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Support for city aquatic centre

By **TRISTAN LAVALETTE**

WA Water Polo has expressed interest in basing its "growing" sport at a potential aquatic centre in South Perth.

At July's meeting, South Perth Council supported Cr Travis Burrows' motion requesting the City conduct a community survey to gauge sentiment on such a facility.

WA Water Polo chief executive Dale Ballantyne said the South Perth municipality would be an ideal location to promote the sport in the southern areas.

"Water polo is predominantly a western suburbs area sport

but there are some real growth spots south of the river that we would like to tap into," he said.

"We use Challenge Stadium, which has great facilities, but there are lots of user groups competing for space. We would like to be part of any discussions if there was a multi-use aquatic centre established.

"Water polo is growing and is a good product."

Swan MHR Steve Irons started the campaign for a South Perth aquatic centre earlier this year and said he had received overwhelming community support.

"There has been a massive

response and it has been very positive," he said. "A multi-purpose centre would benefit the whole community and I think there is merit in investigating the options."

Mr Irons said he planned to hold a community forum on the issue later in the year.

South Perth Mayor James Best said the City had yet to have discussions with WA Water Polo.

"If the City proceeds with a survey, more research would need to be undertaken to gauge the community's expectations in relation to cost and type of facility," he said.