

Swimming Pools Strategy



**HAVE
YOUR
SAY**



We need your feedback

We are planning for the future of our six pools, which the community has made clear they want to retain, including how we fund them.

To raise the funds needed we are considering an increase to your rates through a Special Rates Variation.

Visit begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay

Swimming Pools Strategy

Have Your Say



The Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC) has six public swimming pools built over the last 60 years. There is no question public swimming pools are highly valued by the community, but they are also high cost assets. At some point, the current swimming pools will each reach the end of their useful life and we need to plan what to do as that point approaches.

A lot has changed in the past 60 years since the first local pool was built in Bega. Modern swimming pool facilities come in a variety of shapes, sizes, designs and features to meet current standards and community needs and expectations.

In November 2017 Council adopted the following goal:

GOAL To have a fit for purpose six pool aquatic strategy that maximises opportunities for the community and visitors to participate and enjoy facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and have pools that are operating at modern standards.

Currently, due to their age, most public pools in the Shire do not meet this goal. The future provision of public swimming pools to meet the goal will come with challenges relating to compliance, meeting needs and expectations, and funding. The most challenging will be funding, as Council currently does not have the significant funds needed to meet the goal and swimming pools are high cost facilities. The key focus of this goal will be looking at the 6 swimming pools as a group and not as individual facilities.

For more information visit our Swimming Pools Strategy project page under Major Projects on our website begavalley.nsw.gov.au/MajorProjects.

Funding option

To fund the six pool Swimming Pool strategy Bega Valley Shire Council is considering a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to provide long term security of swimming pool services to the community.

POOLS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Visit the website and complete the survey to Have Your Say on the future and funding of our swimming pools

Related documents

- [Otium Planning Group - Aquatic Facilities Review Final Report, November 2016](#)
- [Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper – September 2019](#)

Visit Council website or drop into your local library to read these documents.

Who to speak to

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Project timeline

- November 2016**
 - Aquatics Facilities Review
- November 2017**
 - Council adopts six pool aquatic Strategy goal
- May 2019**
 - Draft Pools Strategy reported to Council
- July 2019**
 - Financial modelling completed
- September 2019**
 - Draft Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper on exhibition
 - Community information sessions held
- October 2019**
 - Independent telephone survey commences
 - Public consultation closed
- November 2019**
 - Report to Council (20 November) on feedback on pools and Council considers its intention to lodge a Special Rate Variation application to IPART

Swimming Pools Strategy

The purpose of the Strategy

Public swimming pools provide a variety of health and lifestyle benefits for the community. However, there are significant costs involved in the construction, operation, staffing, maintenance and renewal of these assets and facilities.

Developing a strategy to manage the six pools collectively is an important item in the goal adopted by Council. This acknowledges changes, since the current pools were each built as individual projects, and also that there are relationships between the facilities. It will take into consideration what is known about our facilities, establishes what we'd like to provide and how we will provide this.

A Swimming Pools Strategy aims to give direction to meet the challenges in providing public pools relating to compliance, meeting expectations, needs and funding.

We have made a start on a strategy by developing the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper. The Discussion Paper provides information to generate discussion and gives an opportunity for feedback that will be used to develop the strategy.

