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# Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

## Playground renewal – Trafalgar Park, Newport

Consultation period: Friday 25 August to Sunday 1 October 2023

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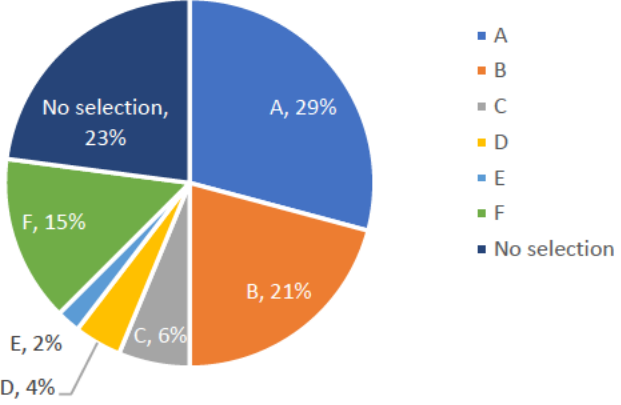

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# 1. Summary

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of a proposal to replace ageing play equipment at Trafalgar Park, Newport. The purpose of this renewal is to meet the recreational needs of the community for a neighbourhood playground.





The feedback collected during consultation indicated a high level of support for the proposed renewal with community indicating that aesthetics, and environment also play an important part of the playground renewal.

## 1.1. Key outcomes




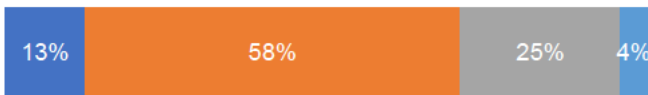
 Total unique responses	54	
 How responses were received	Comment form Written responses (email)	Completions: 48* Number received: 6
 Online question: Which style of senior (6-10 years) play piece do you prefer?	 <p>Total responses = 48</p>	
 Feedback themes	Aesthetics Environment	Other amenities Play equipment

\*35 respondents made a comment in addition to answering the sentiment question

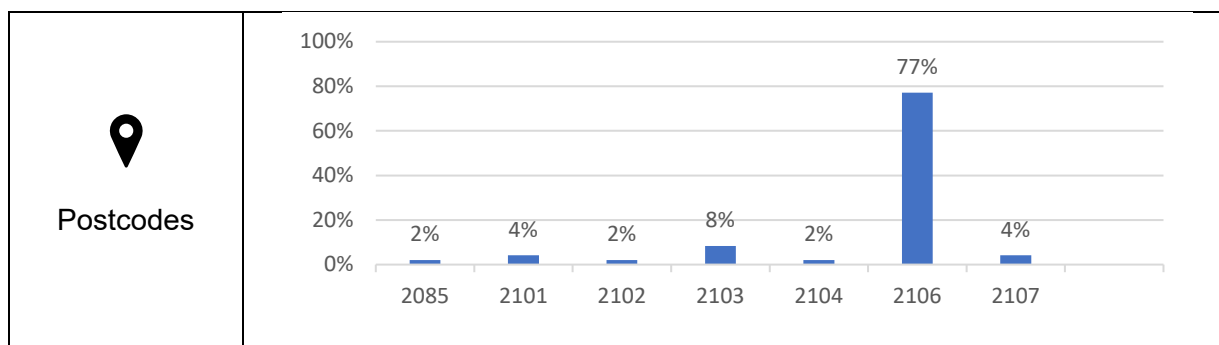
## 1.2. How we engaged

 <p>Have Your Say: visitation stats</p>	Visitors: 517	Visits: 413	Average time onsite: 1 min 18 secs
 <p>Print media and collateral</p>	Letters sent: 2106 Site signs used: Yes		Distribution: 501 Number of signs: 6
 <p>Electronic direct mail (EDM)</p>	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 3 editions Council (weekly) e-News: 1 edition Stakeholder email: 1		Distribution: 22,500 subscribers Distribution: 61,500 subscribers Distribution: 5
 <p>Key stakeholder engagement</p>	Presentation at Newport Public School with Year 1 students		Attendance: approx. 90 students

## 1.3. Who responded<sup>1</sup>

 <p>Gender</p>	<div> <div>Male</div> <div>Female</div> <div>Other identity</div> </div> 
 <p>Age groups</p>	<div> <div>&lt;25</div> <div>26 - 50</div> <div>51 - 75</div> <div>76+</div> <div>N/A</div> </div> 

<sup>1</sup> Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail.



## 2. Background

Northern Beaches Council is undertaking the renewal of Trafalgar Park Playground in Newport, as part of a commitment to provide a diverse range of high-quality open space and recreation facilities to meet the needs of the community.

