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## Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

### Jacka Park Playground Upgrade, Freshwater

Impact level: Four

Consultation period: 5 August 2021 to 5 September 2021

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# 1. Summary




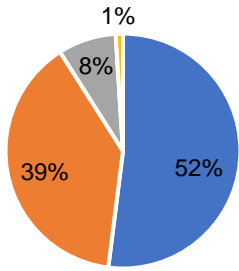
This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement conducted between 5 August 2021 to 5 September 2021 as part of a proposal to upgrade Jacka Park Playground in Freshwater with inclusive, fun and challenging play equipment for a range of ages and abilities. The proposal also includes upgrades to landscaping, seating and paths.

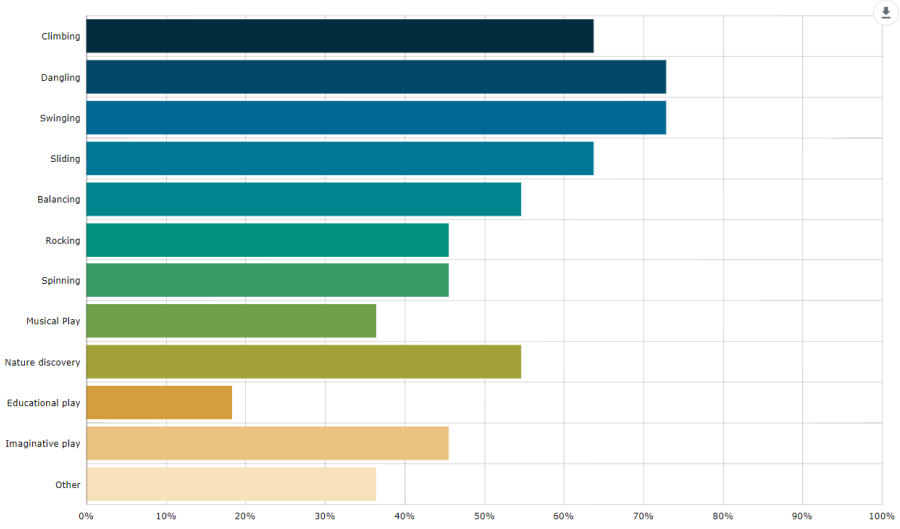
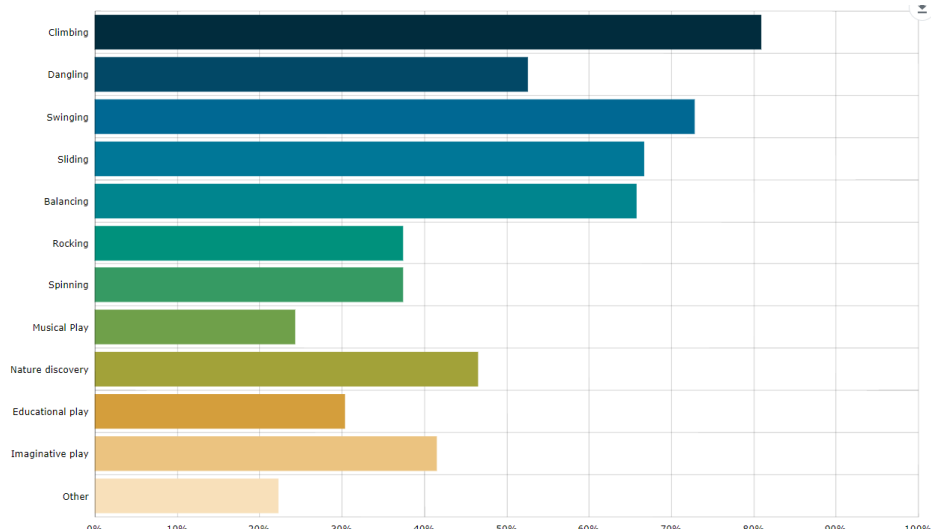

The feedback collected during consultation from residents, parents/carers and children indicated a majority level of support for the proposed upgrade of Jacka Park playground. Respondents who were supportive of the proposal indicated that it would benefit the local children who use this playground daily.

Feedback suggested that, to make it as beneficial as possible, the upgrade should include more playground equipment for children of different ages, needs and abilities. There was also a strong desire to upgrade the entire park to provide more facilities for intergenerational and recreational use.





Some respondents who were not supportive of the proposal felt that Council should not be spending money on an already established park when there are other projects to prioritise.

## 1.1. Key outcomes

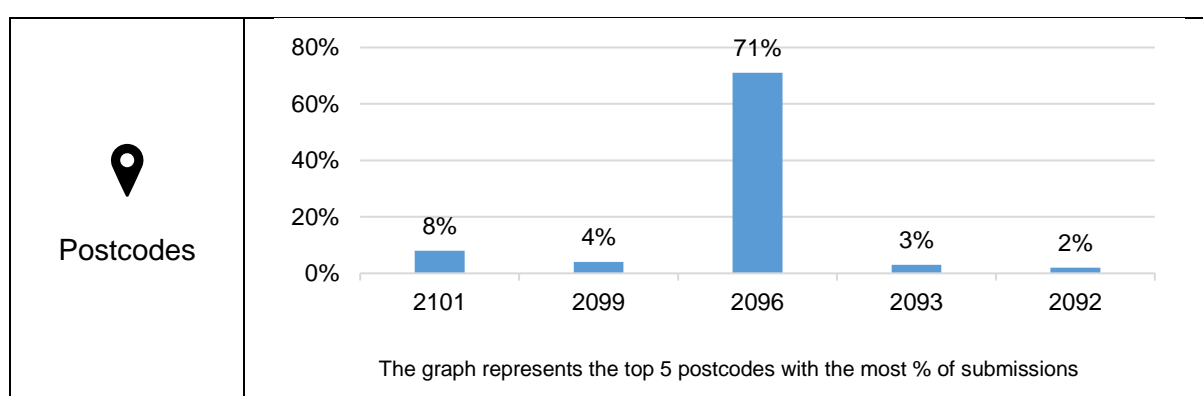
 Total unique responses	181	
 How responses were received	Online Your Say comment form Written responses (email/letter)	Completions: 167 Number received: 14
 Online sentiment question:  <b>Overall, do you support the concept plan for the Jacka Park playground upgrade?</b>	<div data-bbox="638 1500 877 1769">  </div> <div data-bbox="1037 1512 1308 1758"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Support</li> <li>■ Support with changes or Changes requested</li> <li>■ Don't support</li> <li>■ Neutral/undetermined</li> </ul> </div> <div data-bbox="1165 1836 1436 1881"> Total responses = 167 </div>	

