness of the proposal.

If other levels of government contribute 25% of the funding (and this is by no means assured), that still leaves the Surf Coast Shire with a large 21 million dollar debt that has to be serviced and eventually paid in addition to any other pre existing debt. We further make the comment that on projects such as this, the costs tend to be larger than originally predicted.

We note that there are preexisting alternatives to the proposal. The City of Greater Geelong has a large facility (Leisure Link) on the corner of Pioneer Road and Princess Highway Waurn Ponds. This centre has all of the capacities of the proposal. The alternatives are by no means restricted to Leisure Link. There is "Splashdown" Coppards Road Whittington, many gymnasiums spread through out the region and a specialist centre (by referral only) at St John of God, Geelong.

The proposed funding model will place an inequitable and unfair financial burden on those ratepayers who use existing facilities and or have no intention to use the proposed Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre. Furthermore there will be many throughout the municipality that have a significantly higher rate burden than average, who will attract a higher than 50 dollar per annum "centre operating charge". Conversely there will be ratepayers who are struggling to pay their rate bill now without the added suggested funding model cost.

In closing, we do not think this is a wise and sensible proposal.

24/09/2015 Anglesea

I write offering the following feedback  
on the proposed Aquatic and Health  
Centre.

No No No and No.

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| SURF COAST                         |  |
| FILE:                              |  |
| FOLIO:                             |  |
| 30 SEP 2015                        |  |
| OFFICER:                           |  |
| FILE COPY <input type="checkbox"/> | DUPPLICATE COPY <input type="checkbox"/> |

The following:-  
~~Detracts from coastal and visual amenity.~~  
Most people visit or live in the area  
to embrace and enjoy the coastal  
and natural environment.  
Another grant and very edifice like  
the RACV club is not needed.

~~Costings Questionable~~  
History shows that developments in the  
public domain suffer major cost blow-  
outs during construction and in the  
ongoing running.  
Think of the desal. plant and there  
are many other examples.

~~Unfair burden on rate payers.~~  
Council rates are already too high.  
Many locals are retirees and are  
already struggling with bills and rates  
on fixed or diminishing incomes.

We are being told to expect reduced money from Canberra due to "belt-tightening", hence the burden is likely to fall heavier on ratepayers.

### Environmental Impact

These type of constructions and facilities are overall damaging to the environment and are not "carbon neutral" however vocal any proponents and experts are in attempting to massage this away.  
This proposed development is not consistent with the low environmental impact ethos the Council claims to embrace.

Existing facilities

The existing sporting and health facilities and businesses are quite adequate and low-key.

The proposed new facilities would only benefit a select few who are so inclined.

Council's core responsibilities

As stated elsewhere, there is likely to be less state and federal money available going forward, Council should concentrate on core responsibilities, such as upkeep of roads, existing facilities, walking trails, waste collection and the like.

This concludes my submission.

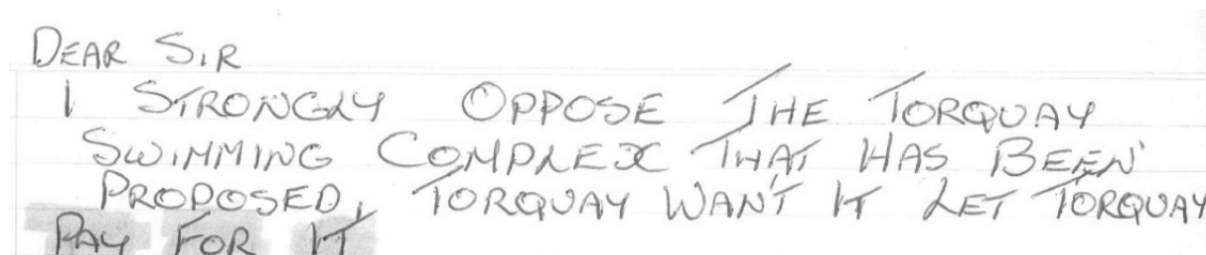
28/09/2015 Lorne

EVEN THOUGH WE ARE KEEN SWIMMERS, WE SWIM IN THE SEA AT LORNE, WE ARE AGAINST THE CONSTRUCTION OF ANOTHER POOL IN TORQUAY.

OUR OBJECTION IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS.

THERE IS AN AQUATIC CENTRE NEARBY AT WAURN PONDS; YOU ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH DEPT + WE BELIEVE THE MONEY COULD BE SPENT ON MORE IMPORTANT PROJECTS

30/09/2015 Gherang

A photograph of a handwritten note on lined paper. The text is written in blue ink and reads: 'DEAR SIR I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE TORQUAY SWIMMING COMPLEX THAT HAS BEEN PROPOSED, TORQUAY WANT IT LET TORQUAY PAY FOR IT'. The words 'PAY FOR IT' are underlined.

**30/09/2015 Lorne**

Dear Sir/Madam

I am totally opposed to the Council building an Aquatic and Health Centre.

I have lost count of the surcharges you have put on Lorne properties in the past 10 years.

Eg drainage, street scaping etc.

The rates charges are about 4 times of what I pay for my house in Melbourne and never in my history of living in Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne have I had to pay for a surcharge.

The council needs to learn to live within it's budget. Not whack a surcharge on every time a new project is dreamt up.

Attention to current issues also needs to be paid. The drain which runs beneath my driveway at [REDACTED] is practically blocked due to the fact that you only do maintenance on the side of the road about once every 2 years.

Yours totally disappointed with Councils performance.

**30/09/2015 Lorne**

My family and I wish to lodge our oppostion to a twenty year special charge via our rates for an Acquatic Centre which is to be located an absurd distance from our holiday house in Lorne, and which we will never use!

We find the imposition of any charge to residents of Lorne, whether permanent or part-time holiday-makers, an outrage when such a facility is situated so far away, and Lorne already has various pool and gym facilities available. Not to mention the ocean for swimming, and so many fabulous nature walks!

We say No to the Aquatic Centre!

**30/09/2015 Winchelsea**

I am writing this submission in reply to your Testing the Water engagement process.

As a rate payer and local business owner, I am strongly opposed to the proposal of a ratepayer funded pool in Torquay. It would be of no benefit to myself or my family living in Winchelsea and we would prefer to support our own local pool here so that it continues to operate and grow into the future.

**30/09/2015 Jan Juc**

I think it is a great idea to have the above but I do question the funding of the project. Surf Coast Councillors should investigate MORE State and Federal Government funding options instead of slugging the Rate Payers ( especially slugging Torquay Ratepayers the EXTRA \$200 per YEAR for the NEXT 20 years!!!!!!)

We already pay enough Rates and the EXTRA \$200 is jut too much!!!!

An extra \$50 per year possibly would be OK ???..... BUT, \$200 is definately NOT.

Possibly SPREAD a lower cost more WIDELY??? So ALL Surf Coast Rate Payers fund the project ( along with greater State & Federal funding.)

Council should investigate OTHER ways to RAISE these extra funds...  
The Concept of an Aquatic Centre is great but the funding method is NOT.

**30/09/2015 Torquay/Jan Juc**

### **Submission in support of an Aquatic Leisure Centre for Torquay**

I've been a resident of the SCS Torquay / Jan Juc for 18 years. During that time it has been a constant source of frustration that there isn't a public pool here which provides swimming only membership and casual payment swimming.

Swimming has always been a favourite form of exercise and in the past I've travelled to Belmont and Waurm Ponds to swim. I've attempted to use the pool at the Sands and the RACV as an alternative but it's not possible to "just swim" at either establishments. You have to pay expensive annual memberships which include the gym & health club facilities of which I have no interest, no need & our family budget cannot accommodate. I would likely use casual gym sessions would not commit to an annual gym membership.

We've had our children enrolled in swimming lessons at Waurm Ponds for almost 4 years spending significant money and time attending the centre. **Water safety is of paramount importance** to us but their progress has been a slow and drawn out process as there is nowhere local for them to practice in between lessons.

They attend a 25 minute group lesson once a week however their actual "swimming time" to build their skills is limited. As working parents, with the kid's school commitments, we don't have the time to take them to Waurm Ponds regularly for additional swimming.

I wholeheartedly support the building of an aquatic centre but believe alternative sources of funding needs to be explored.

**I DO NOT support the SCS's current proposed funding model with the up-front rate increase and the 20 year surcharge placing the entire burden of funding the project on the community.**

This proposal is unprecedented and an unfair additional burden on ratepayers.

The "Testing the Waters" campaign has given the appearance of a council which has come out with "both guns blazing" proposing a model which would no doubt enrage some sectors of the shire and cause division amongst the community.

I believe it sets a dangerous precedent going forward to ask residents whether they are happy to have their rate money spent on infrastructure in other towns within the shire boundaries. And of course is one which is sure to cause conflict!!

If this was the SCS's preferred method of approaching such projects then why were the community not consulted about whether they were prepared to approve of the apparent overcapitalisation of the SCS's new offices ( for no community benefit ) resulting in council finances being "hogtied" for many years, thus restricting the SCS's ability to plan for and fund other large infrastructure projects for the benefit of the community as a whole.

On the whole I've found this current campaign to be an extremely disappointing approach to a planning issue which is not new, in fact has been in the pipeline in some form or other for 55 years.

**I would like to make the following points in support of an aquatic centre in Torquay:**

- Water Safety is of paramount importance for our children. The ocean is **NOT** a safe environment for our children to learn to swim and practice their skills. Nor is it useable year round in Vic's climate.  
We have an ever increasing population of people from out of the area who are not water wise and do not understand the dangers of the ocean. A safe year round swimming environment is of crucial importance for children and adults alike to learn to swim and strengthen their skills.
- Throughout my school years both primary and secondary, swimming was a regular and ongoing part of the curriculum with lessons and competing in school swimming sports being the norm. There are already 4 schools in Torquay & Bellbrae, plus the Torquay North Primary School being built that require swimming facilities. I expect that students from Anglesea would also use the facility as it would be closer than Waurn Ponds.
- Exercise is of vital importance to our community for people of ALL ages. Whilst we live in a beautiful natural environment an ever increasing portion of the population are not physically able to jog, power-walk, cycle or any other high impact outdoor exercise. Outdoor exercise is also restricted by climate and daylight hours.  
Swimming is a low impact exercise that can be utilised in safety by people of all ages and physical abilities.
- The ever decreasing size of house blocks that are being approved and developed means children won't have backyards to run around in for exercise and there certainly won't be room for backyard pools for learning, practicing & exercise.

Whilst our towns and populations are growing rapidly there are limited options for families wanting to build a house on a decent sized block putting more & more emphasis on public community based exercise and leisure centres being needed to fill this void.

- Mental Health issues are becoming more and more prevalent in our society. Exercise is of crucial importance in the treatment and ongoing management of mental health issues. The gentle rhythmic nature of swimming for exercise and the relaxation benefits of warm water therapy such as spa's and sauna's are an excellent form of therapy for mental health and emotional wellbeing.

I believe if designed well, using innovative thinking an Aquatic Leisure Centre in Torquay would be a major asset in our community and a drawcard for tourists.

In comparison to coastal area's in other states there are limited leisure facilities and additional activities for tourists and families apart from going to the beach. The climate in Victoria does not allow for year round everyday beach swimming, even in summer. Whilst I'm not suggesting we create a "Surfer's Paradise" theme park, the fact remains we live in the Surfing Capital of Australia and the birthplace of companies synonymous with surfing. An Eco Friendly Aquatic Leisure Centre with an adventure play component for children & people of all ages has the potential to be a big drawcard.

We have the opportunity to create a centre unique to our fabulous area which will serve the local community year round and be utilised by holiday makers alike.

The possibilities are numerous with a ( Surfing Industry Sponsored ) wave pool with surfing lessons and swimming, waterslides, water obstacle course and water playground with a café and a children's party room just to name a few.

Come on Surf Coast Shire, 55 years of talking is enough already!! Let's get some planning & design in place so the real cost of a facility can be determined, grants can be applied for and corporate sponsorship can be explored.

**Build it and we will swim!!!!**

**30/09/2015 Anglesea**

The Surf Coast clearly needs a pool in Torquay. I live in Anglesea and do make the trip into leisure link Waurin Ponds twice a week to swim laps. The lanes are crowded, sometimes 5 per lane. There is no room for more people and to suggest that the ever expanding population between Geelong and the Surfcoast can be absorbed by this facility does not reflect the reality of the CURRENT overcrowding. I also take my primary school aged children into Christian College once a week for lessons. The last lesson finishes at 8:15pm. We don't get home until 9:00pm. This is too late and it means that getting my kids to go to (much less be enthused by!) their essential swimming lessons is a weekly struggle. As for a funding model, my impression is that the one proposed is divisive. The more cynical would say it was proposed in order to fail. There are other funding models that have been successful in other regions, details of which I know many locals and community groups have communicated clearly to you. As a health professional (who takes care of my own health!) the health and community benefits of a community pool are significant. That there is not such a facility is



already extraordinary. That there seems to be opposition from council beggars belief. I submit that for the above reasons (which I have kept very brief) the Surfcoast needs a pool in Torquay.

**30/09/2015 Anglesea**

No thank you. Too expensive, too far away!

**30/09/2015 Lorne**

I wish to add my voice in opposition to building the aquatic centre in Torquay. I have owned our house at ... Street in Lorne since 1969, and do not want to spend the rest of my life paying for this which has no relationship or relevance to Lorne at all. There are many things that could be developed in Lorne – and elsewhere in the Shire - for a lot less, and without forcing the next generation to pay.

**30/09/2015 Township not stated**

While I have no objection to a swim centre being built I have a very strong objection to the varied cost to rate payers. I believe we should all be treated equally. Not penalised because of our proximity to the centre or our address. All residents should be treated equally.

**30/09/2015 Moriac**

I wish to express my opposition to the funding model for the pool at Torquay. As a Moriac Resident I believe it would be unfair to expect those Moriac residents to pay for a pool they wouldn't generally use.

In summer many Moriac people go to the Winch pool on hot days. Its probably quicker and more likely that local people will go to Waurn Ponds where there are more services for pool use such as swimming lessons and recreational swimming.

Please register this as my objection.

**30/09/2015 Lorne**

I would like to advise that as residents of Lorne I can say that I would never use the facilities of the Torquay aquatic centre and as such object to paying a subsidy on my rates. Please make plans to enclose the Lorne pool.

**30/09/2015 Torquay**

Thanks firstly for consulting me, as a non permanent resident ratepayer, I received your notice by snail mail

I strongly oppose the proposed financial burden on my young family. We are not residents of Torquay and feel this additional charge is not of benefit

**30/09/2015 Gherang**

I oppose the development of an aquatic centre in Torquay.

I am not in favour of rate payers such as myself having to contribute to the cost of this venture, against my will. I will not benefit from this aquatic centre as I live closer to the Waurm Ponds aquatic centre; and I have only used this once since it opened.

During the Winchelsea community engagement forum, the CEO said that this development would continue to run at a loss for 20 years or more, this is a waste of rate payers money and an unviable proposition. Council needs to work within its budget and only move forward with developments that it can afford, without forcing costs onto unwilling rate payers.

At every community consultation meeting there were more people who did not support this venture than did, including Torquay.

People outside of Torquay said they would not benefit from this development and "legally" a rate payer must benefit for a special rate to be raised on their rates notice. It would therefore be illegal for the Surfcoast Shire to raise a special rate on residents outside of the Torquay township for this development.

There is no public transport to Torquay for residents such as those living in Winchelsea, Gherang, Wensleydale, Moriac etc so it would be impossible for those without personal transport to get to and from Torquay, and in fact Waurm Ponds aquatic centre would be closer and more accessible.

**30/09/2015 Township not stated**

I want a pool but I want the shire to revisit its financial model.

I didn't want footpaths but was forced to pay my share for them, which I am still trying to pay off. I struggle to pay my rates every quarter, I can't imagine having to pay extra towards the pool, and then having to pay to enter the pool, very unfair.

Please revisit this financial model.

**30/09/2015 Township not stated**

We wish to submit some comments in support of an aquatic centre to be built in the Torquay area.

Firstly, we do not support the current proposal as put forth at the recent consultancy meetings. We think it should be revised to a more practical facility and to be built in stages, but to be on a sufficiently large parcel of land for future extension.

Initially, in stage one to build a six x 25 metre lane swimming pool including toddlers' pool and a hydro pool.

A pool is a health benefit to all ages in our community:-

{a} the very young and others can learn to swim;

{b} the older and elderly can exercise and maintain better health in later life; and

{c} everyone has the opportunity to swim/exercise and attain improved levels of fitness.

Every level of government, including local government, is experiencing an ever increasing demand for hospitals, allied health facilities and other health support provisions for an increasingly unfit population, not to mention the ageing of population. This points up the importance of the health well being of a community.

It was mentioned at the consultancy meeting that the Surfcoast Shire has a PDC listing over thirty priority works for future budgeting, but omitted an aquatic health centre as a priority in this fast growth area is difficult to comprehend.

We believe the 3% rate capping should not apply in this fast developing shire and an exemption should be applied for.

The sooner the Shire Council formally supports the building of an indoor pool the sooner State and Federal funding can be applied for.

**30/09/2015 Torquay**

My official vote to proceed with the above mentioned AQUATIC & HEALTH CENTRE project is most definitely N O .

I am a part time resident and owner of ... Torquay - together with I am owner and part time resident of ... Road, Torquay.

A confirmation of this vote would be greatly appreciated.

**30/09/2015 Torquay**

I strongly believe we do not need such a facility, when we are located near the most beautiful coastline thus have the beach for water activities.

A huge waste of money!!!

Been coming to Torquay all my life and managed nicely without an Aquatic Centre, swim in the Beach...

**14/09/2015 Township not stated**

LICK COPY  
TO THE SURF COAST SHIRE COUNCIL,

WE FULLY SUPPORT  
THE AQUATIC + HEALTH CENTRE  
IT WILL BE A GREAT  
ASSET FOR TORQUAY  
AND WE WOULD USE IT  
AND BRING OUR GRAND-  
CHILDREN FOR SWIMS.

The following submissions were received after the closing date of 30 September 2015

1/10/2015 Lorne

I object vigorously to this ludicrous proposal.

Surfcoast Shire ratepayers that don't live in Torquay get the short end of the stick with all council spending. This proposal just adds insult to injury.

For goodness sake, there is an existing facility at Waurm Ponds, only a few km away. It is of NO USE to those of us who do not live in Torquay, ie Deans Marsh, Anglesea, Fairhaven, Lorne, Winchelsea, Bambra, etc. As if non-Torquay residents would drive to Torquay for a swim – if we are not already at the beach, then we are closer to either the beach, or other facilities.

Lorne already has a facility, why pay for another that Lorne residents will never use?

This is just another Torquay money grab, and demonstrates how little the Shire cares about the villages, and the rate payers, outside of beautifully manicured Torquay.

If the residents of Torquay want an aquatic centre, then ONLY charge residents of Torquay. Residents outside of Torquay are already ripped off on their rates.

Alternatively, build the pool privately, and charge for use in a proper commercial manner. Oh, I forgot, the economics wouldn't stack up!

This is not a suitable project for a diverse shire. It may suit Torquay, but it sure doesn't suit the rest of us.

The concept is a farce, and I am amazed that the Council has even allowed it to get this far.

**1/10/2015      Lorne**

As a part owner of a residence at ... Lorne, I am opposed to the idea of any of my annual rates contributing to either the construction or ongoing maintenance of the above Centre, for the obvious reason that my family would derive no benefit at all from the Centre, with it being located so far from Lorne.

Our family, as Lorne ratepayers, have recently paid special charges for both the Lorne streetscape & the Lorne Roads & Drainage Catchment L7 & 8 and I feel fairly confident in saying that the residents of Torquay did not contribute to the costs of these projects, so I see no reason why we should contribute to their project.

**3/10/2015      Township not stated**

we are outraged at the council's intentions of again spending the ratepayers money on a totally and unnecessary expense. We have one of the highest council rates in Victoria and we feel spending money on a pool is totally unnecessary. We have a beautiful beach in Torquay and to contemplate building a pool is ridiculous. If a pool is built and we are charged with a levy as ratepayers we should get a reduction to use the said pool. That being said there is a perfectly good complex at Waurm Ponds which is a short drive from Torquay. I'm sure that the people from Waurm Ponds use the beach at Torquay and there is no charge for that. A pool should not be a consideration for Torquay and we are against the idea. We would like to know how many and what members of council are against this pool. If this facility were to be built I would propose that it be totally funded by the user pays system that is if you use it you pay for it.

**8/10/2015      Township not stated**

As a rate payer I am totally against the proposed of this aquatic centre. I see this as a grandiose idea only supported by a small pressure group.

The ratepayers are not an endless " pot of money " and the council needs to reduce it's debt before continually borrowing more.

I could go on, but the bottom line is the shire has putting up a proposal that is an huge financial burden on ratepayers that will probably never use it.

**13/10/2015 Aireys Inlet**

We are opposed to the pool tax. It is inequitable and unnecessary for all ratepayers to be subjected to it. This especially so when Torquay residents are the main beneficiaries.

In the past few years rates have gone up substantially to fund projects either the state government and/or the federal government should be financing.

This tax has more to do with circumventing the cap on rates. The fact the tax is proposed for 20 years tells us plenty.

## VERBATIM COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH ON-LINE SUBMISSION FORM

**Point Roadknight 18/09/2015**

Re the proposed aquatic and health centre. My family and I are against this because: a) the rates are already unaffordably high for us and many others and b) there already is a superb aquatic centre = the sea, which my extended family have enjoyed exercising in for over 50 years, summer and winter. Building an expensive aquatic centre close to the beautiful and refreshing sea would be a complete waste of money

**Anglesea 18/09/2015**

Having close access to the beach, we would not use the proposed aquatic centre. The Surfcoast rates are already ridiculously high and an added charge for a facility in another town,, which would most likely only be used by the local residents, seems outrageous.

**Delahey 18/09/2015**

As I am non permanent resident ratepayer I would not agree to the proposal of an aquatic centre as I will not use it when I visit or holiday I use the beach. So I don't agree that my rates should increase for the building of the centre . Thank you

**Lorne 18/09/2015**

I strongly OPPOSE the building of an aquatic centre in Torquay. A huge cost impost on a large number of ratepayers for the benefit of a very small minority. I would NEVER use such a facility and refuse to pay for such a waste of public money.

**Torquay 18/09/2015**

I am strongly opposed to ratepayers' money being spent on an aquatic centre. The greatest attraction Torquay has is its coast, the most wonderful aquatic facility of all, there is no need for a man-made aquatic facility here.

**Lorne 20/09/2015**

The population of Surf Coast is too small to sustain the proposed aquatic centre. The debt and operating costs relative to revenue sources would be crippling. I suggest you think about pooling resources with another shire. I appreciate this would extend travel times for some people, but it would be a much less risky proposition. Alternatively, try and persuade the state or Commonwealth to stump up more of the capital, I'm sure that's not easy. Please think of the long term. Boroondara, where I mainly reside, has three aquatic/leisure centres and a population of around 160,000, and is a route to the city that people outside the council drive through and use the facilities. One aquatic centre has been closed in Boroondara in the last decade due to being unsustainable. I appreciate it's tempting to go for the big project - they are usually popular, but it's the small things that could be

done in Surf Coast, such as improving walking trails that would be a more cost-effective means of improving well-being.

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

A pool facility is necessary in Torquay. Please pursue private funding models. Look for options for specialised opportunities such as an indoor surf school, wave machine. There is a model in the UK and they also have an indoor skydive centre on the same site - we need reasons to bring business into the area and being so close to Melbourne it would add extra tourism. There are private funding business options - please seek them out. A pool on its own will not be enough.

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

A pool for the shire would be highly used by our family. Have a child with additional needs and having a pool that's easily accessible would be greatly beneficial.

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

There are so many reasons why we need a aquatics center in Torquay. Here are my top 10. 1. Reduce the risk of drowning. Not only is this important for children but the statistics of drownings on the elderly is on the rise as well. 2. Rehabilitation. By providing hydrotherapy in our area it will reduce the need for locals to use Geelong services such as special needs buses and taxis. In turn this will allow more people on the surf coast as well as Geelong to have more access to these services. 3. The jobs it will create will greatly benefit the area. Especially in our younger generation which seems to be slowly taken over with ice and other drugs. 4. Imagine having the next Olympic swimmer from Torquay. Imagine the sponsors you could get for the aquatic center. 5. Our population is ever increasing. Why not keep the money they spend in our area rather than Geelong. 6. The health benefits are unmeasurable. This will also free up our health system 7. Yet another incentive to boost the population of town. It would show the council care about the health and wellbeing of their residents 8. Encourage kids in active play rather than sitting behind a scene. 9. A new platform for people to get out and meet others. 10. A safer environment to learn to swim than in a beach which is unpredictable and can be unsafe if you don't know the tides, how to spot a rip, etc

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

We need a pool yesterday.. I have young children who have and are still having to go into geelong for swimming lessons, we out grew Torquay swim school 7 years ago... They are all active nippers but still need to swim and you cannot learn to swim in an ocean.. Build it and we will I use it....

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

I really think the need of a pool and health centre is so important for the area, for teaching children swimming...we have water all around us,children Have to be able to swim!!!!hard to learn in the ocean....I as an older person need it for therapy etc.....SO IMPORTANT to keep active....

**Torquay 21/09/2015**



The council should build a pool and health centre..there should be ways to fund other than from rate payers. I had children who traveled into geelong regularly to learn to swim. It was cold and miserable having to travel on the bus ..Children need to learn to swim so they can safely use the ocean . the need to keep fit would be wonderful to have the use of a pool . the ways it would help the community is immeasurable..the town is going ..we are getting 2 new primary schools..there is also the need for a pool for rehabilitation and exercise for those who are older or for sport related injuries...please build a pool ..there are grants available both state and commonwealth

**Jan Juc 21/09/2015**

I feel we have a huge need for a pool, I don't care about the gym and other side of things there are already 5 gyms in Torquay just think we need a pool, I don't think I should pay a special charge scheme for it and will refuse to if it goes ahead.My rates have gone up \$1200 in 12 years and I can't afford them nor can I afford a special charge scheme.

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

Torquay is in desperate need for this pool! Yesterday my husband and I took our children to the Ocean Grove pool to swim. We don't like Leisure link in Waurm Ponds as it is so crowded and the Ocean grove centre is fantastic but we should not have to drive this far to have a swim! I think it's absolutely ridiculous that the shire has put this off for such a long time. It would benefit so many people of all ages to have this pool built! How about you start listening to the people and give this town what it needs!

**Jan Juc 21/09/2015**

Under the recommended funding I can't support a pool. We were retired and don't have the funds to constantly be faced with additional cost by the shire for something we will NOT use. In fact these types of cost eg. Pathways/pool has meant in our late 60 - 70's we have returned to part time work in FEAR we can't meet these costs if this continues it will most likely mean we are faced with leaving the area after nearly 30 years. Please I would ask the shire to plan and apply for funding and to stop destabilising those like us in this community. PLEASE

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

Torquay is in need of an Aquatic Centre to help our children learn how to swim as we live in a town surrounded by ocean. Geelong's Aquatic Centres are full and our children are being turned away. Torquay is growing, don't you think it's time for Torquay to have one built?

**Torquay/Jan Juc 21/09/2015**

These comments were submitted by community members to the facebook page of SCALCAG and have been uploaded to our website with their permission (Page 1) I don't understand what the hold up is, as we all know Waurm Ponds is the closest Leisure centre available and this is always packed and not suitable to hold the number of attendees. Look at towns like Warrnambool, they have the most beautiful beaches, but they also have indoor centres and the Olympic Pool has been there for more than 30 years, get on board Surfcoast Shire literally and spend your money where we need it. \*

Dear Councillors .. please do this for our community .. we NEED THIS POOL!!!! \* 14 June 2015 I need a pool for my three kids to squad swim in so they can save lives in the ocean on patrol \* 14 June 2015 Please, we really do need an aquatic centre \* 14 June 2015 The Surfcoast needs an Aquatic Centre! \*14 June 2015 It's about time the communities wishes for a pool were taken seriously not just to get politicians a yes vote. Having recently had spinal surgery it is recommended I have hydrotherapy but as it also advised I limit travel my options are very limited. By keeping active many health problems can be averted or minimised which in turn helps ease the pressure on community resources. \* 16 June 2015 Bailey Patman was found lying face down in the water at Seaford Beach after splashing about in the shallows with his friends on January 19, 2012. The coroner investigating young Bailey's death has come out urging that Primary School Swimming lessons be made compulsory so that this never happens again. The comments come off the back of a recent Life Saving Victoria study that found almost 60% of children are leaving primary school without the ability to swim. Ok shire if viability is an issue there are three primary schools, a secondary school and proposed further primary school within the Torquay area, surely this supports the call for a pool? I dont ever want to read Torquay child drowns , do you? \* 17 June 2015 As competition manager of a local lifesaving club I am well aware of the number of Families who commute into Geelong each week to ensure their Kids have the swimming skills they require not only to compete but more importantly to patrol and keep our beaches safe over summer. These Families are all volunteers and with the population growth we are experiencing on our coast it IS time we supported these volunteers who will be the next generation of lifesavers providing valuable services to our community. It's time to acknowledge the growth in our community and provide services and infrastructure that will support this growth long into the future.

**Lorne 21/09/2015**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments in regard to how the proposed aquatic centre should be funded, if it should go ahead. My tenant pays the council rates. Doing business is becoming more competitive and I am more often chasing my tenant for rates and other overhead payments made by myself on my tenant's behalf. My (Lorne) tenant will receive no benefit from the proposed aquatic centre, and will be further encumbered by costs of doing business. Vacant premises have not been uncommon in Lorne over the past decade, and for these reasons I strongly oppose the proposition for funding the Aquatic Centre by increasing council rates and will vote accordingly at the next council election.

