



Gilgandra Recreation Centre (GRC) Project

Project Update – April 2026 (Update #1)

Stage 1: Master Planning and Concept Development application for Early Works

Gilgandra Shire Council (Council) has progressed the Gilgandra Recreation Centre (GRC) project into the master planning phase, following Council's resolution on 17 March 2026. This marks a key transition from planning and consultation into structured design development for the Hunter Park Precinct.

Extensive preparatory work has been completed to support this milestone. This includes establishment of a project governance framework, delivery of multiple Council workshops, and ongoing engagement through the Hunter Park Precinct Stakeholder Group. Community and user group consultation has also informed the project direction, alongside analysis of current facility use, future demand, and population growth aligned with Council's other Towards 5000 strategic plans.

Feedback across all engagement activities has been consistent, identifying a shared objective for flexible, multi-use infrastructure that supports long-term community needs. Based on this input, Council has endorsed a scope of infrastructure elements to be tested through the master planning process which are:

- 50 Metre, 6 Lane Pool
- Learn-to-Swim / Wading Pool
- Waterpark
- Indoor Multipurpose Court (with timber-sprung flooring)
- Outdoor Multipurpose Court
- Tennis Courts
- Gym and Fitness Centre
- Youth Spaces (drop-in zone, chillout areas, shared meeting/office space and a meal-prep area)
- Pool Heating (both Learn-to-Swim and 50 Metre)
- Site-wide planning, including car parking, landscaping, access, signage, shared amenities, kiosk and administration areas

Procurement is currently underway to appoint a Principal Design Consultant, who will lead the development of the site-wide masterplan, concept designs, required technical investigations and submission of a concept and pre-construction activities development application. This phase will confirm layout, staging, and feasibility, and will inform the next stages of detailed design and

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delivery. An independent quantity survey will be undertaken following completion of the masterplan to provide an updated cost estimate for the construction phase of the project.

The project is supported by Federal Government grant funding which requires delivery within defined timeframes. As such, alignment of scope, budget, and program will be a key focus throughout the master planning phase. In addition to the \$14m grant, Council has confirmed its commitment to a \$2m contribution to the project.

Stage 1 master planning is targeted for completion by October 2026, subject to procurement and project milestones. Council will continue to provide regular project updates as the project progresses.

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