<p>What activities would you like included in the playground?</p>	<p><b>Child response:</b></p>  <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Activity</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Climbing</td><td>64%</td></tr><tr><td>Dangling</td><td>73%</td></tr><tr><td>Swinging</td><td>73%</td></tr><tr><td>Sliding</td><td>64%</td></tr><tr><td>Balancing</td><td>55%</td></tr><tr><td>Rocking</td><td>46%</td></tr><tr><td>Spinning</td><td>46%</td></tr><tr><td>Musical Play</td><td>37%</td></tr><tr><td>Nature discovery</td><td>54%</td></tr><tr><td>Educational play</td><td>19%</td></tr><tr><td>Imaginative play</td><td>46%</td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td>37%</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Total responses = 167</p>		Activity	Percentage	Climbing	64%	Dangling	73%	Swinging	73%	Sliding	64%	Balancing	55%	Rocking	46%	Spinning	46%	Musical Play	37%	Nature discovery	54%	Educational play	19%	Imaginative play	46%	Other	37%
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<p><b>Parent or Carer response on behalf of child:</b></p>  <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Activity</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Climbing</td><td>82%</td></tr><tr><td>Dangling</td><td>54%</td></tr><tr><td>Swinging</td><td>74%</td></tr><tr><td>Sliding</td><td>68%</td></tr><tr><td>Balancing</td><td>67%</td></tr><tr><td>Rocking</td><td>38%</td></tr><tr><td>Spinning</td><td>39%</td></tr><tr><td>Musical Play</td><td>25%</td></tr><tr><td>Nature discovery</td><td>48%</td></tr><tr><td>Educational play</td><td>31%</td></tr><tr><td>Imaginative play</td><td>42%</td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td>23%</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Total responses = 167</p>		Activity	Percentage	Climbing	82%	Dangling	54%	Swinging	74%	Sliding	68%	Balancing	67%	Rocking	38%	Spinning	39%	Musical Play	25%	Nature discovery	48%	Educational play	31%	Imaginative play	42%	Other	23%	
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<div><p>Feedback themes</p></div>	<p>Upgrade of the entire park</p> <p>Safety &amp; accessibility needs</p> <p>Playground infrastructure requests</p> <p>Protection of the natural environment</p>	<p>Unsuitable location of playground</p> <p>Unnecessary cost</p> <p>Additional public art</p>																										

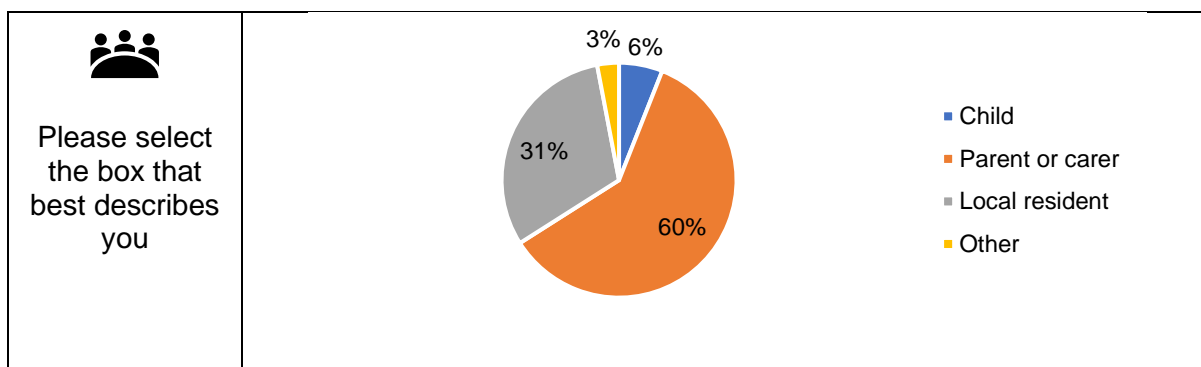
## 1.2. How we engaged

 <p>Have Your Say: visitation stats</p>	Visitors: 1797	Visits: 2120	Av. time onsite: 1m23s
 <p>Social media</p>	1 Council Facebook post		Reach: 20,463 Clicks: 1743
 <p>Notifications</p>	Local resident mailout to parts of 2096  Site signs: Yes		Distribution: 837 residents
 <p>Electronic direct mail (EDM)</p>	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2 editions  Council (weekly) e-News: 1 edition		Distribution: 20,000 subscribers  Distribution: 150,000 subscribers

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



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



## 2. Background

Jacka Park playground is a historical, popular and much-loved playground in the local community.

Jacka Park was named after Blanche Jacka who was granted use of the wild and swampy land across from her house on Wyndora Avenue to make a garden in 1917.

The playground design will be inspired by the native plants and animals that once flourished in the area, including Mrs Jacka's favourite flower: the crimson bottlebrush.

## 3. Engagement objectives

- Objective 1: build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities (inform)
- Objective 2: provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way (inform)
- Objective 3: identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values (consult)

## 4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Jacka Park Playground Upgrade was conducted over a four-week period, from 5 August 2021 to 5 September 2021.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Matrix](#) (2017).

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, including an image of the draft concept plan and some historical background.

The project was primarily promoted through onsite signage, resident and stakeholder notifications, social media and our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels.

<sup>2</sup> <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/jacka-park-playground-upgrade>

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 for their level of support on the proposal.

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. Contact details for the project manager were provided as a channel for the community to ask any questions about this project.

## 5. Findings

The feedback collected during consultation from residents, parents/carers and children indicated a majority level of support for the proposed upgrade of Jacka Park playground. Respondents who were supportive of the proposal indicated that it would benefit the local children who use this playground daily.

Currently, Jacka Park Playground is overpopulated after school hours and has equipment for younger children only. Feedback suggested that, to make it as beneficial as possible, the upgrade should include more playground equipment for children of different ages, needs and abilities. There was also a strong desire to upgrade the entire park to provide more facilities for intergenerational use and recreational use.

A large majority of residents were supportive of the design concept to include references to local flora and fauna as a major feature of Jacka Park Playground.

Some respondents, including both caregivers and local residents, who were not supportive of the proposal and felt that Council should not be spending money on an already established park when there are other projects to prioritise.

**Table 1:** Issues raised and response

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
Upgrade of the entire park	<p>The Jacka Park Playground Upgrade project should be expanded to include an upgrade of the entire park.</p> <p>We should provide recreation opportunities for a broader audience and facilitate intergenerational use. This could include an outdoor gym.</p> <p>Additional recreational areas are needed, including a BBQ facility, canteen and picnic seating.</p> <p>Many dog owners want to see specific facilities for dogs such as a fenced off leash area, drinking fountains for dogs and dog waste bags.</p>	<p>This current project focuses on the upgrade of the existing playground.</p> <p>Jacka Park as a whole will be addressed as part of a landscape masterplan.</p> <p>Council is currently developing a draft Open Space and Recreation Strategy which will prioritise and guide future works, including further recreational facilities within Jacka Park.</p>

