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MEDIA RELEASE

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SITE IDENTIFIED FOR NEW AQUATIC CENTRE IN PARRAMATTA

A site has been identified for a new aquatic centre to replace the Parramatta Swimming Centre which will close to build the new Western Sydney Stadium.

Minister for Sport Stuart Ayres said the eastern end of the former Parramatta Golf Course has been pinpointed following work between the NSW Government, the City of Parramatta and the site's owner, Parramatta Park Trust.

"A feasibility study will now be conducted to confirm the suitability of the former Golf Course site and a master plan will be developed to explore opportunities for the area to be upgraded and repurposed for public use," Mr Ayres said.

"Subject to the finalisation of funding arrangements, the City of Parramatta Council will be responsible for delivering the new aquatic centre."

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Andrew Constance said the master planning process will be led by the Parramatta Park Trust and will involve extensive public consultation at no expense to Parramatta Park Trust.

"The Parramatta Park Trust will lead the master planning process and in doing so, will not lose commercially as a result of a decision to relocate the pool to the golf course site."

"We want to get the best result for the community and will be working closely with the Council and the Trust to progress the former golf course site proposal," Mr Constance said.

The planning work undertaken for the new Western Sydney Stadium project has now confirmed the need to permanently close the adjacent Parramatta Swimming Centre due to the 50 per cent greater seating capacity (20,000 to 30,000), which requires a larger footprint.

The bigger footprint is also needed as a result of modern security requirements that mean more circulation zones around the stadium and due to the need for improved pedestrian and vehicle access along O'Connell Street and from neighbouring areas.

Administrator of the City of Parramatta, Amanda Chadwick, said the State Government's masterplan is a good opportunity for Council to design and build a modern aquatic facility close to the CBD.

“We know our residents and workers want and need a swimming centre that is close to the CBD to support health and fitness and to provide swimming classes and school activities,” Ms Chadwick said.

“We look forward to working with the Government, particularly the Parramatta Park Trust, on the feasibility and master planning work.”

Member for Parramatta Geoff Lee confirmed the swimming centre would remain open throughout the 2016/17 summer season until the end of March 2017.

“The construction of a replacement aquatic centre is likely to take a minimum of two years, and interim arrangements are being developed to minimise inconvenience for the pool’s patrons, including the Parramatta Swimming Club,” Mr Lee said.

“Not only will Parramatta be home to a world class stadium, but we’ll also have access to a brand new aquatic facility that will meet the needs of our community.”

Earlier this month, the NSW Government called for Expressions of Interest from the private sector to design and construct the new Stadium.

The contract will be awarded in late 2016 with the new Stadium set to open in 2019.

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