

# The Sydney Morning Herald

## Construction to begin on Sydney's largest aquatic centre since the 2000 Olympics

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Construction will begin next month on the largest aquatic centre to be built in Sydney since the 2000 Olympic Games.

Locals living in the surrounding Green Square precinct will be able to dive into one of the centre's multiple pools as early as 2020, with works to begin in February, the City of Sydney confirmed.



An artist's impression of the Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre. Photo: City of Sydney and Andrew Burges Architects with Grimshaw and TCL.

The council announced on Monday it had signed a contract with Sydney-based construction company CPB Contractors to build the \$84 million Gunyama Park and Aquatic Centre.

The announcement comes more than three years after local architect Andrew Burges' "beach pool" concept was chosen as the winning design for the aquatic centre, beating more than 140 other entries in a design competition run by the council.

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Construction will begin in February on the Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre in Green Square. Photo: City of Sydney and Andrew Burges Architects with Grimshaw and TCL.

The facility will feature multiple pools, including a 50-metre outdoor heated pool, a 25-metre indoor pool for swimming lessons, and an indoor heated leisure water area and hydrotherapy pool.

Lord mayor Clover Moore said the Gunyama Park complex would be a drawcard for Green Square locals and visitors alike.

"The pool will have something for everyone, from serious swimmers looking to improve their lap times, to families wanting a safe place for their children to learn to swim or play."

The centrepiece pool - a 50-metre heated outdoor pool - will be set within a larger, irregular shaped pool, in what Mr Burges intended as an homage to Sydney's famous ocean pools.

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The \$84 million new aquatic centre will be completed by early 2020. Photo: City of Sydney and Andrew Burges Architects with Grimshaw and TCL

A co-generation scheme will heat the pools and supply electricity throughout the complex.

There will also be a creche with indoor play areas, a health and fitness centre, a multipurpose synthetic sports field, and a new public artwork by acclaimed Aboriginal artist Jonathan Jones.



Lord mayor Clover Moore said the complex "will have something for everyone". Photo: City of Sydney and Andrew Burges Architects with Grimshaw and TCL.

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The aquatic centre is expected to be a drawcard in the \$8 billion redevelopment of the Green Square precinct, which spans 278 hectares across the suburbs of Beaconsfield and Zetland, and parts of Rosebery, Alexandria and Waterloo.

But the frenetic pace of development has fuelled concerns about Green Square's existing transport issues and infrastructure issues.

By 2030, Green Square will accommodate close to 61,000 residents in 30,500 new homes, and provide around 21,000 permanent jobs, making it one of Australia's most densely populated suburbs.

The City of Sydney has urged the government to do more to avert a looming-capacity crisis, with Cr Moore previously describing a light-rail connection as "urgently needed".

Education minister Rob Stokes heeded calls for a new school in the area, announcing in December that a new multi-storey primary school would be built on the former South Sydney hospital site.