The playground is a neighbourhood level playground that serves the needs of the Newport community on the western side of Barrenjoey Road. The playground is situated amongst established trees and open grass areas of Trafalgar Park and located across the road from Newport Primary School.

## 3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities
- provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way
- seek out and facilitate the involvement of those affected by or interested in a project
- communicate to community and stakeholders how their input was incorporated into the planning and decision making process.

## 4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Playground renewal – Trafalgar Park, Newport was conducted between Friday 25 August and Sunday 1 October 2023, and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities for community and stakeholders to contribute.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Strategy](#) (2022).

A project page<sup>2</sup> was established on our have your say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels.

<sup>2</sup> <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/playground-renewal-trafalgar-park-newport>

Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the have your say project page. The form included a question that directly asked respondents to identify their preferred style of playground equipment for 6-10 year olds.

An open-field comments box provided community members a space to explain or elaborate on their support, not support or neutral sentiment as well as any other feedback they wished to contribute.

Email and written comments were also invited.

#### **4.1. Reaching diverse audiences**

A thorough stakeholder mapping exercise was completed to identify and understand the needs of the whole community.

It was determined for this project that it was particularly important to hear from representatives of Newport Primary School.

In addition to regular engagement methods, we also visited Newport Primary School and spoke with all Year 1 students and teachers about playground design and the upcoming Trafalgar Park playground renewal. This also formed part of the student's learning assignment for the term.

### **5. Findings**






Feedback collected during consultation from residents, parents/carers and children indicated a majority level of support for the proposed renewal of Trafalgar Park Newport playground.

As part of the consultation, the community was asked for their opinion on a preferred style of a senior play piece. These results would help guide the selection of a play piece for Trafalgar Park and potentially other future projects. Results are shown in Table 1 below.

Most respondents made written comments regarding the renewal. Many regarded aesthetics and environmental issues to be important as Trafalgar Park is an existing naturalistic landscape with mature native trees and open spaces.

Many responses discussed preferred play equipment types, provided other playgrounds that are good examples and stated their desire for other amenities such as toilets and upgraded car parking.

**Table 1: Results of preferred style of senior play equipment.**

Option	Equipment	Your Say Responses (48 Responses)	Newport Public School Year 1 Students (82 Students)
A		29%	12%
B		21%	56%
C		6%	4%
D		4%	4%
E		2%	0%


Option	Equipment	Your Say Responses (48 Responses)	Newport Public School Year 1 Students (82 Students)
F		15%	24%
	No Selection	23%	NA

Image showing selection of preferred senior play equipment by Newport Public School Year 1 Students.





**Table 2: Issues, change requests and other considerations**

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Aesthetics	Many comments indicated that aesthetics was important. The community values the naturalistic setting of Trafalgar Park and felt the playground should reflect this in terms of materials and design.	Council intends to design and use materials that will integrate with the naturalistic setting of Trafalgar Park. This will be achieved through the use of timber, sandstone and earthy colours.
Environment	Some submissions raised the importance of environmental issues such as use of rubber, sustainability, erosion and loss of green space.	Sustainability is a consideration in design and material selection. Considerations include product environmental impact, lifespan, and transport. This needs to be balanced with the product usability. In some cases, the use of products such as rubber or synthetic grass is required for accessibility.  Environmental controls will be in place for all works undertaken to mitigate any hazards during construction.
Other Amenities	Some submissions requested additional amenities such as toilets, BBQs, fencing and more car parking.	Additional amenities such as toilets, BBQs and carparking are not within the scope of this renewal project.  These items may be considered at a later date under separate projects.
Play Equipment	Some submissions requested preferred types of play equipment.	Council will guide the type of equipment required during the procurement process and is dependent on suggestions from playground suppliers. The equipment suppliers will also be given access to all comments received during consultation, so they can provide the most appropriate solution.



During the consultation/exhibition, Council received a number of questions either through direct contact or within feedback received.

