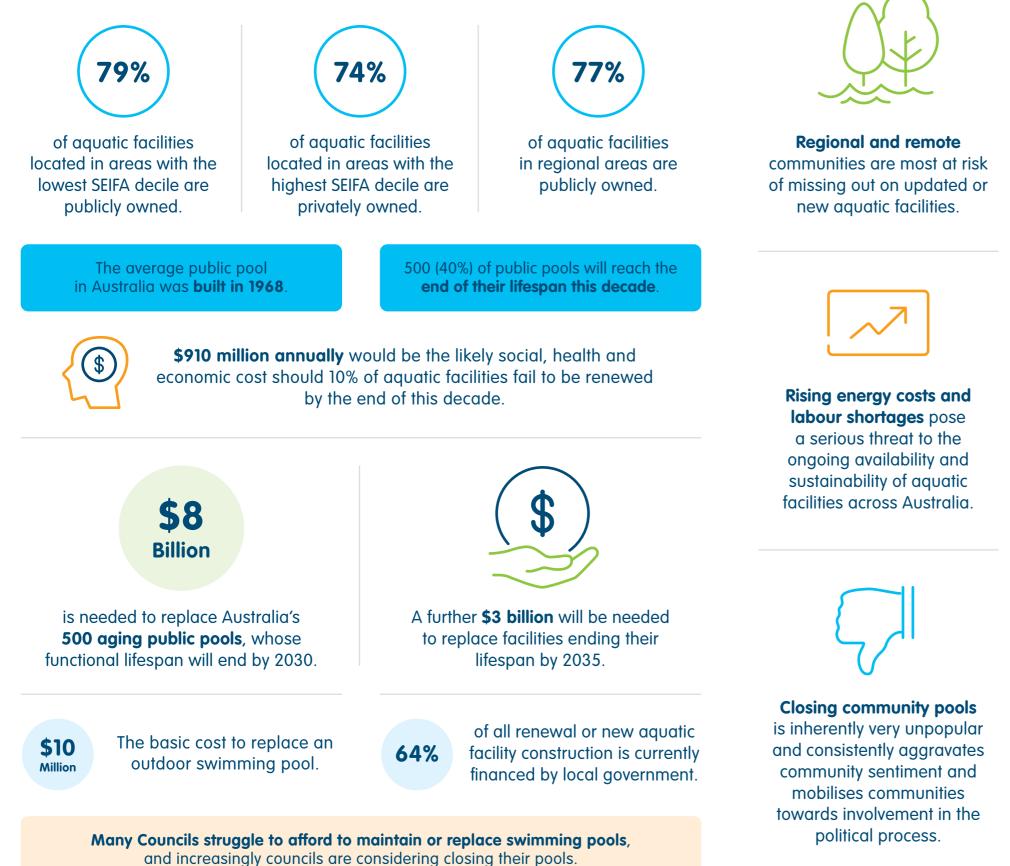
THE STATE OF AQUATIC FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE IN AUSTRALIA: KEY FINDINGS

In Australia, in 2022, there are **1,306 public pools** built and owned by government and 807 publicly accessible pools provided by the private sector.



KEY OPPORTUNITIES

Beyond a straight 'like-for-like' replacement of all aging aquatic facilities, which is likely unrealistic, several case studies show opportunities to rethink the Australian approach to aquatic facility provisioning in Australia.

These include:

- Prioritising function over form and keeping new designs simple, modular and scalable.
- Exploring new ways of funding swimming pool infrastructure, such as Public-Private-Partnerships, which can spread both risks and rewards.
- Considering lowering access barriers to increase the use and impact of existing aquatic facilities. In some cases, removing entry fees has resulted in net neutral operating costs while increasing asset utilisation and social value.
- Exploring opportunities for local governments to collaborate and partner on aquatic facility provisioning and sharing of costs and benefits.
- Considering how the private sector can provide benefits traditionally serviced by local governments while being mindful that some activities and facilities require subsidies, such as lap swimming and recreational swimming.



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