Safety and accessibility needs	We need to ensure there is disability inclusive equipment that is wheelchair accessible and caters to sensory needs.	Inclusive play elements have been included as part of the proposed play equipment.
	There aren't enough measures for sun safety in the concept plan. The sun makes the play equipment unusable as the equipment heats up to a dangerous level. There is a need for more shade sails.	Play equipment has been positioned to make use of the existing shade sail and shade from the adjacent tree. The design includes scope for a second shade sail should additional funding become available.
	The current location of the playground is problematic as it is near the stormwater outlet.  We need to ensure proper drainage to avoid flooding in the park/playground.	Stormwater and drainage have been taken into consideration. During excessive rainfall the park may be subject to temporary flooding.
	Patrons are unaware that there is already a public toilet in the park.	A toilet was installed in Jacka Park approximately one year ago.
	Fences are needed to ensure children's safety as the park is close to the road.	The playground is situated in a natural amphitheatre with grass slopes. The closest road is 20m away up a grass embankment with clear sight lines hence fences are not considered necessary.
	We need to retain the low wall bordering the playground for parents to sit and socially distance while watching their children in the playground.	The wall will be retained and restored as part of the upgrade.
	More car parking is required for the area.	Increase of car parking is out of scope of this project. Car parking would be considered as part of a masterplan for Jacka Park.
	Questions included: - Will there be shade over the swings? - How high will the play tower be? - Will more lighting be installed?	The swings are positioned to be shaded by the existing tree.  The height of the play equipment is not known as

	- Is it possible to separate the junior area with a fence or something? or put up a sign that stops bike riding through?	<p>this is subject to the supplier chosen during procurement.</p> <p>Lighting is out of scope of this project.</p> <p>The junior and senior areas have been separated to either side of the playground.</p>
Playground infrastructure requests	More play equipment is needed for older children (i.e. over 9 years old) such as a flying fox, bike loop, basketball court, basket swing and advanced climbing.	The playground is mainly aimed for younger children. Other facilities may be proposed during the masterplan for Jacka Park.
	More play equipment is needed in general. Most common suggestions include swings and waterplay.	Swings are already included in the concept plan. The playground has been restricted to a similar footprint to existing and hence the amount of play equipment cannot be greatly expanded. Jacka Park caters for the whole community hence space must be available for other park users.
	We need to include more seating areas for parents	Additional seating is proposed as part of the playground upgrade.
	New drinking fountains are requested. This could include a filtered water system.	An upgraded drinking fountain would be provided if budget is available.
	Additional bins are required.	An upgraded bin area is not part of the current proposal. This would be provided if further budget becomes available for park upgrades.
	We need to maintain some of the existing and well-utilised playground infrastructure, including the track around the playground for biking/scootering, bridges and spinning wheels.	The bike track will be maintained. Other equipment would be replaced as part of the upgrade. Any equipment that is usable may be reutilised in this location or within another playground.



Protection of the natural environment	As Council is proposing this upgrade to be more nature-centric, a lot of people are against the planned synthetic grass.	Due to the number of users a stable surface (such as rubber or synthetic grass) is more desirable in some locations over bark mulch.
	The playground upgrade needs to occur within the existing playground footprint and regeneration of the surrounding grassed area should be considered.	The playground is being realigned slightly out of its existing footprint to avoid the stormwater easement.
Unsuitable location of playground	The location of the playground is unsuitable due to being adjacent to the stormwater outlet and should be relocated within the park.	The playground has been functioning in its existing location for many years. It is only affected by stormwater in extreme weather conditions. At these times, playgrounds are not in use. Relocating the playground would require a significant increase in budget to achieve a similar playground size. Relocating would also utilise the open space that is valued by other park users.
Unnecessary cost	This is an unnecessary expenditure of Council funds which could be better spent on higher urgency projects, including additional footpaths in the area.	The playground is in need of repair. Council allocates a small portion of its budget each year towards playground upgrades.
Additional public art	We should include additional public art in the park, honouring Mrs Jacka.	Public art is already a component in the concept plan for the playground upgrade.

## Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses\*

### A. Online comment<sup>3</sup>

Number	Comment
1	<p>Please keep the sitting/border wall to the playground for parents to sit &amp; social distance but still be close to their younger children while they are playing. It has been a great asset during these restrictions to feed my younger son and be able to watch my older son play safely using the wall.</p> <p>Please keep the track/path around the playground for bike riding/scooter riding.</p> <p>Please keep some bridges within the play equipment and wheels to spin (car wheels/wheels on the train have been a favourite for my boys) within the new design.</p> <p>Please add more swings. 2 toddler swings and 2 child swings would more often allow 2 families to use them at the same time if both had 2 kids or 2 sets of playdate friends. 3 swings is an odd number, even with the special swing shape.</p> <p>If it allows, small trampolines like at the Tramshed Playground in Narrabeen are also a favourite for younger kids.</p>
2	<p>I am supportive of the improvements to Jacka Park. In addition to the changes suggested in the plan, I think the park could have increased use for all residents, not only families, by two additions. One being the introduction of an adults gym area. There is no adult gym equipment in freshwater and the closet one at Queensliff Lagoon is fully utilized, particularly with the current lockdown and that people will be working remotely for a long time. An additional picnic table would help with picnics and parties and take pressure off the 3 or 4 picnic tables at Freshwater beach.</p>
3	<p>It would be completely amazing to see a basketball hoop area which is great for the 10-12 year olds. My 2 children also love playing soccer at Jacka and would love to see a soccer net down there. We see it as a great way of getting our 10-12 year olds outside away from screens and would love a basketball hoop and soccer net. We don't have a suitable driveway area for basketball so it would be awesome to send them down the street to the park to do this. Thanks so much for considering this as a possible option. We appreciate it. Thanks</p>
4	<p>It would be great to include one of those big, flat swings which holds several children and hangs from a single point. There's one in Forsyth Park playground in Neutral Bay. Thanks!</p>
5	<p>No dogs. There have been too many incidents and there are a number of other more suitable locations for us to take our dogs. Children with unfamiliar dogs don't always mix well - and vice versa</p>
6	<p>- My only suggestion would be to enclose the playground space with a fence. Currently, with the bike path surrounding the playground area, it can be dangerous for kids and parents as they move around the area. Particularly for young children as they go through the current entry way which falls directly onto a bike path which is the base of a steep incline, hence kids that are on bikes are at speed.</p>

\*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.

<sup>3</sup> Some people only answered the sentiment question in the online comment form and did not provide further comments.

