

24 October 2019

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E: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) request for information in regard to the proposed new aquatic facilities in Mosgiel

I am writing in response to your email request to the Chief Executive Officer, Dr Bidrose dated 27 September 2019, for information about the processes undertaken during the investigations of the proposed new aquatic facilities (new pool) in Mosgiel.

For clarity I have restated your questions below together with our response.

1. What was the purpose of, and why was a Notice of Requirement notified in 2018, that allowed for a new aquatic facility to be established anywhere in Memorial Park. When council had already confirmed the western location site in 2017?

The purpose of the designation is:

The 'Mosgiel Community and Recreation Area' which is intended to provide for the following activities:

- Community and recreational amenities and facilities, including but not limited to:
 - An aquatic centre;
 - Mosgiel Service Centre and Library;
 - Memorial Park and Gardens;
 - Peter Johnstone Park; Sporting, recreational and community activities;
- Food and beverage outlets ancillary to community or recreation facilities;
- Buildings and offices associated with club rooms, community facilities and services;
- Vehicle and pedestrian access to facilities;
- Car, cycle and coach parking areas for facilities;
- Directional signage, public art works and other public amenities such as toilets; and
- Landscaping, infrastructure, construction and earthwork activities associated with the above.

The objectives of the designation are:

1. To operate, maintain, upgrade and expand the facilities within the Mosgiel Community and Recreational Area to provide for a range of sporting, cultural and community activities.

2. To provide for, maintain and upgrade the facilities, services and amenities within the Mosgiel Community and Recreational Area in a manner that provides for the current and future needs and social and economic wellbeing of the Mosgiel and surrounding community.
 3. To enable an efficient and flexible approach to the maintenance and development of the Mosgiel Community and Recreational Area, while also managing any actual or potential adverse effects of future development on the surrounding community
- 2. Has there been a council resolution since the 2017 confirmation, to change its 2017 confirmed site?**
- No. The Infrastructure and Networks Committee passed a resolution at its meeting on 10 April 2017 regarding its 'preferred site'. This is on public record and was within the Committee's delegations.
- 3. Why was the council's confirmed site of 2017 not included in the Notice of Requirement?**
- The purpose of the Notice of Requirement (NOR) was much wider than the development of a new aquatic facility (see above response to Question 1), and the 10 April 2017 report was presented to the Infrastructure and Networks Committee and is on public record.
- 4. Why were submitter's to the Notice of Requirement told that there was no specific site for the new aquatic facility in Memorial Park. That one of the major reasons for the Notice of Requirement was for council to be able to select a site for the new aquatic facility within Memorial Park, excluding the Memorial Gardens. When council had already confirmed in 2017 the Western Location for the new aquatic facility?**

The Infrastructure and Networks Committee passed a resolution at its meeting on 10 April 2017 regarding its 'preferred site'. The minute extract of the resolution from this meeting is below:

Item 5 Mosgiel Pool Site and Next Steps

Moved (Deputy Chairperson Jim O'Malley/Cr Doug Hall):

That the Committee:

- a) **Approves** the existing Mosgiel pool site and immediately surrounding area as the preferred site for the development of a new aquatic facility in Mosgiel.
- b) **Acknowledges** the continued commitment of the Taieri Community Facilities Trust to the project.

Motion carried (INF/2017/001)Division

That the Council

Votes by division.

For: Crs Marie Laufiso, Kate Wilson, Jim O'Malley, Dave Cull, Chris Staynes, David Benson-Pope, Christine Garey, Aaron Hawkins, Mike Lord, Lee Vandervis, Doug Hall, Damian Newell, Conrad Stedman and Andrew Whiley (14).

Against: Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 14 votes to 0

The purpose of the Notice of Requirement (NOR) was much wider than the development of a new aquatic facility (*see above response to Question 1*)

- 5. It would appear that council had had prepared in draft form some three sites for an aquatic facility in Memorial Park some months before the Notice of Requirement was notified. Why were they not included in the Notice of Requirement?**

As per the response to Question 1. The purpose and objectives of the Notice of Requirement were much wider than the development of a new aquatic facility and did not require a discussion on location of the pool. Work commenced at the end of March 2019 (after the Commissioner's decision - 15/3/19) to reassure Council staff on the best site for the new aquatic facilities.

- 6. What was the full cost of preparing and holding the Notice of Requirement hearing for the Mosgiel Memorial Park?**

The cost total was \$146,131.92.

- 7. It appears that the council may have granted an interest free loan of \$50,000 to the trust involved in the selection of a new pool facilities, and site. Has this loan been repaid, if not, at what stage does the trust have to pay this loan back?**

The purpose of the loan was for "operational costs associated with raising funds for a new community aquatic facility". The loan has not been repaid. Council continues to work with the Trust on the new Aquatic facilities and will consider the future of the loan as part of the project.

I trust that this answers your request.

Yours sincerely



Lauren McDonald

GOVERNANCE SUPPORT OFFICE