**Torquay/Jan Juc 21/09/2015**

These comments were submitted by community members to the SCALCAG facebook page and were uploaded to our website with their permission (Page 2) We didn't ask for a Bunnings in Torquay and we got it! We didn't ask for a Mc Donald's in Torquay and we got it! We didn't ask for a Coles in Torquay and we got it!! Now we ask for a pool and we DON'T get it!! I don't get it!! Come on Surfcoast Shire Council, GIVE US A POOL!!! \* 14 June 2015 Miles or kilometers anyway in the pool are a big part of the training regime for many things, including surf lifesaving. They're not only competitive athletes, one day they might have to save your life. My son won his swimming events at the school sports today as well. Hopefully soon he will have somewhere local to train too. \* 25 February 2014 I grew up in this town and I'm now raising my two here as well. This is a great place to

raise kids, but it is missing something. Unless your teenage children surf or skate, there really is nothing for them here. A Surf Coast Leisure Centre would be a great place for teenagers to meet up. There would be a pool to swim in all year round, fitness classes that could keep them active, water slides & stuff for fun & all would be supervised by trained professionals. This town NEEDS something that all ages can benefit from, and an aquatic centre would fill that brief. \* 14 June 2015 I am in utter disbelief that a public swimming pool does not appear to be seriously on the Surf Coast Shire's agenda! In 1979 in the outer suburbs of Melb my public primary school built a swimming pool with strong school community support! We were fortunate that in the 1970's the benefits of swimming and learning to swim were deemed so important! Now some 35 yrs later I drive for 30-40 min (each way!) weekly so that my kids can reek the benefits of swimming. And I don't live beyond the black stump, I live in a town with 3 supermarkets, Bunnings, 2 servos, 3 primary schools, 1 high school, 2 surf life saving clubs, at least 5 churches, outdoor sporting fields etc etc. Colac, Ocean Grove and Warrnambool each have an indoor facility, even Terang and Camperdown have a pool each. It is 2015.the many benefits of swimming, water exercise and water play are simply common knowledge.the Surf Coast population is expanding continually .. Yet why is this pool still on the back burner?? The demand is there Surf Coast Shire, the ever expanding community want it and need it so please build it ..NOW!!! \* 15 June 2015 A pool is long overdue in Torquay (the largest town in australia with out a pool apparently). It is such a shame we all have to drive to Geelong just to swim when there are so many swimmers living in Torquay. Swimming is the best form of physical activity and social benefits to the community are immense. We need a pool! \* 01 October 2012 More to follow

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

I'm all for it, I don't understand why we wouldn't but yet we have 3 shopping centres ? Big yes to aquatic And health centre . Our family will be using it that's for sure

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

I would like to lodge my objection to the proposed funding of a local swimming pool which would incur approx \$200 per year to be added to my rates bill. Torquay has an ample supply of local beaches as well as a swimming pool in the RACV Resort and at The Sands. There is also a pool at Waurrn Ponds. All projects funded by council should be part of a long term plan using proper budgeting and current council rates. I strongly object to additional charges for special projects. I am sure that there are other more useful ways in which council could use their budget for the benefit of a much larger proportion of the community.

**Moggs Creek 21/09/2015**

As a part time resident of Moggs Creek I do not envisage any circumstances where our families would use the facility. I therefore am strongly against any special surcharge being levied to pay for said Centre.

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

Hello, I don't like the funding model for the planned Aquatic centre. I think it needs to wait till there is government funding available. I think Waurm Ponds is close enough if it requires 20 years of extra rates. I say no the aquatic centre. Thank you.

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

Each week I take my children to Geelong for swimming as there is no appropriate facility in Torquay. It is essential for that one is built and that an appropriate funding model is decided upon.

**Anglesea 21/09/2015**

I'm not keen to see my rates increased by approx \$50 per year + Approx \$60 I live in Sydney and my elderly father-in-law who lives in My house in Anglesea will not derive any benefit from an Aquatic Centre in Torquay. So my vote would be NO THANKS

**Torquay 14/09/2015**

This really should be a priority, youngster need to learn to swim its absolutely urgent that we get the process underway to build a pool. Older residents and the disabled would totally benefit also, to keep them fit and healthy. The nearest decent pool is Warn Ponds and that us to far for many to travel.

**Lorne 21/09/2015**

This seems a ridiculously costly proposal, if the whole shire's ratepayers are expected to fund it. The shire stretches many kilometres and a large proportion of the rate paying community won't have practical access to this facility. If it's wanted by Torquay residents, then let them pay a surcharge for it...we did last year when drainage near our house needed to be upgraded. The same went for Lorne foreshore upgrades a few years ago. We have been ratepayers for over 45 years. We aren't newbies. A \$2000+ p.a. rate bill for an old holiday shack is quite enough thanks.

**Balacava 21/09/2015**

Own and part live at Deans Marsh. Oppose pool development as we would never get to use it .

**DIAMOND CREEK 21/09/2015**

Aquatic Centre not required. We already have a similar facility at Waurm Ponds. Prioritise improvements to existing lap pools.

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

at the sands we have a pool and gym. we are paying for these benefits now. Do not agree with a rate increase.

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

I received the Aquatic and Health centre information letter in the mail. We are opposed to the proposal: \* Funding model is significant \* Proposed usage would be minimal by us \* We have beautiful beaches to swim in for free

**Lorne 30/09/2015**

I protest to the building of the aquatic centre if it means my rates are going up again, they are so high and I cannot see the benefit to Lorne residents.

**Lorne 21/09/2015**

I do not support this proposal in any way, shape or form. To add an extra charge to my already extremely high rates for Lorne for another 20 years, when this proposal will not benefit me at all is daylight robbery. You say an aquatic centre delivers health and social benefits, so does walking on the beach and swimming in the ocean - all of which are free!! \$29 million is an absurd amount, if the council does not have the money then do not build it. To level people who will never use of benefit from it is absolutely shocking. Set a good example to the community and say we can not afford it, and we do not suggest going into debt is the best way to achieve something. What nonsense and how much has it cost to "Test the water". Time to start using "our money" more wisely.

**Jan Juc 21/09/2015**

Dear Surf Coast Shire, My name is xxxxxx, i am 9, i live in Jan Juc and i go to Torquay college. Recently we have done school swimming and we have had to drive about 1 hour a day, to and back from swimming. This wouldn't have to happen if we have a pool in Torquay, BUT WE DON'T! i think we should have a pool in Torquay for multiple reasons. One it would save the world from extra co2 because less cars would be driving for less amount of time. Two because when we have to drive to Geelong for swimming lessons every week my brother is really annoying to me. I would like to limit the time of him being annoying to me. Three it would just be awesome to have a pool in Torquay so that old people can go there in case they need to get in the water. Four because the little kids need to learn to swim because so that we don't drown in the ocean. Five we cant really swim in the ocean because its really cold. Six because I could go there on the holidays with my friends and family. lets make a pool now so that the little tiny babies can grow up with a pool around their neighborhood. SO LETS GET A POOL Sincerely kind regards all that stuff

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

I can't believe we don't already have an aquatic centre here I torquay. I have driven my children to waurn ponds for swimming lessons for 6 years paying over \$200 per term, 4 per year. I was also a member myself at over \$70 per month for about 4 years. All that money so far and continuing money could have stayed here in our town. So so many families do the same. It really is about time we get these facilities

**BELLBRAE 21/09/2015**

I strongly support the development of an aquatic centre on the Surfcoast and believe that the Shire should be funding the necessary plans to enable proper costings and scheduling of such a facility.

Along with many many other parents, I have traveled from the Surfcoast to Geelong 3-5 times per week to enable my children to attend swimming lessons and swimming squads. They are keen members of one of the several Surf Life Saving Clubs, and compete and patrol the beaches here. This travel is in addition to the travel for my own swimming and fitness and other reasons. For those who say that Leisurelink is only 15 minutes away - this may be the case for those with a car and with the time to make the trip several times per week. Children and teenagers are unable to make this trip without parental help. For those who have both parents working, it is impossible. Additionally, there are many older people who are also unable to make the trip. In addition to the time to travel the resource costs are also substantial with so many trips into Geelong. Without a local pool our children will not be able to be competitive in swimming on a State or National level and this requires daily access to a pool. I strongly urge the development of a staged pool and leisure centre facility and the production of detailed plans to enable funding to be sourced and scheduling to occur.

**Lorne 21/09/2015**

We strongly oppose the funding model for this development as it would be of little benefit to the ratepayers of Lorne.

**Jan Juc 21/09/2015**

I want my children to grow up with a local pool. It's time to think for the future, plan for families.

**Anglesea 21/09/2015**

The council has stated that it does not have a preconceived opinion on whether or not to build the centre. Yet all the evidence you have submitted promotes the benefits the community will obtain from the construction of an Aquatic and Health Centre. Your website actually only provides the sales pitch for the centre to the rate payers, which suggests a desire that the Surfcoast Community needs this centre. The council has also produced evidence on the population growth in the Shire. What is the growth of permanent residents as compared to non permanent? The council has also not advised if the stated benefits are directed towards permanent residents, which without further information, they appear to be. There should be a question on how many non permanent residents would use an Aquatic centre? Surely a better system is a user pays system, whereby if the measured benefits are for permanent residents, then the levy should only be directed to this category of rate payer? The company structure the council seeks to establish should also be questioned and investigated further as well. In short non permanent residents already pay premiums in Land tax and for services from the council that are not fully used. It is unfair to expect non residents to once again pay a premium to rates for a centre that they will never obtain benefit from.

**Fairhaven 21/09/2015**

As a non-permanent resident I object to a levy on my rates of \$60.00 per year for the next 20 years, plus increased rates to cover annual running costs, for an aquatic centre which I will never use. The stated health and social benefits are already received by the residents of the Surf Coast owing to their proximity to the beaches and the sea. If a levy is to be charged it should only be charged to those living in reasonable proximity to the proposed aquatic centre and not to those who are non-

permanent residents and/or to those who cannot make regular use of the facilities owing to the distance required to travel to reach it.

**Jan Juc 21/09/2015**

To the Shire I am from WA originally and growing up in Perth I have access to 3 pools within a ten min drive My parents used to drive me to my 4am squad training for my highschool years before school and work and pick me up also afterschool training. I went on to have a scholarship at the WA institute of sport for swimming and this is because of the pools accessibility and my parents support in getting me there. Being a resident here for 4 years and now a contributing rate payer I am baffled that this town which is born and built on the surf industry does not have a public pool. The model you presented was unfair and was always going to fail at a public level making the rate payers pay more and out areas. Im so concerned that my kids won't have the opportunity that I had as a young adult. My child surfs and has done lessons every term as he needs to build his swimming strength to endure the ocean in his love of surfing. Soon Baines Cres pool will be too small for him to start lap swimming and the drive to geelong and back can be costly plus the amount of people that are currently using the pool is at capacity. Also the local primary schools who have to bus the kids in and out of Torquay just to learn a skill that all kids living near the ocean deserve to have Is costly ( the bus costs more than the lesson!) and time consuming. As a mother and rate payer I ask you to present some other pool options to our community as it deserves an option that would actually make sense and be achievable Please act now and invest in a pool for our kids that can't have a say!  
Thanks

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

My husband and I are both pensioners and would dearly love a pool so we could do some exercise and rehab for arthritis. We can't afford the annual fee for the private pools in the area. Also, we would dearly love to take our grandchildren to the pool when it's too cold for the beach. Surfcoast Shire take this initiative .. it's definitely time!!!

**Lorne 21/09/2015**

This is obviously a simple exercise in creative accounting and politics to lower the price on Torquay residents who have a greater ability to control the balance of power in local government. Spreading the costs to the shire is unconscionable. We therefore vehemently object to this proposal to charge non Torquay property owners. Our property is in Lorne as a holiday rental. Neither our guests nor us will ever travel 50kms to go to a pool or a gym. We are not permanent residents and we should not pay for what is obviously a localised facility / requirement which is specific to residents of Torquay, so we request that council contain it within the Torquay and surrounds area only.

**Anglesea 21/09/2015**

\$29 million to build and \$1 million per year to run is an excessive amount for only a 25 metre pool that serves a very small section of the community (who is building it, the CFMEU?) I do not support paying \$60 per year for 20 years for a facility that is in a town area I don't often go to and will never use, especially when the beach is only 1 min from my residence. I would, however, support a similar

fee if it were directed to an important community service such as the local Surf Lifesaving club, beach patrol, dune restoration, landcare, etc.

**Jan Juc 21/09/2015**

I think it inevitable that eventually Torquay will need a swimming pool aquatic fitness centre. Simply with the amount of children & rapidly growing population if its procrastinated on for too much longer it will leave all local residents stranded because prime locations will diminish& costs will be further off the dial. Have to be bold or get left behind. Don't bludge on the beautiful beaches for children to learn to swim. They are less than 5 months a year proposition.

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

It is beyond ridiculous that this town still does not have the facilities it needs. Build it and we WILL swim. My aging parents are having to travel to have a swim and soon enough that won't be possible. Please grant the wishes and needs of long time residents.

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

As a rate payer I am in full support of Torquay having its own aquatic centre. Aquatic centres are a hub for community connection, health, fitness and wellbeing for community members of all ages and abilities. It is essential for it to be accessible in cost & location and we shouldn't have to travel to Geelong & Ocean Grove to access a centre.

**Gherang 21/09/2015**

Don't want to pay for a facility that we won't use, especially for the next 20 years.

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

The residents, in particular the children of Torquay need a local pool to learn to swim to a high standard. This is vital to use the local beaches and water sports, which is primarily why most people are living here! There are 3 schools inTorquay that would also benefit from this facility, not just tourists and adults. My concern is that the current funding is inadequate and needs review.

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

I strongly guy disagree. We have a beach that people can use. There is already a pool for lessons, and there is a gym. There is no need for such an expensive building. No

**Lorne 21/09/2015**

I am opposed to the levying of any further rate or charge for the building of a leisure centre/aquatic centre at Torquay. Lorne has been seeking support for the heating of the swimming pool for years, yet no funds have been available and no proposal for a levy for the Lorne swimming pool on other areas within SurfCoast. There is little prospect of any use of the Torquay facilities by the majority of Lorne residents (including non permanent residents) and it is not therefore an amenity of any significance to Lorne ratepayers. Long term older residents need a truly local and accessible facility (heated swimming pool) at Lorne, not miles away at Torquay. Happy to pay a levy for Lorne facilities



particularly if Torquay residents also pay a proportionate levy for the Lorne facility. I fail also to see the distinction drawn in your documents between resident and non permanent resident ratepayers for the purposes of taking account of our views. Non resident rate payers often become resident after retirement and in any event pay the same rates as permanent residents.

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

1. The Aquatic Centre is not required, as there are plenty of swimming facilities & recreational areas in and around Torquay to suit all ages. 2. Rates are already too high. 3. I do not wish to contribute to any special charge or ongoing operating costs. 4. There is lack of funding for a project of this size. Under current stringent financial conditions and the imminent Council Cap on Rates it is most unlikely that funding would be made available either from the state or Federal Government. 5. Council/State funds should be used to improve road safety for pedestrians crossing the Surf Coast Highway near the Torquay Holiday Resort. The Elderly and lower income families would not want their rates increased to construct and maintain the proposed Surf Coast Aquatic Centre.

**Anglesea 21/09/2015**

The funding model seems to assume that people who pay rates are permanent residents. The relative benefit percentage should be much lower in these cases. User pays should fund the ongoing costs.

**Torquay 21/09/2015**

We are a young family from Melbourne who moved down two years ago and were astonished a coastal town did not have a public pool. This should be top priority so that all children growing up will have access to learn to swim and safely venture into the ocean as they get older. From a community health view, a pool will be extremely beneficial as it provides a means to exercise without placing stress on joints. A public pool with thoughtful consideration to function will provide the surf coast community a hub from which many services can be provided. Let's build a pool and get torquay on the move.

**Lorne 22/09/2015**

I am not in favour of the Aquatic Centre project on the proposed funding paradigm. In my view if it is to proceed it should be funded on a "user pays" basis.

**Torquay 22/09/2015**

We are willing to pay extra to fund a new Aquatic and Health Centre for the next 20 years. The benefits to the community, which continues to grow apace will be many and varied, with greater engagement, employment, fitness, and fun for singles and families and the aged alike. We say, build it! Invest in this community!

**Torquay 22/09/2015**

I support the concept of increased rates to offset costs of Aquatic centre. Torquay is rapidly growing and needs infrastructure to maintain "top town" feeling. Fitness, learning to swim should be encouraged. We live by the beach, our community should be able to swim!

**Lorne 22/09/2015**

This is the most outrageous proposal to misuse ratepayers money. There is a large aquatic centre with a 50 metre pool just 15 minutes up the road from Torquay at Waurnd Ponds. To build an inferior facility at enormous cost so close to Torquay is a disgraceful waste of financial, land and environmental resources. The benefit will be felt by a very small section of the shire's population - the residents of Torquay with those in distant locations - Lorne Winchelsea Airey's Inlet paying for but receiving ZERO benefit. If Torquay people are so keen on it let them bear the cost themselves. "Council does not have a preconceived opinion" - so why has it spent a huge amount of rate payers money on this project already?????? I am a non-resident ratepayer who lives in Melbourne. However my biggest concern is for permanent residents in Lorne. They are already under pressure with rising land values causing their rates to rise. The permanent residents of Lorne receive very few of the benefits of councils Torquay-centric expenditure. In fact it would be more accurate to change the name of the Shire to "Torquay Shire". I understand that the wide disparity between highly urban Torquay, rural towns like Winchelsea and beach resort towns like Anglesea, Lorne etc are a challenge for shire management but Surfcoast could do a lot better than it is in getting this balance right. I AM NOT JUST APPOSED I AM OUTRAGED!

**Torquay 22/09/2015**

The proposed aquatic and health centre project would be a unnecessary expenditure of limited capital resources. It is unreasonable to create further imposts on rate payers who are already struggling to meet excessive Council rate commitments. The proposal in an extreme indulgence by Council at a time where the economy is weaker, peoples incomes have slowed and the costs of living are growing. If anything the Concil should be focusing on ways to reduce Council expenditure in an effort to reduce the level of rates being sought. This proposal should be strongly opposed by all rate payers as a complete waste of capital resoucrs.

**Mosman 22/09/2015**

I oppose the Water Park proposal under " Testing the water " document.

**Jan juc 22/09/2015**

Happy to pay. Surf coast community desperately needs a pool.

**Anglesea 22/09/2015**

My wife and I are totally opposed to this expensive project. For too long the council has been engaged in empire building (eg the new council buildings)at the expense of the ratepayers. And all in Torquay! Our rates are already far too high. We are retired on a small fixed income, and you seem to be doing your best to price us out of the area.

**Jan Juc 22/09/2015**



build and then charge residents outside Torquay a higher visit charge. This way you capture the tourist population as well.

**Melbourne 22/09/2015**

We are against the building of the Aquatics Centre. We come to Torquay to swim at the beach not in a pool.

**ESSENDON 22/09/2015**

I would have no use for a pool in Torquay & strongly object to the idea of funding it over the next 20 years.

**Torquay 22/09/2015**

Throughout the consultation process for this facility I have been disappointed with the misinformation provided to the community. While I accept that a "general overview" and "approximates" are what is usually provided, I think you need to be more specific and sure of your figures if you intend to impose the "will you pay" question to the community. I am disappointed that a narrow sector of ratepayers was formally consulted via the phone survey. No renters, no disability services, no schools, no swim clubs, no fitness groups etc. This facility is community infrastructure that supports broad community participation, such a narrow consultation focus is not reflective of the communities opinion on the two issues at play here. 1. Does the community support a pool? 2. Does the community want to pay for the pool through a special charge scheme? You only need to read Facebook and twitter to see the divisiveness that bundling these two issues together has caused our community. I can't help but wonder "Where are the pool champions now", why are they not stepping up to lead the community through this discussion in an informed and honest consultation process? For those indicating they don't want a pool I wonder if they have asked themselves about what their own needs may be in the future for an aquatic and leisure facility. As someone who is looking to move to the Coast I am concerned about the lack of community infrastructure to support my future needs. At the Torquay forum CEO Keith Baillie mentioned that Council could only afford this pool if we gave up something on the list of 45 priority projects already committed to by Council? Can I suggest that those 45 projects are not in fact community priority projects but rather 45 projects committed to by Council in a DCP for Torquay Jan Juc developed in 2009 without ANY community consultation. This would explain why a feasibility for the pool undertaken in 2009 did not make this list of "priority projects"? I don't recall being asked if a library was a priority project? What is councils financial commitment to the delivery of these 45 projects and what is the financial commitment from developers? Given we expect rateable property numbers to increase and developer contributions to co fund projects then again I would ask the question of why can't the SCS fully fund this project in line with what other LGAs have been able to achieve? Whilst I understand the need for you to gain clarity around the needs of your community and to be "seen to be" engaging and consulting the community, I think all you have done is "muddy the waters" rather than "test the waters". The community is now divided and confused on this issue. I want an aquatic and leisure facility on the Coast. I am prepared to wait for that to be delivered, but I am not prepared for this project to be "shelved" due to poor consultation and community misinformation. #builditandwewillswim

**Torquay 22/09/2015**

I have lived in this beautiful part of the world for 25 years now. And joined Jan Juc Surf Club 23 years ago. I thought about it the other day, when did I give up swimming? During my Final year at school I would go down to the local pool to do laps to relax & unwind during a stressful year, we would walk there. Well once I moved to Jan Juc that was it, no local pool meant no swimming as I couldn't afford a car for a few years. Remember the bus service in the early 90s into Geelong..... I married a swimmer, he grew up in Bellbrae. He was a part of South Barwon Swimming club. His childhood was long early morning drives into Geelong either Kardinia when it finally opened for Summer or Leisure link. He worked at Splashdown as his part time job at 18 along with being a professional lifeguard on the beach in summer. He is now the Nipper co-ordinator at Jan Juc Surf Club. It seems to me that having swimming as part of his life has been beneficial for himself and the community. My mother has MS, she lives in Jan Juc. She can only go into Leisure Link once a week as part of her rehabilitation. She cannot use either The Sands pool or RACV as they are too cold. This makes her get spasms in her legs, which obviously stops her from exercising. They got to experience the beauty of Leisure Link this last term. What a lovely place. Young families were in using the water park during the week & many other people lap swimming during their lunch break. I know families that do Swimming lessons at Leisure Link, the Ocean Grove Pool & with various swim specific squad groups. We go to an amazing coach & has worked in WA with elite athletes as well as government sporting associations. Maybe you should pay some attention to her. To propose that we as rate payers pay for this facility is outrageous, and disappointing. I can't imagine that rate payers in other shires doing the same. You have no problem allowing developers to cut up more land and bring more families to the area. We need to promote a healthy lifestyle in our young people as this is what will give them the strength to resist drugs & alcohol as they get older, which will benefit all of the community. It promotes wonderfully healthy relationships. Please have a think about finding alternate ways to find funding for this necessary project. The Surf Clubs need it and so do all the families within the shire from the young to old. Build it and we will swim!!!

**Anglesea 23/09/2015**

We strongly oppose this plan as we would never use the facility due to us being non permanent residence. We pay for green bin charges which is a council charge for something we cannot take advantage of due to us not being in Anglesea in the middle of the week when these bins are collected. We feel that further charges to non permanent residence so that permanent residence can pay less for this facility would be unfair. We also doubt whether this facility is actually needed at this time and whether all rate payers within the surfcoast would benefit from it or just Torquay residence ?

**Bambra 22/09/2015**

Why would you build an aquatic centre right next to a beach. I don't believe this will be of any benefit or use to 95% of surf coast shire residents. I also suspect the majority of residents moved to the shire to escape suburbia. This sort of infrastructure adds nothing to the charm or livability of the shire.

**Anglesea 22/09/2015**

Re the SIZE of the proposed pool. RE # 2 : - "the most financially viable model " !!! What about the enormous growth projected for the Surf Coast ! ? Are you going to repeat the story of the SOUTH Eastern Freeway ?? Why not build a 50 metre pool -- for the future, not just now !

**Lorne**            **22/09/2015**

We do not want to pay any higher rates.

**Lorne**            **22/09/2015**

We do not want to pay any higher rates.

**Anglesea**        **22/09/2015**

I would not be in favour of the whole of the Surf Coast Shire paying through their rates to fund a pool at Torquay. You say in your literature re the health and social benefits of aquatic centres which I have no doubt about, but it seems to me to be quite unfair to distribute the cost throughout the whole of the shire when only a part of the shire will benefit from the pool. Additionally we are holiday home owners as are many along the surf coast and I am sure, many like the other holiday owners would not make use of the facility being built as our main attraction is the fabulous beaches and coast in the area which we would rather see our rates and any additionally spending be put into preserving this area. In particular I am most concerned with the traffic bottlenecks occurring over summer along the roads (which i think are quite dangerous) - having owned a house along the great Ocean Road for over 30 years I see this as getting worse.

**Anglesea**        **22/09/2015**

As an Anglesea resident we wouldn't use an aquatic centre located in Torquay therefore we wouldn't support having to pay for something a small percentage of the shire residents would use. Torquay residents already have the new sports facilities and seem to be the focus of the shire. We in Anglesea need the traffic flow through the roundabout fixed. Someone did redesign the Pt Roadnight carpark but that's now a mess because the person who designed it obviously never uses it. It worked perfectly well before it was redesigned. A new toilet block would have seen the money better spent.

**Lorne**            **22/09/2015**

I am strongly opposed to the construction of an aquatic center costing \$29 million in Torquay. As a Lorne resident it will be of no value to me and my family. I believe that if the project goes ahead the cost should be borne by the residents of Torquay who will reap all the benefits of this rather grand plan.

**Anglesea**        **22/09/2015**

No I am NOT in favour. A pool at Torquay would be of no benefit to anybody outside of Torquay township that I can visualise except for privately run water therapy classes. My residence at Anglesea was purchased for its proximity to a very adequate beach and river precinct where all our water activities are provided for. A more suitable project for council to approach would be providing

bulk solar installations to homes (initially, possibly pensioner owned). Installation costs to be paid off by the ratepayer over 10 years. This approach has been trialled by Darebin council. Only negative with this is the poor return by the power resellers for power supplied to the grid. This type of project not only benefits the user but reduces the reliance on unsustainable power sources and reduces our carbon footprint.

**Boonah 22/09/2015**

The proposed aquatic centre would be an unfair impost on residents of Boonah. The distance to travel and the dangerous state of the shire's roads would make use of it an unviable option for ratepayers at this end of the shire. It would also be an unnecessary luxury when the shire is unable to fund maintenance of its existing infrastructure.

**Torquay 22/09/2015**

We are strongly opposed to the proposed rate increase for the Aquatic/health centre which follows closely on the special levy for footpaths on the opposite side of Munday Street. We further object strongly to the proposal to differentially increase the rate according to where one lives. As retirees with health problems we would be unable to use such a centre due to health issues. The majority of the community is presently rather concerned about the future with incomes flat and rising unemployment, and retired incomes diminishing steadily over the last seven years. This is no time for grandiose schemes to enable councils to claim brownie points for spending ratepayers money.

**Torquay 22/09/2015**

I am 100% against the building of the aquatic centre in torquay as there are already three pool that can be used in torquay and an excellent facility only 10 minutes down the road in waurn ponds. it is not necessary at all and rates are already expensive for my family an extra \$150 for the next 20 years and an extra \$50 permanently is ludicrous when not needed.

**Torquay 29/09/2015**

I disagree with the building of this facility. The provision of any such facility must be self sufficient with funds generated from the facility being able to eventually pay for the facility as well as all running costs. Failure to apply this simple business principle means that many will be paying so that a few may benefit. Not all (particularly the aged) need or will ever use a pool of this standard, let alone the gym. I am not prepared to contribute to the funding of this centre. Build it by all means, but ensure those that use it pay for it.

**Anglesea 22/09/2015**

I am strongly opposed to an increase in rates in order to fund this project. We are already paying about \$4000 per year to the Shire in order to use our own home. In terms of direct services we may get our road graded every now and then and the garbage/recycling/green waste is collected. It doesn't seem like much in return for our \$4000. If you want to embark on a large project like this I suggest you look for savings in your current budget and take the funds from there. There is not a

bottomless pit of money out there for you to feel entitled to put your hand into. You are already taking too much out of the pockets of ratepayers.

**Torquay**      **22/09/2015**

Torquay and the surf coast are known for their beaches. Therefore an Aquatic Centre is not a priority when there are extra costs involved to the ratepayers initially. As well as ongoing charges to maintain the facility which would be used by a few residents. The income from the rates are already stretched to cover a large area around the Surf Coast Shire. We need to manage these funds responsibly without incurring additional costs and debt. The young and old families in the Torquay area would not appreciate increases to rates for this type of expenditure which has limited benefit. We would not be happy as ratepayers to finance this type of expenditure in the current economic environment.

**Lorne**      **22/09/2015**

I live in Lorne for 4 months of the year, and i do not wish to contribute over and above any amount of my 'rates' money to pay for a facility in, and for the residents of torquay. i also find the persuasive slant you place on the literature regarding this project to be misleading and deceptive.

**Aireys Inlet**      **22/09/2015**

It seems your shadow toll approach will penalise those that don't use the facility, or will only use very infrequently. A better model would be user pays and model the finances an a commercial venture, not using an approach that is best used for capital upgrade of essential services such as water or sewer upgrades, where everyone benefits from the capital expenditure. Perhaps the facility brief in question needs reassessing. Not sure on the financial model for the water facility at Waurn Ponds but from a visitor perspective it runs on a user pays. It appears the level of debt seems disproportionate, maybe there needs to a funding drive to lower the level of debt and thus reduce the burden on all concerned, including the operating cost. In summary I'm against your proposed funding model.

**Torquay**      **22/09/2015**

I would like to strongly object to the Aquatic Centre being constructed. The main reason for my objection refers to the benefit for a few while we ALL have to pay for the facility. Also, the ongoing cost is prohibitive. Ratepayers are already paying substantially for the normal council services. Other municipalities are providing their services for less than the Surf Coast Shire. Therefore, we cannot see an Aquatic Centre will benefit the wider community of the Surf Coast Shire to warrant the proposed cost to the ratepayers.

