

# Borroloola Aquatic Complex Master Plan

## Project Outline

Building healthy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is one of the greatest public health challenges that Australia faces. Communities will be considered to be healthier only when the physical wellbeing of the individual and the social, emotional, and cultural wellbeing of the whole community has been improved.

Following a Northern Territory Government commitment to assist with the funding of a swimming pool the Council, key stakeholders and the community of Borroloola commissioned a Master Plan so that they may further develop the opportunity to construct a swimming pool in Borroloola.

## Findings

The development of a swimming pool complex in Borroloola would deliver a range of key benefits that include but are not limited to:

- Increased participation in physical activity;
- Health benefits through the potential reduction in skin sores, eye and ear infections and the improvement of cardiovascular function;
- Social and community development through the creation of a much needed, centrally located facility that can be utilised by the whole community for an extensive range of social and recreational purposes;
- Community ownership and pride through the development of 'new' infrastructure;
- The development of enhanced stakeholder partnerships through adopting an across Government approach and understanding to the planning, funding, development and benefits that such a facility would deliver; and
- The creation of a safe and clean swimming environment for the community.

There is demand for a swimming facilities that will cater for the whole family and today people prefer more social, casual and uncommitted use of pools. There is also increasing demand for pool facilities to encompass additional non-water based dry, social and physical activities and a growing use of swimming pools by people with special needs such as the elderly.

The master plan and associated study concludes that there is a high demand and high level of user commitment for the establishment of an integrated multi-activity, social and recreational pool facility to be developed on and around the site of the Borroloola School. The establishment of a model that delivers a high level of long term sustainability and multiuse was at the forefront of the planning process. The development of a Borroloola Community Council multi-user partnership with the Northern Territory Department of Education would potentially see the facility utilised and managed by Borroloola School during school hours and managed by the Community Council after school hours and on weekends and school holidays.

