

South Bank-style swimming lagoon announced for Springfield's Robelle Domain Parklands

FOR just \$500,000 a year, you can have one of Australia's largest water parks named after you when it is completed in time for Christmas.

Ipswich City Council on Friday morning confirmed it is chasing a sponsor to help it pay for the upkeep of a massive expansion of the Robelle Domain Parklands water feature which will see it rival South Bank's Kodak Lagoon.

Preliminary work has already begun on stage two of a planned \$10.3 million upgrade of the parklands, the centrepiece of which will be a 1m-deep lagoon and associated water features covering 4700sq m. That is just 100sq m smaller than South Bank.

Council confirmed it would be patrolled by lifeguards but there would be no artificial beach.



An artist's impression of the lagoon at Robelle Domain. *Source:* Supplied

Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale said the lagoon was expected to attract 100,000 visitors a year.

“This is not about replacing South Bank, it’s about adding more infrastructure to southeast Queensland,” Cr Pisasale said.

“You have got to invest where the growth is.”

Springfield Land Corporation deputy chairman Bob Sharpless said it represented a significant milestone in the masterplanned community’s development.

“Springfield will become a tourist destination for tens of thousands of visitors with major economic flow-ons also to be expected across the Ipswich region,” Mr Sharpless said.

EARLIER WE REPORTED, Ipswich City Council is this morning expected to confirm it will build a South Bank-style swimming lagoon at Springfield Central’s Robelle Domain Parklands as part of the park’s \$10m stage two expansion.

The long-awaited announcement follows months of speculation, with rumours the plans had been scrapped due to funding issues leading to a 750-signature petition calling on council to guarantee the swimming hole.

The jointly-funded council and Federal Government project was first announced in July 2013.

Stage two works will expand Robelle Domain with new green space, walking tracks, floral landscaping, swimming pool and lagoon.

The swimming areas will complement the park’s existing zero-depth water playground.

Greater Springfield Community Inc Group president Daniel Gigliotti said residents wanted to see the park become the next ‘South Bank’.

“A mini South Bank will be a development that would put the greater Springfield area on map and make it a place we are all proud to call home,” he said.