**Jan Juc**      **22/09/2015**

\$4000 per ratepayer in Torquay and Jan Juc sounds like an excessive amount to build an aquatic centre that will also have usage costs.

**LORNE**      **22/09/2015**



As a rate payer in Lorne I would strongly object to making contributions through my rates for this Aquatic Centre. Whilst I do not object to the Council funding this project, I would never use this Centre and would certainly object to funding this. There has been numerous levies that have been placed on the Lorne rate payers and no contribution has been required by other towns within the Surf Coast Shire.

**Big Hill 22/09/2015**

I strongly object to the construction of the Aquatic Centre if this means that I should have to pay higher rates or contribute to the proposed special charge scheme. Any extra payment would involve considerable financial hardship for me and it would be for a facility that I would never use.

**INVERLEIGH 23/09/2015**

Council will be living well beyond it's means if it proceeds with this over ambitious proposal. Perfectly good facilities exist at Waurn Ponds which is within 45-50 minutes for a significant part of the shire. As a farm rate payer on a road that is funded and maintained by VicRoads so we derive no benefit from the rates that we pay. I have no desire to be paying for an aquatic centre from which I will not ever derive any benefit. CONCLUSION I DO NOT SUPPORT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AQUATIC CENTRE.

**Boonah 23/09/2015**

I consider this project to be an enormous waste of money. We have so many beaches what is the point of an aquatic centre? Tourists again? Far too much attention is paid to the coastal strip of the shire to the detriment of those of us living further to the interior. In particular the state of the roads is a continuing concern with the council seemingly unable to even adequately maintain them.

**Torquay 23/09/2015**

I think that the numbers are not showing overwhelmingly that this centre is wanted nor required. Is it possible that a small group are pushing for this to happen? If there is indeed a need for a pool then why can the costs not be met commercially? This seems a sensible option rather than ratepayers in Torquay paying \$200 extra per year for 20+ years towards the building and upkeep. You can imagine that during the 20 years and after the 20 years there could be expensive works that will need to be undertaken. Some time ago the council in Mansfield, Victoria put forward a similar plan to tax the residents to acquire a community pool. There was such disenchantment about this idea that the council withdrew and a private operator took over. How ridiculous that the distance from the proposed aquatic centre sets the charge. There will be many people who live in Torquay who will never use this facility. On the other hand there will be people who live in Anglesea who will often use it. What sort of an idea is this? The council needs to question where are these ideas coming from, for what real purpose, and for how many people?

**Lorne 23/09/2015**

I do NOT believe that Lorne ratepayers ... or, for that matter, those from Deans Marsh, Winchelsea and others distant from Torquay ... should be asked to pay for a luxury for Torquay residents that

those outside Torquay will never use or ever wish to use. This is another example of an arrogant Torquay-centric suggestion that should not have seen the light of day!

**Highton**                      **23/09/2015**

As a ratepayer (no longer a permanent resident) I am strongly opposed to this development. Most concerning to me is the business model proposed. From information sent out to ratepayers recently it appears the business model under consideration does not deliver sufficient revenues to cover operating costs, as is evidenced by the ongoing \$50 per annum subsidy ratepayers will have to provide to meet operating costs for the centre. Operating costs should at minimum be covered by admission charges, even though I acknowledge the centre is a public good. Should this not be achievable due to the insufficient population density in the Shire the development should not proceed. Going by rate assessment numbers on the Shire website, it appears the shortfall on an annual basis is somewhere between \$850K and \$1.1M (based on a \$50 annual charge per rating assessment, depending on whether general ratepayers or all contribute). This equates to the \$1M operating cost mentioned in the promotional material. If so, where are admission revenues being diverted? Further, operating costs are running at 3.4% of capital costs (ex-debt), a high number for a facility such as this. Viewed in sum, this is a very poor deal for the ratepayer and borrowings of \$21M represents leverage the Council should not be taking on for a marginal business case. I am happy to discuss this further and look forward to the release of the business and financial models for public comment.

**Torquay**                      **23/09/2015**

I believe an aquatic centre is an unnecessary use of ratepayers' money. There is already a public pool and the ocean. Membership to various fitness centres and pools (RACV) are available.

**Torquay**                      **23/09/2015**

I would not be happy to contribute \$150 annual fee to build and ongoing subsidy to operate the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre. This would be a financial burden, neither my family, friends or I would use the facility when we have available for use the beautiful beaches and parklands

**Torquay**                      **23/09/2015**

We are not in favour of the funding model. In addition, we think it would be crazy not to build a 50 m pool. (even outdoor)

**Deans Marsh**              **23/09/2015**

I am a non-permanent resident ratepayer. Not interested in extra charges on my rates for an Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay North. Charge people in the immediate area on their rates and give them a bigger discount for entry (or free entry), but we are too far away to make regular use of it, let alone not living in the shire all the time and shouldn't have to pay for it.

**Lorne**                         **23/09/2015**

As a non-resident permanent rate payer in Lorne I am firmly opposed to the diversion of ratepayer funds to the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay. This ought to be privately funded and the Council should be focussed on delivering basic outcomes for communities across the Surfcoast.

**Anglesea 23/09/2015**

Far too expensive. Many ( though not all ) can use protected beach or join RACV. Presume there are also pools in Sth Geelong.

**Winchelsea 23/09/2015**

I would rather have some funding allocation put towards the COGG pool being built at Armstrong creek to allow Surfcoast shire residents to use a BETTER facility than the proposed aquatic center in Torquay. The pool is further away from Winchelsea than waurn ponds. The residents have better facilities in waurn ponds AND colac , both of which are closer.

**Boonah 23/09/2015**

Further to my earlier comments, what is the rationale for an aquatic centre in the Surf Coast Shire when there are three others within close proximity - 1. Geelong 2. Kardinia 3. Colac.

**Torquay 23/09/2015**

Torquay needs a public pool. In my opinion it needs to be a 50m pool not 25m. Happy to pay the extra rate to fund, as would definitely spend more on fuel having to drive into geelong to swim.

**Jan Juc 23/09/2015**

I am strongly opposed to this development. I would be unlikely to use it and believe the estimated \$30M could be used more widely for greater benefit to the extended community.

**Anglesea 23/09/2015**

i do not want the Aquatic and Health Centre to go ahead as I do not want to pay rates for something I will not use. I like to walk along the beach and swim in the lovely sea for exercise. There are enough Health facilities in Torquay and Anglesea and Geelong to cover my needs. Thank you

**Moggs Creek 23/09/2015**

To whom it may concern, We are strongly against the idea, or even the proposal by council, to levy rate payers for construction of an Aquatic Centre in Torquay. Where our property is in closer proximity to Lorne it would be ill advised of us to support infrastructure further away and detract spending from our local community.

**Lorne 23/09/2015**

As our rates are in excess of \$3400 this year We believe you should have enough in your kitty to do whatever is necessary over a budgeted period of time. Having just paid for street scraping of Lorne Main Street for use of day trippers we feel outrage that we would be expected to pay up to another

\$150 for 20 years for something we will never use or even probably see. We would like to see better value for our huge rates than a garbage pick up!

**Camberwell (Holiday House at Aireys Inlet) 23/09/2015**

We purchased a holiday house at Aireys Inlet 15 years ago so that we can enjoy one of the best Coastlines in the World. We use the 3 magnificent beaches at Aireys Inlet so would not use an Aquatic Centre at Torquay at all. Hence we have no desire whatsoever to pay for the building or the ongoing maintenance.

**Anglesea 23/09/2015**

I do not want the aquatic and health centre and would be very upset if I had to contribute to it through my rates when me and my family would never use it.

**Torquay 23/09/2015**

I think an aquatic centre is a complete must for this community but the model proposed is too expensive and more than we require at this point in time. The rate payers already pay enough to support community projects such as this and should not have to pay more rates to make this project happen. Please consider all the important and valuable input that we as a community have given the shire and stop giving us excuses instead of ideas and solutions, It's time!

**JAN JUC 23/09/2015**

Massively disappointed and burnt out by the shire's position on what I see as a mandatory piece of infrastructure that local councils should provide the community to facilitate community engagement, to improve health outcomes, to lessen child drowning deaths which are rising, to facilitate health ageing at home, to lessen the burden of chronic disease, to enable the lower socio-economic people of our community these opportunities, to a be a leader of health and well being in the shire of health and well being, and to be advocates for pools as the pool champions not play piss in your pocket politics. Feeling frustrated, massively angry, destructive and immensely let down. And finally please can my rates no longer fund the pools in Lorne or Winchelsea please. I would like the opportunity to not fund this apparently non core services in other communities just like you have given them the opportunity to do the same.

**Jan Juc 23/09/2015**

An Aquatic and Health Centre for Torquay would benefit the community greatly. I believe that the current funding model does not reflect the current community desire to support the proposed building of the centre for the future of the community.

**Torquay 23/09/2015**

I think an aquatic centre is a complete must for this community but the model proposed is too expensive and more than we require at this point in time. The rate payers already pay enough to support community projects such as this and should not have to pay more rates to make this project

happen. Please consider all the important and valuable input that we as a community have given the shire and stop giving us excuses instead of ideas and solutions, It's time!

**Torquay 23/09/2015**

I think this funding model is flawed and doomed to fail. It is imperative that this facility be built, and the shire need to find an innovative funding model including grants from state and federal government (including matched \$10,000,000 from the Liberal government. I also feel the shire needs to move forward with working plans to gain a more realistic idea of costings as I understand the shire have taken the 28 million price tag in without seriously costing this. This is a much needed facility and action needs to be taken now.

**Torquay 23/09/2015**

I think an aquatic centre is a complete must for this community but the model proposed is too expensive and more than we require at this point in time. The rate payers already pay enough to support community projects such as this and should not have to pay more rates to make this project happen. Please consider all the important and valuable input that we as a community have given the shire and stop giving us excuses instead of ideas and solutions, It's time!

**Winchelsea 23/09/2015**

As a non permanent resident of rural land in the shire I strongly object to the rate levy and ongoing costs to fund the aquatic centre.

**TORQUAY 23/09/2015**

Crazy not to procure a 50m pool, in this day and age we need to be thinking of the future and functionality of an aquatic centre. Sure it may cost a bit more but once it is built it will be far more expensive add another 25m. Please consider Geelong and Melbourne City precedent projects , they are all building 50m pools. Torquay is the fastest growing township we need to keep up with modern infrastructure demand and trends. At least provide it as an option and let the community decide. I just hope the older generation don't adversely vote for the 25m without thinking of the future. Message to council and community: Please consider the future , we have an opportunity to make Torquay an even better place, build a 50m pool not 25m.

**Aireys Inlet 23/09/2015**

I am against the proposal for several reasons; 1. 25m pool is a waste of money. It is too small and would not be adequate for the presumed multi-purpose uses intended..... Lap swimming, recreational swimming, lessons, aqua aerobics and similar activities/classes for fitness and recreation. Just as a public recreational swimming pool alone it would be too small. 2. There is a beach close by for water and other recreational activities. Consider a sea pool if you really want a public aquatic facility, but really not necessary 3. Presuming there has been a needs and potential usage survey, then a gym/health facility may be a possibility with a space for fitness classes and activities such as Body Pump, Step, Vive, Attack, and Pilates/Yoga classes etc. etc PLUS space for Physio / Massage/ and other health practitioners to rent their rooms. Such a facility could be part of

a community hub where the larger space could also be used for community groups to rent and hold functions. It would be much more cost effective where the commercial rental could cover some of the costs. 4. The rate increase is unreasonable given the low numbers of actual residents and non-resident rate payers interested in using such a facility. Realistically, the majority would come from the immediate Torquay area.

**Lorne 23/09/2015**

I am strongly opposed to the development of an aquatic and health centre in Torquay. I am also opposed to any model which requires 'additional ' extra rate payments to fund it by all rate payers in the surf coast and am fully opposed to yearly payments 'contributions ' by rate payers for the development and or ongoing operational costs. I believe This is an outrageous proposal that disadvantages the majority of rate payers in the surf coast region The development is of no advantage to residents in outer regions such as Lorne and to have to fund it in any way is unfair to the larger population of surf coast region

**Bellbrae 23/09/2015**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am a very keen swimmer - and swim on average four times a week. However, much as I love swimming and am an advocate for all it's benefits, I do NOT support the building of an Aquatic Centre in the Surf Coast Shire at this time. My main reason is simply economic given that we do not have the population to make the costs acceptable to the wider surf coast community. I have recently returned from living in Launceston (TAS) where a magnificent aquatic centre was built a few years ago, with significant funding assistance provided by Rio Tinto as part of a community-partnership program. Yet, the on-going costs of operating that facility remained with council and this is causing conflict in the community and in the council chambers even though the facility is well-utilised. The ongoing operating costs causes frustration given the other things that can't be funded due to the aquatic centre. Launceston is a community of 80,000 people, with no other indoor aquatic facility available to that community. It makes me wonder, with our small population and proximity to City of Greater Geelong aquatic facilities, what the future scenario here might be when thousands of dollars are year are being spent on running our facility. My other concerns are the lack of imagination that seems to exist in regards to how some mutually beneficial partnerships might be developed with the operators of the FOUR existing indoor aquatic facilities in Torquay. I know they are privately owned and enjoy a sense of exclusivity- but I also know that they are currently unused for significant times of the day. Is it not possible that sessions for the public could be negotiated during off-peak times? Finally my other concern involves the magnificent network of health and fitness practitioners that operate in the surf coast and really gives us our "Byron Bay' vibe through the multitude of yoga, pilates, boot camp etc activities that operate as small businesses. I'd hate to think that such entrepreneurial activity in the surf coast may be lost when a 'one stop fitness shop' aquatic centre moves into their limited marketplace. I'd suggest that the "build a pool and I will swim" stickers need some adjusting - "Build a pool, I will swim and you will pay" may be more apt for the situation facing the broader surf coast community. Thanks again for the opportunity to make a submission.

**Melbourne 23/09/2015**

I reject the proposal. this project is financially not viable.

**Torquay**      **23/09/2015**

Torquay is a very fast growing community and i believe the town needs its own aquatic centre. Yes, Waurm Ponds is only a 20 minute drive away, but it caters for a huge amount of members and its just too crowded with all the new developments and families that use the facility. I do not, however, believe that the funding of the pool should be paid for by increasing rates as not all rate payers will use the facility, and with rates already being so high many can not afford another rate rise.

**Melbourne**      **23/09/2015**

I reject this proposal. this project is not financially viably

**Torquay**      **23/09/2015**

We live at the beach and it is VITAL our children learn to swim! To do this we all travel out of Torquay which is just crazy. An Aquatic Centre in Torquay is not a luxury it is a NECESSITY. Come on Council give us what we need!

**Barrabool / Ceres**      **23/09/2015**

Hello, before I make a comment I would like to clarify that on your records I am listed as a "non-permanent resident" of the surf coast shire. This is NOT true as I own and permanently reside at my house between Ceres and Barrabool and also own a separate property for which I also pay rates at Anglesea. I am only making this point so my "öpinion" is counted as one from a "permanent resident" and whose rates would be potentially affected by the proposal. Having said that, I strongly oppose the concept of building an Aquatic centre in Torquay for several reasons. 1 The residents most likely to benefit are predominately in Torquay and for the residents in other parts of the shire it would be unjust for them to bare a financial burden 2. There is a large and public accessible indoor and aquatic centre only 15 min "up the road" in Waurm Ponds 3. The immediate residents of Torquay have access to several patrolled beaches in the nearby vicinity for which they can easily enjoy through the hot summer months 4. Councils prime objective should be to deliver basic services to as many of the residents of the shire as possible, which this proposed Aquatic centre would not accomplish , and 5. It would be against the "spirit" of what councils are supposedly meant to be about by entering into a project that involves fiscal decisions that have continuing ramifications of the residents for many years to come. Councils should be using rate payer funds for non business purposes and entering into a collaborative with any state or federal government which places the whole of the shire in debt would be unwise and have long term effects.

**Torquay**      **23/09/2015**

I believe the council have not pursued all avenues of getting funding. Torquay needs a pool and will use the pool as will the many kids and families who live here. I am not a fan of the funding method on the table but I will support it if it is the only option.

**TAYLORS LAKES**      **23/09/2015**

I do not think this aquatic centre should proceed. It will a) put the surf coast council under significant financial stress - which will consequently remove any capacity to resolve potential issues in the future b) Torquay/Surf coast does not yet have the population to support the facility c) I do not want to pay more rates on top of my already excessive rates and charges. To put it simply the council can not afford this facility if they require additional rates and taxes to pay for it!

**Jan Juc            23/09/2015**

I believe that a pool on the Surf Coast is an absolute necessity. I cannot believe that it has taken as long as it has for it to become a pivotal issue. However I do not agree with the method of consultation or the funding model presented. I have worked in construction for over 35 years, and building pools is in the realm of my trade. Never should a project such as you are suggesting cost as much as you are proposing it will. You need only look at recent local constructions to get a cost guideline - Kardinia International College pool, BUPA lifestyles Geelong facility, Club Armstrong in Armstrong Creek - none are even close to being as expensive as you suggest. Also I have been a rate payer of multiple properties in the shire for decades. I reject you asking people in other wards how to spend our rate revenue when I know monies contributed by me have been used to supplement and support infrastructure in other areas. This is neither fair nor equitable. Find a different way Surf Coast Shire. Find a better way for my children, my grandchildren and I to participate in a healthy lifestyle which includes aquatic activities at its core.

**Aireys Inlet      23/09/2015**

I am in favour of the aquatic centre being built and funded as proposed. I would use it a lot.

**Torquay            23/09/2015**

I am horribly disappointed and disillusioned with the councils approach to building a pool at Torquay. This community is rapidly growing and a facility that services the diverse needs of our community and visitors is an essential part of infrastructure the the council needs to invest in. The divisive and biased approach from the council in the method of funding and 'consultation' is insulting and unethical. When will the council commit to exploring viable options rather than a flawed model that penalises home owners?

**Anglesea          23/09/2015**

It should be a 50m swimming pool. A 25m is a waste of time - poor to train/time trial in, reduces it's use in the community, no good for school carnivals, too many turns!! If you are going to do it, do it properly.

**Anglesea          23/09/2015**

We have had a holiday house in Anglesea since 1986 and live in Melbourne. We are both in favour of the centre proposed for Torquay. It is obvious that Torquay is increasingly becoming a place for older people - as well as for many young families. Swimming and water aerobics are proven forms of beneficial exercise for older people and assist very well in rehabilitation from injury and let's face it - driving to Geelong for warm water is a chore - I've done it!! It would be a great facility for local



schools to have for teaching swimming to children during the winter months so that they would be confident heading to the surf clubs for Nippers in the summer. As an Anglesea ratepayer we would gladly pay another \$100 (not \$60)per annum if the \$\$ were dedicated to this project.

**Jan Juc**            **23/09/2015**

I fully support the aquatic centre & cannot believe we don't already have this. The shire need to work with the community to make this happen

**Torquay**            **23/09/2015**

I truly believe a pool/aquatic center would benefit the community greatly. The current facilities for our kids to learn swimming lessons are at full capacity, the schools are getting buses to Waurn ponds to do school swimming lessons. Given where we live it is paramount our kids are strong swimmers which also feeds the Surf Life saving skilled swimmers available to patrol the beaches. It would also be such an attraction for visitors coming to stay here and a great way for our community of all ages to stay fit and healthy. Please can we review the options to make this happen to this amazing place we live.

**Jan Juc**            **23/09/2015**

I want a pool but I want the Shire to revisit it's financial model.

**Anglesea**            **23/09/2015**

I agree with the proposal to establish an aquatic centre in Torquay as outlined in the proposal. The facility would be a benefit to all residents and would be especially beneficial to older citizens who could be provided with programmes such as water aerobics and the like. The cost spread over the long term is acceptable.

**Jan Juc**            **23/09/2015**

I want a pool but I want the Shire to revisit it's financial model.

**Torquay**            **23/09/2015**

I do not support the proposal based on the additional rates to be paid annually.

**Moggs creek**        **23/09/2015**

I think the annual cost to repay the loan and the additional for maintenance is excessive for residents of the shire who live too far to utilise the centre. Perhaps as the centre will mainly be used by the residents of Torquay the funds should be collected via admission fees - user pay scenario as in toll roads.

**Torquay**            **23/09/2015**

We are very much in favour of the proposed aquatic centre and feel it is an absolute given that a growing area such as Torquay should have it's own pool for both recreation and swimming lessons.

Our nipper program is wonderful but doesn't provide the stamina training necessary for real safety in the ocean. It is not good enough in this busy world where many people are time poor to force families to travel to Waurm Ponds and Ocean Grove. Even tho' we are well and truly seniors and probably will get little use from a new facility, purely from a safety point of view for our young people we feel it is essential. We are willing to pay a levy.

**Jan Juc**            **23/09/2015**

I strongly oppose the Aquatic and Health Centre funding model. I feel a user pays model more appropriate.

**Jan Juc**            **23/09/2015**

I want a pool but I want the Shire to revisit it's financial model.

**Jan Juc**            **23/09/2015**

I do not support an aquatic Centre in Torquay if this involves in any way rate rises or special charge schemes. Have already paid for footpaths that I barely walk on.

**Torquay**           **23/09/2015**

please build a swimming pool in torquay. we are family of 5 who loves swimming.

**Lorne**              **24/09/2015**

I strongly object to an increased rate payment to fund an aquatic centre in Torquay. Not living near the proposed facility it would have no benefit to me at all. The proposed funding model is flawed for that reason.

**Anglesea**        **24/09/2015**

I strongly oppose the aquatic and health centre. We will not be using it and oppose having to pay for it over 20 years. If there was a GENUINE demand for the facility, then there would be a strong and viable financial business case, and any private investor would be keen to develop and operate it. Council should not burden the community with this, particularly when there is very limited community support and demand.

**Fairhaven**       **24/09/2015**

I do not support the development of the aquatic center in torquay. I do not believe it is a good use of ratepayers funds, given the proximity of a state of the art aquatic center in Warn ponds. This facility is available available to surf coast residence for admission prices and has all the range of activities that is expected in a new aquatic facility. The propoosed torquay facility would be no more accessible for residents outside torquay than is the warn ponds center. both would require travel by car or public transport. If the objective is to create a community hub, this can be achieved at a much lower capital and operating cost, than an aquatic center.

**Torquay**           **24/09/2015**

It's simple really we live by the ocean yet we have nowhere for our children to learn to swim. This centre needed to be built years ago, please do not hesitate any longer SCS build it now!

**Armadale 24/09/2015**

I am definitely against the Aquatic Centre. Torquay is well serviced by some of the best beaches in the world. The Centre would also impose a significant impost on ratepayers but yet likely will not be used by the vast majority of residents.

**Freshwater Creek 24/09/2015**

Totally disagree with the proposal to extract additional monies from shire ratepayers particularly those living outside of the larger towns who already receive little benefit for the current rates paid ..... and if the proposed center can't be financed through existing shire rates then it should not proceed ..... if the town of Torquay has such a great need for an aquatic center then surely private investors would have identified the business opportunity and built one .....

**Torquay 24/09/2015**

As a rate payer I think the idea to increase rates to pay for a pool that is only really being sought for learn to swim is such a waste of money. Our rates are already very high. We already pay more in rates than many inner urban municipalities. Why build a 25m pool only! I have been involved in swimming and water sports most my life - why not a 50m pool. It will attract many sports and offer more options for training, lessons, competitions, school sports etc etc What is like to know is how many of the people who think this is a great idea are NOT ratepayers We already have the Racv pool, a learn to swim pool in the town. What an utter waste of opportunity to look at an over the top expensive 25m pool only & definitely not by increasing already over the top rates!

**Lorne 24/09/2015**

Very strongly OPPOSED to the Aquatic Centre This is a project that is totally unaffordable at this time and an irresponsible burden to put on rate payers There are other places to go to enjoy the wonderful experiences of enjoying the water both indoors and along the fabulous coastline

**Jan Juc 24/09/2015**

Yes. i like the idea. I would happily pay the increased rates every year to build and maintain the pool. As long as there is: -a spa, sauna or steam room -one pool for leisure that is as warm as a hydrotherapy pool It will provide an environment for physical activity in the colder seasons of the year as well

**Torquay 24/09/2015**

I am strongly opposed to levying rate payers to build the proposed aquatic facility. As a pensioner part owning a holiday house, the proposed additional charges are prohibitive. Also knowing that the levy would have to be deducted from any sale settlement is very concerning. Given my age there is a strong likelihood of having to sell the property to fund accommodation in an aged care facility in the

next 10 years. I've been paying rates to the Surfcoast shire for 21 years and would like to enjoy my holidays at the beach without the burden of the proposed levy.

**Moriac 24/09/2015**

I am a ratepayer and confirm that I am not in agreement with the proposal to construct the Centre.

**Torquay 24/09/2015**

I am against the proposed aquatic centre. It is an unnecessary waste of tax payers money which can be much better spent elsewhere. There are also more than enough swimming pools in the area and we are also lucky enough to have the ocean on our doorstep!

**Torquay 24/09/2015**

I am against the proposed aquatic centre. It is an unnecessary waste of tax payers money which can be much better spent elsewhere. There are also more than enough swimming pools in the area and we are also lucky enough to have the ocean on our doorstep!

**Anglesea 24/09/2015**

I am not willing to pay extra to support funding a new Aquatic Centre. All new infrastructure should be funded from existing resources and the councils balance sheet. In the current economic environment it is irresponsible to impose more and more costs on to the residents of the region, particularly in this case where the facility will be of limited value to a large portion of the region.

**Torquay 24/09/2015**

I strongly believe Torquay requires a pool and leisure centre. It is such a growing population that requires somewhere the kids and adults alike can spend time to learn to swim and keep fit. My family currently drives into Geelong to swim on average 6 days a week. Why do Torquay residents have to help fund and maintain pools in Lorne and Winchelsea and they aren't prepared to assist Torquay. The funding model proposed by SCS is ridiculous. Get some proper plans done up to then work out how much it costs. Also take into account future population growth. Add special charges to future developments to assist. developers shouldn't mind as they can also "sell" the idea of local pool when trying to sell property. What about private funding or branding..."Ripcurl aquatic centre" doesn't sound bad...they may even fund a wave pool so everyone can surf 24/7!!

**Torquay 24/09/2015**

I am against the proposed aquatic centre. I do not wish to have my council rates raised for the next 20 years to pay for this. There is a perfectly good aquatic centre at Waurnd Ponds, various pools around Torquay and the ocean on our doorstep.

**Torquay 24/09/2015**

I do not support this proposal. There are pool facilities available at The Sands, RACV and Waurnd Ponds. This proposal is too expensive for ratepayers to fund.

**Lorne 24/09/2015**

Thanks you for the opportunity to comment. As a home owner in Lorne and very regular resident I am absolutely opposed to any suggestion that additional funds be levied upon ratepayers for this facility in Torquay both in terms of initial funding and ongoing maintenance. The funding model proposed is simply inequitable in so far as residents and owners of Lorne and other locations distant from Torquay will get absolutely nil benefit from the proposed facility - the idea of there being some sort of diminishing scale based on proximity should reduce to zero for any residents beyond 10 kms of the facility. It would be outrageous to expect ratepayers of Lorne to make any contribution to such a facility which is not readily accessible to residents and owners in Lorne. I would be more than happy to contribute to a fund to complete the long awaited heating of the Lorne baths which could be utilised by Lorne residents and owners but to be asked to fund something that will be of absolutely no benefit to Lorne is just not on. I fail also to see the distinction drawn in your documents between resident and non permanent resident ratepayers for the purposes of taking account of our views. Non resident rate payers often become resident after retirement and in any event pay the same rates as permanent residents - and as it happens I am in Lorne more often. Thank you.

**Lorne 24/09/2015**

Hello, I am a 20 year rate payer from Lorne. My family have also been rate payers in Lorne for more than 40 years. My husbands family have also been rate payers in Lorne for over 45 years. I say this, because although Lorne is not yet my permanent address, my family and I have a long term commitment to Lorne and to the Otways, and I believe we have made a significant contribution over these years to Surfcoast council through our rates. In the last 20 years, we have seen Torquay grow significantly, and no longer is it a tourist 'surfie' town, but now an outer suburb of Geelong, with many of its residents commuting to Geelong and even Melbourne for their work. With the growth in Torquay, I have seen a great increase in the infrastructure and the amenities to support the growth. Unfortunately, I don't see the same focus and improvements for LOrne. I understand that Torquay, with its permanent and larger population need more spending and better amenities to support the residents, and to give them a better quality of life. Also, I see that increasing the amenities will continue to attract younger families to the area, thereby building a stronger community. I am all for that, for Torquay. The building of the Aquatic centre in Torquay is now being proposed, and the Surfcoast Council are considering asking all Surfcoast rate payers to "contribute" to the building and maintenance of it. YOu asking me for my opinion of this - I do not see how the Aquatic and recreation centre in Torquay will be of any benefit to me, my family, and the rate payers of Lorne. Already, we will be contributing to the new pool/recreation centre being proposed with the high rates we are paying. Why, should I be forced to committ to another 20 years of an "extra, special charge", as well as towards "ongoing operating and maintenance costs." I will not EVER have reason, time or inclination to make the long journey to utilise the facility. I feel that if this is implemented, it almost equates to Extortion - as I will be forced against my will to contribute financially towards this. If council is looking for further monetary contribution to this proposed development, I wonder if they can partner with the ajoining council in Grovedale/Geelong, whose residents may have a greater opportunity to utilise this facility, or look to partnering with private enterprise that may have

an interest in recreational services. I do hope that my concerns, and those of the Lorne community are considered.

**Buckley 24/09/2015**

This suggested pool h-centre we do not support Unlikely we would never get any use of this facility.

