

Changing Places and All Abilities Upgrades at Ballarat Aquatic & Lifestyle Centre



Easy Read

About this document

This information is from the **City of Ballarat**.

This document is written in **Easy Read**.



Easy Read:

- uses simple words
- uses short sentences
- uses pictures to explain the words



This document is a **summary**

A summary:

- gives the main information
- does not include everything

This document is about:

- building upgrades at Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre (BALC)
- better access for people with disability

It is okay to ask someone to help you read this document.



Getting help

It is okay to ask:

- a family member
- a friend
- a support worker
- City of Ballarat staff

They can help you understand this information.







What is happening

The City of Ballarat is improving facilities at the Ballarat Aquatic & Lifestyle Centre (BALC).

BALC is an aquatic and leisure centre.

The City of Ballarat is making changes to the building.

These changes are for:





-  people with disability
-  people who need easier access

The goal is:

- more people can join in
- more people can be active

Why these changes are important

These changes mean:

-  people can use the centre more easily
-  people feel safe
-  people feel welcome
-  people can take part in more activities





What Changing Places are

Changing Places are special bathrooms.

They are:

- bigger than standard accessible toilets
- made for people with high support needs

They have:

- a ceiling hoist
- extra space
- room for carers

Changing Places help people to:

- change safely
- feel comfortable



How these changes help people

The upgrades help people with disability to:

- move around the centre with less barriers
- use more areas safely
- access bathrooms and change rooms more easily

 This supports:

- independence
- confidence
- choice





How these changes help families and carers

Family-friendly change rooms help:

- parents
- carers
- support workers

They make it easier to:

- support someone
- stay together
- feel comfortable

Easier access around the centre

The changes include:

- automatic doors
- wider entrances
- easier access points

This helps people who:

- use wheelchairs
- use walkers
- push prams
- have limited strength



Building work

Building work will happen in **stages**.

Stages mean:

- the work is done in parts

This helps to:




- reduce disruption
- keep the centre open

Building work is planned to start:

- in **early May 2026**

Sensory changes during construction

During building work, there may be:

-  noise
-  smells
-  places that look different

The centre will:

- tell people what is happening
- try to make this less stressful for people

Sensory quiet time

- BALC has a **sensory quiet time**.

Sensory quiet time is:

- 3 to 3.45pm

During this time:

- noise is managed where possible



Access to Changing Places

Changing Places rooms use a special key.

This key is called an **MLAK**.

You need an MLAK to unlock the room.

What is an MLAK

An **MLAK** is a special access key.

It is used for:

- accessible public facilities

MLAK keys are for people who need to use these facilities.

The MLAK system helps make sure:

- facilities are clean
- facilities work properly
- people who need them can use them

Getting an MLAK

Some people can get an MLAK for free.

You may be able to get one if you have:

- a Victorian Companion Card

You can:

- apply using an MLAK application form
- visit **Rodd Locksmiths Ballarat**

Address:

**13 Armstrong Street North
Ballarat**

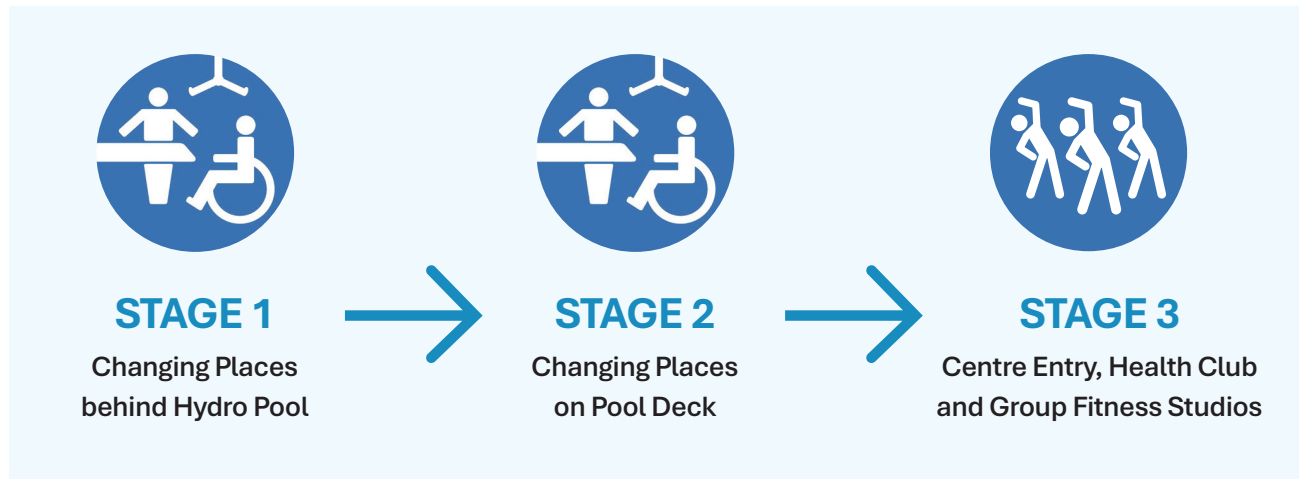


What to expect

Building work happens in **three stages**.

Each stage changes different areas.

Staff will help you during all stages.



Need help or more information?

You can contact:

Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre

 (03) 5334 2499

 balc@ballarat.vic.gov.au

 ballarataquaticcentre.com