7	<p>Hi there, I think the changes are making the playground worse. Currently all ages can play there and they love it. This park is very popular. Your changes are only appealing to the 0-5 age range. You are cutting out the 9-12 which are the age group who use this park the most. We are there everyday so we see it for ourselves. One example is the swings. People like to swing together and adults like to swing with their kids. You are replacing all swings with baby and toddler swings.....this is one example how you are making the park worse. We need high monkey bars and 9-12 swings.....stuff for 8-12. We also need basketball courts. Thankyou so much</p>
8	<p>My main point of feedback is the placement of the senior play area and the junior play area. I ask that planners consider switching these.</p> <p>The older kids in the park typically move from riding bikes and scooters to play on the oval. In the proposal the senior play area is the furthest from the oval which would encourage more thoroughfare via the junior play area, I believe placing the smaller children at risk.</p> <p>For the majority of the day, the park is used by parents and carers of children under 4.</p> <p>In the winter months the sun spends the most time on the proposed senior play area and the junior area is in the shade. I feel this is negative of the proposed layout and would ask planners to consider switching out the senior and junior positions.</p> <p>Other questions I have. How high will the play tower be? Hopefully not higher than the current install.. Will more lighting be installed? Hopefully not as additional lights would encourage late gatherings.</p>
9	<p>The focus on being a children's playground dates from 1978. It is necessary to add some adult playground equipment that includes outdoor fitness equipment such as the a_space outdoor gym exercise range for healthy ageing that caters to the needs of the demographic.</p>
10	<p>Support in principle Not sure of alternative options but absolutely aghast about synthetic turf being laid The other issue is the state of Jacka Park generally It is a high use park both by local catholic school and local children and much more needs to be done to repair damage done (potholes dug by children) and grass cover. Plus recommend considering putting in place management plan to manage moving forward</p>
11	<p>This park is a rarity in this high priced suburban area and I support any improvements that would keep it a public space. I have visited there with my grandchildren who live nearby and have always found it very well used. I think the provision of play areas for older children is a particularly good idea. However, I have looked carefully at the plan provided and can find no sign of a toilet block. This I regard as essential. I know there are problems with the supervision of public toilets but a park without them will not be used by parents with children.</p>
12	<p>It would be good to have the playground area fenced in so that it is separated from the scooter/bike track. As toddlers (0-2years) can walk out on to track at the moment and lots of scooter and bike traffic.</p> <p>Please keep the bike/scooter track as a feature. The kids love it.</p> <p>Thanks for upgrade! It's definitely needed.</p>

13	<p>Jacka Park is a popular park and would benefit from extending beyond the current footprint. It is currently tucked away at the bottom corner of the park but would connect more with the community if it was more visible from the bordering streets.</p> <p>Wollongong, Shellharbour and Shoalhaven Councils invest in their playgrounds and almost all have flying fox/zip line equipment. This piece of equipment is loved by children and teaches them to take turns and help each other out as they pass the handle from one child to another. The almost complete Boongaree (previously Berry District Park, Shoalhaven LGA) is worth looking at for inspiration.</p>
14	<p>My grandchildren and I very much enjoy Jacka playground We very much look forward to seeing all the improvements</p>
15	As noted on previous page, toilet facilities are needed at this park. Especially if you are upgrading.
16	Hi can you please consider putting an outdoor workout area for adults in your new proposal. The nearest is manly. This would promote good health and well-being amongst all including adults. Thanks
17	This is a very well used park and play area by local families. The proposed plan is going to improve the play area to further the physical development and interaction of the local children and their visiting friends. I think that perhaps additional seating for the parents may be worth considering, as many of the children don't like to leave the play area and the other children, especially now with unit living being the focus of Governments and more people will be using this great facility in the future. So do the best you can for the future needs of Freshwater.
18	<p>There needs to be activities and equipment for children aged up to 12. 'senior' is not 4 and upwards. Jacka park is used by primary school children of all ages after school in normal -not covid times. My grandchildren have lost interest in going there by around age 8 because the equipment is babyish.</p> <p>Now would be a good time to upgrade to make the playground area more suitable for older as well as very young children.</p> <p>It could be made much bigger. There is plenty of grass to run around in and extending the more formal climbing etc equipment would not make a noticeable difference to that.</p>
19	I take my toddler down there quite often but it has become dangerous for him unfortunately. Bigger kids ride bikes through the play area constantly and nearly run him over. They also chase each other - which is great - but it means that the smaller children are nearly run over by the big kids running. Is it possible to separate the junior area with a fence or something? or put up a sign that stops bike riding through? Just an idea.
20	<p>We are thrilled to hear of the proposed update to Jacka Park.</p> <p>In addition to slides, swings and a climbing station, it would be wonderful if we could have some inbuilt trampolines (as seen at the Tramshed Park in Narrabeen), and/or a flying fox and/or scales (children sit opposite one another and take turns going up and down). Such equipment would make the park more unique and of interest to a wide range of children.</p> <p>The 'Flying Fox' park in Mona Vale contains such equipment and is always a busy and popular place for families to meet.</p> <p>I have also noticed that many young children like to ride bikes around the park given the expansive space. Perhaps a pseudo road with pedestrian crossings, miniature road signs, roundabout, speed bumps etc would be worthwhile. Centennial Park has an exceptional example of this.</p>

21	<p>I think it's a good concept. Although I think a shade sail should be setup over the swings to provide protection especially during summer (or alternatively planting trees to provide shade).</p> <p>Given there is ample space and there are slopes all around, why not put in a flying fox for the older kids who would love that. I have seen flying foxes in other playgrounds and they are great.</p> <p>Additional seating for parents would also be nice.</p> <p>A water fountain nearby to drink from but also to fill water bottles should also be thought of. There is only a water fountain which is old.</p>
22	<p>Please retain the circular concrete pathway for bike riding around the area.</p> <p>Please also consider a skate park for this park.</p>
23	<p>Great idea as the park is heavily utilised by families.</p> <p>Can I suggest greater enforcement of the 'unleashed dogs prohibited'? There are very often off lead dogs in the park which can put people, on-lead dogs and children at risk.</p>
24	<p>I would like to see there continuing to be multiple slides / bridges catering for different ages, suggest additional swings as they are very popular, a BBQ area (with bins etc) as the park is used regularly for kids parties.</p>
25	<p>Will there be sail shade over the swings? Non at the moment and definitely needed.</p>
26	<p>Needs more seating .. local families and kids CB of all ages use this park as well as grandparents... there is inadequate seating... inadequate shade ( more trees would be ideal) and play equipment to keep older children busy ...</p>
27	<p>Walking through regularly and enjoying watching the children play, it would be nice to have seating, maybe even with a small table away from the playful noise where we elders may like to contemplate.</p>
28	<p>We live just around the corner with 2 kids and are very supportive of this: well overdue.</p>
29	<p>Happy for park to be upgraded however this looks like a huge increase in the space taken up for children when there is already another swing set near the beach. This grass is commonly used for events and picnics - we don't need more space taken up by children for a huge play area. The area is peaceful, and a nice space to dog walk and work out, this proposed design will interrupt that. An extra water fountain near the beach would be beneficial. Thanks</p>
30	<p>Please please add a basketball hoop and small concrete pad where kids can shoot hoops. Basketball is fast becoming the most popular sport in Australia amongst school kids please take this into account so that kids can shoot hoops with friends or make new friends.</p>
31	<p>Proposed changes are welcome.</p> <p>Please consider more sets of swings. They are always in short supply.</p>
32	<p>Need to include good shade cover cloth as gets very hot in summer. Need to ensure enough space for multiple children and ages to play. Flying fox would be amazing as none available locally, ground trampoline like at narabeen. Plan does not include enough variety of play equipment. Ensure better drainage so does not floor as currently in heavy rain. Maintain path around as heavily used for scooter and cycling.</p> <p>Roundabout like at passmore reserve. More covered picnic areas as not enough currently.</p>
33	<p>It is so pleasing to see this park will finally be upgraded. Given the very large number of children who use this playground daily across a very wide age range, it is critical that there are enough different elements of play to support a large number of children so they aren't on top of each other. A fourth 'typical' swing would be welcome as they are high in demand across a wide range of ages in addition to an expansive natural play element that allows older children to do jumping, balancing, leaping, etc. activities. I</p>

