

MEDIA RELEASE

LEISURE CENTRE EXPANSION BACK ON BUDGET

The Port Lincoln Leisure Centre expansion project will deliver one additional 'show court' basketball and indoor sports court, after the Port Lincoln Council's decision in response to the latest cost estimates based on designs for a two-court option. The project also includes three new squash courts, upgrades to toilets and other facilities in the stadium, a new lift, a new play court for the indoor aquatic facility area and major car park upgrade.

Recent cost estimates have shown a major cost over-run of over \$900,000, over the Commonwealth grant funded project budget of \$4.4 million, due mainly to the delay in finalising the grant agreement and the advancement of the design work identifying additional expected costs.

Acting Mayor Neville Starke said "This meant we had to make some hard decisions about what will be affordable, while meeting our grant agreement obligations, managing a range of project risks and maximising value from the \$4.4 million grant funds".

Other options included proceeding with the two-court design, with a likely major budget over-spend to be funded by Council; or abandoning the stadium expansion project, which would involve Council having to pay the project costs so far.

"It is disappointing for all involved to have to revert to the one-court scope, but we had to accept that the two-court result can't be achieved with the funds available. This would have compromised the Council's ability to deliver other projects into the future".

"This decision represents a return to the original one-court scope that we proposed back in early 2016, but means we can deliver a quality community facility catering for expanding basketball and other indoor sports needs", said Acting Mayor Neville Starke.

The revised scope will need to be confirmed by the Community Development Grants Program.

Registrations of interest have been completed for the construction tendering process in anticipation of final designs and approvals being in place by late 2017. A project completion date of September 2018 is now planned.

Rob Donaldson
Chief Executive Officer

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