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**Project title: RONGOTAI COLLEGE POOL RE-DEVELOPMENT**  
**KAA: RECREATION AND LEISURE**

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### 1. Project summary

The development of a deep water pool on the site of the existing school pool located at Rongotai College to meet expressed demand for aquatic sports such as waterpolo, underwater hockey and canoe polo.

### 2. Submissions

Council received a total of eight submissions. Four were from representative organisations with the remainder from individuals.

- Wellington Waterpolo Board
- Rongotai College and its Board of Trustees
- Wellington Canoe Polo Association
- Harbour City Waterpolo Club

### 3. Relationship to Existing Activities

It is accepted that there is a lack of deep water (2m) pools to meet demand for aquatic sport. The Wellington Regional aquatic centre provides the only appropriate space for sports of this type in the city. WRAC is not able to meet demand for these sports which are the fastest growing of all aquatic sports. Water polo participation is expected to double from 16,000 to 35,000 nationally by 2008.<sup>1</sup>

The Councils response to this growth to date:

1. The Council has committed to the development of leisure and waterplay space at the aquatic centre will go some way to meeting demand. This enables greater use of the existing two deep water pools at the centre for training and competition.
2. Future growth in the northern suburbs which has no deep water space is identified in future development of the Keith Spry Pool. Pools Asset Management plan has the re-development project starting in 2006/07.
3. A grant has been made to the Harbour City Waterpolo Club (\$15,000) to carry out a Feasibility study for the further development of deep water space in the eastern suburbs.

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<sup>1</sup> New Zealand Waterpolo Strategic Plan

### 4. Project Outline

Rongotai College has invited proposals for the redevelopment of its pool and in principle is prepared land and buildings but has no funding to commit to such a project.

New Zealand Waterpolo has as a strategic direction and investment a desire to see provided three new pools for the sport of waterpolo over the next four years. Wellington is considered the priority area for the next pool.

Wellington is losing its position as a competitive centre for waterpolo to Auckland and is in danger of losing national and international events in the future as WRAC cannot meet demand for the number of games and events without splitting competition with other centres.

An additional deepwater pool 30m x 25 x 2m would provide greater access for primary, secondary, club, provincial and national training and competition.

The proposed closure of the BGI Pool will put further pressure on existing public swimming pool facilities and programmes.

Council has provided funding for a feasibility study to determine demand, appropriate location and funding sources. Supporters of this project compare the partnership policy and funding commitment of the Auckland City to development of recreation facilities as an approach that the Wellington City Council should consider and continue the precedent set when it committed \$890,000 funding to the development of a recreation centre at Tawa College.

### 5. Conclusion

Demand exists for additional deep water pool space in the city. A site at Rongotai College can be made available for development and this site is preferred given its proximity to existing deep water pool space and other amenities.

Representative local clubs, provincial and national associations are committed to provision of additional facilities to meet demand for their respective sports.

### 6. Recommendation

It is recommended that Council consider the outcomes of the feasibility study once it is completed.