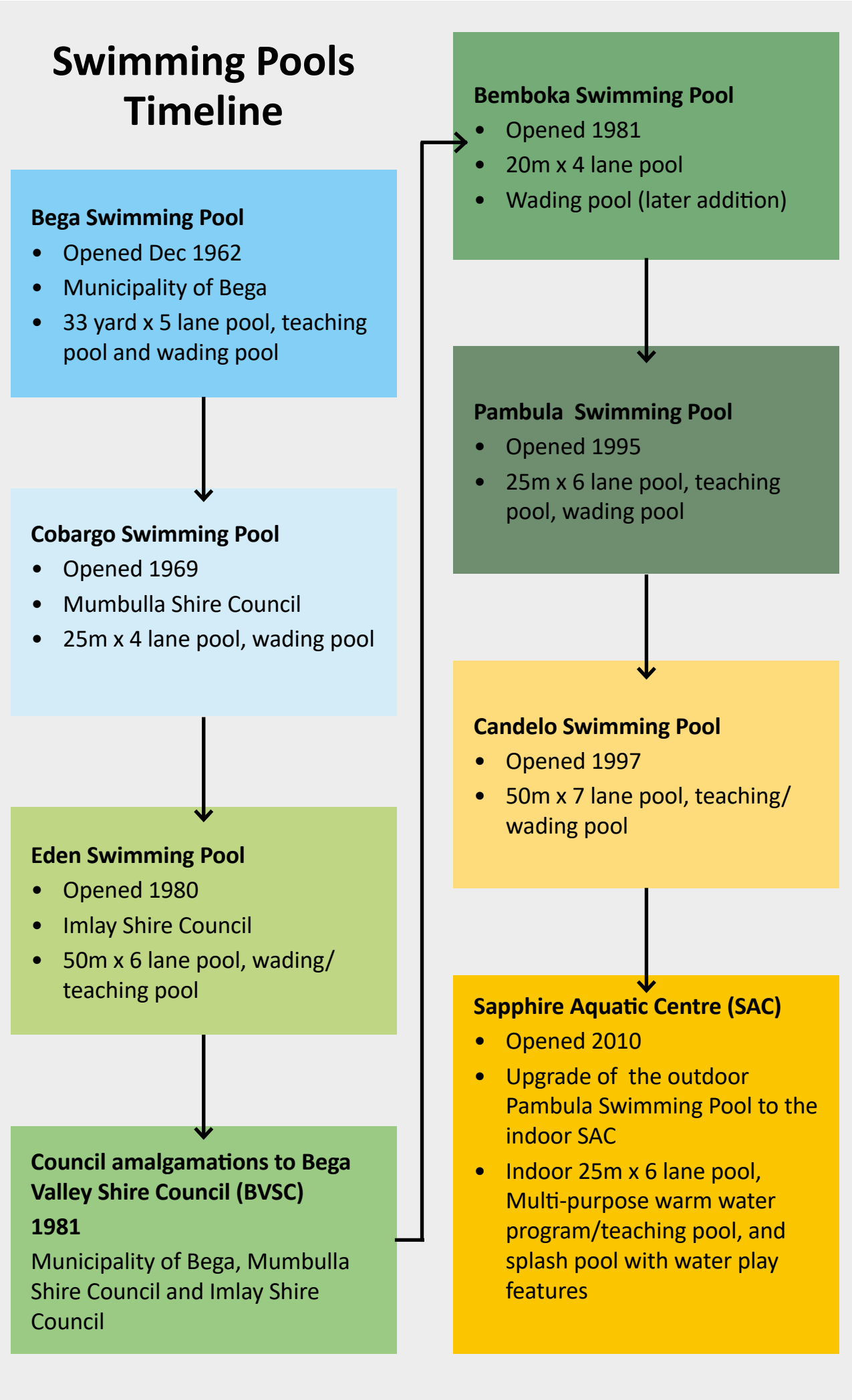
Pool History

- 6 Swimming Pools constructed and developed over a 50 year + period
- Council has and continues to meet the ongoing cost of operation, maintenance and asset renewals

The six pools we currently have across the shire were originally planned and managed as individual facilities to meet the needs and expectations of the communities they serviced.

This included the types of use, needs, wants, expectations of the community then, as well as the legislation, technology, practices, equipment and resources available at the time.

The community was often extensively involved in the initial fundraising, planning and construction of these facilities. Similarly, they were involved with further improvement and development of the facilities i.e. solar heating, pool covers, shade structures etc.



Swimming Pool Goal

Background

In 2016, Council engaged Otium Planning Group to conduct a review of the public aquatic facilities within the Bega Valley Shire. The aim of this project was to develop a strategic document with the purpose of providing direction on the provision, value, costs, opportunities, risk management and the future asset renewal of these facilities.

This review was presented to Council and has been used for a series of workshops with Councillors to understand the history of and future considerations for our aquatic facilities; including how our community uses the pools, what factors affect use, what modern aquatic facilities look like and what the associated costs are.

Following on from these workshops, at the Council meeting on 22 November 2017, Council adopted the following goal:

GOAL

To have a fit for purpose six pool aquatic strategy that maximises opportunities for the community and visitors to participate and enjoy facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and have pools that are operating at modern standards.

Using the adopted goal, Council employees were directed to develop a Discussion Paper covering capital, operational, management and funding options for discussion with Councillors and the community. This Discussion Paper identifies the costs required to meet the adopted goal and continue to operate and upgrade the existing six swimming pools in the Bega Valley into the future.

