

# 100 per cent renewable energy to power WaterMarc Aquatic Centre

## We are seeking:

A \$3 million Federal Government investment for the electrification of WaterMarc Aquatic Centre in 2024-2025, enabling the facility to run on 100% renewable energy.



**WaterMarc Aquatic Centre is planned to be fully electrified by 2026 to achieve net zero emissions and run on 100 per cent renewable energy.**

The centre relies on four gas boilers to maintain a constant temperature of its pool water, pool hall and office area. They consume about 38,000,000 MJ/yr and cost in excess of \$400,000 to operate. Electrifying the site will remove all emissions from onsite operations, and the electric replacement heat pumps will be three to five times more energy efficient than the boilers.

## Overview

10 years ago, natural gas produced six times less CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than Victorian grid electricity, and was therefore considered a far cleaner source of energy.

However, grid electricity has become 30% cleaner since then, and with the options of offsetting electricity consumption through solar system generation or green power schemes, it can produce zero net emission.

Natural gas on the other hand still produces the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, making it a far worse power source for the future.

Banyule's electricity comes from renewable sources through the VECO program, and therefore doesn't emit any emissions at all.

In order to achieve our net zero emission target by 2028, it is imperative that all gas consuming equipment be upgraded to efficient electrical equipment.

# WaterMarc Aquatic Centre upgrade

Banyule City Council has committed to upgrading the WaterMarc Aquatic Centre.

**The \$3 million upgrade of the plantroom equipment will provide a net zero emission recreational facility for the residents of the City of Banyule.**

WaterMarc Aquatic Centre in Greensborough is the largest aquatic and leisure facility in Victoria's northern region, offering the best in swimming, fitness and fun for kids.

This multi-activity regional facility serves the Greensborough community and surrounding suburbs.

Visitors can experience advanced aquatic and leisure programs and facilities which caters for the inclusion of people of all ages and abilities.

**A state-of-the-art leisure facility, WaterMarc provides a range of amenities for the community, including an indoor 50-metre Olympic swimming pool.**

The children become confident in and around the water whilst enjoying our leisure and toddler pools. The warm water program pool, spa, sauna and steam room facilities provide health benefits to users. And for those seeking adrenaline rush, the Tantrum Alley waterslide is another feature.

# Environmental benefits

Banyule City Council is investing in a greener environment, and that includes the upgrade of Council's facilities for more efficient use of its energy and water use. This is a necessary aspect to achieve Council's net zero carbon target.

Our aquatic centres produce the highest amount of carbon emissions of all Council activities, accounting for 52 per cent of all emissions produced. If electrification of WaterMarc does not take place, Council will not meet its target of being carbon neutral by 2028.

**Council has already spent \$1.5million on initiatives that will reduce the current energy usage at WaterMarc.**

These include:

- Installation of pool blankets
- Installation of monitoring sensors
- Improvements to building controls
- Upgrade of pool pumps and filtration controls
- Replacement of air conditioning
- Installation of cafe auto door to reduce heat loss
- lighting controls

These works ensure our electricity consumption is reduced to as little as possible in preparation for the transfer to full electricity. Additionally, electrification of the facility will provide environment savings for the civic and government offices above WaterMarc.

As the majority of the building's total gas usage relates to the pool water and pool hall, a precinct wide electrification would see electrification of the upstairs office spaces for an additional small cost. More than \$1.2 million would be saved than if undertaking these projects separately.

# Council's commitment to carbon neutrality

**Banyule Council is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2028.**

Carbon neutrality means that the net greenhouse gas emissions arising from Council operations will be zero. This will be achieved by transitioning away from fossil fuel reliant technology (such as gas, diesel and petrol) to renewables forms of energy, reducing energy consumption and improving energy efficiency.

Council recognises that human activities such as burning fossil fuels (coal, gas, petrol and diesel) and clearing vegetation are causing global climate change.

We acknowledge that while the earth's climate has gradually changed throughout history, scientists have agreed that the substantial and very rapid changes we've seen over the past hundred years or so are caused by human activities.

Unless we take significant action now, we are on track for a rise in temperature of between 4-6°C in this short period.