	note the senior play area is intended for children ages 4+ but I would encourage you to increase the minimum age to at least 5. Different to many playgrounds, this park has a high propensity of older children that use the park, particularly before and after school, and there are limited options in the area for children in that age group or sufficiently challenging equipment for that age.
34	within the concept plan it would be ideal to incorporate some BBQ's like Clontarf while you are upgrading the park equipment. It is frequented by a large portion of the Freshwater population and I'm sure many more locals would utilise the park with BBQ facilities.
35	I love the idea of enhanced nature based play, thank you.  My child always particularly loved playing on the train in the existing playground - it's great for imaginative play. If the new junior area incorporated something like this to encourage this sort of play I'd fully support that.
36	Thanks for the opportunity to comment, great messaging. Nice to feel involved in the planning process.  Please keep in the extended boardwalk too linking curl curl and freshie beach, I'm excited about that project.
37	Please put in a toilet block
38	Is there a possibility a half court for basket ball be included.
39	Jacka Park has always been an integral part of Harbord/Freshwater. Thank you for keeping it that way
40	Would like to see public art spaces and historical references especially to Albert Jacka VC Of lessor importance inclusion of a Batball court and maybe Boules square for seniors
41	the shade cloth needs to cover the seating area as well as the play area.
42	We need a safe crossing on Wyndora ave and a senior playground with a flying fox, a slide and monkey bars.
43	The idea in general is good but I'm wondering if it's being done mainly so the local private primary school has playground enhancement at ratepayers/taxpayers expense as it's used as a playground during school more often than not .
44	My daughter has special needs and doesn't visit too many parks these days because she is usually too big for most of the equipment, however she LOVES an equipment that she can spin on which is the case for most children with special needs. They love the sensation it gives them. My daughter in particular loves the one at Beacon Hill Reserve Playground. It's a blue tub and she can sit inside it and spin herself. Alternatively she loves to sit on the one at Beverly Job Park which resembles a big net and the parent / carer can spin her around. It needs to be strong and sturdy with a fast spin!! Thanks you for asking the community for their input in particular for all inclusive abilities which often get overlooked.
45	I love the plan for Jacka Park but I have always felt that with so many children, parents, grandparents and other people using the park it would be good to include toilets in some corner of the park. Thanking you for the work Council will be doing.
46	Fantastic to see the Jacka Park playground updated. It's widely used by local families and has been great during the lockdown to entertain the children.
47	Thank you so much for the proposed upgrade. I grew up in Freshwater and this park was updated when I was a child, now a parent myself it is time for a change. I love the idea of having senior and junior play zones, as long as these are really interactive for both.



	<p>It would be great to actually see your proposed plans in terms of equipment etc. I don't feel climbing nets are used in playgrounds, as they often take up a lot of space and are too challenging for children under 8 and not exciting enough for children over this age.</p> <p>I would love to see the use of obstacle course like equipment, Swings, balance, in ground trampolines, slides.</p> <p>Thank you so much.</p>
48	This park needs a toilet block
49	Planted garden will get trampled, stick to grass for extra running/ playing. Keep as much grassed area as possible as a lot of children live in apartments and need running/rough play areas
50	It is great to see the playground being upgraded. Is there some consideration for afternoon shade in summer so the slides and swing seats are not so hot.
51	As you know there has been a huge 'Puppy boom' with 100's of more households now owning a dog it would be great to see an off leash area for dogs
52	<p>I think the only upgrade the park needs is appropriate ablution facilities and to safely enclose the playground</p> <p>The playground is already popular with kids and parents, it should not be treated as a priority</p> <p>Priority money should be spent on upgrading Freshwater beach playgrounds to make them safe, particularly the one near the BBQ facilities which near traffic</p> <p>Council should take note of the exceptional playground designs found along the coast in Western Australia like the one Busselton, it impressive!</p> <p><a href="https://buggybuddys.com.au/family-holidays/things-to-do-in-busselton-bunbury/busselton-foreshore-adventure-play-space/">https://buggybuddys.com.au/family-holidays/things-to-do-in-busselton-bunbury/busselton-foreshore-adventure-play-space/</a></p>
53	<p>There are not enough play areas that cater for older children.</p> <p>More equipment suitable for 8-13 year old need to be included. Height appropriate monkey bars, swings, climbing frames etc.</p> <p>All playgrounds only ever cater up to roughly 9 years old. Children over 9 also like to play, climb and explore.</p>
54	<p>I support the upgrade of Jacka Park but the play area still seems very small. I suggest the council considering making the play area bigger and adding more equipment for slightly older children. There is not much variety of play equipment in the current proposal.</p> <p>In addition, consideration should be given to a play area somewhere in Freshwater or surrounding areas for tween and teens, eg with small ramps suitable for scooters, bigger climbing frames, etc . There is no suitable play area for this age group in Freshwater.</p>
55	It is important to retain history of Jack's Family and how park was developed by volunteers and community spirit.
56	<p>Plan looks good but needs more swings! They are always full at the moment. 2 x baby and 2 x child swings should be a minimum, not 1 of each.</p> <p>Also I dont think a single shade sail over the entry is enough. There isnt enough shade there at the moment, so more should be incorporated into the new plan - especially over the area where 0-3's will mainly be playing. Playground equipment that is in full sun gets so burning hot you cant use it.</p> <p>Thanks</p>

