

Marlborough Lines Stadium 2000  
PO Box 2000  
Blenheim

5 May 2023

To whom it may concern:

**Supporting information for MDC Annual Plan Submission**

The Marlborough Stadium Trust is a charitable trust operating a range of leisure facilities for the benefit of the wider community. It has very successfully operated the current aquatic centre along with associated stadium and other facilities and community programmes for 23 years.

To that end the facility is 'the centre of activity' for Marlborough and represents an 'integral hub' of our community. Our most recent annual report is attached to provide an overview of our organisation and benefits it provides to our community.


The trust has a very long-term lease from the Marlborough District Council of the aquatic and stadium facilities and is supported by an operating grant from Council. The operating grant of \$800k for the aquatics centre and \$39k for the stadium was established around 10 years ago and the operating grant has remained at that level to this date. The aquatics centre and stadium are operated for the benefit of the community and as a result these cost centres operate at a net operating deficit.

Our charitable trust is required to provide for a shortfall for aquatic operations and stadium operations. The shortfall is considerably greater today than when the operating grant was first established 10 years ago. We are the sole aquatic facility in Blenheim and the core aquatic facility provided to service the whole Marlborough region. The current contribution from Local Authority is less than 22% of total revenue. Significant increases in expenditure items including insurances, wages, energy costs and ongoing repairs and maintenance have been substantially absorbed by the trust to date.

While the trust has some reserves, these represent our communities' contributions of many years of operation and are responsibly managed for asset replacement. Costs associated with facility operations have increased significantly over recent years and we are seeking an annual CPI adjustment to our operation grant already in place. This will keep the grant relevant with the hope of not imposing major additional expense on the Council for our existing facilities to be maintained. The community use and financial operation is contained in our public annual report and the unqualified audit achieved every year.

The trust notes that the Long-Term Plan proposed an increase to the trust's grants from Council and this submission seeks to request that is upheld in the Annual Plan process. On behalf of the trustees, we sincerely thank you for your support and contributions to date both to our business and the community we serve. We hereby submit for approval an annual CPI adjustment to the existing annual grant and wish to speak to this submission if further information is required in seeking Council's support of our submission.

Yours faithfully

  
Matt Kerr  
Chairperson  
Marlborough Stadium Trust