**Kensington Community Recreation Centre redevelopment – design responses from community feedback to concept plan**

**Document updated on 20 November 2020**

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| **Summary of key feedback**  | **Design response** |
| **Change facilities** |  |
| * Need for dedicated aquatic change rooms, family and school group change rooms were well supported.
 | * Three separate contemporary change facilities for the aquatics, health and wellness and sport courts are provided.
* Aquatics change facilities comprise four designated family change rooms, two group change rooms, two accessible change facilities and an accessible adult change facility.
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| **Gym facilities** |  |
| * Need for a larger gym, new equipment, mirrors and space for stretching.
* The view overlooking the park was also supported.
 | * The new gym will be 750m2, which is around five times the size of the existing gym with all new modern gym equipment.
* Health Club also overlooks the park.
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| * Request for 24/7 gym access to be provided.
 | * 24/7 access to the gym is proposed.
 |
| **Multi-purpose courts** |  |
| High levels of support for three multi-purpose courts.Specific requests for:* Adjustable height rings for younger children.
* Provision of nets between courts to stop balls going across other games.
* Accessible storage facilities.
* Screening for one court to enable use by women’s only program.
 | * These are all provided.
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| * Requests for design solutions to enable futsal to be played in the stadium.
 | * This will be included.
 |
| **Cafe** |  |
| * There was support for the provision of a café at the new centre.
* The concept plan had the café located at the Kensington Road entry to the centre. A number of people suggested this could be better located with access to the park or within the centre.
 | * The café location has been reviewed and along with the main reception/entry, relocated to the JJ Holland Park end. This maintains efficiencies in staffing, in addition to an area of outdoor café seating accessible to all park users.