**Table 3: Questions raised and Council's answers**

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Will there be shaded seating and facilities? Drinking water, toilets etc?	Replacement and relocation of seating around the playground would be included as part of the renewal. Drinking water is currently available by the tap located in close proximity to the playground. This may be upgraded depending on available budget. New toilet facilities are out of scope of this playground renewal project. Facilities such as toilets would require budget allocation and extensive consultation prior to any works.
Will you also address the failing car park on the lower side of King Street?	Issues relating to this carpark are out of scope of this playground renewal project. This comment will be referred to Council's Maintenance Team to inspect.
Would soft fall be included for this area?	Soft fall is a requirement for playgrounds to comply with Australian Standards. Soft fall materials would likely be a combination of rubber and certified playground mulch to help balance accessibility and cost.
Are there plans for the removal of existing equipment?	The current play equipment is nearing the end of its practical lifespan and hence play equipment would be removed and replaced as part of this renewal project.
How about a big boat? The park is close to the original Newport Wharf. The Battle of Trafalgar was a naval engagement (October 1805) between the British Navy and the combined fleets of the French and Spanish Navies	This is a good idea, and Council will put this forward as one of the suggested themes to the playground suppliers who will submit proposals for the playground. Theming will be one element considered during the evaluation process.
Tree stumps as seating, colourful plants and how about a sculpture?	We will aim to include naturalistic elements, informal seating using sandstone or timber/tree stumps and possibly a sculpture, budget allowing.  We would prefer to keep the landscape as existing, with open areas and mature trees. As the area does not currently consist of garden beds it is unlikely gardens with colourful plants would be added to the final design as this increases cost and maintenance requirements.
Will there be upgraded security lighting included in this plan?	Playgrounds on the Northern Beaches are not lit as lighting can encourage antisocial gathering in these types of spaces. Upgraded lighting for the park in general is outside of the scope of this playground renewal project.

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Could we also have a sheltered BBQ area and toilets?	Sheltered BBQ and toilet facilities are out of scope of this playground renewal project. Facilities such as this would require budget allocation and community consultation prior to any works.
Could the plan please include a bike track?	This project is proposing to renew the playground to bring it up to current Australian Standards. The addition of a bike track is outside the scope of this project and not currently budgeted.
Will there be any change to the Anzac memorial down the bottom?	This project is a renewal of the playground. The Anzac memorial is at the opposite end of Trafalgar Park and will not be affected by any works.
The current swing with handicap back is not ideal for toddlers, can you please install the same toddler swing that you have in the Newport Beach park?	The current swing seat is a high-backed toddler seat. This swing seat is designed to cater for a greater range of children by providing higher back support. Council has made a commitment to provide this type of swing seat to support greater accessibility within playgrounds on the Northern Beaches.

## Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses\*


### Comments received via Your Say form

Number	Comment
1	Please keep color scheme more natural.  Also will there be any change to the Anzac memorial down the bottom? We could get many more people around the entire stone Plinth at Dawn Service if some of the landscaping at the back could be opened up/ re-jigged. Its become such an important spot on Anzac day.
2	I would like to vote for B because it's made out of wood and that is more suitable for the environment and it is good for many ages.
3	Please do not put any rubber into this fragile environment - the advice from NSW Chief Scientist states more and more studies show this product disintegrates and disperses in environments, further, some studies have shown young children using playgrounds where this has been installed are actually inhaling it and this will cause health issues. There is no advice on what the new paths will be made of - please do not install more concrete in this sloping park as this will cause runoff and erosion to the area below the playground site.
4	Hi Team,  Great concepts, a much needed improvement to the play equipment. Will you also address the failing car park on the lower side of King st? It could do with some road base fill, nothing major.
5	Part of the upgrade needs to include accessible options and travel surfaces. Could the plan pls include a bike track.
6	The Northern side of Queens Pde needs a paved path way. Tree roots and loose soil make this current path way a bad accident waiting to happen.
7	The planned upgrade appears to be a major improvement. Will there be upgraded security lighting included in this plan ?
8	Importantly, an Aesthetically pleasing area should be provided for one and all. Tree stumps as seating, colourful plants and how about a sculpture? I look forward to receiving a response. Thanking you most kindly.
9	I would like to see a fence around the playground especially for the junior area, many play parks on the beaches abut busy roads & parking areas & for safety I believe they should have a fence like the park at Newport & flying fox at Bayview for the little ones.
10	How about a big boat? The park is close to the original Newport Wharf. The Battle of Trafalgar was a naval engagement (October 1805) between the British Navy and the combined fleets of the French and Spanish Navies. Just a thought.
11	Need some sandstone sculptures for the children to play on and to use their imagination. Like Billarong or Tramshed.
12	<i>No comment provided</i>
13	I like the climbing & gripping challenges of example A. My kids went to Newport public & this would have been a good skill activity. I like example F, however it involves too much plastic (the fun twist slide) - environmental impact in future

\*Personal details and inappropriate language have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.

