



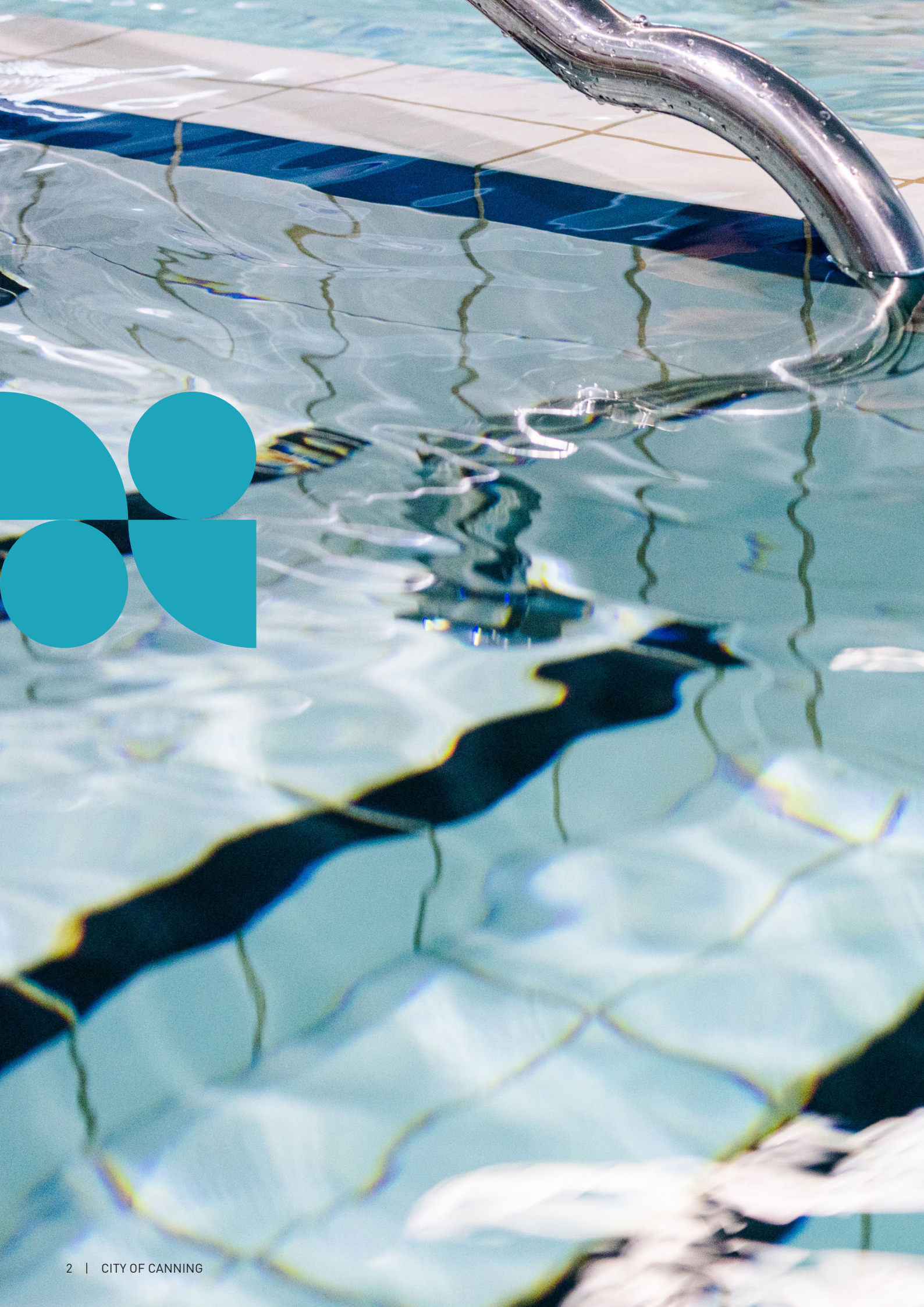
COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY:

# AQUATIC FACILITIES



CITY OF CANNING







A photograph of a swimming pool with a diving board in the foreground. The water is blue with ripples, and the diving board is white with blue trim. The background is a solid teal color.