57	Hi! My daughters are very into skateboarding and scootering and bike riding. We often have to drive to monavale to visit the flying fox park and to use the bike track there. They have begged for their to be a cool track at Jacka Park for them and their friends. Curl curl is a bit too busy. Please consider the older kids. Thank you!
58	It's great to be continuing the link with Mrs Jacka. To increase its inclusiveness, why not add a swing that is wheel chair accessible, as is done in Centennial Park.
59	I would suggest more swings. The 3 already there are nearly always in use and there is often people queued to have a turn. Really like the idea of more equipment for older kids as it is currently more target to younger kids.
60	You have some great ideas- more swings is always a good idea though. My kids and I would love to se some slides and flying fox type things maybe water play- It would be such a good idea to check out some of the super popular playgrounds around the city and get some ideas: Sydney Park at Tempe; Blaxland Riverside Park; St Ives Showground Park; Even Broadwater parklands on the Goldcoast. These are AMAZING playgrounds. They could be replicated at Jacka Park or any other of our council playground spaces for that matter- they bring tourist dollars and families. Parents will travel with their kids for a good park, they will buy food and drink at local cafes. It is worth thinking about.
61	My children and now my grandchildren have all used this park! They have all at some time had to go and pee at somebodies back fence because there are NO toilet facilities at this park!!! Surely this can be included in these plans!!!!
62	Keep up the great work of planning upgrading the parks. These upgrades are so important for all the families with young children and will bring a real connection to the local community. Parents of small children rarely have time to fill out these feedback forms but the upgrade works are truly appreciated.
63	The park entry to Glen St is on a decline and bend with high pedestrian and park user interface. Bike riders also tend to use the path between Glen and Wyadra. I suggest a widened entrance to allow separation of path users and park users (in particular small children) at this location for safety. This could be a locally widened path to allow transition from road to park to road for users.
64	I would like to have a water slide and a rock climbing wall and adventure trails
65	All for providing upgraded facilities for kids, but it would be nice to ensure the rest of the park gets upgraded. The grassed areas often look untidy and not very inviting to sit and relax. There's very little seating away from the playground area that doesn't get taken up with childrens birthday parties each weekend. It would be great to see some L-shaped seating areas (without picnic tables) to allow those without children to also enjoy the park.
66	Maybe some natural water play or water feature added to design.
67	Please retain all existing trees.  Please provide more seating around the park as well as near the playground. I am an older person & love to sit in the sun in Jacka Park, not necessarily close by the playground.  Thank you I love Jacka Park!
68	My children are now too old to go to Jacka Park, but I've spent years of my time down there when they were little. There is so much on offer for little kids but nothing for adults. Parents just have to sit down and watch. The kids are exercising but not the adults. I would have liked the playground in the middle and around the outside exercise equipment looking inwards for parents so everyone can exercise at the same time while still viewing the kids as they play. Those parents are in desperate need of



	exercise and juggling kids and timing are so paramount. Please reconsider this plan to make its use intergenerational. Thanks
69	Stop upgrading all of the parks in the area and spending my rates on something unnecessary. I would prefer no rate rise and the park unchanged. We already have entry of new parks, Manly Dam, Narrabeen tram shed etc..
70	Looks good. Love the idea of nature play. Recently visited the new playground at ingleside and the way nature has been incorporated into the playground is fantastic
71	Would be nice to see some things for older kids above age ten, for example a flying fox would be amazing, a climbing structure intended for the physically advanced and older children
72	Plan is excellent and will enhance the War Memorial area. This park is a valuable free space in the community for all to enjoy.
73	Hi, I think it's great you upgrade kids playgrounds. But how about spending some money on upgrading dog playgrounds and some interactive areas for them such as hills, water play etc? So many residents on the northern beaches have dogs and we would love you to invest some money for our furbabies. Nothing much gets invested for dog owners at all. Just blank areas with muddy muddy areas around the taps for dogs to drink from! Thank you
74	Possibly some music play, more then just the 3 swings as the park gets very busy. And large space for all areas. The current play equipment area is quite small and there is enough space to not infringe on the other free play areas while providing more space and equipment for the children. Possibly a fence and gate would also be a nice feature and enable both spaces to remain separate as well as children safe.
75	Looks great, fully support the upgrade as shown.
76	<p>The park upgrade looks great. Two things I find that make or break a park for me and my two boys are; shade and fencing.</p> <p>I know Jacka park is a decent amount of distance from the road but for parents who have "runners" for children it is so great when there is some kind of fence or barrier that prevents children from accessing nearby roads. It's so important for peace of mind. Yes we should all watch our children at all times but when you have multiple children it's just not possible sometimes if one child is diverting your attention so that is important to me and many of my mother friends.</p> <p>Also a decent amount of shade over the equipment. Some kids refuse to wear hats and as we know the Australian summer sun is extremely strong. Equipment also heats up very fast. I generally don't take my children to parks that don't have adequate amounts of shade over the actual equipment.</p> <p>THank you.</p>
77	I think there is adequate space and local demand for a bike loop aimed at primary aged kids. Ideally this would include sections of packed earth, maybe winding through the trees and using the land contours, like a kids' mountain bike track. Apart from the exercise benefits, this would provide an opportunity for kids to learn bike skills and confidence, and lay a foundation for future bike use for transport, fun, and exercise.
78	I can't really tell what is being changed on the plan. However, I drive my kids from Allambie heights to go to this park because its got fun equipment. So many new playgrounds seem to have swung so much to safety that they forgot to make the equipment fun. So changing it so its safe but not much fun is not something I support.
79	Support refresh of the park, but oppose use of synthetic turf.
80	Toilets

81	<p>In the summer, Jacka Park is very hot, particularly near the swings. More shaded areas would be welcome, particularly given the warming of the weather with climate change. The shade trees is a great idea.</p> <p>More swings are always welcome, there is often a wait!</p> <p>My son really likes the numbers. If they could stay or something equivalent we'd appreciate it.</p> <p>Anything alphabet related would be great also.</p> <p>Thanks for upgrading!</p>
82	<p>Just make sure the senior climbing tower is well lit so as to discourage youths in the late nights</p> <p>Three types of swings is great but make sure there are 2 large enough for primary school kids to swing together</p> <p>Thanks</p>
83	<p>In the senior section please try for the tower to be open current so you can see your child but also that it doesn't turn into Walter gore park with older kids trashing the top of the tower and leaving vape cartridges and cigarette butts up there.</p> <p>A water park would be amazing or at least a water section in the nature play similar to Taronga zoo in the native animal play ground :-)</p>
84	<p>When 'senior' play area was referred to I thought it meant exercise equipment for adults and seniors. Makes more sense than referring to 4+ as seniors. My husband and I would like exercise equipment facilities for us.</p>
85	<p>I recently walked through the Gore Hill Playground next to Royal North Shore Hospital. It was awesome! Nicely spaced out, lots of different things for kids of all ages to do, lovely natural colour scheme and materials (rather than garish plastic). I actually thought 'why don't we have something like this on the beaches'? The enclosed playground at Lionel Watts is also great, with a toilet block inside.</p>
86	<p>It would be great if you could build a bike track with ramps to jump because other kids are digging up the soil near the trees to make ramps. We'd love to see a basketball hoop to train with and soccer goals.</p>
87	<p>It would be good to expand the footprint of the park a bit more. There is more attention to landscaping and access than play equipment at the moment. More swings and a water play element would be a huge hit. More shade would be good too.</p>
88	<p>The shade cloth needs to be water proof and much bigger. The playgrounds plastic and steel equipment (slides/swings elevated walk ways etc..) become unusable in 30degC weather. Then after rain take hours to dry and provide no refuge when rain does fall unexpectedly.</p> <p>The equipment at Jacka is quite good but the soft fall ground covering continually fails due to heat. There appears more landscaping and less activities which I disagree with but this may be the reduced detail in your plans.</p> <p>The existing playground with substantially extended shade and rain covering and soft fall is really what is needed in my opinion</p>
89	<p>Toilets with child change facilities</p>
90	<p>Before creating another substandard park, look at the models in queensland. Large jumping pillows, water play, bike tracks. There is a wonderful opportunity to create a bike track for kids with little jumps so school aged kids could enjoy.</p> <p>A water play area for young children.</p>