Number	Comment
14	Would soft fall be included for this area? Are there plans for the removal of existing equipment?
15	<i>No comment provided</i>
16	<i>No comment provided</i>
17	Will there be shaded seating and facilities? Drinking water, toilets etc?
18	I love the minimal lines and they have the same at Mona vale and 2 daughters love it
19	I would like to see more than one piece, this park has potential to get a lot of children and it would be great to see there be many activities to bring this park to life
20	<i>No comment provided</i>
21	Soft landing like used at the Newport Primary school. Please use Em security camera as the equipment does get tampered at Newport.
22	F would be my second choice
23	I'd like to see a covered picnic table installed if possible
24	An enclosure for the junior play area would be great assistance to parents with two children.  Also a rubber surface is a MUST for both play areas!  The current swing with handicap back is not ideal for toddlers, can you please install the same toddler swing that you have in the Newport beach park?
25	The slide looks fun as hell in F but A is overall providing more fun climbing aspects that would enrich kids' play for hours
26	<i>No comment provided</i>
27	<i>No comment provided</i>
28	Overall, we're divided on the need for an upgrade, with our child preferring the park stays as it is, though if it has to change, their preferred is for Example B. For the new path connections, I'm strongly opposed to even more concrete in the park. The massive concrete path that runs diagonally through the park rather than along the edges as a footpath massively reduced the amenity of the park, and increased fall harms from bikes, scooters, skateboards and general running for children. The last thing the park needs is losing even more grass and woodlands to further unnecessary and intrusive concreting.
29	Preference for the mainly timber construction over plastic. Based on sustainability and aesthetic.
30	<i>No comment provided</i>
31	Example B has a more natural look and would fit respectfully into this setting without being loud and intrusive.
32	I think they are all great and will be an excellent addition to the park. Ninja warrior style courses are really popular with the older kids so I think B will be good for them.
33	My son and daughter both love this park. They love the variety of slides and swings. It would be great if the new equipment had a variety of slides for all ages. I know a lot of children will love a climbing section. For the Junior play area, the timber looking structure would work well at this playground. The existing swing is awesome and suits most sizes so it would be great to keep



Number	Comment
	something similar. If the dirt surrounding the play equipment could be replaced that would be fantastic!
34	<i>No comment provided</i>
35	We would love a bike track as well as older equipment. Fantastic Thank you
36	<i>No comment provided</i>
37	<i>No comment provided</i>
38	These all look pretty cool to be honest. Things that mimic 'adult' activities (such as rock climbing) are often well liked by kids.
39	This playground should have a fence around it or at least around the junior play area. Playgrounds without fences are worthless to parents with young children.
40	My 10 year old thinks this one looks fun and challenging.
41	This is a great park for kids and families to hang out after school. It would be great to see it become more accessible for kids with disabilities. E.g. the one in Collaroy looks great, with a water feature, musical instruments. Making fun trails and paths with a sensory garden would be amazing! Could we also have a sheltered BBQ area and toilets?
42	Please also consider children younger than 6. School aged kids also have younger siblings, who may play there while waiting at pick up. And there are so many young families living close to that playground. Many younger kids don't like just climbing...and in particular, climbing appeals more to boys than girls. Why not consider some role play options, like a pretend shop. Or a couple of swings.
43	<p>Fantastic initiative. Current equipment is looking a bit tired. There is a fantastic playground in Bathurst that has imaginary play like dinosaur eggs and statues and play equipment built into the landscape. Pics attached. See also BATHurst adventure playground. Some indigenous contexts/interpretation of the area would be beneficial too.</p> 

Number	Comment
44	<i>No comment provided</i>
45	For the junior play area it would be good to have a better floor cover. Like the ground at Newport beach playground. Young kids fall over a lot and even when crawling so is nicer to have neat floor cover if possible. Enclosed Fencing around the junior play area would be great too but understandable if not with the aesthetics of this space
46	We need a feature park on this side of Barrenjoey Rd where the children living on this side or who go to the school can play. It would be such a great flagship position if we could have something like Wandanggari Park opening in St Leonard's today. We have had old equipment for such a long time would be such a great additional, please consider this : <a href="https://www.instagram.com/reel/CxCjVRPy_c0/?igshid=MTc4MmM1YmI2Ng==">https://www.instagram.com/reel/CxCjVRPy_c0/?igshid=MTc4MmM1YmI2Ng==</a>
47	<i>No comment provided</i>
48	<i>No comment provided</i>

