IN the lead-up to the NT election, Palmerston residents voiced a desire for a new swimming pool to be built in the satellite city. Now, with NT Labor in power, residents and the local council are ready to see some action.

Mayor Ian Abbott said council wanted a new aquatic centre to be built near Palmerston Water Park. “While the current aquatic facilities are in good condition it is noted that maintenance costs are increasing as the pool begins to approach its estimated life span of approximately 40 years — approximately 2028,” Mr Abbott said.

“At present the current Palmerston Water Park does not have a swimming pool, all facilities — gym, pool, water park in the one facility would benefit residents.”

Swimmer Pauline Dewar said there was a need for a new, modern aquatic centre in Palmerston.

“This one gets packed and we need another one for the guys in the rural area,” Ms Dewar said.

“Families love swimming, it’s a great way to involve the whole community.”

YMCA CEO Grant Fenton said he would like to see a new swimming pool built in the vacant land next to Palmerston Water Park.

“YMCA manages some major swimming centres — Learner Recreation Park, Palmerston Swimming and Fitness Centre, and Palmerston Water Park, which has multiple slides, but no swimming pool.

“The obvious place for a swimming facility is next to the water park,” Mr Fenton said. Palmerston Water Park is owned by the NT Government.

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“The obvious place for a swimming facility is next to the water park”

Beat goes on for students in NT

MORE than 700 students from schools across Darwin have taken part in a mass rehearsal for the annual Beat Festival at Marrara Indoor Stadium. It was the first chance for students from a variety of schools to come together to perform the show, Stellar, ahead of opening night on September 14. Acting principal of NT Music School Bill Grosse said it was the first rehearsal of such size.

“In previous years, students have spent all year learning their part in the Beat Festival, but only see it all come together on the night of the performance,” he said.

“This rehearsal enables us to give students and staff the opportunity to see the performance come together in advance, and understand what they’ve really been working towards all year.”

More than 1000 students will perform in the 2016 Beat Festival at the Darwin Entertainment Centre, with three shows between September 14 to 16. Student MC of this year’s show, Drew Holloway of Nightcliff Middle School, said he had been excited to see the show come together.

“The experience of becoming student MC for the Beat Festival has made this year of schooling interesting and exhilarating and I can’t wait to perform for a live audience,” he said.

The annual Beat Festival is a combined school production led by the NT Music School.

“I am proud of the dedication and creativity of Terri- tory teachers and students to work together throughout the year and to finally be able to see the finished product at today’s rehearsal,” Mr Grosse said. “The festival is an iconic event in the performing arts calendar and a show we are all very excited to perform.”

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