

**MINUTES OF CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
HELD AT THE CARTERTON EVENTS CENTRE, 50 HOLLOWAY ST, CARTERTON
ON WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2026 AT 2:30 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Steve Cretney, Deputy Mayor Grace Ayling (via videoconference), Cr Brian Deller, Cr Lou Newman (via videoconference), Cr Steve Laurence, Cr Steve Gallon, Cr Jane Burns, Cr Simon Casey, Cr Rachel Round

IN ATTENDANCE: Geoff Hamilton (Chief Executive), Solitaire Robertson (Group Manager Planning and Regulatory), Glenda Seville (Group Manager Community and Facilities), Sara Renall (Senior Communications and Engagement Advisor), Robyn Blue (Democratic Services Officer)

4.1 WORKSHOP - CARTERTON INDOOR POOL

1. PURPOSE

For the elected members to be updated on progress with renovating the Carterton Indoor Pool.

Ownership and Governance Structure:

- The swimming club currently owns the pool.
- The Carterton swimming club is the only club in New Zealand which owns its own pool.
- Plans are underway to transfer ownership to a charitable trust.
- The land is leased from Carterton District Council at a nominal rate.
- Other councils, such as Wellington City Council, have supported pools owned by trusts on Ministry of Education land, and provide funding without direct asset ownership.

Community Pool Access and Usage:

Jason Markham and Catherine Rossiter-Stead (members of the Carterton Indoor Pool project) team addressed Council and the importance of maintaining access to the Carterton Indoor Pool for the community. They highlighted its role in supporting water confidence, multi-sport activities, and general wellbeing.

- They emphasised the pool's significance for community wellbeing, noting its use for water confidence, learn-to-swim programmes, multi-sport training, and maintaining mobility and health for various age groups.
- Barriers to access include long travel distances to other pools, high fuel costs, poor public transport, and unsafe cycling routes. This supports the need for a centrally located facility.
- There are issues with school pools, such as maintenance difficulties, vandalism, and limited specialist instruction for children, and a number of local schools use the Carterton Indoor Pool.
- Population projections from 2021 to 2054 show that the Carterton and Masterton District Council population are expected to double (at 51%), and the increase in SWDC is expected to be 43%. This is significantly more than other any other district in the Wellington region e.g. Wellington is 26%, Upper Hutt is 36%). This will increase demand for pool access and capacity, which the current facilities may struggle to meet.
- The pool is busiest during mornings and lunchtime. Underutilisation occurs midday and weekend afternoons. The facility is not open in the evenings. The pool has options for aqua-aerobics when the lane markers are removed.

Facility Design and Technical Challenges: The Project Team presented the technical history and design evolution of the pool facility.

- The pool building was originally constructed using steel trusses from a meat works, with no council funding, and has faced ongoing corrosion issues due to lack of ventilation and unsuitable materials.
- Initial feasibility studies considered lightweight tensile fabric structures, but cost and site constraints led to the current selection of an aluminium retractable enclosure (Alakov concept), offering durability and operational simplicity.
- Design costs have increased from \$1.8 million to approximately \$3.1 million, with the chosen concept balancing efficiency, sustainability, and user accessibility.
- The new design incorporates gender-specific and disability showers, improved air circulation, and aims to meet accessibility principles, with co-design input from user groups.

Funding Strategies and Community Engagement: There have been ongoing efforts to secure funding from sources such as Lotteries, Eastern and Central, Trust House, and community fundraising.

- A robust business case is required to attract funders, with previous iterations delayed by changing design concepts. The current plan is seen as more viable and ready for community consultation.
- Previous community events, such as a swim fundraiser, raised over \$80,000. There are ongoing plans for garden tours and other initiatives aiming to raise up to \$1 million locally.

Long-Term Plan Inclusion: The project team requested council support for inclusion in the LTP, which would enhance credibility with funders and signal community value. Council consultation on the LTP is scheduled for early next year, with proposals from community groups due by September-October

Nuku Ora: Nuku Ora has developed a Wellington Regional Spaces and Places Strategy 2025 and plans to develop a Wairarapa Subregional Sport and Recreation Assets Network Plan with funding support from the three Wairarapa councils. A regional aquatic plan would be included.

Business Case Viability and Usage Data: Councillors requested clarification on the business case's sustainability, including operational costs and projected usage.

A breakdown of pool users by district and age bracket would be useful to better understand community impact and inform funding decisions.

Technical Options for Heating and Therapy: Options for pool heating were discussed, including transitioning from diesel to electric and solar panels.

- The team is considering switching from diesel to electric heating, with the possibility of using solar panels to offset power usage, though site constraints may limit installation options.
- The current pool cannot be converted to a full hydrotherapy pool due to temperature and size constraints, but minor increases in depth and temperature are possible for quasi-therapeutic use.

Resource Consent Application: Considering the potential for delays due to neighbour objections and the need for expansion of existing use rights, the Group Manager of Regulatory and Planning suggested that the project team submits a resource consent application for the pool redevelopment as early as possible.