Meeting the Six Swimming Pool Goal

Council adopted a six swimming Pool goal which retains all of the current assets. Due to age, some pools do not meet current standards, regulations and expectations. The age of some facilities is also beginning to make operations more difficult and costly and this will begin to affect use. In acknowledging there are problems and challenges with the existing pools, in order to meet the six Swimming Pool goal the questions become:

- What needs to be done to meet compliance standards and expectations?
- What mix of facilities will best meet the community needs?
- How much will that cost?
- How can that be funded?

The challenge will be sourcing funding to renew (and upgrade where needed) facilities and assets to enable the six-pool goal to be met as well as continuing to fund operational and maintenance costs.

Costs

There will be significant costs involved in renewing six public swimming pools to modern standards and keeping them operating. While this will happen progressively as facilities become due for renewal, the current levels of funding will not be able to meet those costs. A summary of current key cost areas is shown below:

6 Swimming Pools Operating Costs	
Operating and Maintenance costs	\$2,031,000
Minor asset renewal costs	\$218,000
User Fees and Income	-\$867,000
Total	\$1,382,000



Modern Swimming Pool Facilities

Modern swimming pool facilities come in a variety of shapes, sizes, designs and features. Over the last 60 years, changing legislation, facility requirements and community expectations have influenced the design of facilities and require greater funding levels. When looking forward we need to consider what facilities are needed now and acknowledge that public pools are long life assets. What is built now is expected to last 60 years, so it is important to keep in mind how uses, needs and expectations will change over that time.

A key component of the goal is modern facilities, but what does this mean?

What is modern?

- **Compliant** - Facilities need to meet legislation, industry guidelines and best practices. This means now and into the future. We have already seen changes in our existing facilities such as updates to public health legislation requiring upgrade of chemical dosing systems, frequencies of water testing and operational practices
- **Accessible** - Accessible to all, including children, recreational users, lap swimmers, older adults and people with injuries or disabilities. Access can also be affected by location, distance and price. This includes having change rooms and amenities that are accessible.
- **Sustainable** - Implement environmentally sustainable technology and design to reduce environmental impact and operating costs. This will be a key consideration for our facilities now and into the future.
- **Meet expectations** - The facility should engage a range of ages, interests and apply the best use of space and resources to maximise use, whilst meeting users and the communities’ current and future needs. This can include different designs, features and facilities in each of our pools. Each facility should offer something different or unique.

These are some examples of modern equivalent facilities constructed in the last 5 years.



Adelong Swimming Pool,
NSW 2013



Bridgetown Aquatic Centre,
WA 2016



Grenfell Aquatic Centre,
NSW

What are our Options

AIMING FOR

Delivery of the Council adopted 6 pool goal

- This will secure the 6 swimming pools into the future and provide funding to renew facilities and assets as they fall due.
- Make compliant with current standards and upgrades on a use / needs basis. Able to better meet expectations and user needs.
- Meet ongoing operation and maintenance costs.

OTHER OPTIONS

Remain as is

- No confirmed funding to plan for future facility renewals. Likely major asset failure will lead to facility closures.
- Facilities not meeting expectations.
- Operating challenges and costs.
- Reduction in service provision and maintenance as per available funding.
- Possible ‘ad hoc’ grant funding opportunities. (Projects reliant on successful grants)

OTHER OPTIONS

Consolidation of facilities

- Reduced service provision and maintenance as per available funding.
- Eventual closure of lower use sites as they fall due for renewal or fail.
- Renewal only of higher use sites i.e. Only Bega.

FAQs - Swimming Pools Strategy

What is the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper?

- It is our starting point to begin conversations on developing a strategy that will help to guide decisions on the provision, value, costs, opportunities, risks, management and future renewal of public swimming pool facilities in the Shire. The Discussion Paper provides information to generate discussion and gives an opportunity for feedback that will be used to develop the strategy.

Why do we need a Pools Strategy?

- Council and the community have significant decisions to make relating to the provision, use and funding of public swimming pools into the future.
- Two of the six facilities in our Shire (Bega and Cobargo) are due for renewal in the next ten years, and the others will require some investment in the short term.
- A collaborative and clear strategy will ensure Council can maximise opportunities for the community and visitors to enjoy facilities that are operating at modern standards.

How did we get to this point?