**Aireys Inlet 24/09/2015**

It would appear to me that Geelong is well served in this area and, quite frankly, is just as convenient for a large proportion of the ratepayers. If it's too far for Torquay residents to drive to Geelong then what does the shire propose to do for, say, the ratepayers of Lorne?....put a pool complex in a similar distance for them? This is a very Torquay centric proposal which does little to nothing for those elsewhere. I oppose it.

**Lorne 24/09/2015**

As a non-resident ratepayer I already pay for services that I and my family do not use, effectively subsidising the residents. There is no realistic prospect of my family ever utilising the proposed aquatic centre. Therefore I am STRONGLY OPPOSED to the proposed funding model for the centre. The funding model assumes a permanent subsidy by ratepayers. The aquatic centre should not be built unless it can at least be run on a "cost neutral" basis whereby user fees cover operating and maintenance costs.

**Torquay 24/09/2015**

I pay 4 x \$340 compulsory fee to use the pool at Wyndham. I do not wish to pay more to use a pool I will not use. That is why we built in... to have access to a pool

**Moggs creek 24/09/2015**

i am not in agreement with the proposal for funding the aquatic centre. for residents living some distance away who will not use this facility because of this distance the cost is not acceptable for the loan repayment nor the ongoing maintenance. it perhaps needs to be funded via a user pay scenario as in toll roads.

**Bellbrae 24/09/2015**

I am not interested in having the center built and am certainly not interested in having our rates increased to cover the cost

**Anglesea 24/09/2015**

Our house is in Anglesea and we have little interest in using a pool built in Torquay. Over and above that, we have zero interest in funding a loss making business into perpetuity or paying the cost of building it for the next 20 years. We appreciate that the residents of Torquay may enjoy, support and use the amenity, that being the case then the residents of Torquay alone can pay for it. It is unfair and unreasonable to impose the cost of something that is not needed onto all rate payers and we strongly oppose this as an outcome.

**Lorne**            **24/09/2015**

Being a rate payer in "far away" Lorne I totally oppose the whole project because: 1. it is too far removed for me to gain any benefit 2. a 25m pool would be useless for any competitions 3. a 25 m pool would be too small for the expanding population of Torquay 4. The Lorne community was totally ignored by the Shire when we pleaded for making our pool more user friendly and it was actually "privatised" even though it was / is a "memorial" pool. SHAME ON YOU!!

**Anglesea**        **24/09/2015**

I object to the proposal of the rate payers contributing extra funds by being charged between \$20 - \$150 on rates each year. I also object to the ongoing costs via rates to maintain the Aquatic Centre of \$50 per year. We have a holiday house in Anglesea and the Aquatic Centre will not benefit my family in any way so I object to paying for it. If you want the ratepayers to pay for it, make it voluntary and for those that do want to pay, give them a discount ticket to enter the Aquatic Centre, for those Ratepayers that don't contribute, charge full price. Thank you.

**GHERANG**        **24/09/2015**

Not in support of the proposed centre with additional rate increases.

**Torquay**         **24/09/2015**

I am 110% in support of an aquatic centre in Torquay. For a town of this size, and growing, and to further promote the healthy lifestyle i think Torquay encourages - I think it is vital that one be built here.

**Anglesea**        **24/09/2015**

My wife and I think it's a great idea. Is a 50m pool really out of the question?

**Torquay**         **24/09/2015**

My wife and I are strongly opposed to the building of a Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre. Here are some of our reasons: - Our council rates went up by over \$200 out of a total of \$2,000 this year. That's a 10% increase. If the council increases the rate by \$150 for construction plus \$50 for upkeep, that is an extra \$200 on top of an increase of \$200, i.e.. a 20% increase in rates. We just can't afford that amount of money. - This increase in rates at a flat rate amount puts those people on fixed incomes, like pensioners or the unemployed, or retirees, at a serious disadvantage over other households that may have more lucrative incomes. - The main reason people live in the Surf Coast is ready access to the beach and swimming in the sea - both of which already promote health and fitness. Make better use of these natural assets. - Great indoor and outdoor facilities already exist with or outside the shire, such as the terrific facility that recently opened at Wauru Ponds (only 10 km away from Torquay) and Winchelsea. - The Surf Coast Shire should concentrate its efforts and finances on providing the core services of road maintenance, garbage collection, library services, pre-school services, planning and building regulation, looking after parks, environmental services, and aged services. The funds are simply not available to extend to a pool & Gym complex. - The funding model proposed by the council is too simplistic and not based on any rigorous cost-

benefit analysis. The model is an ill-conceived blunt instrument. - Community safety concerns and community wellness aims can be accommodated by utilising the facilities available at the Waurin Ponds Aquatic centre. Even in Melbourne shires, school groups are bussed to these type of facilities for water sport education. This approach is a more viable option than a new aquatic centre in Torquay. - The Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre must not proceed. The residents can't afford it, and we are totally opposed to it.

**Eastern View 24/09/2015**

I do not support this proposal - I would not access it from Eastern View, so I would not be happy to pay any additional levy on my rates for 20 years. Rates in Eastern View are all ready much higher than in Melbourne. I think the pool is unnecessary - we should be using our beautiful beaches. Surely a cheaper option to consider would be to build a leisure centre without a pool that provides gym % exercise classes only. Existing facilities should be better supported - eg Lorne Pool.

**Lorne 24/09/2015**

i object to having to pay the \$20 per year special charge for the Torquay aquatic centre when i reside at Lorne and would never use the center.

**Jan Juc 25/09/2015**

I am in 100% support of an aquatic facility in the Torquay region. It is undeniable essential infrastructure for the health and wellbeing of all rate payers and visitors in the region. I believe it is the shires responsibility to provide this in an professional manner and not playing childlike games with threatening inappropriate rate rises over time when other funding models have not been considered and offered as an alternative. In summary- I want a pool but you need to look into and offer other funding models!

**Anglesea 25/09/2015**

I believe this proposal represents a colossal potential mis-use of council and ratepayer funds. To encumber the future council and all rate payers with this solution would be grossly shortsighted.

**Torquay 25/09/2015**

A pool in Torquay would be awesome for me and my family. It would certainly cut daily travelling time for my husband who trains every morning, and it would certainly be great for my kids to perhaps one day do swim squad right here in Torquay without having to travel to Geelong College or Leisurelink. And we certainly would be happy to help pay for it in our rates. For is a small increase in our rates is a small trade off for such a big benefit of having our very own aquatic centre in our town!

**Belmont 25/09/2015**

An aquatic centre in Torquay would be fantastic. We recently bought a block of land and plan to build once the development is titled. If an aquatic centre was built in the area, we would sign up for



a family pass immediately. We have been comparing memberships in the Geelong area, but were put off signing up due to the distance from Torquay. Yes please go ahead with the Aquatic Centre.

**Deans Marsh 24/09/2015**

I have a property in Deans Marsh. I don't think I would ever use the facility, as it is 45 minutes away and if I was to use a pool I would go to Lorne. Therefore I would prefer not to have to pay. Our rates down there are high enough, for which we get very little. The local tip has been closed in Deans Marsh so we now have to drive a lot further to dispose of our rubbish. So I don't want to pay for another thing I won't be using!

**Lorne 25/09/2015**

I do not believe the council should be involved in owning or running facilities that are in conflict with private enterprise. Such a facility would degrade the value of any privately run business offering similar services and place council into a conflict of interest situation because privately run businesses have to pay rates and have to rely on sales revenue to survive. Council owned facilities either pay no rates or reduced rates and can rely on constant funding through ratepayers creating an unfair advantage. I do not support the project due to these reasons.

**Anglesea 25/09/2015**

I support the addition of an aquatic centre, but would like other funding models, or other cost recovery options developed.

**Lorne 25/09/2015**

I question the need for an aquatic centre in Torquay. The town has ocean on two sides and a swimming pool and leisure centre already exists at nearby Waurm Ponds. If a leisure centre must be built, then residents of Lorne should not need to contribute to any levy to build or maintain it. Lorne already has a public swimming pool and a beautiful beach available for residents and visitors. It is highly unlikely that local residents would travel to Torquay to use such a facility. Any such facility built in Torquay is most likely to benefit only the immediate residents of Torquay. Further, if such a leisure centre is to be built and benefit all residents of the Surfcoast shire, it should be more centrally located - Aireys Inlet would be a better location.

**Grovedale 25/09/2015**

Having visited LeisureLink with a young family, suggestions for a new centre would be: - have family dressing cubicals that you can wheel a pram into. - a play pad is essential, ideally incorporated as part of a toddler pool.

**Bellbrae 25/09/2015**

As a senior citizen I will not be using the swimming pool, and more importantly will be unable to afford the amount of funds you require for the development and ongoing operating costs.

**Lorne 26/09/2015**

My views reflect those already gathered in the phone survey. In Lorne we have in the past been levied for works that benefit only us. A pool in Torquay would appear to be in the same category in that it benefits only those in Torquay. I do not, on current evidence, support this project I recognise that some cross-subsidies usually occur in any social enterprise but, to the best of my knowledge, that case has not been made. I am concerned that the Council, despite protestations to the contrary, is predisposed to building the facility. How else can we account for the lead comment in the media release about the results of the phone survey. 'A survey of Surf Coast ratepayers has found a slight majority of ratepayers oppose the building of an Aquatic and Health Centre with 69% of all surveyed believing the proposal would be an excessive drain on finances.' Slight?? More than 2/3rds. What would the Council regard at 'substantial' or, for that matter, 'marginal'? The adjective slight does not come from an objective assessment of the actual numbers but, placed where it is, serves to engender in the minds of readers a more favourable (to building a pool) interpretation of the results than is warranted.

**Torquay**                      **26/09/2015**

I do not support the proposed funding model for the Aquatic & Health Care Centre. I acknowledge that if built in Torquay, such a facility would primarily benefit Torquay and immediate surrounds residents and other residents of the municipality would benefit little. The proposed model takes this into consideration based on its sliding scale but presumes all residents within the various zones will benefit the same amount - it does not take into consideration those residents, irrespective of their location within the municipality, that simply won't use the facility at all. Further to the above, it doesn't give due consideration to the large number of non-resident property owners within the municipality who own holiday homes in the coastal towns. For those that use their homes only on the occasional weekend and perhaps for an extended summer break (which I expect to be a significant number, particularly in Torquay still), a new facility will be of little if any benefit to them. My wife and myself are in this category. Finally, even if I was a regular user of such a facility, I can see no logic in having to fork out \$200 per annum for the privelage, plus a user fee on top of this when there is an excellent equivalent facility just 15 minutes from Torquay in Waurm Ponds. It seems to me that financially, Surf Coast Shire is not ready for such a facility.

**Anglesea**                      **26/09/2015**

As we very seldom use the facilities in the Geelong region now, we are certainly not in favour of a 20 year special payment plus an extra annual payment, plus an entry fee. We believe that we would probably never use this centre.

**Mount Duneed**                      **26/09/2015**

I am totally against the aquatic centre going ahead. Torquay has facilities for swimming and learning to swim. None of your information has any reference to these. I do not want to pay for this expense for the rest of my life. Even if it becomes an election issue I would not be happy about this unless the government takes over the whole project and funds all the ongoing maintenance. It may fail and the project will sustain heavy losses for the Shire. Why must the pool operate at a loss? This would deter the private sector from getting involved because of the competition. Management of the Sands have stated that their facilities are operating at a loss. How does the shire expect that there will be

enough custom to use extra infrastructure? Waurm Ponds is a very short trip from Torquay and looks to have better facilities than the proposed Torquay proposal. What's wrong with swimming in the sea anyway? Don't the lifesavers run swimming classes anymore? Children at the beach resorts were very good swimmers years ago and many joined the lifesaving clubs.

**Torquay**                      **26/09/2015**

I do not support the program in its current state. I also believe that a fair representation of the population was not polled.

**Torquay**                      **26/09/2015**

Not interested in paying a fee for something the government should provide for its residents. If I have to make the interest payments for the money you borrow to build the facility are you going to give my residence free use of the facility? If not why on earth should I be paying towards it!

**Bellbrae**                      **26/09/2015**

I am 78 years old living at a retirement village. I have no interest in the proposed aquatic centre and even less interest in paying more rates to finance it, which I would strongly resist.

**ANGLESEA**                      **26/09/2015**

We are against this proposal as we do not believe our rates should be used to fund this project as we will not use it.

**East Brighton**                      **26/09/2015**

As a non resident and partly reside at Aireys Inlet which is quite a distance from Torquay. I am absolutely not in favour of such a development' My understanding is that to pay a special rate it must be demonstrated the one gets an intrinsic benefit over and above other ratepayers in any Council investment. This is not the case. There is the Fairhaven beach closer by and if I need to go to a pool I would go to the my own or use the public pool in Lorne. If I need to go the the gym there are closer facilities at Aireys, Anglesea and Lorne. Torquay is draw card for me and I never travel there. I certainly would not get my \$20 a years value from another Council "Taj Mahal" type development in Torquay.

**Anglesea**                      **26/09/2015**

as we would get no benefit from an aquatic centre in Torquay we would not be in favour of the cost building and running the centre being added to the rates

**Torquay**                      **26/09/2015**

No, i don't want to pay an extra \$200 for 20 years \$4000. and still have to pay an admission fee. The RACV golf club has those facilites open to the public. I don't think there is a need for another facility. Thank you

**Lorne**                              **26/09/2015**

I agree that an aquatic centre could have health benefits for its community if it were located appropriately where the community would make use of the facility. Locating it away from the target community would, in all probability, lessen the actual use of the facility and hence have a smaller impact on the health of that community. I think the current proposed location is not ideal and I do not support this. My second thought concerns the funding model. As I am resident in Lorne for part of the year and use health facilities in Lorne and in Melbourne I am not going to use an aquatic centre in Torquay - approx 1 hour drive away. It is my belief that the funding model should be local and not one that takes in the whole Shire. I do not support the current proposal and would not support a general increase in rates to fund the centre. I must say that since owning a property in Lorne there have been a number of special funding arrangements. I have not come across this in any other municipality where I have owned property - a period of over 40 years.

**Anglesea**                      **26/09/2015**

I am opposed to the rate increase to fund this center. My family and I will never use it and I think it very unfair to expect us to pay for it. To be honest I really don't know where the council get these ideas from. I would be interested to know how much money has been spent on consultants to come up with this half baked plan. If the council want to go ahead with this project. Get all the Torquay residence to fund the project of say \$400.00 plus running cost per year for 20 years, and get people outside the area to pay a high entry fee to attend. I am not going to pay for something I will not use. What a stupid idea.

**Lorne**                              **26/09/2015**

I submit that the building of an aquatic centre in Torquay is very locally focused with regard to the needs of Surf Coast Shire residents outside the Torquay region. Unfortunately the conclusion has to be drawn that Councillors do not consider the wider needs of residents outside Torquay and I therefore submit my strong objection to the proposal.

**Inverleigh**                      **26/09/2015**

My family lives in Inverleigh. We own businesses in Inverleigh and Winchelsea. My daughter is a member of Geelong Swimming Club and trains 3 times a week. I also swim 5 times a week. I don't want to contribute to an Aquatic Centre in Torquay, I will never use it. Leisure Link is closer to both Inverleigh and Torquay and when Kardinia opens we will swim there. I think it's great to have a new pool, I just believe the people that use it should pay for it.

**Jan Juc**                              **27/09/2015**

I do not support the aquatic centre proposal as I believe Torquay/Jan Juc has miles of coastline with perfectly adequate water which is far better for your health than a chlorinated pool. This is the reason ratepayers like myself choose to holiday at such a pristine location such as Jan Juc. Another issue is the impost of the outrageous rate charges to build & maintain this centre. **NO AQUATIC CENTRE NEEDED!**

**Anglesea**                      **27/09/2015**

I am opposed to charging all ratepayers for a facility that will be mainly used by Torquay residents. I do understand the benefits of a pool for the community , but it would only be for the Torquay community. Rates are high enough at the moments without inflicting more charges for 20 years. Surely the Shire can allocate money in the budget for the next few years and also the Torquay community could fundraise. One million dollars a year to run the pool seems excessive . Non Torquay residents could be charged more to use the facilities instead of inflicting higher rates.

**Anglesea 27/09/2015**

While well thought out, this proposal is too expensive for this community to support. It will be Torquay centric and of limited value to people in other areas. The beauty of this coastline and living or visiting here, is based on the fact that it is not like the city. The more facilities it has the more its real beauty and uniqueness is lost. If people want all the facilities offered by a city they should move to one! Maintain the bush and coastline as a pristine rural community. Send the trail bikes, jet skis and rev heads somewhere else. Perhaps a very much smaller and cheaper complex for the elderly could be a consideration. It does seem that all considerations for development favour children, young men and shop keepers. They are not the only members of the community!

**Lorne 27/09/2015**

Having been a rate payer for 26 years we have seen all the major services directed at the Torquay area. We feel that we should not be penalised in any way for the benefit of Torquay yet again!

**Anglesea 27/09/2015**

Not in favour of this decision. It is not fair that the council will go ahead with this even though many people have no idea about the plan and how much it will cost to develop. Many of us already have gym and pool memberships and will not use this new development. It is a lot of money taken from the pockets of people in our community that are unaware of this development. When the petition came out about the development and people were asked to vote in favour for or against, the fact that the community would be paying for it wasn't in the question. So let people know all the details!!!

**Township not stated 28/09/2015**

Dear Council, In regards to the Testing the Water and the proposed funding model I wish to convey my thoughts on this. Firstly, I am not in favour of this model where residents have to pay based on where they reside. For \$150 + \$50 + admission fees each year I would prefer to pay to go to the Geelong Aquatic Centre in Waurn Ponds. Like other councils this should be borne by all residents not based on proximity. Secondly, the costing to operate an aquatic centre this size is questionable and not confident that the current model would cover all the costs. The flyer sent out had a couple of spelling errors which made me question the whole project credibility. Overall, the project is a 'nice to have' community building but does not make sense economically. As a ratepayer/stakeholder, i don't believe that the centre is warranted at this point in time. The shire must be bigger to support it.

**Ballarat 20/09/2015**

As a ratepayer, I do not support the proposed funding model for the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre. The Surf Coast has some of the premier swimming beaches in Australia. I do not see the need for another pool in Torquay for indoor swimmers. I am surprised that the Shire Council has not looked to private investors for the development of such a facility, if it is a priority for Council.

**Anglesea**                      **27/09/2015**

A crazy idea. Entirely unfair to anyone except Torquay residents. It seeks to exploit residents from other towns to subsidise Torquay people. Our rates are among the highest in Victoria already, without this additional impost. No No No.

**Torquay**                      **27/09/2015**

I love the idea of an aquatic centre. Great for retired people to keep fit and socialise and great for young families to learn to swim, entertainment, fitness etc. Paying extra in rates is certainly worth the social benefits. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

**Lorne**                      **27/09/2015**

The proposed aquatic centre is of no use whatever to people who do not live within a couple of kilometres from the centre. It is too far from Lorne to be able to use and Lorne ratepayers should not have to fund something that they will never use. The pool is too small, it really is just another indoor recreational centre not a swimming centre. And it is quite close to another large aquatic centre. It is huge expenditure that will be utilized by only a small number of people within a restricted area of the Shire. This enormous cost will have a negative impact that will reflect on future development throughout the whole Shire. If it is to go ahead the people in that particular area should be the ones to fund it not innocent bystanders. It is grossly unfair to other ratepayers who will see no benefit for their expense.

**Lorne**                      **27/09/2015**

As a Lorne ratepayer, I strongly object to the proposal that any aquatic centre be funded by ratepayer contributions. If Council wishes to pursue the proposal it should be on the basis of an alternative funding model which does not impose additional imposts on ratepayers who derive no benefit whatsoever from the facility.

**Anglesea**                      **28/09/2015**

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting. In general, we support the building of a Leisure Centre for the health and community benefits it would bring to the Surf Coast community. We congratulate the Council for consulting. However, while we note the Council's statement that it has not taken a formal position on this proposal, we wonder whether it would have got to this stage without a significant level of support within Council based on the work it has done to date. If this support does in fact exist, we would have preferred the Council to state that it favours the project and is now seeking community input into that position. To state that it does not have a preconceived opinion is a bit disingenuous and sounds very half hearted. The information about funding is helpful and in general, we support the idea of taking on debt to build important infrastructure. We wonder

though, whether there would be merit in considering the priority of this project in relation to other projects which are planned, rather than implying that Council is going to do everything that it has previously determined to do and that this project, if it happens would be an added extra. This notwithstanding though, we would be prepared to pay the extra rates for debt servicing and operations. Thanks again for the chance to comment

**Anglesea**                      **28/09/2015**

I strongly oppose ratepayers from outside of Torquay paying for significant infrastructure which will only benefit Torquay residents. The recent new sports and playing fields are located on the edge of Torquay, closer to Geelong than many parts of the shire. There is a good swimming pool in Warn Ponds, no further to drive for Torquay residents than what it would be for residents of Airys and Anglesea to drive to Torquay. I strongly oppose residents outside of Torquay paying any additional capital or ongoing maintenance costs for the pool.

**Lorne**                              **28/09/2015**

I can see no benefit for ratepayers outside the immediate area of Torquay. These facilities are available in Geelong and ratepayers from other areas will still have to travel long distances to access this sort of facility. Most will not use it and the area covered by Surfcoast shire is too large for it to have any benefit for other than Torquay ratepayers. I object to financing every large project with levies on rates. This does not happen in metropolitan areas and should not happen here.

**Burwood**                        **28/09/2015**

As non-resident rate payers we are strongly opposed to the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay. 1. As we do not reside in Torquay for the majority of the year, we do not wish to have our rates increased to pay for a facility which we would have very little use of. 2. We already have full membership to a leisure centre with a swimming pool and gymnasium. 3. We live beside the ocean to give us free access to swimming and walking all year round.

**Lorne**                              **28/09/2015**

I strongly oppose the proposed funding model which incorporates a special charge to be added to our rates bill. As a non permanent resident with a property in Lorne, I will never use this aquatic centre facility and as such should not have to contribute special payments to it. Furthermore, as Lorne is a significant drive from Torquay it should not even be considered as part of the funding base for this proposal.

**Torquay**                        **28/09/2015**

My husband and I strongly object the construction of a Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre. We have a large, beautiful ocean for swimming. A great walking/riding trail along the most adorable coastline in Victoria. Surely this is much more beneficial to health and mind being in the great outdoors, rather than being cooped up inside a thermostatically controlled environment. If an individual chooses to use such a controlled environment, then in no more than a 20 minute drive to Geelong, they have such a facility. To expect such a white elephant to be paid for by residents over a

20 year period, with the residents of Torquay expected to contribute the higher rate is unacceptable. I would expect that Torquay would consist of approx. 50% part-time residents, who have chosen to spend their breaks in and around the beach side and restaurants, will not use this facility, but are expected to contribute the maximum rate.

**Aireys Inlet**                      **28/09/2015**

We do not support the Aquatic centre and would not use it.

**Balnarring**                      **28/09/2015**

I oppose an aquatic centre in Torquay, based on the construction & operating costs and financing model. Also taking into consideration the planned aquatic centre in Armstrong Creek and the existing leisure centre in Waurin Ponds. Why should there be three aquatic centres within a few driving minutes of each other? If Council wants to improve health and wellbeing of the ratepayers, why not build the centre further to the south or inland, in Winchelsea for example? I'm a non-residential ratepayer and would be compelled to pay for the costs without having any benefits. However a more centrally located facility would serve all residents of the Surf Coast Shire and I would support a facility where there is no competition within a 10km radius.

**Lorne**                              **28/09/2015**

I would be opposed to the rate increase suggested for this project. This is not a facility which my family would use on any sort of regular basis especially as it is based in Torquay. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**Nunawading**                      **28/09/2015**

I am not in favour of building an Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay. I am a non-permanent resident rate payer. We are extremely fortunate to have a small holiday house in Eastern View. The house has been in our family for over three generations. It used to be a quiet ordinary area where we could enjoy the majesty of the area over our holidays. On September 30 I am obliged to pay the first rate installment of \$1072.48! My own house rates for the whole year are a little bit more than this first installment! I am not prepared nor should I have to pay an increase to these rates for over 20 years for a facility that I would not use. Thanking you for the opportunity to voice my opinion

**Anglesea**                         **28/09/2015**

Like many households on the Surf Coast, our property is a holiday house and we only reside at the Surf Coast for limited periods of the year. The proposed Aquatic and Health Centre is not a facility our household would use as the purpose for owning our Anglesea property is to visit the beach. While I accept that community facilities are funded through rates, I query whether consideration has been given to the disproportionate cost that will be levied on rate payers whose Surf Coast property is not their main address.

**Torquay**                         **28/09/2015**



I do not believe that an aquatic health centre is required within the Surfcoast area. Building the aquatic centre would be a regressive step for the council and will run at a loss (a model to learn from is Warrnambool) The move would be a further step away from the "seaside town" that makes Torquay a brilliant place to live and visit. Locals can make use of the beach and water at their doorstep and continue community involvement in the condition of the foreshore, rather than increase the energy footprint of the council and build a swimming pool. The centre would be utilised by a small percentage of the population, funding would penalise low income earners and further gentrify the area. The impact of cars travelling to the centre would add a further burden on the traffic problems faced in and around the Torquay area.

**Torquay**                      **28/09/2015**

I am strongly opposed to the concept of the Aquatic and Health Centre, based on the funding model proposed. The proposed \$150 annual, special charge over 20 years is significant financial impost on Torquay residents who may or may not use the Centre. The ongoing operating cost should not be subsidised by all ratepayers. Instead it should be carried by those who use the Centre in a 'user pays' system.

**Torquay**                      **28/09/2015**

As a resident and rate payer in Torquay since the late 1940s, I am very disappointed with the way in which the Surf Coast Shire has conducted this consultation regarding an aquatic centre. The phone survey, which I participated in, was an inadequate attempt to gain my opinion. The yes and no answers required, did not allow participants in this survey to express their true feelings and opinions about this project. It also did not enable respondents to record a comment. I am also disappointed that the sample surveyed did not take into account other valuable members of our community who are worthy of an opinion - schools, other user groups, swimming and life saving clubs. The financial model presented by the Shire is absolutely appalling. For decades I have contributed rate revenue and have rarely if never been asked before how my money is spent. Netball courts I don't use, football grounds which do not interest me, soccer pitches which I will never set foot on, a huge shire office which drained our capital. Why now when a project which may actually be used by all our community members, do you ask and intend to impose huge costs on outlying residents of our shire? Rate payers should not bear the burden of this. The Shire should have strategically planned for this. I work with many young parents and children and can tell you that this aquatic centre would be used just as much by them as it would my older peers. You need to find another way to make this happen. If communities around Australia can provide pools for their residents, then so should the Surf Coast Shire. We are a growing population. The long time residents deserve it and the new residents expect it Find another way.

**Anglesea**                      **28/09/2015**

I have a holiday house at Anglesea, thus I am a not a permanent resident of Anglesea and would not use an Aquatic Centre, as it would be not feasible to travel to Torquay for swimming or other aquatic activities. It is also my position that I believe it is unfair to contribute financially, through an increase in my shire rates to pay for an expensive Aquatic and Health (presumably this refers to the gym) that would really only be used by permanent residents all year round. I travel to Anglesea to holiday and

relax, and enjoy the environment of Anglesea. I have no interest in getting back into my car to travel to Torquay for a swim or to work out at a gym. NO THANK YOU, MOST DEFINITELY NO THANK YOU --  
---- I DO NOT WANT TO SEE AN AQUATIC AND HEALTH CENTRE BUILT AND PAID FOR BY RATE CONTRIBUTIONS IN TORQUAY,

**Highton**                      **28/09/2015**

Growing up in a single parent family in Torquay, we could not afford regular swimming lessons. Paired with a parent who was fearful of the water, meant that as an adult, I am faced with the reality that I still cannot swim. As the parent of four young active boys swimming skills and water safety are of paramount importance. I now reside outside the shire, but operate my small business from Torquay, employing local residents. I spend much time on the Surf Coast visiting grandparents, cousins and friends. I just want to let you know that despite living outside Torquay, my family would be big users of an aquatic centre on the Surf Coast. My children enjoy pool swimming all year round and it would be convenient for us to use this facility. I could envisage also doing weekly shopping in the locality, while the children participated in weekly swim classes. My business supports families with children on the Surf Coast. And I know this infrastructure would be greatly received by all. I believe that the survey and consultation process have had some vital flaws and did not convey the opinions of all facets of the community. The financial model proposed by the Surf Coast Shire is simply not fair or equitable for all. It penalizes rate payers shire wide and has made this unnecessarily divisive. It seems the intention was to turn people against the project. What a shame. I find it baffling that an alternate financial model has not been proposed, one that incorporates a more reasonable contribution from govt grants, small business sponsorship, an actual contribution from the Surf Coast Shire and community fundraising - and not a model at the expense of families already under financial burdens. I support a Surf Coast Aquatic Centre, but not this way. Thank you.

**Princes Hill**                      **28/09/2015**

In no way do I support contributing more stipends to council to build aquatic centre. Pathway contributions were/are enough - Council should allocate funds from rates rather than seek contributions for developments. These should be foreseen and allocated to or let those that will actually use the proposed centre pay for them through other means This form of funding is ultimately unfair to ratepayers - voting for more forward planning councillors will become an issue I suspect

**Fairhaven**                      **28/09/2015**

I do not favour funding this pool through the model proposed. Given the existing access to indoor and outdoor pools and the ocean I consider an annual levy of the amount proposed each year for 20 years - and an additional levy for maintenance - to be excessive. The additional admission fee only compounds this.

**Highton**                      **28/09/2015**

I have been a regular and frequent visitor to the Surf Coast, specifically Torquay, for the past 20 years. In that time, I have seen dramatic change in Torquay. There used to be no traffic lights, no McDonalds and a small town feel. Now days, urban sprawl has hit and Torquay is vastly different.

