









GUNNEDAH MEMORIAL POOL RENEWAL PROJECT NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

-  It's Started!
-  Memorial Retained
-  The First Sod
-  Recording Construction
-  Economic Benefit
-  Resources for Regions Grant Fund
-  Christmas/New Year/Australia Day
-  The Project So Far - Photo Gallery

IT'S STARTED!

Work on the multi-million dollar upgrade of the Gunnedah Memorial Pool Complex started on October 16 with the contractor, Hines Constructions of Bathurst, taking possession of the site.

During November, the walls, floor and residual rubble of the two pools was removed. The demolition works exposed the limited life of the old pools, with evidence of concrete cancer and failing pipe work revealed, particularly in the 50 metre pool. Following demolition of the pools, the focus turned to the main pavilion. After securing the War Memorial sandstone tower (which is to be retained) the contractor has undertaken the complex task of demolishing various sections of the pavilion building. The south western walls of the existing pavilion along with the basement will be retained as part of the redevelopment. This has required sensitive extrication of several large concrete beams and slabs from the structure to ensure these walls and the memorial tower are not compromised.

From early December, demolition works moved to clean-up mode with steel from the site being recycled, masonry rubble being prepared for reuse on the site and waste materials disposed of to the Gunnedah Waste Management Facility. Excavation of the 50 metre pool involving rock removal is expected to be completed by Christmas.

Construction works on the 50 metre pool, and new main pavilion will start in January 2018. The project remains on time with the renewed and upgraded facility to be completed by October 2018.

MEMORIAL RETAINED

The imposing sandstone war memorial at the entry to the Gunnedah Memorial Pool Complex will be maintained and refurbished as part of the overall renewal of the complex. Featuring the three services – navy, army and airforce, the sandstone sculpture has been retained by Architects GHD Pty Ltd in the overall design for the redeveloped pavilion building. The contractor initiated retention and protection works on the Memorial prior to commencement of demolition works on the pavilion. An iconic structure in the Anzac Park precinct, the Memorial was dedicated on 14 February 1959 to 'all those who served Australia at war'.

THE FIRST SOD

To recognise the commencement of work on the project the Mayor of Gunnedah Cr Jamie Chaffey hosted a 'sod turning' ceremony at the pool complex on October 24. The ceremony was attended by 70 guests including Councillors, past Councillors, Pool Working Group members, representatives of the Gunnedah Swimming Club, various community members who have had a long association with the pool complex and members of Hines Constructions executive team.

Photo: David Hines, Cr Owen Hasler, Cr Jamie Chaffey & Cr Gae Swain turn the first sod.



RECORDING CONSTRUCTION

The construction of the renewed Gunnedah Memorial Pool Complex will be recorded digitally for historical purposes. Much as the grainy pictures of the 1950s provide an insight into the development of the complex, the digital time-lapse camera on the existing Plant Room will provide a daily record of current construction work. Set to record an image every 10 minutes, the camera will provide a daily overview of work on the facility and at the completion of the project a rolling record of the evolution of this state-of-the-art community facility.



Photo: Demolition work on the Gunnedah Memorial Pool Complex as captured by the digital time-lapse camera.

ECONOMIC BENEFIT

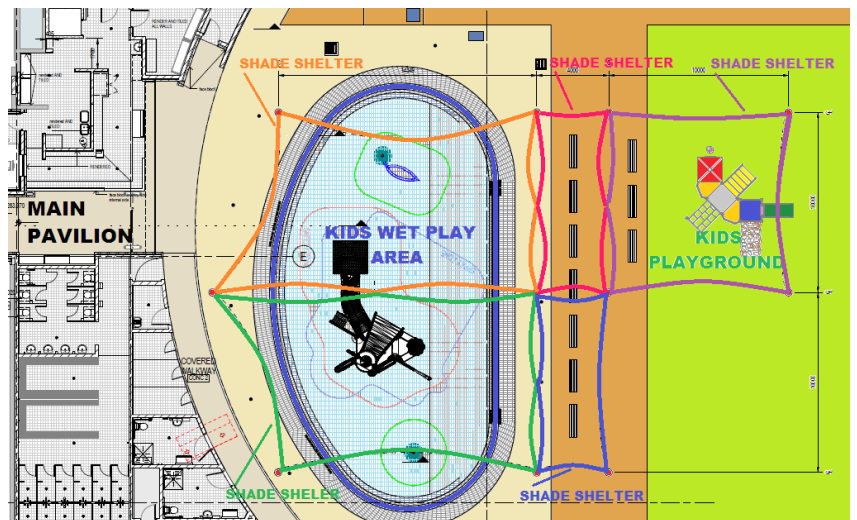
A number of Gunnedah businesses and those from the north west region will provide services and materials for this significant community infrastructure project. Hines Constructions has let many of its sub-contracts for the project with 30% of the selected subbies and suppliers being from the north west region. Despite the need for specialist technical skills or capabilities in a number of areas 70% of the subbies and suppliers engaged to date are from regional NSW.

RESOURCES FOR REGIONS - STAGE 1B

Council's application to the NSW Government's Resources for Regions Grant Fund to support installation of two large canopies over the Kids Wet Play Area and the 50 metres pool, as well as shelters and additional landscaping has been unsuccessful. The elements identified in Stage 1(b) of the complex Master Plan support the long-term redevelopment of the facility.

Despite the failure of the grant application, provision has been made in the construction contract for installation of extensive shade shelters over the Kids Wet Play Area and the Kids Playground. Provision has also been made in the current construction program to support installation of the canopies in the future should funding become available.

Graphic: An illustration of the planned shade shelters over the Kids Wet Play area and Kids Playground.



CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR / AUSTRALIA DAY

Construction work on the site will be suspended over the Christmas New Year period. The last day of work before Christmas will be Friday, December 22. Construction work on the project will recommence on Monday, January 8, 2018, although some demolition clean up will occur from Tuesday, 2 January 2018.

The conduct of the Australia Day Triathlon on January 26 2018 at the pool complex will not be affected by the construction works. Hines Constructions has agreed to adjust the alignment of the perimeter fencing, near the gate entry off Eighth Division Memorial Avenue, to its site management compound to allow the cycling leg of the triathlon at the pool complex to be conducted over the traditional course.

THE PROJECT SO FAR - PHOTO GALLERY