- In 2016, Council engaged Otium Planning Group to conduct a review of the public aquatic facilities within the Bega Valley Shire.
- This review provided comprehensive information and recommendations on the provision, value, costs, opportunities, risk management and the future renewal of our swimming pool facilities.
- The review was used in a series of workshops with Councillors to understand the history of and future considerations for our aquatic facilities; including how our community uses the pools, what factors affect use, what modern aquatic facilities look like and what the associated costs are. At the Council meeting on 22 November 2017, Council adopted the following goal: "To have a fit for purpose six pool aquatic strategy that maximises opportunities for the community and visitors to participate and enjoy facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and have pools that are operating at modern standards."
- An adopted BVSC Swimming Pools Strategy will provide direction on how the goal will be achieved.

Will the community get a say on the strategy?

- Yes, the Swimming Pool Strategy Discussion Paper will be put on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.
- Community information sessions will also be held in each of the six towns with a pool and information will be available on Council's website.
- Council will also exhibit draft concept plans for a renewal of the Bega Pool, the first of the six pools due for renewal in 2023.
- You can view the Strategy Discussion Paper and provide feedback at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay

When will we get a new pool in my town?

- Pools are high cost and long-life assets to operate and build. The first step is to look to maximize value out of what we have. This reflects the significant resources and investment that has, and is, required to plan, build and operate these facilities.
- To do this we use a 60-year facility life expectancy to plan for renewals. Based on this, the scheduled renewal years are: Bega 2023, Cobargo 2029, Eden 2040, Bemboka 2041, Candelo 2056, and Sapphire Aquatic Centre 2070.

Why don't all the pools get the same treatments of funding?

- In order to provide six swimming pools and allocate resources effectively and efficiently, we need to consider how each facility is used and the community it services. This includes the size and type of facilities that are provided at each location, and it is important that the decisions we make reflect this to be cost effective and the best use of the available resources.

Do we really need six pools?

- Six swimming pools is a high provision per capita, however this also reflects the spread-out nature of our Shire and the distance between our communities.
- Throughout the 2016 Otium Planning Group's 'Aquatic Facilities Review' and Councillor workshops, there has been a strong desire to retain six swimming pools in the Shire.
- This goal secures the future of the swimming pools and reflects the history, commitment, hard work and fundraising of various community groups to advocate, plan and build our swimming pools over the last 60 years.

How much do the pools cost to run each year?

- The short answer is currently \$1.382 million per year, but that is not enough to meet the six-pool goal in the long term.
- The average net operating costs (after income is deducted) for the six pools is \$1.164 million per year.
- We currently also account for 'minor assets' that need renewing several times in a 60-year facility life to keep the pools operating (e.g. pumps, pool covers, equipment etc) which cost on average of \$218,000 per year - more detailed information by site is included in the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper.
- The current costs do not account for major facility renewals - more information is included in the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper.

How will Council pay for the pools moving forward?

- As a part of this discussion, we are looking at a funding model to keep our commitment to maintaining our six pools. This includes the consideration of applying for a Special Rates Variation – visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/srv for more information.
- At this stage of the project, we are seeking your views on the Discussion Paper. Council has not yet confirmed its commitment to lodging an SRV. If Council is going to proceed with an SRV they will need to decide by the 20 November 2019 meeting.



Special Rate Variation (SRV)

**HAVE
YOUR
SAY**

To fund the six pool Swimming Pool strategy Bega Valley Shire Council is considering a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to provide long term security of swimming pool services to the Bega Valley community.

Goal Challenges

- ★ Swimming Pools are multi-generational assets
- ★ To meet the goal, additional funding is required above current levels
- ★ Not possible through swimming pool income
- ★ Grants would not secure sufficient regular funding to meet goal. Projects would depend on successful grant applications.

An SRV would allow Council to increase general income above the rate peg increase, which is annually determined by IPART, and to raise the revenue from all rate payers to help keep our pools operating. This would ensure that the six pools meet all legislative and compliance requirements and are operating in modern standards. It also allows for fees to be kept at a level which is affordable to everyone.

Without this SRV Council will need to allocate more funding from the general fund budget which in turn reduces funding for other assets and services. Pool fees would also increase excessively which would potentially render pools inaccessible with attendance and income then decreasing. It would also mean that once a pool has reached its end of useful life the pool will close as the funding to renew and upgrade the facility would not be available.

What is a Special Rate Variation (SRV)?

A special rate variation allows councils to increase rates above the rate peg increase which is set by the Minister for Local Government.

Local councils wanting to increase the minimum rate levels - above the rate peg - need to submit an application to IPART (Independent Pricing and Regulation Tribunal) for review and assessment.

