

MATAURA POOL DEMOLITION

The Gore District Council is about to call for tenders to demolish the Mataura Centennial Pool.

Opened in 1956, the pool was a hive of activity in its heyday. Fast forward to when it was closed in April 2017, and it was a decaying shell with failing, outdated infrastructure.

On a good day, there would be five or six patrons. On a bad day, no one would come through the door to swim.

There have been calls to reopen the pool over the last six years. Unfortunately, the reality is the time has come for the building to make way for something that reflects today's recreational needs of the community.

Here are some of the reasons why re-opening the pool isn't an option.

THE FACTS

- The building's earthquake safety rating is only 12%. The minimum for a public building is 67%.
- The filtration system needs to be upgraded.
- The filtration system needs to be reconfigured to separate the toddlers pool and main pool systems. They are currently linked, meaning a Code Brown in one pool impacts the other.
- There were constant issues with the coal-fired heating system, mainly due to the auger.
- We'd probably have to replace the coal-fire heating with something more environmental-friendly.
- A new chlorination system would be needed.
- Pipe issues – water has managed to enter the pool tank even when all valves are closed. Finding the cause would require a lot of time and money.
- Smell – noxious odours from nearby industries would permeate the entire building. Despite constantly cleaning the drains, we never discovered exactly how the smell managed to linger.
- We'd need to buy new water pumps. Only one small pump, used for chlorination, remains on-site.

THE COST

As you can see, the list of issues is extensive. In reality, we would be starting at square one. The pool would need to be rebuilt from the ground up, including all the infrastructure. The building must be compliant and safe for the community to use.

We estimate to get the building and pools up to a safe level for community use would be **well over \$5 million**. This cost is based on other projects and similar builds.

THE FUTURE

A lot of towns have swimming pools. But Mātaura is set to become the **ONLY** town south of Christchurch with a splash pad.

What is a splash pad? It is simply an area fitted with a non-slip surface and various nozzles and features that can shower, spray, rain, mist, and shoot streams of water. Sounds like fun for all ages!

But wait – there's more. There are plans to resurface the old basketball court and build new toilets and a changing room. Combined with the existing pump track and playground, the new activity areas will make Tulloch Park a must-do attraction for locals and visitors.

The total investment will be about \$1 million. The Council has already committed \$500k from the 3 Waters Better Off Funding scheme and is looking to raise a further \$500k from external funders.

Overseeing the final designs are individuals from across the Mātaura community, including community advocates, youth, Active Southland and the Mātaura Community Board.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with your community board members or Mātaura ward councillor.

Their contact details are on our website
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