

Media Release

Thursday 4 December 2008

Official name and partner announced for aquatic centre

Launceston Aquatic was today announced as the official name of Launceston's new regional aquatic centre and the Centre's new logo bearing this name was released. Rio Tinto Alcan was also revealed as the major partner of the state-of-the-art centre as part of Council and Rio Tinto Alcan's recently formed partnership.

A memorandum of understanding between the two organisations was signed in August, committing the parties to work together on a range of innovative programs focused on the three key areas of science education, health and wellbeing and climate change. The partnership follows a successful collaboration between Council and Rio Tinto Alcan to create the highly successful interactive science centre, Phenomena Factory, at Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, at Inveresk.

This latest announcement for the new aquatic centre is the first initiative within the area of health and wellbeing under the partnership.

Rio Tinto Alcan will contribute \$1 million over ten years. This significant injection represents Rio Tinto Alcan's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of the community and its employees.

Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten said "The aquatic centre project is entering an exciting new stage and it's fantastic that our partnership has extended to the new centre. Our partnership with Rio Tinto Alcan is already providing great benefits for the community and I look forward to continue working with the organisation to develop further initiatives".

Rio Tinto Alcan General Manager John Lemberg said the Bell Bay aluminium smelter has a long and proud history of supporting the Tasmanian community. "Our commitment to the regional aquatic centre is another example of how Rio Tinto Alcan actively works with the community to improve quality of life.

"Health and wellbeing is an important area for our business, the Council and the broader community. By providing first class swim and recreational facilities, Launceston Aquatic can help to advance the promotion of healthier lifestyles" he said.

Launceston Aquatic is on track and on budget for completion in May 2009. Construction is continuing to surge ahead with tiling completed in the 50 metre pool as well as the tiered concrete seating along the southern side of the pool. The ceiling of the indoor leisure pool hall is almost complete and glazing has been installed. Work is continuing on the first floor level with the installation of the passenger lift. Work has commenced on the outdoor leisure area with the laying of the foundations for the outdoor water slide and landscaping around the outdoor pools. The car park south of Memorial Avenue has been completed and work on the new footpath and roadwork along High Street is in progress.

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