# AQUATIC FACILITIES

**Aquatic facilities are typically large community infrastructure that focus on aquatic elements for health, fitness, training, competition, and learn-to-swim programs.**

These facilities usually contain lap pools, leisure pools, and other water bodies (such as spas and hydrotherapy/program pools), as well as water slides. They support a range of activities, including recreational swimming, squad training, competitions (such as carnivals, squad meets, and club training), water programs, aqua fitness, water walking, rehabilitation, water slides, birthday parties, and education.

To offset the high capital and ongoing operational costs associated with aquatic elements, these facilities are often supported by ancillary services, such as fitness facilities, indoor sporting courts, meeting spaces, and creches. These additional components can create broader leisure facilities that attract a diverse demographic and promote community interaction.

# CURRENT DELIVERY

The City currently provides two community indoor aquatic facilities – Riverton (a Regional level facility) and Cannington (a District level facility).

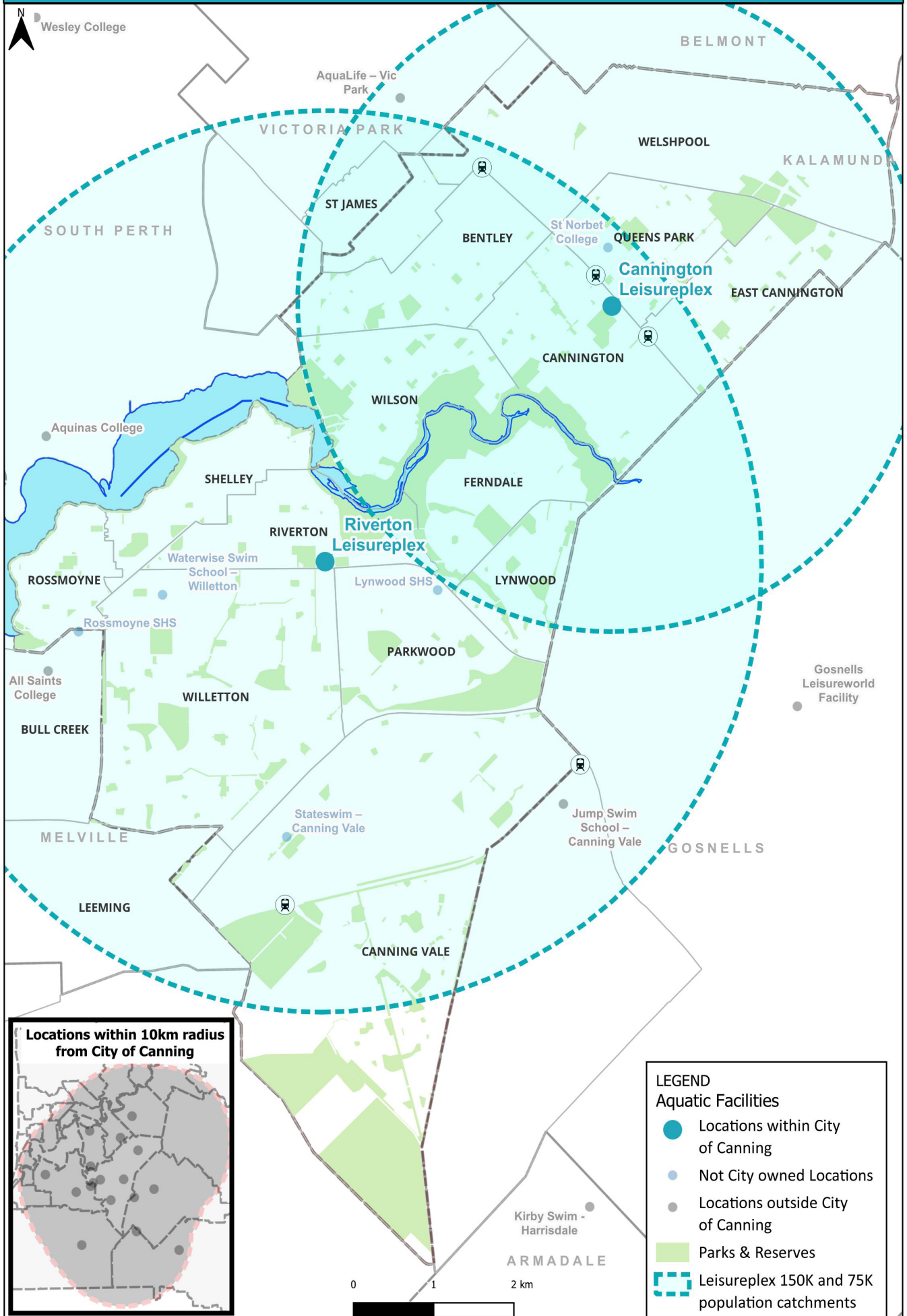
**Table 1: City of Canning Aquatic Facilities**