	Queensland are the benchmark for parks which cater to all ages and NBC should take note.
91	Excellent idea. Very excited for the upgrades. Would love to see a spider web climbing frame like the collaroy beach park one. Flying fox and monkey bars. Also a water feature the kids can interact with.
92	<p>Can you please ensure sufficient shade. I think an extra shade sail will be required, especially where the junior play area and older play areas are proposed. It gets very sunny there and the equipment is often way too hot for the kids to use.</p> <p>Ensure sufficient shade over swings too. The shade sail doesn't cover this area in your proposal.</p> <p>A water play area would be amazing. Kids currently use the bubbler/tap as water play, which isn't very environmental/efficient.</p> <p>A water play area in nature play area would be ideal.</p> <p>Why hasn't the playground frontprint expanded? A larger playground is certainly needed to keep up with the demand of growing families in the area.</p> <p>If budget allows, kids would love a flying fox.</p> <p>Will lighting be installed for safety? Currently teenagers congregate at night and vandalise the playground.</p> <p>Thank you for upgrading the park. It is long overdue.</p>
93	<p>The park , needs a few covered tables and seating , plus BBQ facilities. Two or three water stations for people , make it a leashed park for dogs on outside of play equipment area.</p> <p>I also feel a couple of flying fox play equipments would be great. One for older children and one for older children.</p> <p>Bins too , plenty of bins</p>
94	<p>It would be great to see an skateboard small jump ramp and are for the kids to skate.</p> <p>Also a bbq facility would be great!</p>
95	Fantastic that you're doing upgrades. There's no public toilet there which is a shame.
96	Great concept. Perhaps add a water play area for the hot spring/summer months.
97	<p>Definitely needs a basketball 1/2 court included for the tweens that are from the area. They play on the street so somewhere safe like in the park is much safer, there is plenty of room for it to be included, they aren't able to access the courts at Harbord public school on weekends as it's closed.</p> <p>It would be a true asset to the park.</p>
98	<p>Could the perimeter of the whole park be fenced (not just the playground).</p> <p>Can you add more shaded canopies as the slides get too hot to use.</p> <p>Can you resurface them bike circuit.</p>
99	Please make sure there is equipment kids likes to play on! The current fence around the park provides lots of seating for adults so please ensure something like that remains.
100	I am pleased to hear this area is getting an upgrade. I like that you are creating an area for older children, I see many of my Year 6 students using this playground. I also

	enjoying taking my 2 small children there. It is important to keep the bike and scooter track and a large open space for soccer and ball games.
101	Hi it's wonderful to hear the playground will be upgraded. We live next to Jacka park and my 4 children use it a lot. When first read of the plan, I was excited to hear about the 'senior area'. I now realise that's for children age 4 plus! My older children would love something age appropriate, particularly monkey bars for taller children. That would be great for strength building. Also a tight rope for walking balancing on (with an upper rope for holding to balance). I feel that in the local area there are far more playgrounds which cater for tiny children than older ones. Thank you
102	No synthetic turf if it's supposed to be nature based. Lots of swings - esp for school age kids. It seems smaller than existing which can get crowded. Any way to make it bigger. What's happening with the drain pits?
103	Would love to see some concept drawings but I think it's a great idea. It's a heavily used park and is due for an upgrade. Safety on equipment is always number one priority such as enclosed drop offs, or swings located further away from main thoroughfare. Thank you NB council, sure it will be great
104	This is such a great park for playing, with people coming from all around. We're lucky to live a short walk away. The upgrades feel like an update rather than a step up, it's a chance to make this park a great attraction and of a standard that the immediate area doesn't really have.  Given the site's natural slopes, a flying fox would be great. One of those large circular swings would be awesome, and slides built into the landscape as you see at Sydney Park and Rocket Park in Warriewood are fantastic for all ages. Can you include a toilet block as well?
105	I think the playground should have a fence around it for safety like the queens cliff park. Particularly since there is a bike path around the perimeter.
106	Jacka park would benefit from an upgrade whilst maintaining the original design and open spaces including the much loved and highly popular bike track that many children have used to learn to ride their bikes. I am in favour of council taking inspiration from the natural beauty and history of the area as suggested and would love to see a nature play area that encourages children to climb, crawl and engage in active play. I would also like to see council install a drinking fountain/drink bottle refill station along with water facilities for locals walking their dogs. I would also encourage the installation of rubbish bins throughout the space which includes recycling options for those hosting birthday parties or picnics as it's a very popular place for young families. There is also much need for bathroom facilities for young children and families and I would also encourage council to consider installing free doggy disposal bags to encourage dog owners to pick up their dog's mess should they run out or forget to bring their own bags.
107	The existing park is fine and very popular. This is a complete waste of money. Just like council's recent destruction of Clontarf's playground - which was also perfectly fine. No wonder our rates keep increasing above CPI inflation!
108	I am pleased that the renovation will occur within the existing footprint of the park's playground. There is very heavy use of Jacka Park, particularly by a local school which has doubled in size and uses the park multiple times daily as a 'playground'.

	<p>This has contributed to the once grassy park becoming very dusty - regeneration of the grassed areas would improve/beautify the park markedly, for ALL users. (Name Not for Publication)</p>
109	<p>It would be great to include some water play features in Jacka Park. To connect to the strong ocean connection of Freshwater.</p> <p>Currently the most popular piece of 'play' equipment at the park is a broken water bubbler that shoots water high into the air, and an associated tap.</p> <p>It would be fantastic to have some sort of structured splash pad or imaginative fountain element that regulates the water usage and brings summer joy to our community!</p> <p>The park has natural drainage down to a huge fenced-off drain at the moment ..... which is quite dangerous as kids climb through the fence to the drain.</p> <p>Is the safety of this current fenced drain being addressed in the new scheme?</p> <p>Overall it's exciting to have an upgrade proposed for jacka park. Thank you!</p>
110	<p>I would really appreciate if a basketball court was added to Jacka Park because it would be a great addition for young kids to play sport and keep active after school and on the weekends. Basketball is a fun, active game and lots of kids would benefit from having a court in our local suburb of Freshwater.</p>
111	<p>Currently the kids are proactively creating a bike track with small jumps. Leaning into this natural demand and behaviour, could this be made more 'official' by creating small tabletop mounds and berms allowing them to ride around the entire perimeter of the park? There's no need to create an entire track, but rather a series of features that kids will naturally link together on their bikes. Like the manly dam track, it could be encouraged to be used in a specific direction, and being on the periphery would X-ray a low cost attraction that separated bike riders from pedestrians safely.</p> <p>The key is it understand how the park is currently used, and leverage this behaviour. The local kids use Jacka to learn to ride and bike and to improve their riding skills, so creating a safe environment for them to do so can only be a good thing.</p> <p>And maybe a re-turf. The annual seed spreading just isn't working.</p> <p>Either way, the starting point is to look at how the park is currently being used, and to create facilities that enhance this behaviour.</p> <p>Many thanks.</p>
112	<p>As regular users of Jacka Park and the existing playground, our family strongly supports the proposed upgrades and we provide the following recommendations for incorporation into the design:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The inclusion of a dog exercise area (preferably fenced). Council currently requires all dogs to be on leads however we've noticed many dogs off lead in the Park recently (especially during the current COVID lockdown). As dog owners ourselves, we believe a relaxation of the current rules to permit off-lead exercise and/or a fenced exercise area would be well used and much appreciated by the community.</li> <li>2. Clearing of low hanging branches (and possibly the smaller trees) over/adjacent the</li> </ol>