Primary considerations for location are:* Servicing patrons of the facility as well as the public and park users.
* Viability/sustainability of the service.
* Access from different locations in the centre, including direct access from the aquatics area.
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| **Multi-purpose rooms** |  |
| * There was support for provision of a number of multipurpose rooms and the range of bookings they would support.
* There were requests for ways to provide more ‘atmosphere’ in the rooms particularly for programs such as yoga.
* The size of the rooms is critical, and must include adequate storage.
 | * Four program rooms will be provided. Final fit out will be investigated at the next stage of design. It is anticipated at least one of the rooms will include dimmable lights, blinds, and AV equipment.
* The multi-purpose room sizes have been amended to have one room at 250m2 for group fitness and two smaller rooms and a community room.
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| **Pool** |  |
| * Overall redevelopment was well supported as pool facilities need upgrading.
* There was feedback about the need for more consistent water temperature.
 | * A new pool with updated plant and equipment will be part of development to help ensure a more consistent water temperature.
 |
| Additional lanes in 25m pool:* Lap swimming demand - one additional lane was not considered enough at peak times, especially when other programs run in the pool.
* Recognising the need to separate fast, medium and slow swimmers.
 | * The 25 meter pool will be extended to 8 lanes plus an access ramp. This should allow for additional lanes for lap swimming when the ‘Learn to Swim’ program is underway.
 |
| Viewing for Learn to Swim:* A need for adequate space for parents to watch swim classes.
 | * Viewing will be available adjacent to the Learn to Swim pool with seating along the side, as well as from the glass windows running along the expanded ’indoor street/corridor’.
 |
| Warm water program pool or hydrotherapy pool:* Request for dedicated physical therapy pool for hydrotherapy.
* Request for dedicated warm water pool for water exercise.
 | * The additional space needed to provide a dedicated warm water pool would require a substantial increase to the size of the building, which would incur significant cost, and would reduce the outdoor passive space available. It is anticipated that with the increased size of the 25 metre pool and new plant, the pool will better accommodate a diverse range of community programs and lap swimming, and will have a more consistent water temperature. This will improve the aquatic experience for people doing a variety of activities.
* A warm water offering is not included in the final concept design and could be considered in future redevelopment of other City of Melbourne recreation facilities.
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| * Extension of pool to 50 metres.
 | * There is inadequate space on the site for a 50 metre pool without removing other priority facility features and a substantial number of trees. There is not a demonstrated high demand for a 50 metre pool.
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| * Request for outdoor pool.
 | * There are significant site and budget constraints. There is inadequate space on the park side of the pool to provide an outdoor pool without significant tree loss and impact on the park. The City of Melbourne already provides two other outdoor pools at North Melbourne Recreation Centre and Carlton Baths.
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| Water play:* Provision of water play for children was well supported.
* A few requests were received for both indoor and outdoor water play elements.
 | * It is proposed to provide an indoor water play area with spouts and fountains for pre-school aged children. This group would benefit most from year round access to water play.
* The outdoor space of the centre has long been enjoyed during the warmer months by visitors to the centre. Water play will be provided indoors within the centre and as such will be available throughout the year. Rather than use the limited outdoor space to incorporate another water play area, it is proposed that the design continues to maximise casual and passive use of the outdoor space to ensure it is a flexible and inclusive space that can be used by the community for a wide range of purposes.
* The additional cost to provide permanent outdoor water play has also influenced this decision.
* The City of Melbourne already provides two other outdoor pools at North Melbourne Recreation Centre which is only 3km away and Carlton Baths.
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| **Outdoor areas** |
| * There was some interest in retaining the ability to open the pool to the outside area. These requests included the outdoor water play or opportunity to picnic and have longer family visits.
 | * Access between the indoor pool area and an outdoor grass area will be provided.
 |
| * Request for additional sports facilities to be provided outside. There was particular interest in a basketball and netball half court, which could be used for warm ups while waiting to play.
 | * The potential to provide this will be investigated in the preparation of the landscape plan.
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| * Interest in the landscape plan included planting as a noise barrier, provision of adequate shade, a good landscape interface with the park and protection of eucalypts adjacent to the centre.
 | * These will be included in the landscape design brief.
 |
| **Programs, services and other offerings** |  |
| * Feedback that Toy Library needs ongoing support.
 | * We will continue to work with the Toy Library to identify the best location for their service.
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| * Some people raised that they hoped fees would remain affordable.
 | * Council is committed to ensuring the centre remains accessible and affordable. Council endorsed fees and charges will apply.
 |
| * Requests for a broader range of programs to include artistic and creative activities as well as dance.
 | * The multi-purpose spaces will be able to be used for many different activities, including those mentioned.
 |
| * Request for occasional child care.
 | * Not feasible within project scope.
 |
| * Include allied health services at the facility.
 | * With the additional consulting rooms occasional health services may be provided.
 |
| **Car parking and access to the centre**  |
| Car parking:Concern about capacity of local car parking, particularly at peak times. It was noted that parking is busy:* on weekend mornings when sport is being played at JJ Holland Park
* during swim lesson times
* during popular program times
* when the facility is used for exams.
 | * A Parking and Traffic study was prepared in 2018. This study concluded that there is sufficient capacity in Kensington Road and the area to support the anticipated car parking demand.
* An analysis of the potential to provide underground car parking on site demonstrated this option was not feasible.
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| Vehicle movement and drop off / pick up arrangements:* Concern that an entry on Kensington road was not as safe for dropping off children.
* Need for safe access into the centre for children or young people while a parent looks for a park.
* Request for sheltered areas to wait to be collected.
 | * The locations for drop off and pick up will be reviewed as part of the main entry location review.
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| * The need for a designated drop off area for school bus groups,and well located accessible car parks.
 | * With the reorientation of the building the drop off area for school bus groups will be at the Kensington Road entrance.
* Accessible car parking will meet DDA requirements.
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| Access initiatives included:* Support for additional parking from some respondents.
* Provision of secure bike parking in well supervised location.
* Provision of adequate spaces for pram parking (to support walking to the centre).
* Provision of electric vehicle and e-bike charging stations.
* Intuitive and good pedestrian links to the centre.
* Real time public transport information.
 | * A number of these initiatives can be examined in the next stage of design and management.
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