Open paddocks are now burgeoning suburbs and thriving family hubs - housing developments filled with potential users of an aquatic centre. Growing up in Melbourne, we took for granted community swimming facilities being easily accessible to our family and we used to use them regularly for both lessons and leisure. I now reside in the City of Greater Geelong and am a nurse at Barwon Health. The issue of a pool for this fantastic area, is much greater than just swim safety. The health benefits for the growing Torquay community are vast. Not only physical benefits such as reducing obesity and heart disease but also reducing mental stress and anxiety by providing a social hub of community connection. I envisage an aquatic facility which can cater for every member of the community. For those who require rehabilitation, for those who are disabled, for the young and the old. I believe that it is a requirement of the Surf Coast Shire to provide such a piece of infrastructure. You have a duty of care to the community of Torquay and surrounds. The model of funding suggested by Testing the Water is a joke. Take a look at CoGG's five aquatic facilities and see how they have been funded. Certainly not stumped up by the rate payers. As a future rate payer of the Surf Coast Shire, I implore you to start seeing the good of this project and stop dividing the community by presenting only financial scare tactics and negatives. I support a Surf Coast Aquatic Centre but not the model of funding presented.

**Anglesea**                      **28/09/2015**

As a permanent resident Anglesea I would be against the Aquatic centre development and borrowings. Our rates are higher in Anglesea than they were in Newtown. There are excellent facilities already in Warnponds and Geelong. Why duplicate them again? Torquay is now a suburb of Geelong. Same facility is 15 minutes away. (compare to Melbourne) Our rates currently do not maintain the street and drains in our street. The council needs to focus on maintaining and improving current delivery of services not increase debt and costs to ratepayers.

**Anglesea**                      **30/09/2015**

Re: proposed Aquatic Centre, I agree that this would make a wonderful community centre, but realistically for Torquay residents only. Why not build gym and health facilities without the large capital expense of the indoor pool? The large pool facility at Waurnd Ponds is available about 20 mins drive from Torquay for swimming lessons etc and, after all, Torquay has an ocean available to all residents. The capital and running costs are too large for all the Shire residents who are not living in the immediate Torquay area. I object to such an extremely large increase in our rates to fund it.

**Torquay**                        **28/09/2015**

As a ratepayer, but not a permanent resident, I strongly support an Aquatic & Health Centre in Torquay. It is most desirable for a growing community. However I do not think it is fair that Ratepayers outside the Torquay/Anglesea zone should be required to contribute via rates as they are most unlikely to make use of the proposed centre.

**Torquay**                        **28/09/2015**

I disagree with the proposed aquatic center for reasons that the rates are already too high hence a special charge ranging from \$20 to \$150 plus and there is no definitive cost estimate in which this cost could blow out, also there is the running cost and maintenance cost.

**Anglesea 28/09/2015**

My wife and myself are very much opposed to the Proposed Funding Model and do not want to contribute through an increase in our annual rates.

**Anglesea/ Aireys inlet 28/09/2015**

I do not agree with the funding model for this pool and as such would not wish it to go ahead. I would not use it and should not have to pay for it. Thanks

**Anglesea/ Aireys inlet 28/09/2015**

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**Bellbrae 28/09/2015**

I think this proposal is extraordinarily expensive and gold plated. It should not be Council's role to borrow and spend so much to build such a centre, and then to force rate payers to pay for the next 20 years. Rates are already an extremely high burden. Council should exercise greater prudence in spending rate payer money, and to work on ways of reducing its spending, rather than spending ever more as though the rates pocket is endless. The increasing rate burden is simply out of touch.

**Jan Juc 28/09/2015**

I love the idea of an aquatic centre in Torquay. I had a hip injury years ago and wasn't able to travel far, but when I was able to attend hydro pools as part of my Melb-based rehab, it did wonders for my pain and recovery. I think of the injured and elderly who would benefit now. I think of the school children being bused into Geelong, the little ones who aren't having the best chance at learning to swim locally. We are so lucky to have the ocean at our doorstep but it is no place for rehab therapy or young children learning necessary water survival skills. But despite all that, if it wasn't to go ahead, I would understand. What I don't understand right now is the divisive nature the council is taking, pitting town against town. I also fail to understand how so much money could have been thrown into consultations and reviews and reports for all these years, when that money could have been so better spent. I am also against the special charge scheme. We see council choosing to spend money on various projects all the time - in one recent case a quarter of a million dollars to improve a road to a new private business. How are these things decided and funded? Why has the pool issue been handled so differently, and with such a negative focus? I know there are other investments the town needs - such as a creative arts space. Instead of being an either/or option, I would love to see council investigate incorporating them as one structure, like other centres in other towns. I am supportive of a pool, if it were to be funded like all other council projects - from the council. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

**Torquay 28/09/2015**

As a renter and a health professional living in Torquay I am very concerned my families voice is one of many not being heard. I do want a pool. I do not agree with the current model proposed. We just want a pool that the kids of Torquay and district can swim, compete and train in. We need to

recognise the growth and projected growth in the region. This pool will be viable. Start with an enclosed 50m pool and kids pool and stop with all the other rubbish proposal and ditch the ridiculous funding model. Stop dividing the Community say yes to the pool and start seeking additional funding from our governments. Its a no brainer!

**Lorne**                      **28/09/2015**

I agree that there will be a benefit to a number of mainly Torquay residents. Residents living further out,, and non residents will not benefit but will still need to pay. I guess that over time lorne residents may benefit from other major projects, and that torquay residents would partially bear the cost. Please summarise past or future major projects where lorne residents have benefitted and the project did not come from a special levy to only the local residents. Not really sure of the logic in building a facility that will need ongoing money to run, i guess, at a loss.

**Torquay**                      **29/09/2015**

We need an aquatic centre. What other town of this siZe in Australia is without one? Learning to swim is important. Having access to recreational facilities which aren't just netball or football is important. Find a way to fund it through state or federal government grants. It shouldn't be that hard. I don't appreciate the divisiveness that council has created through the approaches being used. Community have a right to a pool and clearly want it. So just build it.

**Eastern View**                      **29/09/2015**

I am not a permanent resident. I live in an area which is unsewered, no town water.The existing rates are already high enough for the level of services we receive down here. I appreciate that Torquay is a growth area [with therefore an increasing rates revenue]. I therefore entirely oppose any further rates levy for a benefit that will only be used for practical purposes by Torquay ratepayers and certainly not by residents southwest of Anglesea at all. I suggest that, if the idea of an Aquatic Centre is advanced, any proposed levy should be confined to that part of the Shire that could benefit.

**Lorne**                      **29/09/2015**

We oppose the building of the Aquatic Centre in Torquay to be paid for by ratepayers from the entire region. We believe Torquay residents are well served by centres in Geelong. The Surfcoast area has other priorities.

**Anglesea**                      **29/09/2015**

I am against the proposal of an Aquatic and Health Centre.I do not agree to contribute to an extra charge or to any ongoing costs for operation if this was to be built. We have the ocean at our doorstep and we would not be using this facility at all.

**jan Juc**                      **28/09/2015**

Build it!

**Jan Juc**                      **29/09/2015**

I believe adjoining councils should also contribute to the ongoing cost of the pool and only residents within 30km radius of its location. There is really no need for people from aireys inlet, Lorne etc... To pay for this cost. It is a right of the people and future generations to have access to the right services that will enable for our growth as a community especially because we are a coastal town and should lead the way in aquatic education and providing for our community members.

**Torquay**                      **29/09/2015**

We are a non-permanent resident ratepayer in Torquay. However we do visit most weekends and every school and public holidays. Our family would love to see an Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay. It will be used a great deal by all especially in the school holidays. On the days when it is not warm enough for the beach, it will be used not only by locals but by families on holidays. It will be great to have a gym also as most of the gym's in Torquay do not offer a casual pass. We do understand that it will come at an extra cost to the rate payer, however maybe Council could propose special discount coupons for rate payers that could be used through out the year. Kind Regards

**Keilor East**                      **29/09/2015**

I am not a Surf Coast rate payer but I do holiday in Torquay every school holidays. I feel that Torquay would benefit a lot by having a Aquatic and Health Centre. Our family would use it quite a bit in the school holidays, especially in the cooler months when there is not as much to do.

**Winchelsea**                      **29/09/2015**

I oppose building the Aquatic Centre in Torquay. There are 3x25M pools in Torquay area already. If people want to swim in a pool, they can join the RACV club. Personally, I prefer to swim in the sea. It's more healthy. Also, Leisure Link in Waurnd Pond is only 15 minutes away. That's another option. I travel 40 minutes to Torquay often for a swim. Hence, I consider 15 minutes travelling should not be an issue. The building cost is one thing, the ongoing maintenance cost is another. Do we want another 'white elephant' (like the desalination plant) wasting all the limited fundings and achieve nothing ? Thank You

**Melbourne**                      **29/09/2015**

Hi..as this is our holiday house we will not be using the facility. .so i would like to reject to the proposal. .

**Eastern View**                      **29/09/2015**

As a non permanent resident who already pays extremely high rates ( more than double the median rate quoted), I would not wish to see an Aquatic Centre built under the proposed funding model. I would not use the facility and would not support a levy for the building and running of the centre.

**Torquay**                      **29/09/2015**

I support the community having an aquatic centre. As a rate payer I am NOT prepared to contribute financially. I will do community service instead ... That's how strongly I am opposed to my rates increasing to cover the cost of this facility I will never use.

**Torquay**                      **29/09/2015**

I totally agree we desperately need a pool in Torquay. My kids need to Learn how to swim! It is not fair to make us travel to Waurm Ponds with all of the Geelong community. It's not fair on mums with young babies to travel so far either. It has been an ongoing issue for too long. The only payment model you have provided is so wrong though, and the way you have gone about it is by no means fair. The phone survey was conducted mainly on people you know won't agree to it...ie over 55's. You know there are better ways of obtaining grants for the pool, getting businesses behind sponsoring etc; but gave not even given that a thought. You need to be fairer, realistic and more community minded. We need this pool and need a better payment model to go by to make it fairer for everyone; you will find a lot of people will leave the Surfcoast if you are just seen as money hungry council that don't care about the community at all. If anyone's children drown because you were too stingy to build a very needed community pool, you can expect severe backlash. We pay for all the electricity you use while all the lights are left on in the council building after office hours; how about turning them off and saving some money that way?! Build Us A Pool!!

**Torquay**                      **29/09/2015**

Dear Sirs, I am in favour for a aquatic centre! Torquay has beautiful facilities so far and this community is still growing. Though, it is lacking a community pool. I have grown up to go cycling everywhere. Good for staying fit and healthy, but also a good way to protect the environment from pollution. Now I have 2 children of my own, I would like to continue this. Though, they need to learn how to swim and can't cycle to the other main towns in the shire, nor to the closest pool, being Leisurelink in Waurm Ponds. They have lessons in Baines crescent at the moment, but the pool is too small. No deep water swimming and not accessible after school hours for free swimming. Furthermore, I have had medical issues and the best way to cure was water exercises. Some might say that the Waurm Ponds pool might just be 10 minutes away, but it is more likely to be 20 minutes one way by car. Wouldn't the council agree that a bike ride of 20 minutes would be fairer? I am not agreeing with the way of funding you proposing. There are certainly other ways. Also, I am not asking for a gym. There are already plenty to choose from. A pool for kids to learn to swim in deep (lap lanes) and shallow water. Adults to stay fit by lap swimming. Our surf life saving community to keep practising and staying fit. A toddler pool. And facilities for hydrotherapy, as I am a strong believer of quicker recovery in a pool when insured or other medical circumstances. A aquatic centre for our broad community. Kind regards

**TORQUAY**                      **29/09/2015**

Re Health Benefits - I am disabled and I drove to the McKellar Centre in Geelong twice a week for a number of years before I found it too difficult, costly (petrol) and time consuming. A pool in Torquay, which is suitable for disabled persons, would mean I would be able to exercise appropriately more often, maintaining my weight and health. I believe this would help to reduce health related expenses and relieve the burden on the health system. My own case aside, a local pool would greatly benefit





**Aireys Inlet**                      **29/09/2015**

Against the project. Not relevant to Aireys. No examination of other infrastructure expenditure options

**Aireys Inlet**                      **29/09/2015**

Against. A huge amount to spend on a facility that isn't conveniently accessible to those outside Torquay.

**Torquay**                              **29/09/2015**

I have NO interest at all for an Aquatic and Health Centre. I live by the ocean and too waste money on such a facility makes no sense. To build it and expect rate payers to pay for it? NO THANKS Use the money on more important infrastructure

**Lorne**                                      **29/09/2015**

As a non-permanent resident of Lorne I can see no benefit of the proposal to me or other members of my family. We strongly object to paying for a facility (and the ongoing costs associated with it) that we would never use.

**Torquay**                              **29/09/2015**

I find the communication and opinion gathering process that has been followed to date to be deeply flawed. Any reasonable person should expect their elected representatives to follow a clear, open and fair process. Instead, the information that has been used to 'inform' the local community is one dimensional and skewed towards a pre-determined outcome. Of course nobody wishes to pay an extortionate amount for a new aquatic centre. However, by framing the rationale in the way that you have, Surf Coast Shire have sought an answer to the question 'do we wish to pay through the nose for an aquatic centre', rather than 'do we wish to have an aquatic centre'? The two questions should be unrelated. If sufficient demand exists, then funding options should be explored. Sadly we will now not know whether sufficient demand actually does exist. As a Surf Coast resident and tax payer I find the way that you have wasted public money on this nonsensical sham of a 'consultation' to be a disgrace. If you really do not wish to support an aquatic centre, then why are you wasting tax payer money pretending to consult? Furthermore, why did so many elected representatives openly support the aquatic centre in the run up to the last election? Did they just lie to the community? Finally, did I miss the extensive public consultation prior to the construction of the very expensive tax payer funded new shire offices in Torquay? I guess I must have.....

**Jan Juc**                                      **29/09/2015**

The site of the proposed Aquatic Centre is too far from the shire population centres. Even from Jan Juc it is remote, I may as well drive to Waurm Ponds where there is a great facility, probably better than what Surfcoast can afford. The site has probably been chosen because the Shire has land there but it is far from ideal. A more central site in the locality of the former Shire Office Grossmans Road may have been a better choice. I swim at Waurm Ponds twice per week in cooler months and at the RACV pool on other days. Also at Cosy Corner most days in warmer months, so I am a regular user of

pools and the beach. But even as a keen and regular swimmer, the proposal has little appeal as the costs involved are substantial, yet wasted if the Centre is built at the northern edge of Torquay township and only 10 -15 minutes drive from the Waurn Ponds Aquatic Centre

**Torquay**                      **29/09/2015**

As the parent of Kids involved in surf lifesaving locally I am very supportive of a pool being delivered locally. Whilst I support my Kids to volunteer within their community the demands on us as a family are huge. One of these demands is the need to drive into Geelong of a morning so the Kids can train. As a community we embrace tourism and the strong economy they create. Tourists come to the region to use our beaches and with Torquay now so accessible we are seeing more and more non beach people get in trouble in our surf. We are going to need a large number of lifesavers moving forward and to create a skilled volunteer base in this space our kids need to swim. Having access to a pool would create more opportunities for Kids to stay in swimming programs longer- this would create a bigger base for us to draw our volunteers from. From a professional perspective creating any opportunities for people to be active is a great investment in our future. Through out winter if locals had the capacity to access a pool and stay active we could further enhance the health and wellbeing of our community. I have never been to a Geelong pool and not seen surfclub kids using the facility, with some swim squads having up to 90% of their make up- Surf Coast people. There is a need - build it they will swim.

**Jan Juc**                      **29/09/2015**

I am a local mother of ...children. I would so love for them to continue swimming lessons locally, however they have advanced to squad and I am not able to drive them into Geelong as required as there are no options locally for this level...NONE! We are 25mins from the nearest pool to accommodate them. I would be so disappointed in council for not recognising this as a requirement for the growing population - and it is going to grow so much more and you know it. I have seen the projections for growth when working on sizing of the sewer and water schemes for the area. One thing I hope you do is to think outside of the square. You have a beautiful opportunity, there is growth, there is tourism - please don't have to just copy leisurelink - although if that were here it would be utilised by us but there are other options aswell. Have you considered a natural swimming pool? are you aware of what it is? They are over 100 in Europe used for public bathing some with numbers up to 1000 and 5000 visitors per day. No chlorine, plants do the filtering, there are lower operating costs and no nasty chlorine. They can be heated. Imagine an area with an environmental conscience, the landscaping and aesthetics are as broad as your imagination. Please research this idea if you are genuine if your quest for a pool. It could be an attraction as well as providing a service to the community. It would take a small amount of courage and vision as Australia does like its chemicals and doesn't always like to be the first.....It has been successful in Europe from as early as 1998. I believe the 100th Public Natural Swimming Pool in Germany occurred in June, 2008 at Naturbad Maria Einsiedel in the City of Munich. There are European Standards to follow for bathing water this isn't something completely new. Look I just want a swimming pool for the public and would be happy with a leisurelink here, but if you are saying that it won't be viable why not try something new worst case it is only a service for the community. Please consider all avenues and come up with something that will work as I would definitely use it regularly - only a shame it wasn't

done earlier as we would have been members for 20 years which is as long as we have lived here.  
Build it and we will swim!!! Kind Regards

**Anglesea 29/09/2015**

I do not agree with the proposal to build the Aquatic Centre in Torquay. I feel it is a very expensive commitment that will only benefit the locals in Torquay and Jan Juc, yet the cost will be shared by the whole Shire. Indoor pools and aquatic centres, already established properties, are available in Geelong and it's suburbs for Torquay residents to use. It concerns me as a ratepayer that SCS is contemplating establishing a business that will lose a \$1 million a year from the getgo.

**Anglesea 29/09/2015**

All members of our anglesea based family (who have been using the house for close on 22 years) are implacably opposed to the proposal. It is absurd to require ratepayers in other towns to contribute towards an asset that will really only be used by residents in, and visitors to, Torquay. It is perhaps equally absurd to build an aquatic centre at a place one of the major claims to fame of which is its surf beaches. There is no question that (if and to the extent possible) we would vote against any council member who supported this proposal.

**Torquay 29/09/2015**

What I would really like to see from Councillors and council on this matter is some vision: How we can fund a pool without imposing a big cost to the community, how we can see this as a positive opportunity rather than a burden. I will let others more well-read than I am to delve into details and costs, but the proposal of a blue ribbon leisure centre model and associated costs seem very limited and tell me that Council doesn't want to entertain this idea. I must say I was not impressed with what appeared to be a very biased consultation process. The questions asked were so one sided that of course the outcome would be that people didn't want to pay the extra costs. It seemed to pitch other towns against Torquay, something that made me sad to see and at a loss to understand why council would engage in something like this. I do hope you have learnt from this mistake. With growing boys, my family has spent a lot of time travelling out of Torquay for learn to swim and swim safety classes. If we had a local council pool we would have gone there. It has seemed rather weird that in such a growing town as Torquay we don't have a good old public pool. As I grow older I often wish I could pop into the local pool before work or the weekend, especially in winter. I can't afford RACV costs, so to do that now I have to drive to Geelong, which restrict the amount of times I can do it. If there was a reasonably priced pool here I would do 2 or 3 times a week. I travel a lot in Australia and many towns - rural and coastal, have pools: Not grandiose leisure centres, but just a great pool that is well used by the community. Some are outside but many are indoor. It shows that it doesn't need to be spectacular to be a benefit to the community. If this council is fair dinkum about serving the rate paying families of this community they would come up with some more creative approaches to this. Lobby government too, we live in an area where they will listen. I know that many people and groups have put up well thought out options, maybe it is time to start listening properly to these.

**Torquay 29/09/2015**



This is a very long awaited proposal! We are keen swimmers and gym goers - we have been driving to Lorne to swim in the outside pool in cooler months and also to Waurn ponds. It is a huge drive just for a swim or gym session. We would be THRILLED if this centre could be developed AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! We would also like to have "learn to swim" classes for our young children along with Masters swim squads for us adults please! Please design a pool that is wide enough to accommodate serious lap swimmers at peak times. Often this is not taken into account. It is not enticing to plan a lovely swim session only to find that there are 2 lanes available and 10 swimmers in each fighting it out. Torquay has attracted many athletes and we would all embrace this lovely centre for ourselves and also for our families, THANK YOU!

**Queenscliff                      29/09/2015**

There is a need for need for a Torquay pool to accomodate not only learn to swim but sport. This type of pool would become a sporting hub and attract teenagers from both Winchelsea and Lorne along with teenagers in the COGG. Tourism would also be a winner as Aquatic Events generate tourism dollars when learn to swim pool struggle for weekend patronage. A sporting pool would need to be 2.2 metres constant depth and would attract Synchronised Swimming, All swimming events at Regional, National and International level, Canoe Polo, Under Water Hockey and Water Polo. No other pool in the region can accomodate these sports and you would have a point of difference and greater usage. There are no pools for teenagers and it is of great importance to keep kids in the pool and active. Good luck with your decision making and even though I don't live in the Surf Coast I believe you have a wonderful opportunity to leave a lasting legacy for your community. Thanks

**Jan Juc                              29/09/2015**

I've been a resident of Jan Juc and Torquay for 20 years, as a renter and ratepayer. In that time I've seen lots of wonderful additions to our town, and some unwelcome ones too. What's always made our place special is the sense of community, bonded by water, all of us, on the edge of this island. So it's awful to watch as those gifted with the power to make decisions use that power to fracture the surf coast community. The current proposed facility and funding model are just not what the community asked for. Making vital infrastructure unattainable by offering an unrealistic and unattractive leisure facility instead of the simple swimming pool we need was both shrewd and disingenuous. But I have faith in this community, and I know that our council, the elected representatives of which are part of the community they serve, will do what's right, if only to show the people of this shire that they are committed to a fair and realistic approach to this issue. We want a pool, but no community should be asked to pay so much for something so simple.

**Jan Juc                              30/09/2015**

I attended the first community forum at Torquay. The first 15 minutes was wasted by the event organizer getting us to txt our answers. Most of us didn't have phone reception so it didn't work. You'd have thought they would have checked mobile coverage before. Otherwise the evening was organised well. Why was the phone survey done in the middle of the day to the majority of rate payers which were over 50 years? Why was it only 2% of the population of rate payers in the area? Do you think this is a fair representation of the community? Pre council election 4 Councillors called

themselves in the media "pool champions" what are they doing now to champion this project? Or was it just a pre election plan? We need a pool in Torquay for the the young to learn to swim, the public to keep fit and healthy and the elderly for rehab and fitness. 4 children die a year from drownings, it should be 0. How do you think people get to Waurm Ponds pool that don't have a car? It is very difficult to get a bus that far and you need to change twice and takes 1 hour to get there. It is unfair and unrealistic to expect rate payers in Lorne and Winchelsea to help pay for this pool which they will probably never use! Our rates are already one of the highest in the state and we don't even have a community pool! The shire have a responsibility to the community to teach our children to swim and prevent childhood drownings. They also have a responsibility for our community to be fit and healthy and reduce our risks of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and stroke. We have 3 supermarkets selling lots of unhealthy food but no where in Torquay to have a swim and become healthier! Where are our teenagers going to do squad swimming for surf rescue? Geelong, 1 hour round trip away. What if their parents don't have a car? How much did the surf coast shire building cost? I don't remember community forums and engagement on this project? Maybe if it hadn't cost so much to build then there would be some money left over to build a pool. Please consider a better financial plan for a pool for Torquay this is much needed in so many ways. Listen to your community. We won't give up on this matter. Looking forward to your response Yours Sincerely

**Anglesea**                      **30/09/2015**

I strongly oppose the proposal. I do not want to pay any more rates and therefore I do not want an aquatic and health centre in Torquay. I will never use it and I pay very high rates already. The rate imposition is very high and the FAQ says I will be liable for the full amount even if I leave the shire. I am 60 years old and I would prefer to swim in the sea.

**Torquay**                      **30/09/2015**

I am completely against having a pool in Torquay, with or without the current payment model. It is a totally unnecessary & non-worth while need in our town. Waurm ponds in only 10mins away & we have the ocean! Spending all that money on research towards a pool is a complete waste of public money. Please stop entertaining the extremely noisy minority of this town.

**Mount Duneed**              **30/09/2015**

I am completely against the proposed aquatic centre. The cost is way too high for a Shire of this size and capability to fund it. Be reminded of the Shire's previous venture into running a business which nearly broke it, resulting in the State Government's takeover of the council. If a pool is required then surely let's do just that, build a pool only.

**Jan Juc**                      **30/09/2015**

I feel the Surf Coast definitely needs an aquatic centre, many families in the Surf Coast shire are already driving their children to Geelong for swimming lessons I think the Surf Coast is big enough now and growing to justify having an aquatic centre but not under the proposed scheme by the council. I feel to increase our rates to cover the cost of the pool and then expect residents to also pay to use the pool is not fair. Also some residents would not use the pool I think it is unfair if there

rates are increased, definitely more discussions and proposals need to be put forward to the local community.

**Torquay**                      **30/09/2015**

Torquay needs its own aquatic centre for sooooo many reasons I don't even know where to begin so here's a few short points just to start me off: all children should know how to swim, people with chronic diseases and health issues should be able to access a facility like this in their own town, we shouldn't have to travel for a facility such as this when our population is already so big, it will bring more business into our town, the locals would spend more \$ in their own town as not travelling to another location for the benefits of an aquatic centre, we have amazing life saving clubs in Torquay/Jan Juc and need to support our volunteers with a training facility, not only are we an aging population of whom water activity is the most beneficial we are a community expanding with new and young families that are living by the water where it is not safe if you don't all know how to swim or be safe around water. Really it's a no brainer, we can afford a fancy new Police Station that until recently has been like a ghost town with no one there half of the time, very fancy Council offices and many other money spinners but putting money into the health and safety of our whole community and surrounds should and IS far more important. Get with the program and do what is right for YOUR SHIRE, it's a no brainer and it will benefit the community far and wide. WE NEED AN AQUATIC CENTRE NOW. Best regards P.S. I am off to Waurn Ponds now for some water therapy for the disease that I have in my legs, oh and I will probably do my shopping in Waurn Ponds while I'm at it - sad really.

**Jan Juc**                      **30/09/2015**

A major pool facility on the Surf Coast is long overdue. Enough discussion. The funding and discussion thereof of a swimming pool should be separate from other Council costs, as nothing is to be gained by discussing this alongside other costs of Council that are expected of a local government. Get creative, get proactive, show leadership and stop wasting money on surveys. Yes, some people will be against and some will be for an aquatic centre and its location. But commonsense and leadership should prevail - Torquay has the largest populace and is the growth centre of the Shire; an aquatic centre in a large town is an expectation as much as community centres, sporting fields and walking tracks in terms of health and wellbeing.

**Anglesea**                      **30/09/2015**

I have an issue with the \$50 approx. extra rate for an average or median rate property. What will be this figure for a HIGH rate property? I already pay a HIGH rate figure, so why must I also pay more than others for the proposed pool. IF, I used the pool do I get a premium part of the pool to use as I will be paying a premium extra amount because of my already HIGH rate property? Probably not! If the proposed facility was costed on an equal share for all rate payers, perhaps ok. But NOT otherwise. Once again those of median financial means (with a HIGH value property) end up with a further extra premium financial burden.

**Anglesea**                      **30/09/2015**

As rate payers of the Surf Coast Shire, we strongly object to the proposal of the Aquatic and Health Centre. We do not agree that this should be financed by a levy which we will be paying for the next 20 years on top of our rates, which are already among the highest in the state.

**Anglesea 30/09/2015**

I have a holiday house in Anglesea which we use a great deal, and are looking to retire to Anglesea. I am more than happy to support an Aquatic centre in Torquay. I think it is vital for the town to have this community facility. The benefits- there are so many health and social benefits for not just the residents of Torquay but residents of nearby areas that would use the facility. From my perspective - my husband and I value keeping fit- if there is a pool in torquay it makes it much more attractive to retire to Anglesea. More permanent residents in the coastal towns has huge economic benefits to the towns e.g. money spent in shops, chemists, using local services etc. Those same people will contribute to the towns rather than just pop down for a few days e.g. probes/ lions clubs. I really think this is so important and will be really happy to support the aquatic centre in any way I can. Kind regards

**Jan Juc 30/09/2015**

I have lived in Jan Juc for over 30 years and have seen my rates increase from \$224 in 1984 to \$3,508 this year. If I am forced to suffer the proposed increase to fund an Aquatic Centre I will NEVER use I will be compelled to sell my home as it will be too expensive for me to remain here. People move to Torquay because of the beaches - the front beach is very safe except in extreme conditions. If a pool is absolutely necessary for this vocal group, building a sea-baths would be more financially responsible and tourist-friendly. There are other Aquatic Centres in fairly close proximity for those who must have a pool - I had a one hour walk to a pool when I was a child in Melbourne (no beaches were accessible). Other gyms and Health Centres here have been financed by the proprietors in order to make a profit. A number of gyms have failed - do we need another one? Why should the Council finance this proposal? Please do not force me out of my home for such an unnecessary project which has all the promise of becoming an expensive white elephant.

**Jan Juc 30/09/2015**

We are strongly opposed to the building of the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre at Torquay North. It is unnecessary and a waste of financial resources. (i) There are already 25 m pools in Torquay which can be used for anything from swimming lessons for young children, to water aerobics for the elderly. (ii) There is a whole ocean available for swimming and water safety lessons, and surf lifesaving clubs and commercial surf schools ready and willing to facilitate these activities. (iii) The carbon footprint for building and maintaining the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre pools and recreation facilities in Torquay will be significant and indefensible. We should be concentrating on sustainable, low greenhouse gas generating activities in our region. (iv) The facility would generate few ongoing jobs in the Torquay area, and money would be better spent on enhancing the success of innovative local businesses. (v) The expense involved in building and running the pool is far beyond the capability of our Council resources, if funding relies on an approximate 10% increase in our rates for the Torquay area (\$150 plus \$50). This is in a period where the Vic State government is recommending rate capping to relieve the rate burden from the community. (vi) A different model



could be considered, incorporating collaboration in the larger regions of Geelong and Barwon Council (as well as the Surf Coast), and placing the pool more centrally, possibly in the Grovedale area, to accommodate families in the new estates at Armstrong Creek and Villawood. Families in these areas, further from the Torquay beaches, might benefit from easily accessible pool and leisure facilities, which would be more fully utilised by this growing population. Thanks for this opportunity to comment.