| Facility               | Type     | Components  | Strengths  | Weaknesses   |
|------------------------|----------|---|--|--|
| Cannington Leisureplex | District | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 lane 25m pool</li> <li>Leisure pool</li> <li>Waterslide</li> <li>Splashpad</li> <li>Spa</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multipurpose Leisure Facilities Close to public transport</li> <li>Located next to Sevenoaks and Cannington Community Colleges</li> <li>Close to Carousel shopping centre</li> <li>Part of City centre precinct</li> <li>Integrated with Cannington Library</li> <li>Close to Coker Park</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facility located on small site with limited expansion opportunities</li> <li>Lack of a 50m lap pool limits the facility to a neighbourhood catchment draw.</li> </ul> |
| Riverton Leisureplex   | Regional | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 lane 50m pool</li> <li>Leisure pool</li> <li>Deep pool</li> <li>Spa</li> <li>Program pool</li> <li>Water slide</li> <li>Rapid river whirlpool</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multipurpose Leisure Facilities</li> <li>Close to public transport</li> <li>Integrated with Riverton Library</li> <li>Close to Riverton Reserve</li> <li>Well utilised</li> <li>Close to Riverton Forum shopping centre</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ageing infrastructure</li> <li>At peak times of operation the facility is unable to accommodate demand for learn to swim lessons.</li> </ul>                          |





# AQUATIC FACILITIES





# CASE STUDY: CANNINGTON LEISUREPLEX



Located on the corner of Sevenoaks and Wharf St in Cannington, the Cannington Leisureplex forms part of the City Centre and is located adjacent to Coker Park, Sevenoaks College and Cannington Community College. The Centre celebrated its 10 year anniversary in September 2022.

## The Centre Includes:

- A 10 lane indoor 25m pool
- Indoor Leisure pool
- Waterslide
- Outdoor Splashpad
- Spa

The Centre is open all year round, has free onsite parking, is close to transport links (including Cannington and Queens Park train stations), and is in close proximity to Carousel shopping centre.

The Centre provides specialised programs to meet diverse community needs, including Women's Only swimming sessions, and partners with Royal Life Saving Society WA to provide learn to swim opportunities for community members from CALD backgrounds. The Education Department also use the Centre to provide school swimming lessons.

Visitors to the pool can choose to visit on a casual basis, purchase a multi-visit pass, or select an ongoing direct debit membership. Subsidised pricing for seniors, students and persons living with a disability are offered.



# CASE STUDY: RIVERTON LEISUREPLEX



Riverton Leisureplex was opened in November 2001. Located on the corner of High Road and Riley Road Riverton, the Centre forms part of the Riverton reserve area.

## The Centre Includes:

- 8 lane 50m indoor pool
- Indoor leisure pool
- Deep pool
- Program pool
- Spa
- Waterslide

The Centre is open all year round and receives 800,000 visitations annually. It has free onsite parking and is close to public transport links. The Centre is located adjacent to Riverton reserve and in close proximity to Riverton Forum Shopping Centre.

The Centre hosts annual swim carnivals, catering for local schools, and is used as a venue for the Education Department's school swimming lessons program.

Visitors to the pool can choose to visit on a casual basis, purchase a multi-visit pass or select an ongoing direct debit membership. Subsidised pricing for seniors, students and persons living with a disability are offered.



# INDUSTRY PROVISION RATES AND BENCHMARKING

Parks and Leisure Australia, Western Australia (PLA WA) benchmark data indicates that 80.42% of the City's population live within 5km of an existing aquatic facility and 94.99% of the City's total population is within 10km of an aquatic facility's catchment.

PLA WA Community Infrastructure Guidelines (2020) provide the following for the provision of aquatics facilities.