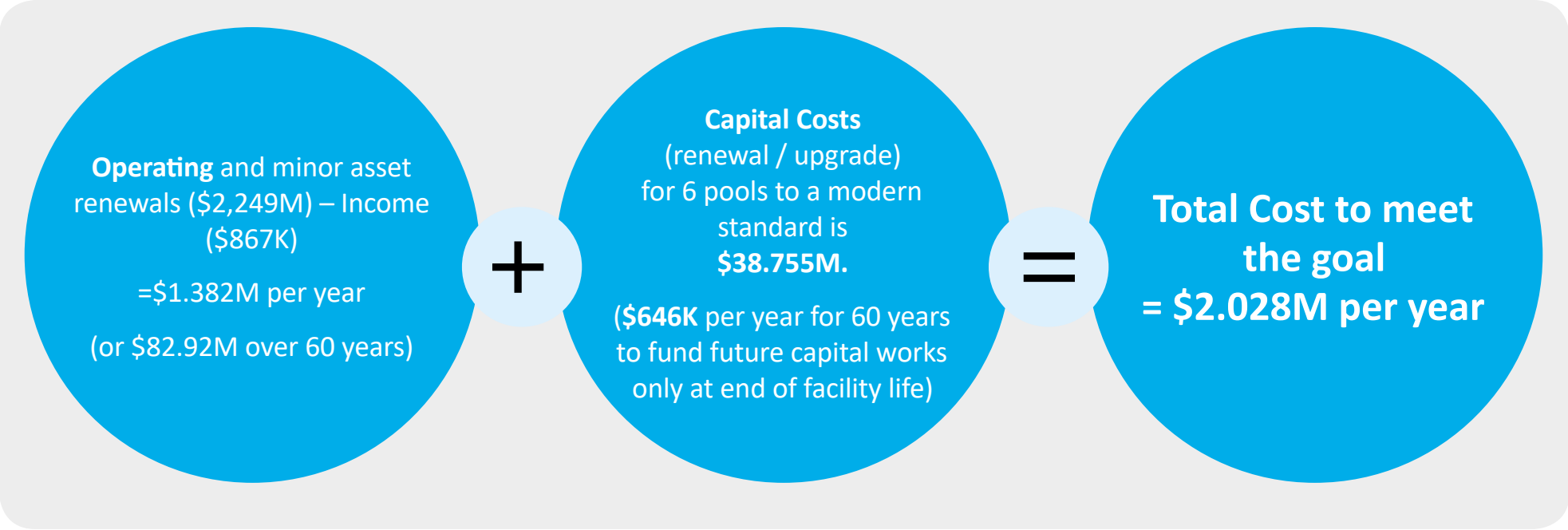
How much extra would the SRV need to raise per year?

- The combined cost for the future operations, maintenance and ongoing capital renewal / upgrade costs to meet the adopted six pool goal is \$2,028,451.
- This amount would equate to an 11% increase in the total income generated from general rates. It does not affect waste, water or sewerage rates.

What does that mean for me?

- The average increase on individual ratepayers would be \$2.82 per household per week. This is based on a land value of \$204,000 with the increase in general rates being \$146.82 per year. This calculation includes the rate peg amount as well as the above rate peg amount.
- Every property will be different as the calculation for rates depends on the valuation on the property. This is the unimproved capital value which you will find located on your rates notice.
- If the SRV is approved, it would come into effect on 1 July 2020.
- You can use our online rates calculator to assess the impact any SRV would have on your household. Visit begavalley.nsw.gov.au/ratecalculator

What we need to fund the six pool goal...



SRV by numbers

An SRV would allow Council to increase its general income above the rate peg. The percentage increase is applied to your general rate. Water, sewer and waste charges are not impacted.

Council is considering...

- A one off permanent increase to general rate income of \$2.028 million above the rate peg amount of 2.6%
- This covers all pools costs and renewals to modern day standards
- The average increase on individual ratepayers would be \$2.82 per household per week.

(This is based on a land value of \$204,000 with the increase in general rates being \$146.82 per year.)



If an SRV application is lodged, and is successful who pays what is not the same across all ratepayers. Council’s general rates are calculated using two parts. The first, the base rate is the same for all ratepayers, the second component is linked to the land valuation for the property. The amount Council applies for is indicated as a percentage rise in income generated and does not directly relate to the increase on each individual property. To look at the impact of this and to calculate what your rates would look like if this SRV was applied visit our [Rate Estimate calculator](#). Please have your current yearly rate notice at hand to help you make this calculation. This will show what the impact would have been in this year and will provide an indication as to the amount of the increase for your property next year.