**Aireys Inlet**                      **30/09/2015**

I am NOT in favour of the proposed financial model to support the proposed aquatic centre. While a \$20 upfront and \$50 per annum charge may seem minor costs in the overall scheme of things, I refuse to support the model where there will be NO benefit to me or my family in Aireys Inlet. I do not see any benefit travelling to Torquay to use a facility such as this, regardless of whether I am a permanent, semi-permanent, or non-permanent resident.

**Jan Juc**                              **30/09/2015**

I wish to strenuously oppose and object to the suggestion that rate payers foot the bill for the construction of the proposed Aquatic Centre. As a semi-permanent resident I strongly feel that it is not my responsibility or those of the community to have yet another yearly fee added to our rates or an ongoing yearly fee after that to support this development. My family and I would never use this facility and under no circumstances agree to rate payers subsidising a development which we would not utilise. I can't stress this enough after already paying for footpath developments in Jan Juc which in my opinion were not required. If this proposal proceeds we will not be paying our portion and will consider legal advice.

**Jan Juc**                              **30/09/2015**

A town with the size (already) and growth of Torquay/Jan Juc needs a pool for kids and family for recreation, competition and most importantly, water safety (learn to swim). With the monies recently spent of new council buildings and sports fields, omitting a pool facility was at the very least a major oversight. Surfcoast Shire should be working with state government to have this important piece of community infrastructure completed. Raising funds through levies or increases rates should be a last resort. The council should not be wasting money on second rate market researchers running phone polls at meetings (where there is no mobile phone reception), when it is plainly obvious that a pool facility would be welcomed and used by the community. I am happy to contribute further if anyone from the shire is interested. Regards

**Anglesea**                            **30/09/2015**

I strongly appose the proposal on a number of grounds. I am a non-resident with a holiday home in Anglesea to allow my family and I to utilise the many beaches on the Surf Coast. I will not utilise the proposed facility and I am completely apposed to the concept and or contributing to it's development financially. A facility like this already exists in Waurrn Ponds, why would you see the need to build something so similar in such close proximity?

**Bulleen**                              **30/09/2015**



that Lorne ratepayers should be required to contribute to the Torquay Aquatic Centre. Yours sincerely

**Torquay**                      **30/09/2015**

I do not support the building of an Aquatic Centre in Torquay. Many people already use the pools that are available in Torquay and those who are excluded by cost, are willing to travel to Waurn Ponds Leisure Link. Why, because its not far away. Many of my friends shop at Waurn Ponds so having a swim and gym session across the road from this large shopping centre is actually quite convenient. Also they are able to drop the kids off for their swimming lessons and then do their shopping. Leisure Link is well appreciated by Torquay locals and they will continue to use that superior facility instead of any Torquay Aquatic Centre. Another pool in Torquay may not get all that much use.

**Ballarat**                      **30/09/2015**

My wife and I do not support an increase in our annual council rates to assist with the finance and ongoing maintenance of the Aquatic and Health Centre. We have a rental property in Torquay and reside in Ballarat, we are elderly and therefore no longer commute the distance between both towns. I would like to reiterate that we vehemently object to an increase in rates to support the Aquatic centre. Thank you.

**Torquay**                      **30/09/2015**

Many of us never intend to use this new facility- yet we are still expected to fork out thousands of dollars for this facility. If you believe this to be ethical- you are wrong. We vote in elections for you to represent the people- this is the opposite.

**Aireys Inlet and Camberwell**      **30/09/2015**

We strongly object to the proposed funding for the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre at Torquay. Whilst the "special charge" rate of \$20 per year for areas a long way from Torquay might be acceptable if it did not escalate year by year with inflation or as a result of budget blowout, it appears there is no intent to scale the annual operating costs in a like manner. So for our property, for example, the increase in rates would be \$70 annually (and likely to end up much higher). The Centre would be of virtually no benefit to most of Aireys Inlet people, whether permanent residents or regular holiday makers such as ourselves due to the travel distance. The range of health and social benefits of aquatic centres can be enjoyed on a regular basis by people living in close proximity to the facility, not 28km or so away. Tourists, including those from Aireys, enjoying the facility occasionally, should not be responsible for the ongoing maintenance costs.

**Torquay**                      **30/09/2015**

i fully support an aquatic centre in Torquay. With all the population growth happening in our town and all the way through to Geelong, Leisurelink will not be able to cope with the load. It is very difficult to get lane space there as it is. My family and I would use a pool in Torquay regularly. I do not support the model to finance it however.

**Torquay**                      **30/09/2015**

I fully support the development of the proposed aquatic centre. It will promote health and well being for our young children and our ageing population. We live on the coast and the centre would assist with ensuring our children are water safe. The death last summer of the 4 year old on our foreshore should never be repeated - and water safety starts at the local pool.

**Paraparap**                      **30/09/2015**

I am against the proposed swimming pool in Torquay An upgrade of Winchelsea swimming pool would be better. Surf coast shire rates are already expensive without adding extra charges ,for a facility that a small percentage of the community would use .

**Torquay**                      **30/09/2015**

I have been saddened by the division this issue has caused across the shire. Setting up rivalries between towns, organisations and friends. I was initially very uncertain about the idea of a pool in Torquay - we have an ocean that our community cares for. I figured that if you choose to live in a small town you needed to accept that you would need to travel for something like a pool. However our town and the region has been allowed to grow. If people are to live here, they require infrastructure. I consider a pool to be high on the priorities. I have struggled to understand why council have put forth the funding proposal they have. Why are they putting forward this idea which will clearly not be welcomed. People don't want to pay for something they feel won't benefit them. It reminds me of the footpaths levies in JanJuc. Again - why is council only exploring this one option? Is it political? Is there something else not being shared? Are the resort pools unhappy? I don't know the answer and am confused?? An Aquatic and Health centre would be of great benefit to the community. Personally I have been travelling into Geelong for children's swimming a lessons and to do my own Aqua rehab. My kids would get greater access to lessons (making them safer), my rehab would be progressing faster meaning my contribution to the community would be greater. Win win in my world - and that's from a purely selfish perspective! The greater benefits to the community are massive. Being a parent and teacher I am particularly concerned with looking after our young people. This project could be life changing (and saving). Council are quite happy to jump up and down about being unable to secure grants for the new children's hub (and rightly so with many doing wonderful work). Perhaps this funding model could be used to fund the children's hub instead and Sarah Henderson enthusiasm for the pool could transferred. Then the pool could be funded by infrastructure grants and private enterprise (we do have many great companies who are often willing to support the community). I am no expert on this one, but the current proposal just doesn't seem to make sense.

**VERBATIM COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH OTHER INTERNAL EMAIL ADDRESSES**

nb: identifying information including names and addresses have been removed.

**23/07/2015 Township not stated**

Afternoon Chris,

Having read the media releases via the Groundswell newsletter, the Surf Coast times article and facebook post over the last couple of days I have been contemplating my response to Council.

I (and the action group members) believe it is heavily weighted in an extremely negative light to once again delay the construction of a swim and health facility.

There appears to be a distinct lack of cost analysis information explaining the figures quoted, and the taskforce DID NOT recommend the \$1million annual operating figure as has been suggested in the releases.

We understand it is a big ticket item for Council to commit to, but the information released to date will certainly not allow the project to go ahead in the near future.

Can we get Council to explain the figures quoted to allow the community to understand the cost breakdown and the grants available because at the moment it sounds as if Council are funding the entire project and the ratepayers will foot the bill.

Is this the way Council intends to fund all other infrastructure projects into the future?

**23/07/2015 Lorne**

So much for rate capping. The clowns at syrfcoast council are contemplating yet another so called special levy to build an aquatic centre in Torquay and yet again hit Lorne residents who already pat obscene rates to subsidise Torquay.

It's not on.

The committee for Lorne is in uproar.

Stop this council. Sack it. Get it live within its means and stop rapinglorne with hideous rates.

Act!

**28/07/2015 Anglesea**

Dear Councillors

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to my rates being used to fund a swimming complex in Torquay.

There is a fantastic leisure venue a short drive from Torquay and Jan Juc at Waurm Ponds.

Torquay and Jan Juc residents and others already have access to the RACV Resort where there is a readily available swimming facility.

There is a swim school available at Torquay and lastly the ocean beaches with two SurfLife Saving Clubs.

If council is determined to go ahead with this expensive proposal then the fund raising necessary should be charged only to those parts of the Shire with direct benefit ie. Torquay and Jan Juc.

**28/07/2015 Aireys Inlet**

SurfCoast Shire Mayor and Councillors  
PO Box 350 Torquay  
Vic 3228  
Fax 03 5261 0525

Dear Mayor Margot and Fellow Councillors                      Ref: Rates and Pool

The State Government has recognised an overwhelming, legitimate and long standing community concern at the excessive rate rises above the CPI by restricting rises as from next year. Once again SurfCoast is in the top ten rises for next year. It is a pity that, once again, the Shire has not made efforts to curb its excessive spending.

To cap this off Council is continuing to push for an exorbitantly priced swimming pool in Torquay. We have a coastline blessed with numerous good beaches and yet there is this unjustified push for a pool.

The Shire ratepayers are still paying for the Shire offices at \$25 M, which is again an excessive waste of ratepayer's money.

Council is not giving ratepayers a proper say in whether they want this pool or not. A vote on this question is what is needed, and I would like to know why we ratepayers are not being given the opportunity to do so.

To say that ratepayers will be surveyed by a private company who will survey on a demographic basis is not a democratic way of doing this job. This Company will not record your views if they have already surveyed enough to reach their quota for that demographic. This is neither fair or honest.

What is the cost of the survey versus the cost of taking a vote, which could have been combined with the next rate notice mail out?

The cost of the special charge scheme over 20 years will range from \$400 to \$3,000 plus a special rate rise of 2.75% on top of CPI to cover the \$1 M running costs. The special rate rise will add another approximately \$50 (your figure) to \$70 (our figure) per year and which will give an extra cost of \$1,000 to \$1,400 to all ratepayers.

Council should take note of the current lack of esteem for politicians at all levels, when they fail to treat voter's views with respect and fail to adequately consult them. Holding meetings and a survey is not a vote.

**29/07/2015 Anglesea**

Dear Councillors

Today I investigated the travel time by car from Leisurelink at Waurnd Ponds to the SurfCoast Shire offices in North Torquay where it is suggested this swimming/health(I presume this means a gym, maybe physiotherapy, hydro pool etc which are available at Waurnd Ponds) be built.

The travel time is 12 - 14 minutes.

So this huge impost on ratepayers and taxpayers for a Torquay Pool is to be spent to save this small amount of travel time?

Again I express my total opposition to this proposal.

**29/07/2015 Anglesea**

Dear Councillors and citizens of Anglesea I whole heartedly endorse ... comments, and if you consider the excellant facilities at the RACV Torquay Resort this adds to the WASTE of Rate payer resources

**29/07/2015 Anglesea**

I join with ... and ... is expressing my total opposition to the proposed Torquay Swimming Pool project as circulated by Surf Coast Shire Council.

I endorse and agree with the sentiments expressed by ... and ..., and believe that this proposal is a complete waste of ratepayer resources.

**31/07/2015 Anglesea**

Dear Councillors,

I don't support the Torquay Swimming Pool project and completely agree with ...'s and ...'s comments.

**31/07/2015 Jan Juc**

I would like to register my extreme opposition to building the aquatic centre in torquay. I think it is an outrageous & cost prohibitive plan that we do not need!! We live by beautiful beaches- why on earth do we need a pool!! As a pensioner it is difficult enough to pay the current rates- there is absolutely no way i could afford to fund this pool that i would never use. My grandchildren visit me in jan juc to experience the beauty of our beaches NOT an indoor swimming pool!!! I will not be paying for it in any form.

**04/08/2015 Township not stated**

Hi All

I am lucky enough to be in sunny Qld, escaping not only the cold but also the controversy over the Aquatic centre.

I have been able to keep somewhat informed of what is happening at home through social media and reading news online.

It saddens me to see how divisive the issue of the Aquatic centre has become. Not only is it dividing the Torquay/Jan Juc community but it has also encouraged the "us against them" mentality that already exists between the smaller wards in the shire and the Torquay ward. I hope this wasn't the intention of whoever devised this campaign to solicit community comment. Any logical thinking

person would have concluded that the majority of ratepayers would not be prepared, and could ill afford the sort of impost that the shire has suggested, given our already expensive rates. If council believes this sort of consultation is appropriate, perhaps they should have used this method when considering the budget for the shire offices. I understand that new offices were badly needed but I wonder if the required space could have been provided for much less ratepayers money?

I see that there is now a FB page set up by Winchelsea residents against the proposal. Not surprising but some of the comments are very much "us against them". Comments also included - we want a cover, we want heating etc. which are not unreasonable and I am sure would be beneficial to the people in Winchelsea who use the pool. What your current campaign has now brought into play is that every improvement in any part of the shire will be questioned by those who don't derive a direct benefit.

"Why should my rates be used for something I don't want?" This question could be asked about all expenditure throughout the shire. People could, not unreasonably, start asking to know how much is being spent in each ward and how much rates are collected in each ward.

It seems to me, and I hope I am wrong, that councilors have abrogated their responsibility of "just saying no" to a piece of infrastructure that the shire cannot afford so that they don't have to bear the responsibility of the decision and instead can say it was the ratepayers decision.

Please note I am writing this as an individual ratepayer not as a representative of any group.

**09/08/2015 Lorne**

To the Councillors of the Surfcoast Shire.

It was of great concern to me, after less an hour ago, offering my time to contribute to the telephone survey commission I believe by the Surfcoast shire on the issue of 'Testing the Water'

the debate regard the proposed Aquatic Centre for Torquay.

After the survey, I requested from the telephonist "who penned this Survey?" of course to no avail.

Here I request the same from the Shire .....

Who penned this survey?, as I felt strongly that it was bias, in favour. of the positive for this proposal.

Secondly, at what cost to me, as a long term rate payer, has this feasibility campaign been?

Two questions, I respectfully await your response.

Appears its a rather poorly thought out survey and could some body please asnwer my questions?

1. Who penned the survey ?
2. How much money has this feasibility study cost me the rate payer in dollars terms ?

**19/08/2015 Lorne and Winchelsea**

Dear sir/madam,



... and ... are strongly against the proposed major expenditure on a new pool complex at Torquay being financed by a tax on every rate payer in the Shire.

We are both rate payers at Winchelsea and in Lorne, and can see no additional benefit to our areas for the cost it will place on us. Please list us as opposing the plan.

**12/08/2015 Lorne**

Dear Clive, I am hopeful of attending the forum at Lorne regarding the Torquay Aquatic Centre Proposal. In addition to our concerns about Lorne having to contribute to this; ... and I also believe the Surfcoast Shire should offer some discount to ratepayers who are prepared to pay all their contribution in one payment. I am told to do so we need to pay by the first installment date which I find out of touch with our Councils. Most other councils give ratepayers until February if they wish to pay the total amount up front. Why should I give the Council the benefit of having all my funds in advance without any benefit to me? In other words give extra time to pay full amount of a discount for paying early? Please present this at the next council meeting as a complaint from Ratepayers.

**21/08/2015 Township not stated**

Thanks for forwarding the answers to my questions.

I am not sure all answers provide an adequate explanation.

I am particularly concerned with the following -

From the SCS website - "It would cost \$29m to build and up to \$1m a year to run." Please explain the up to \$1m to run – does this figure include depreciation?

\$1m is the average annual operating cost over the first 10 years of the facility. It covers the anticipated operating loss (i.e. revenue less expenditure), costs associated with the maintenance of a company limited by guarantee model (refer to the Taskforce report for more information on this) and an allowance for keeping the building in good condition including renewal works as it ages. This last point is not strictly a full coverage of depreciation but rather an assumption that Council will need to generate funds to ensure the building can continue to operate effectively.

I have read the figures for the expected operating costs and don't believe the above answer explains those figures in a genuine manner. Figures included for maintenance - \$130,000pa and \$350,000 every 5 years. The last sentence is particularly misleading and does not answer the question.

1. Please ask whoever developed these figures to explain what the \$200,000 governance costs are made up of.
2. I have spoken with an accountant and was advised that adding \$660,000 depreciation annually to the operating costs is definitely not a normal practice and they used the term "double dipping". Please explain why the financial model is using depreciation in this way.
3. What will the shire do with all of the cash (depreciation is a non-cash item). Will the cash be used to fund other projects?
4. Why is this model of funding not being used for the Winchelsea pool?
5. "There would also be ongoing costs to operate and maintain the centre. An additional increase in rates, equating to approximately \$50 for the average ratepayer, would be required to cover these costs". This calculation does not explain how much each ratepayer would be charged so the information you are putting out is incomplete. When will you let residents know so they can make an informed decision?

Again, I would just like to say how disappointed I am in the lack of transparency and the divisiveness of this ill-conceived process. The only conclusion that I can draw is that the model has been designed to fail. If this is an example of how council is intending to proceed in future you can expect to encounter strong resistance and more scrutiny from the residents. I thought the Surf Coast Shire was supposed to be the "Place of Wellbeing".

**28/08/2015 Township not stated**

I would have loved to have been at this meeting, but unfortunately ... and I are away until 7th September.

For the record, we are both for the aquatic centre. ... swims at Front Beach 1200m every day in the Summer, started going to

Warne Ponds, but it is so full you can not swim in a lane. He now swims at RACV as we are members he is able to, but is always complaining that Torquay, being the growth corridor that it is should have its own full aquatic centre.

Luckily our grand children that do live here have had swimming lessons and can swim at 6 and 8, however they can not swim anywhere in the winter. Where do our kids learn to swim. I think people will come from Lorne to Torquay, but I can understand why their rates would be cheaper.

I do not mind paying extra rates but I can see a lot of young families struggling already with Torquay rates, which are much higher than our house in Sandringham of a similar quality and value!

Any way if you get the chance we vote for it.

**03/09/2015 Torquay**

*Dear Sir,*

*This email address on the Net failed permanently.*

*Aquatic Centre.*

*I cannot attend the forums which you are conducting. I did not receive a phone call about support for this centre. I do fully support the establishment of this centre in Torquay. I would like a pool only - not the other associated health facilities, as these are already catered for in abundance around this part of the coast.*

*I am a ratepayer and a pensioner I travel to Waurn Ponds to swim, and have a membership there. You cannot swim laps in the sea, and swim all the year round unless you have a wet-suit, which costs a lot of money - too much for pensioners.*

*If Ocean Grove can have a pool, one is well overdue in Torquay Travel costs make the trip to Waurn Ponds an added activity to coincide with other needs to be attended to in Geelong. I do hope this facility will be provided in the future.*

**07/08/2015 Jan Juc**

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to strongly object to the swimming pool being built . I would never use it and very much resent being charged extra on my rates which I have enough trouble paying . The rates go up excessively each year as it is without the extra burden of a money pit swimming pool which of

course will go over budget . Any health benefits will be more than negated by the stress of the extra cost of the rate rise . Please do not do it !

**29/08/2015 Bellbrae**

Just a heads up about a letter I'm sending into the paper in relation to the discussion on the pool. I think we could do much better if we opened up the discussion to explore other ideas.

Can this be forwarded to Councillors please?

### ***Options anyone?***

*The \$30 odd million dollars needed for a pool in Torquay is just one idea- but if we proceed with that we collectively, automatically forgo other as yet unexplored opportunities. Whilst I applaud the Shire for community consultation on this issue, I wonder what would happen if we inverted the conversation and instead began by issuing a challenge to the community to pitch their ideas forward for other community projects - up to the value of \$30 million for instance.*

*Could we come up with other ideas? Why not put us to the test and find out. Please SCS, let's explore our options.*

**12/09/2015 Township not stated**

AN OPEN LETTER

CONCERNS RE Aquatic and Health Centre

I wish to express my significant concerns about the process by which Council is assessing whether or not there is majority support for the Special Charge Scheme proposed to fund the Centre, as well as to the proposal itself.

In order to proceed with the implementation of a Special Charge Scheme, Council's website states that: "A special charge scheme can only proceed if there is majority support amongst those who would be obliged to contribute". In other words, majority support amongst ratepayers as opposed to residents who are not ratepayers. Residents who are not ratepayers, as Mr Baillie pointed out when queried on this subject, were not polled because they will not be the ones bearing the financial burden.

The JWS telephone poll of ratepayers clearly demonstrated significant opposition to the funding model, with 70% of respondents totally opposed to the individualised costs proposed.

It is puzzling that Council has asked a Market Research company to gather information on ratepayer support for the proposed centre. As a first step, why did Council not send out with the 2015-16 rate notices, information on the proposed Centre along with a survey requesting ratepayers to respond specifically to the question as to whether or not they wanted to be individually charged (up to \$200+ per ratepayer in Torquay for 20 years) for funding the proposed Centre/pool?

Given that CEO Mr Baillie stated over \$53,000 of ratepayers' money has already been spent on market research/design to gauge community/ratepayer support for the proposed funding model etc, the above mentioned survey would have been a far more financially viable and efficient way for

Council to assess whether or not it had "majority" ratepayer support for such a risky and financially exorbitant project.

At one of the community forums, faced with a severe backlash of opposition to the individualised Special Charge Scheme, Mr Baillie suggested that as the 70% total opposition to the funding model was troubling, perhaps a more moderate proposal was possible, for example, charging \$100 per ratepayer in Torquay rather than the currently projected \$200+ (\$150 plus a rate rise of an extra 2.75% rates increase - "averaging \$53 per property per annum ongoing").

In relation to this shifting of position, the JWS survey asked ratepayers what amount they would be prepared to pay. The results were that only 1% of respondents would be prepared to pay between \$150-\$200; 1% would be prepared to pay between \$101-\$150; 8% would be prepared to pay between \$51-\$100; 17% prepared to pay between \$1-\$50, and 70% were prepared to pay nothing.

Given the fiduciary responsibility that Council has to its ratepayers, undertaking a proposal such as this would be financially reckless as well as imposing an intolerable burden on some of the most vulnerable in the community.

Pensioners and the disabled would be asked to forgo their entire concession amount for the next 20 years! Pensioners are already paying close to 10% of their pension in rates and Council is asking them to forgo a further 10%+ on top of the average rate bill (for the next 20 years) to fund this proposal. Pensioners are already facing cost of living pressures and/or living below the poverty line. This is a fact that appears to have escaped Council's concern and is disturbingly apparent in its supposed position of "neutrality".

Yes, some poor people do own homes, albeit mortgaged.

Other struggling ratepayers such as low income households, single income households, the under-employed and unemployed would also have to shoulder an undue burden.

A current report by the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling has concluded that over the next 10 years living standards among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the community will not only decline but in fact go backwards.

Council's Special Charge Scheme modelling will mean that all residents of Torquay for example, will be required to pay over \$200 per year for the next 20 years regardless of their means or the value of their homes. This makes the imposition of the tax regressive, unfair and unjust. And yet despite this, Council has stated that its position is neutral.

This is unacceptable. Particularly given that a centre such as the one proposed is located just 15 minutes away in Waurm Ponds. The JWS survey revealed that a majority of ratepayers were not adverse to travelling to those similar facilities already provided so close by.

Council has also stated that: "There is a limit to how much money Council can borrow. If the aquatic centre project proceeded the Council would be at its upper limit for borrowing money for major projects. This would mean the Council would not be in the position to borrow money to fund other major projects for approximately 10 years."

As already stated, Council has a fiduciary responsibility to its ratepayers and taking a decision to go ahead with this proposal would leave ratepayers exposed to an intolerable financial risk. This proposal contravenes that fiduciary duty, for 10 years and beyond.

Council has not declared how much the Centre will actually cost in total - with principle and interest. Interest on a loan of \$25 million @ 6%pa, paid over the principle and interest period of 20 years, would almost double the actual build cost for the Centre, with near to \$20 million being paid in interest alone. Factor in Council's projected loss of \$1 million each year for a decade and this would make the entire amount for the Centre beyond comprehension - near to \$60 million! These astronomical figures have not been declared to the ratepayers of this small community.

Council should also not buckle under pressure from politicians. If politicians want the centre, they can fund it in its entirety.

The urgency adopted by Council with regard to "needing" to take a decision by November in order to fit in with the next Federal Election, is alarming. Despite projected State and Federal Government support for the project (only 25%), the imposition on ratepayers will still be financially onerous.

If this was a financially viable proposition, such a centre would have already been built by a Private Operator.

The State Government is capping rates because Councils have been imposing excessive rate rises over and above CPI.

The State Government is introducing rate capping because to date, rate rises are having a significantly negative impact on the cost of living and well-being of most ratepayers. So why is Council persisting on pursuing an agenda that will impact on the financial and personal well-being of its ratepayers?

Council is more than aware that it is one of the highest taxing Councils in the state. This makes the proposal even more deleterious. Particularly when it has been acknowledged that the centre will run at a loss, but it is not known how much of a loss. This is an open-ended problem that should not be entertained by any financial imposition on ratepayers.

Council's proposed revenue projections over the next 15 years to fund existing projects (levied at 5% over the 15 year period), will require significant revision given the impact on that projected revenue by the introduction of rate capping. Council has stated that: "The introduction of rate capping by the Victorian Government and the Commonwealth Government's freeze on increases to its Federal Assistance Grants are expected to have a significant impact on Council's future budgets. The two policies are estimated to reduce Council's funds by more than \$100m over 15 years." And yet despite this serious reality, Council wants to embark on a major project for which it does not have majority ratepayer support, and which will require significant financial over-reach, near to \$60 million.

Council needs to heed majority ratepayer opposition to this proposal. Any Special Charge, be it \$1 or \$200, has already been met with majority opposition.

Mr Baillie has stated that "...Council has very significant funding obligations that it cannot walk away from". But it can walk away from this gratuitously expensive centre.

While it commendable that Council is taking submissions and comments from all residents, this will only serves to distort the actual statistics gathered from ratepayers, who will be the ones paying, for 20 years. This contradiction is telling and again calls into question Council's neutrality. The poll taken at forums has included children and non ratepayers.

The projections for the Special Charge Scheme are also heavily reliant on a population growth forecast to reach 40,000. This modelling, should the current economic environment continue to

falter, would make the financial burden on ratepayers, not to mention the Shire, even more untenable. Unemployment is rising, Ice is knocking at our doorstep, wages are going backwards and cost of living pressures are increasing. Council adding a further undue financial burden will be detrimental to the health and well-being of ratepayers.

Council has also not been able to demonstrate that a majority of ratepayers will even use the centre, let alone benefit from it.

The JWS survey revealed that a majority of ratepayers advised that any proposed aquatic and health centre would not be of benefit to them. The Local Government Act specifies that a Special Charge Scheme can only be levied if Council can justify that the Centre will be of special benefit to the ratepayers who will bear the cost.

This aspect of the Special Charge Scheme is important because it appears that Council has spent a lot of time and energy advocating the importance of the Centre for the well-being of its ratepayers. Having attended a forum and read all the material, this element of "spruiking" is glaringly apparent. The ratepayers of the Shire don't need to be lectured to by Council. The ratepayers of the Shire don't need Council telling them what they need for their health and well-being.

On any given day here in Torquay, there are people walking, running, cycling, surfing and swimming. And they do that for free - rain, hail or shine!

No amount of massaging of statistics and market research priming, will alter the fact that Council does not have a mandate to move forward with this proposal.

This proposal has caused much angst and division amongst the community, with a majority of ratepayers opposed to the centre prepared to challenge any imposition of a Special Charge Scheme. This is significant given that Council (considering the scale and lifespan of the Special Charge Scheme), will be required to not only demonstrate that they have achieved majority support amongst ratepayers for the imposition of the tax/Special Charge Scheme but also that the proposal has some special benefit to each and every ratepayer required to contribute. Adding the words Health and Wellness to a Centre with a chlorine pool does not contribute to one's health or well-being. Nor does the addition of an additional tax/Special Charge for 20 years!

The imposition of any tax/Special Charge Scheme is not only unfair, it is also unjust and onerously regressive. This will be a new tax spanning a generation.

This is not just a footpath.

Tonight I attended the meeting /  
info session about Torquay's proposed  
new pool.  
Thankfully the audience detailed  
the agenda set by your representatives  
so we were able to ask questions  
and announce our unanimous  
opposition to this 'pie in the sky'  
scheme. The start of the meeting  
felt like a live episode of  
the ABC's 'Utopia'!

As a ratepayer since 1983 I  
am requesting a paper survey  
form, as I do not use  
computers and feel I am  
discriminated against as I was not  
phone surveyed and can't fill in a  
survey otherwise (believe it or not  
there are other residents as ludicrous  
as me!) I look forward to  
receiving my survey.

15/09/2015 Lorne

16/09/2015 Winchelsea

Dear Sir

This evening during the Torquay Pool meeting at Winchelsea I asked the question in relation to the assumed debt of \$100 million over the next ten years and about opening more land for sub division.

I am a part owner of acres just outside of Winchelsea. The two allotments are one tenement with a rateable amount of approx \$1500.00. However if as we wanted to, to sub divide one of the allotments

into 12 1 and a half acre lots then council would have a rateable value on half the property of at least \$18000.00 per year.

This is only one example, I am aware of a great deal of small acreages that are not producing farm goods and are sitting vacant growing weeds.

I have been told that residential planning which may encompasses this land is at least 5 years and more like 10 years in the future.

Why not open this land for sale and re coup some of the money from rate capping?