**Table 2: PLA WA Guidelines for Aquatic Facilities**

| Facility                             | Definition   | Population Guideline | Facility Hierarchy | Distance and Component Facilities                        |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| Aquatic facilities – indoor/ outdoor | Indoor and/or aquatic facility of various constructions but generally include rectangular 25m or 50m pool including 6 to 8 lanes of 2.5m each. | 1:150,000            | Regional           | 50m pool and other water space.                          |
|                                      | Local government pools developed for recreational purposes include leisure water space in addition to formal lap swimming facilities           | 1:75,000             | District           | 25m - 50m lap pool for recreational and club water space |
|                                      |  | 1:30,000             | Neighbourhood      | 25m lap and leisure pool and/ or leisure water space     |

With two large aquatic facilities, the City's provision generally aligns with the industry provision standards and caters sufficiently for current and projected population growth to 2041.

Supplementing the City's aquatic facility provision are other Local Government Authority (LGA) facilities, as well as privately owned aquatic facilities, as outlined below. These provide opportunities for community access within a 10km radius of the City's borders.



## Aquatics Facilities in Surrounding Local Government Authorities Within 10km

| Facility                                | LGA                   | Type       | Components   |
|---|-----------------------|------------|--|
| Armadale Aquatic and Fitness Centre     | City of Armadale      | Regional   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor heated 8 lane 50m pool</li> <li>Leisure pool</li> <li>Indoor 8 lane, 25metre pool</li> <li>Program pool</li> <li>Spa</li> <li>Water playground</li> <li>Water inflatable obstacle course</li> </ul> |
| Cockburn Aquatic and Recreations Centre | City of Cockburn      | Regional   | Outdoor heated 9-10 lane 50 metre pool - FINA standard   |
| AquaLife – Vic Park                     | Town of Victoria Park | Regional   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor 8 lane 50 m pool</li> <li>Indoor 6 lane 25m pool</li> <li>Leisure pool</li> <li>Hydrotherapy pool</li> <li>Spa</li> </ul>   |
| LeisureFit – Melville                   | City of Melville      | Regional   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indoor 8 lane 50m pool with swim wall</li> <li>Indoor 25 m dive pool</li> <li>Indoor leisure pool</li> </ul>  |
| Gosnells Leisureworld                   | City of Gosnells      | District   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indoor 10 lane 25m pool</li> <li>Indoor leisure pool</li> <li>Spa</li> <li>Outdoor toddler pool</li> </ul>  |
| Facility                                | LGA                   | Type       | Components   |
| Belmont Oasis                           | City of Belmont       | Regional   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indoor 8 lane 50m pool</li> <li>Outdoor 25m pool</li> <li>Indoor lagoon</li> <li>Spa</li> </ul>   |
| Rossmoyne SHS                           | City of Melville      | Government | 25 m pool – Education Department access only   |
| Lynwood SHS                             | City of Canning       | Government | Pool – Education Department access only  |

**In addition to the constructed facilities shown above there are two significant projects under consideration by neighbouring LGAs.**

### City of South Perth

Currently planning a Recreation and Aquatic facility at Collier Park, Como, with concept plans indicating both indoor and outdoor pools.

### City of Gosnells

Currently planning a Leisure, Aquatic and Sports hub at the Sutherlands Park, Huntingdale.



## Private Aquatics Facilities - within 10km

| Facility                          | LGA                 | Type    | Components  |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------|---|
| Stateswim – Canning Vale          | City of Canning     | Private | Indoor learn to swim pool                               |
| Jump Swim School – Canning Vale   | City of Canning     | Private | Indoor learn to swim pool                               |
| Waterwise Swim School – Willetton | City of Canning     | Private | Indoor learn to swim pool                               |
| Kirby Swim - Harrisdale           | City of Gosnells    | Private | Indoor learn to swim pool                               |
| Corpus Christi College            | City of Melville    | Private | Indoor 8 lane 25m pool<br>Indoor 12m learn to swim pool |
| All Saints College                | City of Melville    | Private | Indoor 25m pool<br>Indoor hydrotherapy pool             |
| St Norbet College                 | City of Canning     | Private | Outdoor 25m pool  |
| Aquinas College                   | City of South Perth | Private | 50m outdoor pool limited community access               |
| Wesley College                    | City of South Perth | Private | 50m outdoor pool limited community access               |

The City's provision of aquatic space is generally well positioned to cater for current and future demand. The likely focus for future investment at both sites would be on diversifying use of the broader sites to align with the CIS principles, addressing any unmet demonstrated demand, and optimising revenue generation opportunities to reduce operating costs.

