

Napier Citizens' Assembly, Session 2

Q&A Summary from the Panel Session

Q1: Question for Brendon Rope, Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Consultant specialising in aquatic facilities, Co-owner Dolphin Academy Swim School, Taradale

Why is there a split between the trust and commercial operators, and how does the trust ensure the operator maintains the facility?

The trust is responsible for maintaining the facility, while the commercial operator manages service delivery. To rebuild the pool, the trust needed to present a business case that included a 50-year asset management plan, determining how much to charge the operator for rent based on maintenance needs. The trust, operator, and community representatives work closely together, each fulfilling distinct roles. The trust's role is looking after the building and the operator's role is delivering the services (employing the instructors etc.).

Q2: Question for Andrew Torrens: Aquahawks Grants & Funding Manager

How many swimming clubs are there in Napier?

There are two main clubs in Napier: Apple Hawks and Greendale. Additionally, there are clubs like Sun Devils, Trojans, and Krakens in nearby areas, indicating a vibrant competitive swimming community.

Q3: Question for Andrew Torrens: Aquahawks Grants & Funding Manager

Why doesn't the club utilize the pools in Hastings more?

The club does utilize the Hastings Regional Aquatic Center for Saturday morning training sessions. However, transportation is a significant issue, as most club members are young and rely on parents for transport. Access to a suitable pool for competition preparation is challenging due to these demographic factors. Having a 50m pool to get the athletes ready for competitions is important because a lot of championships are swum in 50m pools. Being able to access one reasonably is difficult for our athletes.

Answer from James McNally, Hawke's Bay Gannets coach:

The club (under water hockey) doesn't use the Hawkes Bay Regional Aquatic Centre because they face challenges with the facility's setup, specifically regarding the pool's bottom, which doesn't meet their requirements (not being tiled). For the club, the ideal facility would have features similar to those in Wellington, where barriers can divide a 25-meter pool for different uses, including an international-level underwater hockey pitch.

Q4: Question for Andrew Torrens: Aquahawks Grants & Funding Manager

What are the training times for the swimmers?

Training sessions are typically held in the afternoons between 4 PM and 7 PM, with some morning sessions for more advanced swimmers. Afternoon sessions are preferred as they are more convenient for families and children.

Q5: Question for Brendon Rope, Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Consultant specialising in aquatic facilities, Co-owner Dolphin Academy Swim School, Taradale

Are there schools with pools that could be utilized for swimming programs?

The possibility of using school pools has been explored, but it was found that there are not many suitable options in the region (especially indoor pools or covered pools for all year use). Challenges include the need for proper features, car parking, and site location to ensure safe access without disrupting school activities. They found one potential school pool, but it's too close to the existing aquatic center to be viable.

Q7: Question to all panel members.

If you could change or add one thing to the aquatic facilities in Napier, what would it be and why?

- **Sioned:** A changing facility specifically designed for disabled users and their families, along with a hydrotherapy pool equipped with hoists for easier access.
- **James:** A visibility feature like portholes and cameras in the pool to enhance spectator experience and promote the sport better.
- **Brendon:** Accessible changing facilities, similar to those retrofitted at the Albany facility, which made a significant positive impact and the implementation of AI technology for water supervision in new facilities to enhance safety, similar to a system used at the Selwyn Aquatic Centre.
- **Rhian:** A revamp of the Allen pool and its changing rooms to better accommodate families, especially those with young children (e.g. parents with prams, add changing tables).
- **Vee:** Side rails that provide better support for learners, as the current loops are not sufficient for learners.
- **Rachel:** A hydrotherapy pool that is accessible to the entire community, as the current one at the sports park has restrictions as this would benefit many clients and increase community engagement.
- **Andrew:** For a 25-meter pool to be sufficient, wider lane space would help the club accommodate growth and manage competing priorities effectively.