	SRV 1 Year			2019/20			
Land Valuations	Base Rate	Advalorem	Total	Base Rate	Advalorem	Total	Increase \$
Residential							
\$204,000.00	\$561.00	\$923.39	\$1,484.39	\$506.00	\$831.57	\$1,337.57	\$146.82
\$159,000.00	\$561.00	\$719.70	\$1,280.70	\$506.00	\$648.13	\$1,154.13	\$126.57
\$423,991.00	\$561.00	\$1,919.16	\$2,480.16	\$506.00	\$1,728.31	\$2,234.31	\$245.85
Business							
\$310,838.00	\$561.00	\$2,489.45	\$3,050.45	\$506.00	\$2,242.07	\$2,748.07	\$302.38



FAQs - Special Rate Variation (SRV)

What is a Special Rate Variation (SRV)

- A Special Rate Variation allows a council to increase the total amount of its general rates income above the rate peg, under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW). Council rates increases (the rate peg) is annually determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).
- Councils need to apply for a Special Rate Variation in order to set the rates increase higher than the rate peg amount. SRVs typically raise revenue from all rate payers to deliver facilities or services to meet changing needs, requirements and increasing expectations.
- For more information visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/srv

Why is Council considering an SRV?

- As a community, we must decide on the most suitable and sustainable funding option for the future of our pools, particularly as the community and Councillors have indicated a preference to continue to provide six pools and upgrading them to modern day standards as they fall due for renewal. Our major source of revenue is limited in growth because of rate pegging and pools are costly facilities to operate and renew.
- Due to the age, condition and forecast asset renewals for the pools, Council cannot afford to meet the goal of upgrading six pools to meet modern standards and expectations either in the immediate short term or over the longer term. Additionally, we can no longer afford to continue to fund the ongoing operating and maintenance cost of six pools which contribute significantly to Councils operating deficits.

What would this SRV be used for?

- Council is considering a Special Rate Variation to provide long term security of swimming pool services to the community. Funding obtained through the SRV would ensure that all six pools would receive the appropriate renewals when reaching the end of life of the asset to meet compliance, accessibility, operational and sustainability standards along with community expectations.

Would this mean that rates permanently increase?

- Special Rate Variations can be for one or several years and can be temporary or permanently retained in the rates base.
- Council's current intention is for this variation to be ongoing to meet the adopted goal of retaining six pools across the Shire, which means that once the 11% general rate* increase is applied to create a new rates base, the rate base will be permanently increased.
*(General rates exclude water, sewer and waste charges).

Does this mean we will pay more for the same facilities?

- An important part of the goal adopted by Council is to have fit for purpose pools operating at modern standards.
- The purpose of the strategy is to meet the adopted goal with the most cost effective and appropriate use of resources, whilst keeping six pools open and operating.
- This is achieved by renewing facilities to a modern equivalent as the facilities fall due for renewal, while maintaining the existing facilities until then. Where facility improvements can be achieved within budget or through external funding opportunities and partnerships, this will be investigated at the time they arise.
- This needs to be balanced against getting full value out of the resources that are put into the existing assets before they are renewed. Facility renewals are scheduled based on a 60-year facility life. Some facilities are becoming due (Bega and Cobargo), while others have some time to go before renewal (Sapphire Aquatic Centre and Candelo).

I don't use pools, why should my rates go up?

- Swimming pools are an important community resource, providing access to health, safety, recreational and social opportunities. Our pools are utilised by a broad sector of the community for swimming education, lessons, training, family activities, rehabilitation, fitness, or to simply relax.
- They are also utilised by school groups, surf clubs, sporting clubs and are an important foundation of learning to swim which is a life-long skill.

Could Council simply choose to increase rates without scrutiny?

- Each year, councils wishing to apply for a special variation apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in February.
- The applications are assessed against criteria listed in the Office of Local Government's Guidelines. These include undertaking long term financial planning, ensuring community awareness of the need and extent of the proposed increase in rates, and consideration of the impact on ratepayers and the community's capacity and willingness to pay. In addition, councils must meet criteria related to productivity improvements.

What will happen to the pools if there is no Special Rate Variation?