# TRENDS

It is typical across Australia that aquatics facility development will not be limited to aquatics and will include other complementary infrastructure/services. This is generally a result of:

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Aquatic facilities requiring significant upfront capital investment and incurring ongoing operational deficits. As such, robust business cases are developed that seek to diversify and increase income generation opportunities.

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The creation of hubs or facilities that support a range of activity areas at the one site, in order to maximise use and create cost efficiencies.

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The creation of a mix of community and commercial activities at the one site.

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Programmable Spaces, to allow programs and memberships to generate ongoing visitations from users.

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The need for facilities to be able to meet the diverse needs of all ages and abilities and attract a broad range of people.

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# THE FUTURE

It is expected that the City's aquatic facilities are adequately positioned to meet current and anticipated population growth. However, both centres are ageing and will need ongoing capital investment to sustain their level of service. Investing in asset renewal presents an opportunity to adapt the facilities to meet changing community needs and trends, or consider incorporating additional facility components to reduce ongoing operational deficits and consider co-locating other essential community infrastructure to increase their capability to operate as community hubs.

This co-location has the opportunity to leverage the existing facilities and services provided by the leisureplexes, which can help to reduce the both the operating costs of current and new infrastructure. Further co-location can also help to improve attendances, by creating more comprehensive community hub that caters to a broader range of needs and interests.

## RIVERTON LEISUREPLEX

The Riverton Leisureplex receives over 800,000 visitations annually, with some programs operating at full capacity during peak periods. The facility has been operating continuously since 2001, and significant investment in asset maintenance and renewal is anticipated. As with Cannington, asset renewal will present an opportunity to explore additional facility components or improvements, as justified through robust business cases. It will also allow modernisation of existing components to meet best practise.

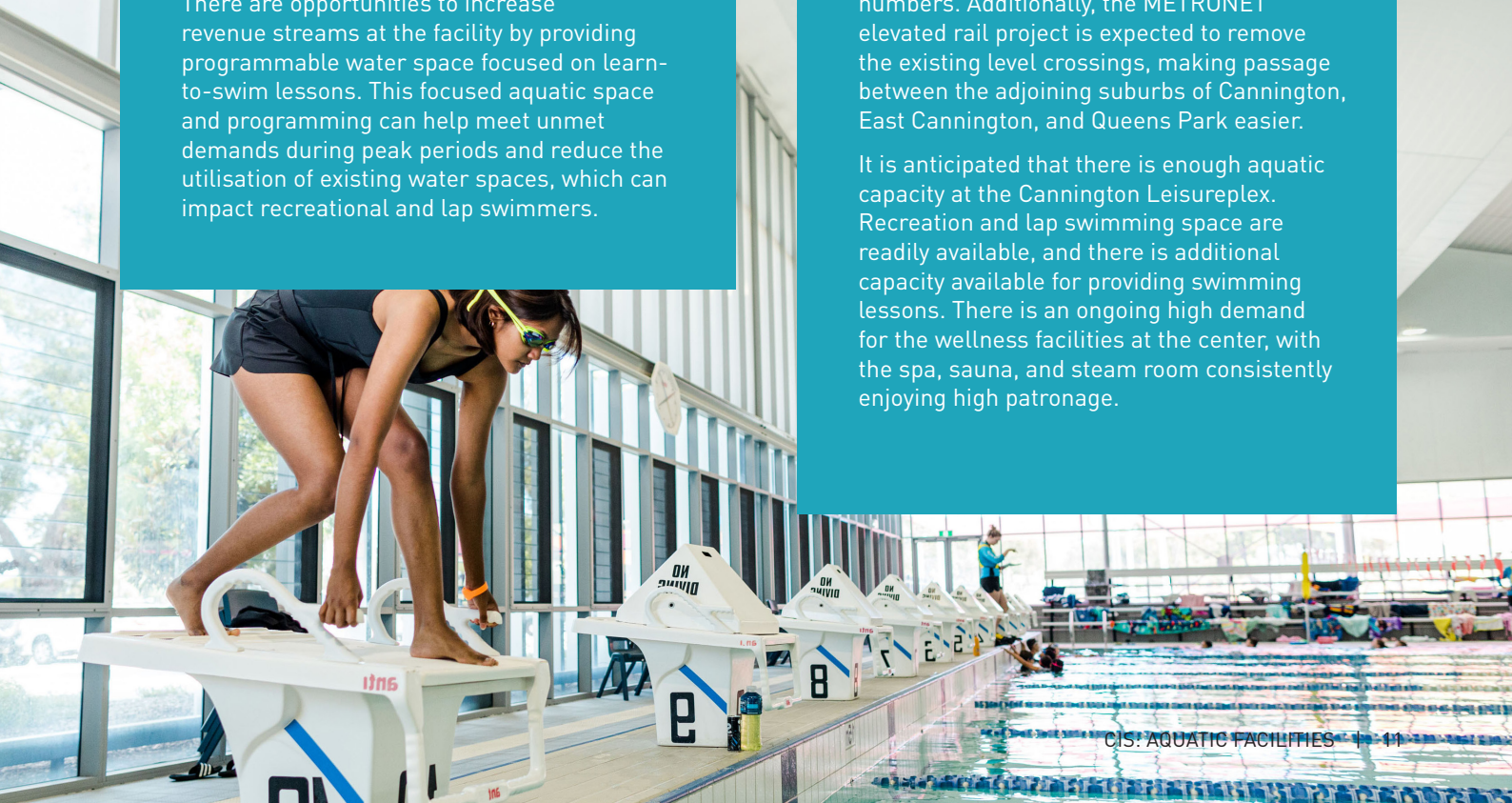
There are opportunities to increase revenue streams at the facility by providing programmable water space focused on learn-to-swim lessons. This focused aquatic space and programming can help meet unmet demands during peak periods and reduce the utilisation of existing water spaces, which can impact recreational and lap swimmers.