**16/09/2015 Lorne**

We strongly oppose building the proposed Torquay Aquatic Centre should it result in an increase in the rates or reduction in services for Surf Coast ratepayers in any other wards than Torquay Ward. The proposed Centre will be of minimal or no benefit to residents in the shire who live more than 10 minutes' drive from the Centre, consequently not benefitting Lorne ratepayers such as us nor our families, rather adding excessive additional living costs. Mayor Margot Smith acknowledges the contentious investment would have implications well beyond the Torquay township. "With these figures in mind, the project would result in a substantial impost on the whole Surf Coast community — be it through cutting other services or infrastructure, deferring projects or through special rates and levies depending on how the Victorian Government's plan to cap council rate rises works," she said. None of these scenarios is acceptable to the vast majority of Surf Coast ratepayers. We wholeheartedly agree ! Council is now predicting it will take 20 years rather than

10 years for the Centre to conceivably break even. Shire wide rates were predicted in 2009 to require an increase of up to 9% specifically to fund the Torquay Aquatic Centre. The current uncertain economic times, exacerbated by reduced federal government funding of councils, will see serious inaccuracies with past predictions of construction, funding, operating and future capital maintenance and upgrades costs. Shire consultants say Torquay hasn't the scale of population for a further 10 years to support the proposed Centre. Shire consultants say the bulk of users will come from within 10 min drive of the proposed Centre. Shire consultants say it will be easier for residents from Anglesea and beyond to get to the Waum Ponds Aquatic Centre. Shire consultants say the proposed new Armstrong Creek Aquatic Centre will impact on the viability of the Torquay Centre. Shire consultants say that in addition to the required operating cost subsidy, Council will need to make an allowance of approximately \$750,000 per annum for future capital maintenance upgrades (2009 estimate). We implore the Surf Coast Shire councillors to be influenced by sound economic management principals and cost V benefit pertaining to all ratepayers rather than a narrow interest group.

**18/09/2015 Township not stated**

CEO, Surfcoast Shire Council,

I wish to object STRONGLY to this proposal, I believe many of your ratepayers will find the proposed loan levy a financial burden. USER PAYS would be fairer, although I fail to comprehend why a beachside suburb, with a fantastic beach to swim in would need a pool complex.

Many of your ratepayers are retired IS THIS FAIR? It seems tenants are not expected to contribute? Please reconsider this waste of money.

**17/09/2015 Lorne**



We strongly oppose building the proposed Torquay Aquatic Centre should it result in an increase in the rates or reduction in services for Surf Coast ratepayers in any other wards than Torquay Ward. The proposed Centre will be of minimal or no benefit to residents in the shire who live more than 10 minutes' drive from the Centre, consequently not benefitting Lorne ratepayers such as us nor our families, rather adding excessive additional living costs. Mayor Margot Smith acknowledges the contentious investment would have implications well beyond the Torquay township. "With these figures in mind, the project would result in a substantial impost on the whole Surf Coast community — be it through cutting other services or infrastructure, deferring projects or through special rates and levies depending on how the Victorian Government's plan to cap council rate rises works," she said. None of these scenarios is acceptable to the vast majority of Surf Coast ratepayers. We wholeheartedly agree ! Council is now predicting it will take 20 years rather than

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17/09/2015 Torquay

Dear Sir

We are quite alarmed at the prospect of a swimming pool being built in Torquay with the cost being covered by the House Holders.

We have been paying rates for 37 years and contributed to many facilities over the years but now as retired people think that this cost is most unwarranted and particularly short-sighted.

We have come to this area for firstly the locality being a seaside place with an ocean to swim in. It is therefore quite unfair that we are being asked

to provide the capital of an unnecessary facility. There are pools within 15 minutes driving distance, if parents need their children to swim in pools.

We hope common sense and fair play will be reached with this project.

**18/09/2015 Freshwater Creek and Lorne**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I represent all of the above entities. I am also a dual resident of both Freshwater Creek and Lorne.

On behalf of all of the above, I do not support the need for an Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay, since these facilities are readily available within the City of Greater Geelong, which is very commutable. Having said that I am not opposed to the same either, although the enormous capital and running costs do concern me as they do most other ratepayers. I am concerned that Council has a preconceived opinion on this matter, spurred on by minority support. Given this facility represents a considerable financial commitment, I believe Council owes it to the ratepayers to consider and prioritize this facility against other community needs. It is a matter that should perhaps be decided by a vote of ratepayers.

Additionally, I am totally opposed to the Proposed Funding Model as I consider it to be grossly inequitable and unfair to those who do not support the need for an Aquatic and Health Centre, and who are not going to use it.

I trust this response is of some assistance. Feel free to call and discuss further if required.

**19/09/2015 Lorne**

Thank you for the opportunity to express my view about the proposal for a new swimming pool.

I totally oppose.

While I am a pool swimmer and delight in swimming many laps in pools and while I know lap swimming adds to the health and well being of myself and many others, I do not think a pool should be built in Torquay using ratepayer's money.

I offer three clear reasons for this opposition.

Our Surf Coast Shire rates are already far too high. I know of a number of other Shires where the rate cost is significantly lower. Please do not add more of a burden on us by raising our rate bill to build a pool.

The proposed site for the pool is way out on one extreme end of the Shire. So it is totally unfair for the people who live no where nearby. I hope the ratepayers in Torquay will hear and understand others of us say it is unfair.

I do not want our Shire to be in the extra debt for 20 years. That is too long. This will hugely slow down our Shire doing other creative projects over these 20 years. Put simply - it is too much expenditure on just one project.

Thank you Council Staff and Councillors for your good work.

**19/09/2015 Anglesea**

In response to your correspondence re the proposal of an Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay.

As an owner of a holiday property in Anglesea for the past 10 years and as a constant visitor to Anglesea over the past 30 years, we have visited Torquay only twice.

This proposed centre will be a great asset to the residents of Torquay, but of little value to the people of Anglesea and surrounding district.

There is already a health centre in Anglesea and swimming lessons are also available.

There is no valid reason why citizens other than those in Torquay should be subsidising this development.

This is very little money spent on public amenities an Anglesea and we therefore are not in favour of this proposal.

This proposal will cost the Shire a huge amount of money in construction and on going maintenance over and above the proposed levy. We feel that any money spent would be more beneficial to improve facilities within each region of the Surf Coast Shire rather than just Torquay, This would be a much fairer option for all.

20/09/2015 Township not stated

WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN  
DONATING FUNDS TO THIS  
PHANNED CENTRE. WE LIVE  
FAR TOO FAR FROM TORQUAY  
AND WOULD NEVER USE IT.  
CAN'T BELIEVE COUNCIL WOULD  
EVEN CONSIDER THIS APPROACH  
TO FUNDING THE CENTRE.  
PERHAPS A TORQUAY MULTI-  
MILLIONAIRE SHOULD BE  
APPROACHED TO FUND THE PROJECT.

**21/09/2015 Lorne**

Hi

Definitely opposed to financing this Aquatic Centre in Torquay.

I have a holiday house in Lorne. Over the years I have financed the streetscape, footpaths etc al in Lorne.

All of these on top of my rates.

I didn't notice the Torquay residents helping with financing these things.

**21/09/2015 Township not stated**

Dear Sir/Madam.

**RE: AQUATIC AND HEALTH CENTRE PROPOSAL**

Please register our strong disapproval to the proposal which requires a special charge between \$50 to \$150 per year being added to the rates bill for 20 years.

The Council already has a rate system vastly more expensive than most others of which I am aware.

The Council should look to making savings in other areas to provide for this centre.

**21/09/2015 Anglesea**

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to air my concerns and have my say re the proposed new swimming pool at Torquay.

Whilst a community pool has benefits to local residents, I **am not** in favor of paying additional funds to build and maintain it. As an Anglesea part time resident, I would never use it and object vehemently to any increase in rates for this purpose. My rates are astronomical at \$3018.62 a year, and whilst I appreciate the lovely walks provided around Anglesea, I don't believe the council can justify the exorbitant rates currently charged. To consider an additional \$110 per year (plus admission) for the future 20 years is something I fervently object to. Even using their current budget for this purpose, would not be considered a prudent use of funds. Why should the wider community pay for something that only local residents will benefit from?

Additionally Warne Ponds has a 50m indoor new heated pool. Torquay residents should swim there if they are disgruntled about their current demise. Alternatively, the RACV has a lovely heated Olympic pool and I'm sure an arrangement could be worked out with the Torquay residents wishing to swim.

This proposal is an excessive use of my rates. It should be scrapped. If Anglesea residents wanted a \$29 million pool...aerodrome ....wave pool....would council again propose all residents in shire foot the bill. We don't even have a library, which council should fund without the additional backing of all shire residents.

I understand the shire is extensive, yet the ratepayers per hectare are minimized when compared to Melbourne. If the budget can't sustain this huge cost, abandon the project. Cut your cloth to suit your means. If this proposal is given the green light I would predict the current councilors would be usurped.

∩ ∩

21/09/2015 Township not stated

ouncil

Received  
September  
21, 2015  
er 2015  
- 7 days to  
get the letter  
& only 9  
days to  
respond!

My response is I do not  
support the proposal.  
Let the users pay for  
the service on a  
100% basis. Clearly  
the initial cost &  
running costs will  
make a user pay  
charge exorbitant!

21/09/2015 Jan Juc

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a long time resident of Jan Juc for 40 years, full time now, and at age 80 years, I wish to express my opinion Re the proposed Swim Centre at Torquay.

Since their opening I have been a regular user of Wawin Ponds pool and Gym Centre, and the RACV Gym & pool centre at Torquay, both fine centres.

As a rate payer I object strongly to the huge impost and cost proposed to all ratepayers for a period of 20 years. (not allowing for usual blow out in costs) to retired persons and non users (who would be the majority), who will have no use of this new proposed facility.

Wawin Ponds is an underutilised facility of large size and perfectly located to at present service

Torquay, Anglesea, Lorne, Winchelsea  
and South Geelong.

A private operator could easily  
without this cost impost set up a  
suitably sized heated pool for this  
purpose for those who require this  
facility. The present one at  
Paines Court is a very good start  
for those who require this service.

Council has to consider all  
ratepayers and retirees and more  
carefully examine all residents who  
are potential users of this proposed  
facility and not agree to the  
demands of groups for their  
sole purposes.

Centres should be designed  
to be good complete community centres  
for all age groups, there should be  
a heated pool, warmer hydrotherapy  
pool, modern gym and other  
recreational facilities to be useful  
and they can be profitable. It  
need not be exactly at  
Torquay, but maybe somewhere along  
Torquay Rd. — Population shift  
and transport links to Geelong?  
leave a big cost facility for some  
time and it all needs more planning??  
and careful thought??



**22/09/2015    Torquay**

My wife and I are long standing Torquay residents and ratepayers. Our children attended primary school here. We are now in our 70s.

We write in response to your invitation to comment on the proposed construction of a Torquay North swimming pool, gym, and wellness centre.

We feel that the proposal is a totally unjustified and unwise expense.

Torquay is a beautiful place blessed with glorious beaches and clean water. For many months of the year it is possible to swim in the ocean. We have beautiful free walking tracks, reserves, playgrounds, and privately operated swimming pools and gyms. In short a very healthy life style is readily available to all.

We cannot believe that you are proposing, or being persuaded to propose, such an expensive construction as the pool, gym, children's playground etc outlined in your letter to us. Such a scale of debt is manifestly unwise, and the proposed funding system unfair. One wonders how it can possibly be necessary to build, at ratepayers expense and on top of already very high rates, another pool, gym and playground in a town already well endowed with these.

It is unnecessary to go over yet again the reasons most ratepayers, and town residents such as ourselves, are against the proposal.

Suffice to say this proposal does not have our support.

**22/09/2015    Lorne**

I have just read your comments on a proposed aquatic and Health Centre to be situated at Torquay North. Whilst your brochure covers in some degree I can at this point say I am totally against any interest whatsoever. To think that this pie in the sky has some interest to far away people and ratepayers is to lose touch with reality. There is little chance that senior people and those with moderate health or even worse would entertain this dream, who for instance would get a taxi from Lerne to Torquay?? and return. Answer. No one. These type of projects invariably have cost overruns or unexpected consequences. Please banish and bury this program. VOTE No.

22/09/2015 Township not stated

DEAR COUNCIL

THANK YOU FOR SEEKING COMMENT ON INCREASING RATES TO PAY FOR AN AQUATIC CENTRE.

WE WOULD NEVER USE THE AQUATIC CENTRE AS WE NEVER GO TO TORQUAY. I THINK IT IS WRONG TO RAISE RATES TO PAY FOR PROPOSALS WHICH CLEARLY WILL NOT BENEFIT RATE PAYERS WHO ARE NOT CO-LOCATED AND WHO MAY NEVER USE SUCH A FACILITY. THESE TYPES OF FACILITIES SHOULD BE FUNDED ON A USER PAYS BASIS VIA THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE COUNCIL GOING AHEAD WITH THIS TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT. IT IS OUTSIDE COUNCIL CORE BUSINESS AND WOULD CREATE INEQUITY AMONGST SHIRE TOWNS

22/09/2015 Anglesea

after attending the Community Forum in Anglesea on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and listening to the presentations by Council members my decision regarding the proposed Aquatic and Health Centre is that I am opposed to the idea and subsequent cost.

If there are ratepayers in favour of it and intend using the facility may I suggest a user pay system and giving those users a membership card on an annual basis after paying a subscription to cover the cost of the centre.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

22/09/2015 Lorne

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of my wife and myself to inform the Council that we strongly oppose the proposed Torquay Aquatic Centre as it will cause an increase in rates without any benefit to members of the Lorne community. The majority of Lorne permanent residents are over the age of 55 and would never drive for 2 hours to swim in a non-accredited 25 metre pool and use the gym. Visitors to Lorne come to relax and enjoy the beach/surf not to face congested summer roads and the nightmare of the Anglesea roundabout.

Like all government and semi-government projects the costs would blow out by 50% or more and to expect State or Federal Governments to contribute 25% is just pie in the sky. We cannot understand why Torquay residents cannot drive 10 minutes to use the Wairn Ponds facility.

If Torquay wants to have its own pool / gym etc then let the residents of Torquay pay for it for we WILL NOT contribute any monies.

22/09/2015 Fairhaven

Dear Sir,  
I wish to protest at the idea of building an Aquatic Health Centre at the cost of \$29 million dollars with 1 million running costs. Our council rates are too high at the moment compared to what we pay in Melbourne, no way would I want my rates to be increased to pay for this Aquatic Centre and as our holiday home is at Fairhaven we would never use this facility, as we come here to use the beach, not a indoor pool. This idea should not be considered at all.

22/09/2015 Lorne

Surf Coast Shire Counsellors,

Levying Lorne ratepayers for a large development in Torquay is not appropriate or fair.

We will never be using the facility.

I was rung recently as part of the telephone survey by a girl in Sydney who did not even know how far Lorne was from Torquay, and after hearing this could understand why I thought it unfair for us to pay for the project.

Expenses for the building and maintaining of the centre has to be met by the users and if this is difficult the size of the project will have to be reduced.

Please try to use rates evenly through the shire,

22/09/2015 Lorne

Dear Sir,

I am a 70 year old  
and would never use the Aquatic  
Centre and feel there are  
many other better things to  
spend the money on.

Strongly against it.

Suggestion - You could have  
a vote on it at the next  
shire council Election.

23/09/2015 Torquay

Re: Aquatic + Health Centre Info. + Feedback:

In response to your letter dated  
the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015 I would  
like to give you my decision.

As you outlined in the letter I am  
a ratepayer on the Surf Coast Shire  
Council, irrespective of being a  
non-permanent resident. I frequent  
my residence on a regular basis.

Now to the point I pay my rates  
~~which are~~ and do not want to  
contribute more to the annual charge.

So my answer to your letter is NO.

However, if the Permanent resident  
ratepayer wishes to do so then  
they may at their discretion without  
affect on the non-permanent resident  
as myself -

23/09/2015 Anglesea

ANGLESEA, STRONGLY OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A  
POOL/LEASURE CENTRE PAID FOR OUT OF RATE PAYERS FUNDS.  
TO SPEND PROPOSED \$21M. ON SUCH A COMPLEX IS OUTRAGEOUS.  
MY PERMANENT RESIDENCE (AT PRESENT) IS IN GREENSBOROUGH.  
THE COUNCIL HERE "NILLUMBIK" OWNS A LEASURE CENTRE, BUT  
IT HAS BEEN BUILT IN STAGES OVER MANY YEARS (35+) AND  
IS A MAGNIFICENT COMPLEX, BUT THE COUNCIL HAS NEVER IMPOSED  
A LEVY TO BUILD IT OVER THAT PERIOD  
THE SURF COAST COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER BUILDING A COMPLEX

Pto



WITH SUPPORT FROM PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, STATE AND  
FEDERAL GOVTS, BUT NOT BY IMPOSING A FORCED  
LEVY ON RATE PAYERS OF THE AREA, MANY OF WHOM  
ARE RETIRED, ELDERLY OR HAVE NO USE OF THE  
COMPLEX FOR GYM WORK, SWIMMING OR LEASURE  
ACTIVITIES.

I DO BELIEVE IN HAVING A POOL COMPLEX, BUT  
WITHIN RESTRAINTS AND \$31 M. SPENDING IS  
UNREALISTIC, AND AS WE ALL KNOW, WHAT YOU  
ESTIMATE FOR A BUDGET SPENDING OVER SEVERAL YEARS  
WILL NOT BE THE FINAL FIGURE OF WHAT IT COSTS.

I ALSO ASK, WHAT BENEFIT WILL THE RATE PAYERS  
RECEIVE. IF

- (A) THEIR PROPERTY IS A HOLIDAY HOME AND ATTEND THEIR  
HOUSE CERTAIN TIMES OF THE YEAR AND NOT JUST TO  
ATTEND A LEASURE COMPLEX?
- (B) RETIRED, PENSIONERS, ELDERLY AND THOSE WHO WOULD  
PREFER TO GO TO A "FREE" BEACH TO SWIM?
- (C) WHAT TRADE-OFF ON ADMISSION COSTS FOR THOSE WHO  
RATE PAY AGAINST DAY TRIPPERS WHO DONT CONTRIBUTE  
TO THE COST OF RUNNING YOUR COUNCIL/OFFICERS/STAFF.

AGAIN, I TOTALLY OPPOSE THE COMPLEX IF IT IS  
TO BE FUNDED, SUBSIDISED BY RATEPAYERS.

**VERBATIM COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH TESTING THE WATER  
EMAIL AND OTHER EMAIL ADDRESSES, ON-LINE SUBMISSIONS  
AND LETTERS**



23/09/2015 Anglesea

Dear Sir,

RE : Proposed Community Pool

I have received a newsletter dated 14 September in respect of the above proposed infrastructure project.

As a resident of Anglesea, I object most strongly to the funding proposal for the pool being subsidised by residents outside of the Torquay/Jan Juc area. My family, as Anglesea residents, will not have any need nor desire to use these facilities if constructed, and therefore object to any proposal to be billed for any development cost. Indeed, the future population growth of greater Torquay, which will include the large suburb of Armstrong Creek, should provide an ample base for the Council to derive the necessary funding over time, without the need to initiate subsidies from surrounding (remote) townships.

The perception of residents within the Surf Coast Shire is that Torquay already receives an over weight proportion of development funds from the Council, although it is recognised that, with the strong level of industry existing and growing within Torquay, this is a natural consequence. I would take this opportunity to point out that Anglesea residents do not have natural gas availability, notwithstanding that the pipelines run offshore from the township, and supply is plentiful from the Bass Strait gas fields. In addition, Anglesea residents do not gain free access to the Bells Beach Easter Surfing Titles, which is free to Torquay and Jan Juc rate payers. Please explain any difference in the philosophy for the swimming pool.

In summary, there is a very strong view from Anglesea residents that those that will derive the benefit from the pool construction, (ie. those within the Torquay immediate precinct), should bear the burden of funding any shortfall in the funding.

I would have preferred to have utilised the internet option to respond on this proposal, but despite numerous attempts, the page was either not available, or could not be displayed. A cynic might suggest that this is a deliberate ploy from the Council!

23/09/2015 Township not stated

SURF COAST COUNCIL  
FILE COPY  DUPLICATE COPY

RE THE PROPOSED FUNDING  
FOR TORQUAY SWIMMING POOL.  
WE ARE AGAINST THE  
PROPOSAL OF SAME.  
LORNE & WILLOWSBY BOTH  
HAVE POOLS - WHY SHOULD  
THEY PAY FOR TORQUAY.  
ALSO IF AWAKESEA WANTS  
A POOL IN THE FUTURE WILL  
ALL THE SHIRE BE EXPECTED  
TO PAY!

24/09/2015 Township not stated

Re: Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre - Testing the Water Leaflet.

We are not in favour of the building of a centre of the size and complexity (as indicated by the sketch in your leaflet and its estimated cost), as we believe that it is un-realistic for the people of Torquay.

Let me make these comments as a part time resident of Lorne:

1. We consider it to be **preposterous**, that you could ever consider that anyone outside Torquay area should contribute either directly or indirectly to the building or operation of such a potential local "white elephant", as it is very unlikely that residents in other towns in the Shire would ever visit.
2. I do not think that the Council has the right to borrow so much money to build a venue which has never been **voted for**, and then to expect residents in other parts of the Shire to repay.

**24/09/2015 Aireys Inlet**

To whom it may concern,

I read about the Aquatic Centre several weeks ago in the local paper. I have mentioned this to several permanent residents (one a real-estate agent) who did not know what I was talking about.

Council does not have a preconceived opinion on whether or not to build the centre. Then why does it come to us on council paper. This comment has been made by all who have read the Feedback paper.

The Aquatic Centre has a very simple answer. If Torquay want to have this facility then fund it themselves.

**Council knows this is controversial hence their written stance.**

Why would Aireys Inlet residents want such a facility in Torquay. They cannot even get a sporting ground for the children and the community in general.

For over 30 years now I have observed Lorne and Torquay get the lion's share of all facilities. Lorne has a pool and apparently so does Winchelsea.

This proposal could just be another display of democracy in operation when all along the plan for this aquatic centre will eventually be built.

Too many examples now have eventuated over the years for me to have confidence.

If Torquay want an Aquatic Centre then fund the project themselves which will be excellent for the local community.

**24/09/2015 Anglesea**

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re. Proposed Aquatic and Health Centre – your letter dated 14 Sept.2015

Thank you for your letter dated 14 September , advising me regarding the proposal for a new Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay North , and in particular the proposed method of its funding.

Whilst I consider that such a facility may be a good asset for the residents of Torquay, as residents in Anglesea , I would not use the facility, mainly due to the travel distance. I suspect that other residents in Anglesea may have a similar viewpoint.

In regard to the proposal to increase the rates in Anglesea by \$60 per year, I note that our rates in Anglesea are already some of the highest in Victoria, and we would not be supportive of a proposal to increase them further.

I therefore do not support this proposal.

24/09/2015 Aireys Inlet

Dear Members of the Surf Coast Shire Council,

We have your correspondence of 14 September 2015. We are non-permanent resident rate payers in Aireys Inlet.

We oppose the construction of an aquatic and health centre in Torquay in the form proposed.

Dot point number two of your flyer "Testing the Water" is concerning. The capital cost of \$29 million to build the centre (absent a 50 metre pool) and the operational costs, which no doubt will commence at \$1 million per year and escalate in the years thereafter, appears a disproportionate allocation of funds for this purpose.

We understand there presently exist the following:-

- a) a 20 metre indoor pool at Torquay which is a learn to swim pool;
- b) a 25 metre indoor pool at the newly constructed RACV accommodation (although no doubt membership is required for use of that pool);
- c) a 25 metre outdoor pool in Lorne together with a 25 metre indoor pool in Lorne at the Mantra which is open to the public; and
- d) the Leisurelink Aquatic and Recreation Centre at Waurm Ponds, some 15 minute drive from Torquay. A quick look at its website indicates it has extensive facilities and programs, including a warm water pool and a 50 metre pool; it has numerous activities for, and the provision of care of, children; and has extensive opening hours.

With the availability of these pools it seems unnecessary to expend such enormous cost on the aquatic and health centre proposed. Further, Torquay has an accessible and beautiful beach front. That, coupled in particular with the Centre recently built in Waurm Ponds, should be sufficient for what remains, a relatively small community.

It appears that the proposed funding model would see rate payers in Aireys Inlet paying a further \$70 a year minimum for this facility. That sum will obviously increase over time. It is a facility that would not be used by us.

**24/09/2015 Lorne**

Dear Sir,

I am writing to strongly object to the proposal to build a pool in Torquay North at great expense to the detriment of most of the residents of wider Shire community.

I have a Lorne residence and am active swimmer completing at least 3 kms weekly. However I would never make use of this proposed pool as it is impractical due to the distance and cost of travel to & from Lorne.

Additionally the indicated additional burden on our rates is preposterous. The rates are already excessive when compared to Melbourne residences and this would add insult to injury.

If the Torquay residents want this pool, they should underwrite it 100%.

**24/09/2015 Anglesea**

Dear councillors

I am a rate payer in the Surf Coast Shire with a holiday home in Anglesea.

I am strongly opposed to the building of an aquatic centre as proposed. It is a huge cost and I don't believe the benefits warrant it.

As Toquay is a coastal town with a wealth of wonderful beaches within easy access, I don't believe a swimming pool is necessary as might be the case in an inland location. There are also many other opportunities for people to pursue healthy physical and other activities within the Shire. There are also many alternative health provisions eg yoga, massage etc

The worse feature of the proposal is the ongoing financial burden imposed on the majority of rate payers in the Shire who will never or rarely use the facility

I URGE THE COUNCIL NOT TO GO AHEAD WITH CONSTRUCTING THIS FACILITY

**24/09/2015 Moggs Creek**

We have read through the available literature on the proposed Surf Coast Aquatic & Health Centre.

The idea is good but there are certain aspects that we are not happy about.

Because of having our address at Moggs Creek the proposed annual charge to be added to the rates would be \$20 - that is OK. But the additional charge of approx. \$50 to "run it" is not at all acceptable. Surely if the place is operated and promoted properly it should be run at a profit or at least on a "break even" basis. Obviously an admission charge would be expected - so that would be fine.

**24/09/2015 Township not stated**

**VERBATIM COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH TESTING THE WATER  
EMAIL AND OTHER EMAIL ADDRESSES, ON-LINE SUBMISSIONS  
AND LETTERS**



Recently the Surf Coast Aquatic Leisure Centre Action Group asked a few local businesses if they would like to publicly support a Surf Coast Pool in an advertisement in the Surf Coast Times.

Here is a copy of the published advertisement:

*Together, let's make the Surf Coast Aquatic Leisure Centre a reality.*

Currie Tiling  
Spudy  
GLOBE  
Hackingstuart  
Swell  
SEARCH SCALCAG f



We would like to submit these to you as part of your community consultation. Please take note of all these local businesses and be assured that there are also many more. Being a limited community group, we only had the capacity to canvas but a handful of businesses/groups.

The entities listed below offer their support of an aquatic centre on the Surf Coast - not the model as presented by the Surf Coast Shire in Testing the Waters.

- Jan Juc Cricket Club
- Blue Dirt
- Road to Reading
- Great Ocean Road Gifts
- Mummy's Aid
- Meagan Burch Music Tuition
- Whyte's Restaurant
- Corio Bay Health Group - Torquay Physiotherapy Clinic
- Adams Chiropractic
- Mann Legal
- Big Stick
- Links Property Group
- BC Build
- Sherriff Constructions
- Barry Plant Real Estate Torquay
- Edit Me
- Achievement Dynamics
- Pearl and Boston Florist
- Surf Coast Art and Design Market
- Surf View Builders
- Bistro on the Green
- Willow Star
- Cushionary Company
- Southern Edge Landscaping

**VERBATIM COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH TESTING THE WATER  
EMAIL AND OTHER EMAIL ADDRESSES, ON-LINE SUBMISSIONS  
AND LETTERS**



- The Torquay Deli
- Torquay and Surf Coast Cattery
- Little Bantam Fitness Training
- Easterly
- Swell Cafe
- Grossmans Excavations
- Great Ocean Road Surf Tours
- KissMax
- Sustainable Hook and Vine Festival
- Neontide
- Coast to Coast Carpentry
- Earth Bottles
- Torquay Tigers Football Club
- Temple Hair and Beauty
- Alska
- Nordenfine Icecream
- Great Ocean Road Real Estate
- Totally Luscious Cakes
- Currie Tiling
- Hayden Builders
- Torquay Fitness and Lifestyle
- Surfcoast Home Doctor
- Surfcoast Kids
- Hocking Stuart Torquay
- Hocking Stuart Foundation
- Southpoint Garden Supplies
- Surfcoast Medical Centre
- Hemley's Health Fitness Sport Development
- Ferne Millen Photography

**VERBATIM COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH TESTING THE WATER  
EMAIL AND OTHER EMAIL ADDRESSES, ON-LINE SUBMISSIONS  
AND LETTERS**



- Torquay Hotel
- Torquay Animal House Vet Clinic
- Torquay Hire Services
- Hayden Real Estate Torquay
- Peach's Torquay
- Karuna Maya Medical Clinic
- Torquay Walk In Medical Clinic
- Growlers
- Whitford Real Estate
- Love Collective
- Nelson Financial
- Spudy
- Alcheme Spin and Fitness
- Rivers Gift - Stamp Out SIDS
- Surf Coast Baby and Kids Market
- McCartney's Real Estate
- Wendy Leitmanis Bowen Therapy
- Globe
- Torquay Tigers Auskick
- Gypsy and Co
- Torquay Fish and Chip Shop
- Gruff Graphic Design
- Medical Skin Clinic
- Coastal Event Management

These locally run businesses and groups realise how vital an aquatic centre is to our entire community.

24/09/2015 Mount Duneed

We are replying to your notification regarding the proposed aquatic centre at Torquay and the funding model.

Firstly, we want to point out that our listing on your database as a non-permanent resident ratepayer is not entirely accurate. We have two farming properties at Mount Moriac which are attended to frequently during the week for the whole year. Also we have family living on one of the properties. We have an active involvement on our properties for the whole year and should not be lumped into a category which is probably intended to apply to the owners of holiday accommodation.