- The pools will continue to operate as they are in the short term but with very little opportunity for upgrading or improvements into the future.
- We know pools are corrosive environments and hard on infrastructure. Some are getting old and there is a high chance there will be a failure at some point. A recent example was at Bemboka with the chlorination system and currently works in Candelo to repair damaged sections of the pool. We know something will happen, we just do not know what or when. If this happens, it will trigger either a very high cost reactive repair to make good an old asset (which might fail again somewhere else) or a closure of the facility.
- A further review of the ability to continue to provide services and at which pools will need to be undertaken.

Why don't the users pay more?

- Raising the required funding through an increase in user fees would require substantial increases, rendering the pools largely inaccessible resulting in decreased use.
- As an important community resource for recreation, social safety, learning and health opportunities, we are committed to making access to swimming pools equitable and affordable for all the community.
- User fees currently account for 40% of the gross total cost of operating the pools and there is no contribution to funds for facility upgrades or renewals.

Are there alternatives to an SRV?

- In 2017 Council resolved that a six-pool aquatic strategy be developed so that the community can retain all six pools, that those pools are compliant and that they meet modern standards when due for renewal.
- Due to the age, condition and forecast asset renewals for the pools, Council cannot afford, from the existing General Fund rate income, to meet the six-pool goal without reducing other services.
- Council could consider a 'remain as is' approach which would likely lead to major asset failure resulting in facility closures. Council could also consider consolidation of facilities (a reduction in the number of pools) which would contradict the adopted six-pool strategy.

How will I know the money raised through the SRV will be spent on pools and not something else?

- Through our statutory reporting - we are required to report on the incoming funds raised through a Special Rates Variation, and the projects/activities that have been funded through this revenue stream. This is reported through our Annual Report, published on November 30 of each year.

What options are available if I can't pay a rate increase?

- Council can help ratepayers with payment schedules that make paying their rates more manageable – you are encouraged to contact Council to discuss these options.

What else is Council doing to minimise the impact of the SRV on ratepayers?

- Council has spent a number of years reviewing the ways in which it can fund its asset management plans.
- Council is implementing a range of cost containment strategies and productivity improvement measures. These include organisation restructures, adoption of a green energy plan, improvements in procurement and leveraging better buying power through participating in the Joint Canberra Region Organisation, streamlining processes in ICT and WHS, addressing asset rationalisation, improving our works programs by planning to deliver more works for the same budget allocation, applying for funding to deliver improvement to assets needing renewal or upgrading, divesting land and reviewing the way services are delivered.

What happens if Council's SRV application is unsuccessful?

- If Council is unsuccessful in its SRV application through IPART it will reassess, at that point, the best path forward to meet the adopted goal or to amend the current aspiration of six pools.

Does the community get a say on these plans?

- A key component of any SRV process is understanding the potential impact on ratepayers and community's collective understanding of the proposal and what would be provided by the increased funds, and importantly the capacity and willingness of ratepayers to pay.
- A thorough community information and consultation program is being implemented that will include:
 - community information sessions;
 - the establishment of a dedicated webpage including a rates calculator;
 - an independent phone survey;
 - a formal public exhibition period of the modelling, when community feedback will be sought;
 - the distribution of information through Council's social media channels, the Council News publication and the local media;
 - a community survey; and
 - a final report to Council.
- At the conclusion of this, Councillors will decide, in November this year, whether to pursue the SRV through a formal application to IPART.

Who is IPART?

IPART is the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, a State Government Agency responsible for determining the maximum price increase for a number of utilities and services including local government rates. For more information on IPART visit www.ipart.nsw.gov.au (External link)

When does the special rate variation application need to be submitted by?

Each year, councils wishing to apply for a special variation apply to IPART in February. The applications are assessed against criteria listed in the Office of Local Government's Guidelines. These include undertaking long term financial planning, ensuring community awareness of the need and extent of the proposed increase in rates, and consideration of the impact on ratepayers and the community's capacity and willingness to pay. In addition, councils must meet criteria related to productivity improvements.

HAVE YOUR SAY

on the future of our Swimming Pools

Take our Survey

Online at begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay

or complete the following pages and post back to:
Bega Valley Shire Council, PO Box 492, Bega 2550
or drop it in to your local library or the Council Office in Bega

Take Our Survey

The Bega Valley Shire Council is conducting research in regard to the Swimming Pool Facilities in the region to inform the Swimming Pools Strategy.