## CANNINGTON LEISUREPLEX

The Cannington Leisureplex attracts a significant number of culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) participants, due to the catchment's demographics, its women's wellness center, and its partnerships with non-profit organisations.

The projected population growth resulting from the City Centre project, which will house an additional 25,000 residents, is expected to increase attendance and activation at the Cannington Leisureplex. Infill of the neighbouring Queens Park and Cannington areas will also see an increase in resident numbers. Additionally, the METRONET elevated rail project is expected to remove the existing level crossings, making passage between the adjoining suburbs of Cannington, East Cannington, and Queens Park easier.

It is anticipated that there is enough aquatic capacity at the Cannington Leisureplex. Recreation and lap swimming space are readily available, and there is additional capacity available for providing swimming lessons. There is an ongoing high demand for the wellness facilities at the center, with the spa, sauna, and steam room consistently enjoying high patronage.



# PROVISION STANDARDS

A proposed provision standard for the City has been developed, based on PLA WA Guidelines for Aquatic Centres and outlined below.

**Table 5: City of Canning's Provision Standards for Aquatic Centres of Canning Active Sports Reserves and Infrastructure Hierarchy (PLA WA)**

| Hierarchy levels of provision   | Feature   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Neighbourhood level<br>1:30,000 | 25m lap pool with leisure water space suitable for water walking, hydrotherapy and swimming lessons   |
| District Level<br>1:75,000      | 25m - 50m lap pool for recreational and club water space<br>Leisure pool with water space suitable for water walking, hydrotherapy and swimming lessons     |
| Regional level<br>1:150,000     | 50m FINA compliant pool with deep water to support water polo<br>Leisure pool and/or leisure water space suitable for swimming lessons<br>Hydrotherapy pool |

## CONSULTATION FINDINGS

**This Type received 12 responses, with 11 from a suburb within the City. Of these, 10 are currently using this type of infrastructure. There are six strategic directions and recommendations proposed: five were supported and one was opposed.**

| Summary of Consultation                                 |   |
|---|---|
| Survey Questions  | Results   |
| Surveys Completed                                       | 12  |
| From a suburb within the City of Canning                | 11  |
| Already using Aquatics Facilities in Canning            | 10  |
| Addition consultation activities specific for this Type | Drop-in at Cannington Leisureplex<br>Drop-in at Riverton Leisureplex<br>Youth Consultant Network presentation<br>Cultural Ambassador Huddle |