**The proposed aquatic centre:** It is our opinion that the proposed centre would specifically benefit Torquay residents. Ratepayers from outlying areas would be unlikely to use the facility and should not be expected to contribute to a special charge for both the capital cost and ongoing costs. If the special charge were to be calculated in part as a percentage of our rates, then we would consider this to be an unfair impost as we have an annual rate bill well above the average Torquay resident.

We are of the opinion that other funding options ought to be explored.

Also, we question whether the proposal is currently economically viable at all or whether a swimming pool for Torquay residents should even have a high priority. A pool would be nicely convenient for Torquay residents. However, they do have other options. It is only a 15 minute approximately drive to the excellent aquatic centre at Wairn ponds. People in Melbourne have to drive for that and more to access a public centre. Council could also investigate whether it is viable to enter into some kind of subsidised discount arrangements with the operators of the pools at the two main resorts in Torquay.

Also, as the local demand for a pool probably comes mainly from residents of the new housing developments, perhaps for future Torquay developments, a special developer contribution per block be looked at.

25/09/2015 Lorne

In response your leaflet regarding the above proposal I would like to strongly object.

Apart from the fact our Shire rates have increased from \$1631.50 in 2010 to \$2096.06 for 2015/2016, the residents of Lorne were also hit with a "one off"

Streetscape payment of \$323.15 in 2010 which I believe was not charged to Anglesea + Torquay residents for similar work. (+ \$50pa running costs) Even \$20pa extra for 20 years is another import on the

residents of home who I cannot see benefitting from the said proposal. There does not appear to be any guarantee that the charge would necessarily stay at the same rate or else be subsidised by further already excessive yearly rate rises.

It seems to me the proposed project would be mainly of benefit to Torquay residents, so maybe increase their rates instead of the whole Shire.

25/09/2015 Anglesea

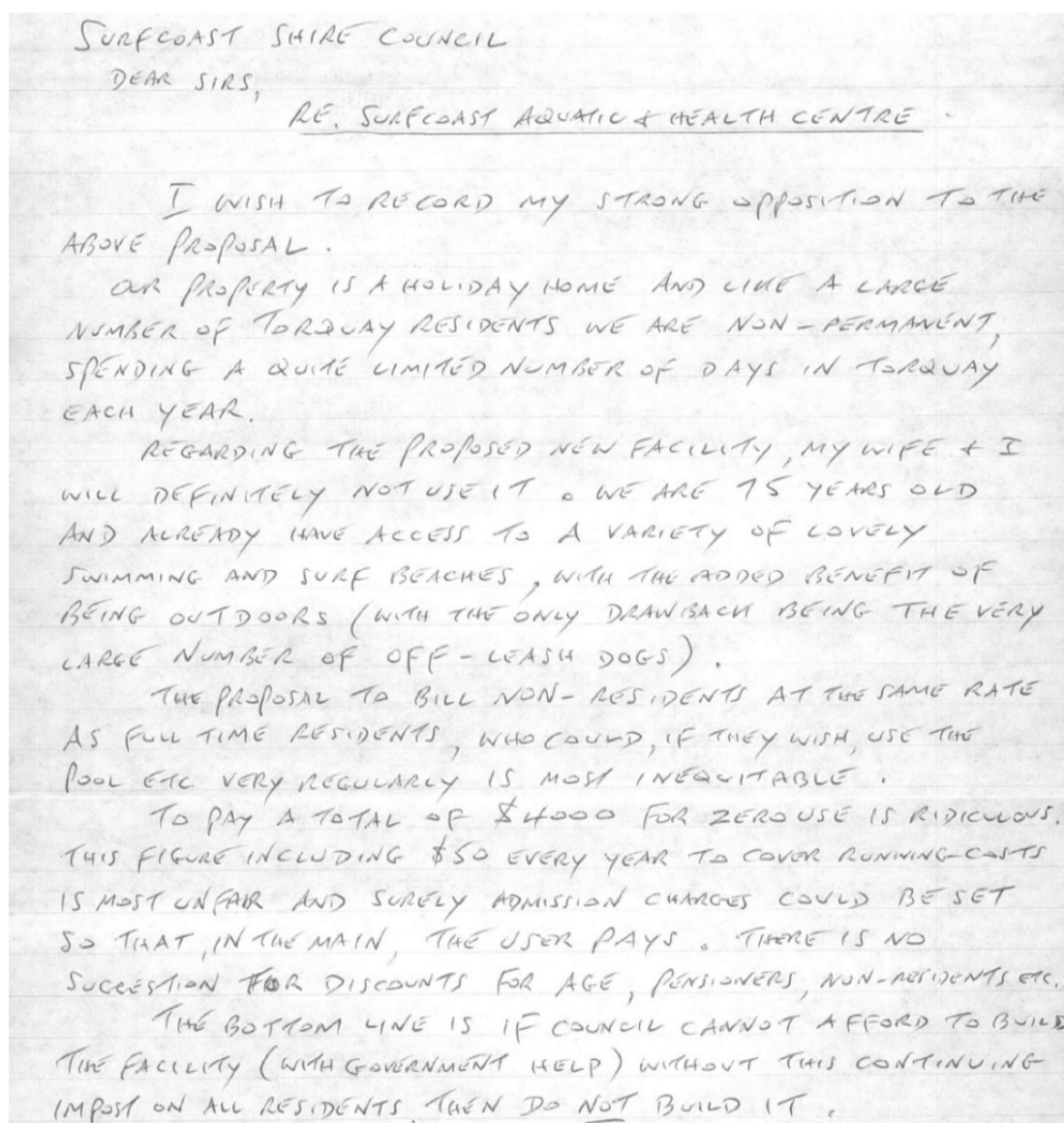
NO WE DONT THANK YOU

Hello my name is ... a Surfcoast rate payer at ... Anglesea

I don't want a swimming pool nor the cost of it. I would prefer the council to allocate extra funding to social welfare programs meals on wheels, home help and a social worker or two I understand the communal benefit of a pool and aquatic centre but for the same cost we can achieve a better social outcome by advancing our welfare commitment to our community.

Thank you for hearing my comment

25/09/2015 Torquay

A photograph of a handwritten letter on lined paper. The text is written in blue ink and discusses opposition to a proposed aquatic facility in Torquay. The letter is addressed to Surfcoast Shire Council and mentions the 'Surfcoast Aquatic & Health Centre'. The writer expresses that they and their wife are non-permanent residents and do not use the facility, but they are concerned about the cost and inequity of charging non-residents the same rate as full-time residents. They also mention a proposed \$4000 fee for zero use and a \$50 annual running cost, which they find unfair. The letter concludes with a request that the council not build the facility if it cannot be funded without imposing a tax on all residents.

SURFCOAST SHIRE COUNCIL  
DEAR SIRS,  
RE. SURFCOAST AQUATIC & HEALTH CENTRE

I WISH TO RECORD MY STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE ABOVE PROPOSAL.

OUR PROPERTY IS A HOLIDAY HOME AND LIKE A LARGE NUMBER OF TORQUAY RESIDENTS WE ARE NON-PERMANENT, SPENDING A QUITE LIMITED NUMBER OF DAYS IN TORQUAY EACH YEAR.

REGARDING THE PROPOSED NEW FACILITY, MY WIFE + I WILL DEFINITELY NOT USE IT. WE ARE 75 YEARS OLD AND ALREADY HAVE ACCESS TO A VARIETY OF LOVELY SWIMMING AND SURF BEACHES, WITH THE ADDED BENEFIT OF BEING OUTDOORS (WITH THE ONLY DRAWBACK BEING THE VERY LARGE NUMBER OF OFF-LEASH DOGS).

THE PROPOSAL TO BILL NON-RESIDENTS AT THE SAME RATE AS FULL TIME RESIDENTS, WHO COULD, IF THEY WISH, USE THE POOL ETC VERY REGULARLY IS MOST INEQUITABLE.

TO PAY A TOTAL OF \$4000 FOR ZERO USE IS RIDICULOUS. THIS FIGURE INCLUDING \$50 EVERY YEAR TO COVER RUNNING-COSTS IS MOST UNFAIR AND SURELY ADMISSION CHARGES COULD BE SET SO THAT, IN THE MAIN, THE USER PAYS. THERE IS NO SUCCESSION FOR DISCOUNTS FOR AGE, PENSIONERS, NON-RESIDENTS ETC.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS IF COUNCIL CANNOT AFFORD TO BUILD THE FACILITY (WITH GOVERNMENT HELP) WITHOUT THIS CONTINUING IMPOST ON ALL RESIDENTS, THEN DO NOT BUILD IT.

25/09/2015 Township not stated

Thank you for the opportunity to learn about the proposal and provide some feedback. However the time frame you have offered is far too short. Your letter to me is dated 14th of September and I received it on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. On reading the letter, I found that replies were required by the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month, and assuming that the return mail will take as long to reach you as it took to reach me, this may not meet your deadline and the 2 days given to consider the ramifications of the proposal is really quite insufficient and leads me to feel that non-resident ratepayers have not had the same opportunities to participate in the consultation process. Your invitation to view survey results and other information on the proposal on a website indicates that your "consultation process" has been going on for some time. Why were letters to non-resident ratepayers not sent out earlier so that we had more time to consider the proposal?

My second concern is your assumption that everybody has computer or smartphone access. Many rural people in my part of Victoria don't have that service and I have neither the Internet nor a smartphone.

As to the proposal itself, I am definitely opposed to the development of such a centre by the Shire Council, based on the information provided and present a summary of my concerns:-

1. What evidence is there to support your assumption that the state and federal governments will contribute 25%? If that is not forthcoming, will ratepayers suddenly find the costs to them will be raised?
2. Why are non-resident ratepayers expected to contribute the same amount in both the special charge and the annual operating cost? It is impossible for them to access and use the facility as readily as residents may and essentially means the non-resident ratepayers will be subsidising residents and will carry a disproportionate share of the costs. An unfair and discriminatory situation.
3. Your letter seems to suggest the in addition to the 20 year levy and the annual operating charge, ratepayers would also be expected to pay to use it but gives no indication of the cost or whether ratepayers would be given a discount compared to casual visitor users. Nor is there any indication of probable membership fees.
4. There is no information regarding proposed hours of operation and whether access will be restricted by any closed sessions which further reduces availability to non-resident ratepayers. Nor any information on facilities for parking which will be need to be amply

provided if the facility is going to be accessible to all ratepayers living more than walking distance from the facility.

5. There are already facilities in Torquay operating as gyms and no evidential data re the need for further facilities.
6. What thought has been given to inviting private enterprise to construct and run such a facility and allow the shire council to focus its resources and attention on the essential items such as the roads, library services, footpaths, recreation areas and cultural services without creating such a financial imposition on ratepayers.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit a response.



25/09/2015 Anglesea

Dear Sir

Re [www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/testing](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/testing) the water

I acknowledge receipt of the notice concerning the possible development and construction of an Aquatic centre in North Torquay.

A number of issues come to mind re the proposal in the notice together with the results of meetings, surveys etc. conducted during 2014 and 2015

Because of my concerns I cannot support the scheme.

Issues of concern:

So far I have been advised from your office that there are 21,000 rateable properties in the Shire but I could not get a breakdown of the numbers of resident and non-resident ratepayers which is relevant

The rateable properties of Torquay (7600) Moriac (300) Anglesea (3240) Aireys Inlet and Fairhaven (1200+500) Lorne (2370) Winchelsea (300) Deans Marsh (230) total 16,740 leaving the balance of 5260 from areas not covered in the map.

Apart from Torquay and Jan Juc which have population growth due to land development such is not the case for Anglesea, Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven, Moggs Creek and Lorne who have restricted land development.

The proposed cost of approx. \$29 million plus ongoing cost to operate and maintain the centre with uncertain funding from the Federal and State Governments raises questions about the burden of servicing the loan. The serious debt of over \$12 million incurred by Council in 2002 which resulted in the appointment of an Administrator should never be forgotten because it was the ratepayer who faced increased rates over a period of years

At a local level Anglesea still has unmade roads, open drains, dense bush land on some private properties (fire risk) which are rarely maintained in spite of notices, no gas installation, poor parking facilities in the main shopping centre

While an Aquatic centre may benefit Torquay and its surrounds I can see no benefit for the smaller seaside resorts where many of the ratepayers are non-residents and even residents could have distance problems.

It would be appreciated if you would forward copies of this letter to relevant parties including Shire Councilors

26/09/2015 Lorne

Comment: \* required

1. NO, to the pool
2. NO, to any increase in rates for pool running costs and maintenance

REASONS:

- I am a swimmer, but
- i) If there are no funds, it clearly cannot be afforded.
  - ii) The Vic. govt. has more important infrastructure priorities than a local pool in Torquay ... it's not even a 50 metre pool.  
You have the beach!!!
  - iii) If pool admission is insufficient to meet the running costs, it cannot be afforded.
  - iv) There are no grounds to bill residents outside of Torquay ... this is a local issue for Torquay.  
Would Torquay residents like to travel 1 1/2 - 2 hours return trip plus petrol to a 25 metre pool, pay admission as well as pay additional rates? I don't think so.
  - v) Personally, I have no need of a 25 metre pool
  - vi) Rates at Lorne and Pennyroyal have risen exorbitantly, for very little return \$ for \$
  - vii) Surfcoast Council has a reputation for being dictators and money grabbers wherever and whenever possible...and this proposal is grossly inequitable for all residents outside Torquay.
  - viii) There is the notion that Torquay and its HUGE population is the epicentre of the Surfcoast Shire! This proposal reeks of anti democratic 'bullying', although you have 'asked'...let's hope it's not executed by a head count!
  - ix) Proceeding with this proposal would constitute 'bad' debt.

SUGGESTIONS:

1. Convert the existing pool at Lorne for these purposes.
2. Use the pool in Geelong.
3. Have Torquay fund raise for their own community pool.
4. Ensure that the pool admission is sufficient to cover maintenance and running costs, which is equitable for all users
5. Councillors can take a salary reduction to pay for the proposal and running costs

26/09/2015 Jan Juc

In response to your letter re: an Aquatic Centre. -

I am deeply opposed to this, as I am a single person in my sixties working to be able to keep paying my rates which are becoming ridiculous.

I pay for garbage collections that I hardly ever use - I do not want to be paying for a pool. and there is already a Health Centre - If it goes ahead, I do not think everyone in my situation should have to pay even more for my rates. - there are also water - bills, electricity and upkeep on the house - I am finding it rather hard, let alone a pool charge

27/06/2015 Township not stated



Don't be naive anyone to think that this is about a special charge, a pool in Torquay vs money for winch pool, a community consultation or anything like that! This is about a political led surf coast shire playing a game to help their mate win! Political games do not belong in local government, we elect people to do what is right for this community, the whole community, unfortunately political bias is all we got! If this isn't political then where are the 'pool champions' speaking up? If this isn't political then why does Libby Coker not step down as SCS councilor and play her political game? If this isn't political why is the 'consultation' not transparent? Poor form SCS!

12 hours ago · Like ·  1 · Reply

27/09/2015 Anglesea

As an owner of a property at [REDACTED]  
St., Anglesea, I appreciate the opportunity to  
lodge my opinion on the proposed Aquatic  
& Health Centre at Torquay.

My vote is a NO. Rats have already  
increased to a level that is just manageable  
to a retired, self-funded retiree & I feel  
further increases to fund this proposed  
Centre will compromise many people  
my age & in my position.

Possibly, we would all feel it  
is unnecessary with adequate facilities  
of this nature in Lorne & Warrnambool.  
Health requires much more than a visit  
to such a Centre. Walking on the beach?  
for eg. (daily)

I hope, on behalf of many other  
'weekend' that I have spoken to, that  
this view will be considered.

27/09/2015 Lorne

I am writing to say I object to the suggestion of adding to the Rates increase especially Zones 3+4. The 2 zones closest to Torquay will benefit from the pool.

My family go to Lorne each year to a house owned for 3 generations. We never go to Torquay or even through it.

Let the 2 closest zones pay extra on their rates

They will use it.  
not Lorne residents

27/09/2015 Township not stated

I would like to register my objection to the proposed Aquatic Centre as well as to the proposed imposition of a Special Charge Scheme to fund its build and ongoing operation, at a one million dollar loss per annum.

My concerns regarding the proposed Centre are many and varied.

Firstly however, I would like to briefly comment on the community forum poll results.

Despite what I consider to have been Council's attempt to "sell" the proposal to the community, the results against the proposal were overwhelming, with 72.9% of residents totally opposed.

A mere 2.7% of residents supported the proposal; with only 22.18% supporting the proposal, but not the imposition of a Special Charge Scheme.

The results, primarily those totally against the proposal, were even higher than the telephone polling results, and this is despite Council's attempts at convincing residents of the need for such an extravagant proposal.

With Leisurelink so close by at Waurm Ponds, and an even larger Aquatic complex soon to be built only 7 minutes away at Armstrong Creek, it is concerning that Council wants to venture down a path of fiscal irresponsibility.

A proposal burdening ratepayers with such an exorbitant Special Charge Scheme for a period of two decades is unfair. The imposition of *any* Special Charge Scheme for the building of a pool, is unfair, unreasonable and unjust.

Those struggling on low incomes and pensioners will be severely impacted, especially since Council rates are already among the highest in the state.

A decision to be made by Council so close to the Christmas/holiday period is also concerning, because if Council decides to proceed with the proposal, many ratepayers who might otherwise want to object, might be away on annual holiday. The timing of Council's decision, is therefore also unreasonable and unfair.

I hope that Council will not pursue this unnecessary, costly piece of infrastructure.





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# YOUR

## WEB TALK

### Torquay pool debate

Many in Torquay/Jan Juc have said they don't want the pool, irrespective of the funding model, and have signed petitions opposing it. It is not a high priority as Torquay already has access to three indoor pools and a solar-heated pool at the caravan park and at least seven gyms. Sarah said she was going to survey 17,000 people around the area to gauge support. She might just be surprised at the result. As for costing each ratepayer \$1 a week to run, that depends on patronage. I would rather donate to World Vision to provide clean drinking water to Third World communities. I would support Winchelsea's desire to access the state's Better Pools grants (up to \$3 million) to roof and upgrade its facilities to provide better access to the associated health benefits and all round access.

**Ann, Mount Duneed**

Can't believe this has become an election issue. Anyway, isn't there a virtually new aquatic centre at Waurnd Ponds, five minutes up the road from Torquay?

**Graeme, East Geelong**

## TEXT TALK

**27/09/2015**    **Torquay**

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to the letter we received, regarding the proposed building of an aquatic and health centre in Torquay.

Both my husband and I are now in our seventies and were fortunate enough to be able to build a holiday house in Torquay through blood sweat and tears, when my husband and son operated a country supermarket, seven days a week. The house is used by our [REDACTED] children and not rented out, but because of it we are unable to even get a part pension.

This is not intended to be a sob story but merely to explain that owning a beach house doesn't automatically mean that you have a money tree, and every rise in rates severely affects some people.

If the centre goes ahead, there would be a rate rise plus an annual charge for running the centre which is fine for those able to benefit from it, but totally unfair for those of us who will not. I believe in this instance, "user pays." Previously we were charged when a footpath was constructed past our house for the passing parade to use, and I believe rates should've covered this also. We rarely require a garbage collection, so the council is doing well out of we "out of town" rate payers who don't rent out their properties.

The fact that a similar venue is available in Waurm Ponds and you have the beach at your finger tips, tells me that Torquay is well catered, for but for those who disagree, let them be responsible for the necessary finances.

**28/09/2015**    **Torquay**

Dear Sir/Madam

I strongly object to the council adding a special charge to our rates to pay for the Aquatic Centre at Torquay. I consider our current rates to be excessive! I am paying \$1,000 more on our rates in Torquay to that on our property in Toorak, which is valued one third more than the Torquay property. The Waurm Ponds Aquatic Centre on the corner of Pioneer Road and Princes Highway is within easy reach of Torquay and outer lying residents. It is not unreasonable for residents to drive this short distance. To expect residents to pay for this facility is outrageous and it would appear that that council are inept in managing finances or seeking an alternative strategy. I am incensed that the council has the audacity to put this proposal to residents.

I no longer have confidence in the council's decision making process.

28/09/2015 Fairhaven

I have been a ratepayer & part time resident of Fairhaven for the past 42 years. Initially under the Shire of Barrabool rates were lower & housing more affordable when compared to Melbourne. Of course Shire services were not as extensive as they are today and the cheaper housing was, in many cases, made possible by the extensive use of fibro to which I plead guilty.

In the following years rates were increased to provide services for a growing community and additional charges were levied for such things as the construction of the Painkalie Reservoir and associated water supply. As a part time resident - like the majority of ratepayers in my area at the time - the fewer Shire services and my rainwater tank met my requirements, but I think it was fair enough for part timers to subsidise the cost of the extra services for the benefit of the Shire as a whole and for the growing permanent population.

Which brings me to the present day where we see the Surf Coast expanding rapidly. I can understand why Torquay, with its population expanding at a rapid rate, would find an

Aquatic & Health Centre desirable but I find the Shires' proposed funding of the Centre unacceptable to me. As a part timer I would never use this Centre and I don't think I should be expected to subsidise its construction and operation especially as the Surf Coast Shire rates are already one of the highest in Victoria.

I imagine the permanent population of Torquay would benefit most from this proposal so I respectfully suggest the Shire should apply the "user pays" principle and not expect part timers to subsidise everything.

**28/09/2015 Township not stated**

Dear Sirs,

We do not agree with the proposal to build the Aquatic and Health Centre. It is too expensive, will be a Shire burden for years when more pressing problems arise for funding, and there are other viable alternatives available nearby.

**29/09/2015 Anglesea**

In reply to your proposal!

I am not willing to contribute to the new Aquatic Health Centre in Torquay!

The Surf Coast Shire rates are already very high.

I love my property in Anglesea where I have enjoyed going to the beach for over 40 years.

**29/09/2015 Jan Juc**

In reference to Testing the Waters

I believe the shire should stick to having the rates at or below the  
CPI as proposed by the State Government and not try to scam us as

You have with the foot paths

**29/09/2015 Jan Juc**

I attended the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept., regarding Aquatic and Health Centre.

I am in favour of the Aquatic and Health Centre, but at what cost.

If the Centre went ahead, I would certainly like to see the Aquatic Pool, a separate pool from the General pool, with a Ramp which once walk into the pool and out.

Newport Aquatic and Health Centre near Williamstown is well designed and very popular.

I don't wish to pay extra \$150 on my rates for the next 20 years when the whole area around Torquay is developing so quickly.

I also don't wish to pay \$50 extra for up-keep.

**The following submissions were received after the closing date of 30 September 2015**

**2/10/2015     Anglesea**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Apologies in advance for the lateness of my reply but I have just been made aware of this Testing the Water survey feedback request for the Aquatic and Health Centre. I understand I am 1 day after survey closure but would very much like my comments to be included in your assessments.

My family has had a house in Anglesea for more than 60 years, it is our second home. For the council to allow this project to proceed will impact our cost of living greatly and unfairly. Many residents in Anglesea are not permanent and pay 2 sets of council rates, an additional fee increase outside normal CPI increases is unjust.

Currently Anglesea residence pay excessive council rates, we might be more obliged to be paying these high rates if the rates raised were being put back into Anglesea development to benefit residents however our belief and many residents (both permanent and non permanent) that I talk to all agree that minimal development is occurring to Anglesea where massive development is being put into Torquay. Our rates are unfairly benefiting other post codes. Some examples are Anglesea has grid lock most weekends and public holidays, the round about opposite the main shops needs to be increased 3 times to allow cars to move through more easily, has anything been done to try to resolve this situation as has been occurring for years. Are there new services being built or introduced to benefit residents or to encourage new permanent residents to move in, no.

From what I have noticed Anglesea might get a new path or curb and Torquay gets a new sports precinct.

The council and government has restricted further residential development of Anglesea so it can't expand which is impacting house prices compared to Torquay. Our local shops are struggling as more people are just holiday makers in Anglesea due to bad policy.

Now your planning to build an expensive piece of infrastructure that will really only benefit Torquay residents. Your expecting my family to pay for Torquay's benefit when we will never use it, why would I use it when I have a beach 5 minutes walk from my home.

Waurm Ponds has a similar pool to what your planning which is only 10 minutes away from where your proposing to build this aquatic centre. Elderly permanent residents who live in Anglesea and surrounding areas can't afford to pay the yearly rate increases let alone non accental infrastructure projects that are not being built based on a demand for all residents.

If this aquatic centre is to be built it should be membership based with payment on visits. Aquanation in Ringwood cost was \$48,000,000 and is membership based. If this model doesn't cover the costs then it shouldn't be built.

We do not want this charge added to the rates as we will not be using the facilities.

The costs of living for everyone is growing at an alarming rate, please don't add to this.

**6/10/2015     Lorne**

I was away at the time feedback was sought by the Shire for this proposal at Torquay and unfortunately missed the cutoff date for submissions. As a non-resident home owner and ratepayer of Surf Coast Shire I would like to note that mailing out advice of such matters and seeking comment within a two week window is a ridiculously short timeframe (the letter advising us of this was dated

14 September 2015 (I don't know when it arrived in our mailbox) and the request for comments closed on 30 September).

While I understand that I have missed the cutoff date (and can no longer access that part of the Shire website to make a submission) I would like to request that my comments be passed on to those who are considering this matter.

As the non-resident owner of a home in Lorne I and my family stand to receive absolutely no benefit from the development of a costly new aquatic and health centre at Torquay and I consider it outrageous that Council would consider increasing my rates in order to fund it. I note that when improvements to facilities and services in Lorne have been required which have needed funding outside of Council's general revenues, local ratepayers in Lorne have had to meet those costs through special levies; other ratepayers in the Shire have not had to contribute. If the costs of such a new aquatic/health facility in Torquay cannot be met out of Council's normal revenues (which is understandable), or other external government sources of support, then I consider that the ratepayers/residents of Torquay and surrounds who may be able to benefit from such a facility be the ones who are asked to pay for it.

**7/10/2015      Torquay**

To Whom It May Concern:

As Torquay residents and council rate-payers we vehemently **oppose the plan** to build, at high expense and many years of debt, an Aquatic Centre for the Surfcoast Shire area.

Has it escaped your notice... this entire area IS unto itself, a natural, god-given aquatic centre without equal... available 365 days a year and freely available to all residents, young and old alike.

While it may be temptingly irresistible for council staff to build a legacy that they can proudly point to in their dotage, building an Aquatic Centre in an area where most residents can easily walk or drive to the Ocean seems an enormous waste of money and resources.

Look around you, for heaven's sake... Torquay itself IS an aquatic center, with no concrete pools, no chlorinated water, no security issues, no years of debt or added insurance liabilities.

Keep Torquay simple and natural, please do not build the Aquatic Centre. Less is More.

**8/10/2015      Township not stated**

Dear Sir,

Please accept my apologies for this belated response to your Aquatic and Health Centre in Torquay North.

I give support to the idea of having an Aquatic Centre. I do feel that it will greatly benefit the community and give a significant boost to Torquay not only as a resort but also for its economic growth and prosperity. However, I do have a different opinion on the proposed funding model.

You have stated that the Centre would cost \$29m and with the assumption that Federal and State Government contribution the net recovery cost would be \$21m.

The ratepayers are expected to contribute between \$50-\$150 depending on the proximity of the pool to their residence. It is also assumed that this special charge would go on for the next 20 years. It is naïve to think after 20 years this special charge to ratepayers will cease. Once a charge is

imposed it remains as a 'standard' charge forever. Neither can we predict what is going to happen in 20years time, for example, the pool may require refurbishing and or other amenities are added to it. These are some of the reasons the Council can argue to stop the special charge, although it is not stated clearly that the charge will cease. Remember too some of us may not be around to see it happen.

What my proposal suggests that the Council should look into the possibility of business community participation, i.e. private/council enterprise with 51% control of the Centre in the hands of the Council. If this is not possible than we should consider some form of sponsorship or donation from all parties business and individual alike. Such a course might help in scaling back the years by which the pool is paid or a lesser charge than nominated.

**8/10/2015      Jan Juc**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposal to construct an aquatic centre in Torquay North to be funded by ratepayers.

I have been a Jan Juc ratepayer for over thirty-five years and my family and I have always enjoyed the original beauty and natural features of the area. Indeed, these characteristics are what attracted me to the area in the first place.

Of course the pristine and world class beaches are central to the enjoyment of the natural environment and can never be challenged in utility, beauty, value or appeal by any man made aquatic alternative. Public swimming pools can be found in many inland localities where they are enjoyed by ratepayers who do not have convenient access to beaches. For my own part I must say that I see no attraction in frequenting Torquay for the sake of a swimming pool rather than for its natural attractions.

To then impose the cost of the aquatic centre on local ratepayers I feel is unjustified and unfair. If a funding model can be developed whereby the aquatic centre will be self-funding and will not be a burden upon the ratepayers, I would see less opposition to it, but it would still be an ill placed facility.

Respectfully, there must be many more worthy projects upon which to expend ratepayers' money than to build a swimming pool by the sea.

For these reasons I strongly oppose the proposal to build a ratepayer funded aquatic centre in Torquay.



**12/10/2015 Lorne**

My wife and I have a holiday house at .... We object to the proposed Wellness Centre, or at least to having to pay for it and pay for its continued operation.

No one from Lorne would travel to Torquay to have a swim or use the other facilities at the proposed centre. It should be paid for (if at all) by those who would use it. If it is viable why doesn't some enterprising individual establish it as a business. If not viable why make rate payers who would never use it pay for it!

**13/10/2015 Anglesea**

I would like to register my thoughts on the proposed Swimming Pool in our Shire, I do not agree for the funds (Rate Payer) to pay for this, as a rate payer I already find it hard to pay the high rates Surf Coast Shire demands. Waurm Ponds is only 15mins drive, people can use this facilit

**15/10/2015 Anglesea**

Do not support

Possibly support a "no frills" 25 metre indoor pool linked to existing or proposed facility like basketball courts.