This community survey is an essential part of the research and we would appreciate your time in completing the survey. You can fill this survey in and mail or drop off to the Council office or your local library. You can also complete it online begavalley.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay

- Q1. Please Specify which age group you belong to:

☐ 18-24

☐ 25-34

☐ 35-44

☐ 45-54

☐ 55-64

☐ 65+
- Q2. Do you have any children under the age of 18 living in your household?

☐ Yes

☐ No
- Q3. Which locality in the Bega Valley Shire do you reside?

☐ Bega

☐ Pambula

☐ Bemboka

☐ Quaama

☐ Bermagui

☐ Tathra

☐ Candelo

☐ Towamba

☐ Cobargo

☐ Tura Beach

☐ Eden

☐ Wolumla

☐ Merimbula

☐ Wyndham
- Q4. Which of the following pools do you regularly use? Please select as many that apply.

☐ Bega

☐ Cobargo

☐ Bemboka

☐ Eden

☐ Candelo

☐ Sapphire Aquatic Centre

☐ None of the above
- Q5. Which of the following do you consider to be your local pool? Please select one option only.

☐ Bega

☐ Cobargo

☐ Bemboka

☐ Eden

☐ Candelo

☐ Sapphire Aquatic Centre

☐ Unsure

- Q6. On average, how many times per month do you currently use public swimming pools? Please select one option.

☐ Less often than monthly

☐ 1-5

☐ 16-20

☐ 6-10

☐ 21+

☐ 11-15

☐ I have not used the pools in the past 12 months.
- Q7. And who uses the pools?

☐ Myself

☐ Children

☐ Partner

☐ Other
- Q8. Why is your local pool important to you? Please select as many that apply.

☐ Sense of community

☐ For health & wellbeing

☐ For fitness related activities

☐ Somewhere to cool off in summer

☐ Social interaction

☐ Spending family time

☐ Water safety and education

☐ Enjoyment

☐ Other (please specify)
- Q9. What do you mostly use public pools for? Please select as many that apply.

☐ Exercise / Classes

☐ Lap Swimming

☐ Learn to Swim

☐ Recreation / Relaxing

☐ Rehabilitation

☐ Swim Club / Squads

☐ Other (please specify)

The Bega Valley Shire Council has resolved to develop a six-pool swimming pool strategy, with facilities that meet legislative and compliance requirements and operate at modern standards. The following questions are related to this goal and the Swimming Pools Strategy Discussion Paper, which is currently on exhibition.

- Q10. Do you agree with the council's goal to keep six public pools within the Bega Valley Shire?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure
- Q11. How important is it to you that our six public pool facilities meet modern standards and expectations?

☐ Extremely important

☐ Very important

☐ Moderately important

☐ Slightly important

☐ Not at all important
- Q12. If your local pool was upgraded to modern standards, how would it impact your visitation?

☐ I would increase my visits

☐ It would stay the same

☐ I would decrease my visits

☐ I do not use pools

As part of the goal of keeping six public pools within the Bega Valley Shire, Council requires additional funding. The council is considering a Special Rates Variation. The average increase on individual ratepayers would be \$2.82 per household per week. (This is based on a land value of \$204,000 with the increase in general rates being \$146.82 per year.)

Q13. How willing are you to pay more in rates to upgrade and keep six public pools open within the Bega Valley Shire into the future?

- ☐ Extremely willing
- ☐ Very willing
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Very unwilling
- ☐ Extremely unwilling

Q14. Why did you say this?

Q15. How likely would you be to support reducing the opening hours to better manage costs for operating the pools?

- ☐ Extremely likely
- ☐ Very likely
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Very unlikely
- ☐ Extremely unlikely

Q16. Why did you say this?

Q17. How likely would you be to support reducing the season length to better manage costs for operating the pools?

- ☐ Extremely likely
- ☐ Very likely
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Very unlikely
- ☐ Extremely unlikely

Q18. Why did you say this?

Q19. What would be the impact on you if your local pool was closed due to asset failure or lack of funding?

- ☐ Very Low: No big deal. I'd go to another pool or I'd do another activity
- ☐ Low: I'd be disappointed, and I'd have to make some changes, but I'd work it out.
- ☐ Medium: I really enjoy the pool. I'd have to make major changes to keep swimming
- ☐ High: I have no other options and the pool is really important to me. I'd have to stop swimming.

Q20. Thank you for completing the survey.
Before you finish, do you have any final feedback or comments about the provision or management of aquatic facilities and services in the Bega Valley area?