### Comments received via email

Number	Submission
1	<p>Dear council staff,</p> <p>I have some suggestions for new equipment at Trafalgar Park.</p> <p><b>Interactive sand and water play equipment for young children</b></p> <p><b>Ground level spinner with platform around it for safe and easy access</b></p> <p>There is a very popular playground in St Leonards, Gore Hill Park where these pieces of equipment are well used.</p> <p>Please use safe rubber surrounds for soft fall in <b>pale colours</b> as the darker ones absorb and retain so much heat that they can cause serious burns to tender young skin.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2	<p>Thanks for the letter [REDACTED] re this excellent renewal plan. Involving the youngsters was a brainwave too, as is letting the locals know.</p> <p>As my children used the playground in Trafalgar Park some 50 years ago, my only input is suggesting there is plenty of safe, pram-parking area around each piece of equipment, to ensure that young mum's with 2 or more kiddies, can be close at hand to climbing youngsters. Bark chips will be a soft landing and low cost, but difficult to navigate prams on.</p> <p>Best regards,</p>
3	<p>We have lived opposite beautiful Trafalgar Park for 39 years. For 36 years we have enjoyed the park and playground when our children were small and attending Newport School.</p> <p>A generation later we are still enjoying the same park and playground with our 3 small grandchildren.</p> <p>How lucky we are to have this on our doorstep. Can't wait for the new upgraded playground to be built so the community can all continue to enjoy it.</p>

Number	Submission
4	<p>Hi,</p> <p>We need more parking please, there is not enough for school across the road and ideally need a pick up and drop off bay too.</p> <p>Also, we need a fence around the playground. Not safe with parking right next to a playground. Or move playground in centre of park.</p> <p>Please also ensure mothers have final say in the playground to design, too often playgrounds are designed by men and are too high off the ground, no soft landing, and gaps in the equipment for high risk of falling.</p> <p>Thanks</p>
5	<p>Hi,I'm 5 years old and I play in this park and will be starting kindergarten next year across the road at Newport public.</p> <p>My suggestion for the upgrade is to have a flying fox, the same as the park at Belrose playground.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A big tall slide like rocket park has in warriwood.</li> <li>- A bike or scooter track/park.</li> <li>- Toilets.</li> <li>- climbing wall</li> <li>- Swings</li> <li>- Trampoline</li> <li>- Pirate Ship or Octopus</li> </ul> <p>Thank you,</p>
6	<p>Dear Planning, Design &amp; Delivery execs,</p> <p>I had a note to do this submission on the long weekend but now find the online facility closed Sunday night. As this will arrive before commencement of the next business day following closure, I'm hoping you will be able to consider my offering.</p> <p>As the attached photos show, I was very impressed with the play equipment when I visited the Eurobodalla Botanical Gardens children's playground several years ago, with my grandchildren. (It is accessed by turning left off the Princes H'way approximately halfway between the town of Batemans Bay and the village of Mogo.)</p> <p>The most impressive piece, to me, was the <b>twin slide</b>, of which a basic component is the <b>natural fall of the land</b>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is incredibly safe, because there is no ladder or other raised area from which to fall.</li> <li>2. This allows a longer than usual slide distance, followed by a run uphill for additional rides - great exercise.</li> <li>3. It enables a very safe twin slide, with all the advantages of doubling capacity, allowing safe &amp; competitive 'races' and/or allowing a protective parent or similar to ride down a parallel slide beside a smaller child at the same speed.</li> </ol> <p>I appreciate that it might take a little surveying to determine if there is an adequate slope within Trafalgar Park but I feel that would be an effort worth making. If the slope is borderline, perhaps</p>



Number	Submission
	<p>it could become possible with a minor build-up of a mound/ladder at the top (say a metre?) still providing all the above plusses.</p> <p>The 'saucer swing' I know is already a feature of some NBC playgrounds. What I like about this particular one is the combination of being closer to the ground and having a generous, wider than average buffer rim. As you will see from the photos, this not only makes it that much more accessible - and a little more safe - for smaller children but it also allows them "to give mummy (or daddy) a ride" and I think we have all experienced the sense of achievement little ones get by being able to reverse the tables on a parent.</p> <p>This Eurobodalla playground had a lot of interesting play equipment, including a couple of softly <b>musical xylophone-type instruments</b>, with the clapper/drumstick firmly attached with a bound cable.</p> <p>I'm hoping the playground - and botanical gardens - survived the fires which severely threatened Malua Bay and Mogo and its well-known zoo several years ago. If you wanted to pursue any of these suggestions further I would expect you'd find Eurobodalla Shire Council very helpful. The Council Chambers are located in Moruya and I believe they have one of the youngest mayor's in the State.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p><i>(Photos not published so as to maintain privacy of respondent.)</i></p>

Document administration	
Version	1.0
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Approval	Content provided and approved by Parks Asset Team. Responsible manager: Charles Sawley
Status	Final
Related Projects	Let's Play, Open Space & Outdoor Recreation Strategy
Notes	Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.