## Survey Response Results

|   | Support | Neutral | Oppose |
|---|---------|---------|--------|
| <b>Strategic Direction 1</b> - The City of Canning's aquatic provision is sufficient to meet current and projected population growth.   | 13      | 0       | 0      |
| <b>Strategic Direction 2</b> - When planning any new community infrastructure identified through the development of this strategy, the City will consider co-locating complementary uses at Cannington or Riverton Leisureplex to maximize the use of the site and increase attendance. This will ensure that any new community infrastructure can leverage the existing facilities and services provided by the leisureplexes, which can help to reduce the operating costs of the new infrastructure. Additionally, co-location can also help to improve the utilisation of the leisureplexes by creating a more comprehensive community hub that caters to a broader range of needs and interests. | 12      | 0       | 1      |
| <b>Strategic Direction 3</b> - Planning should be undertaken for each site to inform asset renewal and upgrades to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify opportunities to improve levels and diversity of service to the Community,</li> <li>• identify opportunities to reduce the operating deficit of the City's aquatic facilities,</li> <li>• ensure building design and fit-out aligns to best practise in design, operating and sustainability that caters to emerging community needs.</li> </ul>  | 12      | 1       | 0      |
| <b>Recommendation 1</b> - Investigate and consult neighbouring local governments on planned future provision of aquatics facilities to assess impacts and opportunities for the Canning community.  | 8       | 5       | 0      |
| <b>Recommendation 2</b> - Undertake planning for Cannington Leisureplex prior to any significant capital renewal that assesses; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• asset management requirements and funding,</li> <li>• considers any other identified community infrastructure need,</li> <li>• explores opportunities to reduce operating deficits and diversify services and,</li> <li>• ensure design and fit-out responds to best practise.</li> </ul>  | 9       | 3       | 1      |
| <b>Recommendation 3</b> - Undertake planning for Riverton Leisureplex prior to any significant capital renewal that assesses; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the cost/benefit of construction of additional program pool space for learn to swim programs</li> <li>• asset management requirements and funding,</li> <li>• considers any other identified community infrastructure need,</li> <li>• explores opportunities to reduce operating deficits and diversify services and,</li> <li>• ensure design and fit-out responds to best practise</li> </ul>   | 10      | 3       | 0      |

# KEY THEMES

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**Accessibility and Availability:** Some respondents highlighted the need for increased accessibility to aquatic facilities, especially during peak times and school carnival periods. They emphasised the necessity for more inclusive scheduling that accommodates regular users.

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**Infrastructure Development:** The call for new facilities, such as an outdoor pool and playgrounds, indicates a demand for expanded, improved and diversified recreational options within the community.

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**Parking and Transportation:** Adequate parking facilities during peak times are a concern for some respondents.

# KEY FINDINGS

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There was high levels of alignment between the Strategic Directions & Recommendations developed by the City and the respondents.

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Respondents who opposed Strategic Direction 1, that the City's aquatic facilities are sufficient for current and future population growth, generally focused comments on improving service or access to space, suggesting the enhancements to existing facilities, particularly at Riverton Leisureplex. These suggestions are addressed by Recommendation 3.

# CONSULTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. No changes to the Strategic Directions
2. No changes to the Recommendations







# STRATEGIC DIRECTION



The City of Canning's aquatic provision is sufficient to meet current and projected population growth.



When planning any new community infrastructure identified through the development of this strategy, the City will consider co-locating complementary uses at Cannington or Riverton Leisureplex to maximize the use of the site and increase attendance. This will ensure that any new community infrastructure can leverage the existing facilities and services provided by the leisureplexes, which can help to reduce the operating costs of the new infrastructure. Additionally, co-location can also help to improve the utilisation of the leisureplexes by creating a more comprehensive community hub that caters to a broader range of needs and interests.



Planning should be undertaken for each site to inform asset renewal and upgrades to;

- identify opportunities to improve levels and diversity of service to the Community,
- identify opportunities to reduce the operating deficit of the City's aquatic facilities,
- ensure building design and fit-out aligns to best practise in design, operating and sustainability that caters to emerging community needs.



# RECOMMENDATIONS



Investigate and consult neighbouring local governments on planned future provision of aquatics facilities to assess impacts and opportunities for the Canning community.



Undertake planning for Cannington Leisureplex prior to any significant capital renewal that assesses;

- asset management requirements and funding,
- considers any other identified community infrastructure need,
- explores opportunities to reduce operating deficits and diversify services and,
- ensure design and fit-out responds to best practise



Undertake planning for Riverton Leisureplex prior to any significant capital renewal that assesses;

- the cost/benefit of construction of additional program pool space for learn to swim programs
- asset management requirements and funding,
- considers any other identified community infrastructure need,
- explores opportunities to reduce operating deficits and diversify services and,
- ensure design and fit-out responds to best practise.