	<p>footpath would improve visibility and create a better connection between the recreational areas and the Wall of Remembrance areas (which are very under-utilised at present).</p> <p>3. Improved lighting generally to permit/encourage use of the Park after dusk.</p>
113	<p>Ninja course with buzzer, bike jumps , concrete for skate boarding beam, 2 trapezes to swing on, community garden, canteen, pool with water slide, trampoline with foam pit, lots of plants, sun shade, big play area, make sure there is grass , don't cut down trees, pet friendly,</p>
114	<p>2 trapeze so we could jump to them and swing. Ninja Warrior Course with a buzzer. Gymnastics beam and bars. Soccer field. Bike jumps. Basketball Court. Pool with a waterslide. Trampoline. Water park. Rock wall. Monkey bars. Lots of plants. Community Garden. More tables and chairs. Canteen that is free.</p>
115	<p>It's too busy already during the day. No need to add extra traffic to the park and on the street. At night the park attracts teenagers that drink, take drugs and fight. Alot of noise comes from the park both during the day and night already. Leave it as is a small local playground. Don't want a big picnic play area in front of my place that attracts more traffic and noise. Keep it low key please</p>
116	<p>it will be great to have a flying fox like the one in mona vale park , or more things like climbing for teenager kids to stay active . I would prefer to see the funds invested in putting in a footpath from Soldiers Ave along Glen Street to Jacka Park. Given the amount of families, children and parents accessing the park it becomes dangerous as a lot of time people need to use the road as the nature strips are very uneven.</p>
117	<p>The play area should be moved to the northern end of the park near the car park. This was spoken about previously to stop the damage caused by heavy rain fall.in it's current area. Being at the northern end of the park makes more sense to be easily accessible from the designated car park.</p>
118	<p>Can you please get TOILETS in the park to make it usable for longer than 15 minutes? The boys peeing in the bushes is not really appropriate and it would be a wasted investment to not have these facilities. I very much support an upgrade to the park.</p>
119	<p>My son has suggested there be some goal posts erected in the Park. Thank you</p>

## B. Emailed comments

Number	Comment
1	<p>Att. Lisa Waugh, Parks &amp; Recreation</p> <p>Re the above &amp; request for submissions , I hereby would like my ideas &amp; serious concerns to be taken into consideration in regard to the future upgrade &amp; for the habitat &amp; co-existence of users of the park, which include area wildlife, bird habitat, treescape of a park &amp; surrounding area/s.</p>



	<p>Working daily next to the park &amp; observing critical problems unfolding, I have on three separate occasions voiced concerns, twice direct with council workers, &amp; thirdly contacting Council in respect of those concerns.</p> <p>Therefore, hopefully some basic but critical problems can be fixed.</p> <p>1. Critical need for tree surgeon to do survey, implement action plan to stop the on-going destruction of the park trees due inexcusable use of whippersnipper trimming being used around the base of the park trees.</p> <p>It is totally destructive to the trees. It is allowing borers, infection to Damage the trees, which now show considerable decline to their health.</p> <p>My husband &amp; I have, over the years, worked in bush regeneration &amp; it is very disappointing to see such a lack of basic awareness of tree &amp; environmental protection.</p> <p>My husband is an actual qualified bush regenerator through Ryde Horticultural College therefore it is very necessary now, for the trees in the park to be assessed, remedial action be taken, Bush regenerators hired to work with the gardeners to reach the proper outcome for health &amp; safety of all trees in the parks on the northern beaches Sent from my iPad</p> <p>Further, the need for the ride on mowers to stop going over the tree roots damaging same.</p> <p>Mulch needs to be re-established around the trees. This was case a few years ago but appears to not be undertaken at present. The re-introduction of mulch would create a barrier for the trees, provide a barrier to moisture loss, &amp; lastly allow natural tree regeneration, which I have witnessed along the side of the major road within cracks of the pavement.</p> <p>Please see attached photos, Jacka Park, &amp; Curl Curl Reserve, where destructive practices have been allowed to continue , therefore the trees are having a decline of a thousands cuts until eventual decay &amp; death.</p> <p>There is also need for the regenerators to start planting new growth trees, natives, for street scape , the expected high temperatures &amp; for native bird &amp; wildlife habitat. I would also suggest that schools be included in a program to facilitate habitat &amp; wildlife corridors, together with some sort of link for possums to safely cross roads, eg cables etc.</p> <p>Further, there is a need for bird boxes, possum boxes to be established , high up, to provide necessary shelter &amp; shade for wildlife, may be able to establish in schools &amp; some parks, out of harms way.</p> <p>As can be seen from the photos, the problems can be fixed &amp; can be solved, With little cost or manpower, but are very urgent &amp; necessary. The thoughts expressed apply to all our parks &amp; recreation areas. There needs to be proper oversight of management of contractors. The cost in destructive practices is too high for us &amp; our native wildlife &amp; bird life.</p>
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I have worked at Jacka Park school crossing for a number of years & it has been very sad to see the decline in care & thought due to lazy practices undertaken just for a quick finish to a job. Hopefully full consideration will be given to the serious concerns raised.

There are hundreds of birds, of all descriptions, together with the sighting of ringtail possums that inhabit this one park, we need to improve & enhance the quality of that amenity, & for all recreation areas.



May also suggest some round bench seating to safeguard the trees, & for seeds to be taken from the stand of gums along Oliver Street, for propagating & to regenerate other parks together with also seeds to be collected from the huge native fig tree, which provides tremendous shade & shelter.

Thanks for your consideration of the matters raised & look forward to a favourable response.

XX  
P.O. Box XXX  
Warringah Mall  
Brookvale. 2100





	 
2	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I wanted to please raise a suggestion to the planner in charge of the Jacka Park upgrade. I am a local Mother of two and use this playground every day so we are all so happy to see it get a facelift! I have already submitted online a suggestion for an enclosed fence surrounding the playground, and wanted to suggest additional shade in the play area. Currently the shade cloth in the plans does not cover the actual 'play space'. Hoping it would be possible to add additional shade in the Junior, Senior, or swing play area as this will obviously be an important part of keeping the playground as usable as possible during the summer months.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>
3	<p>Dear Sir or Madam,</p> <p>Last time I was at Jacka park I noticed how hot it was. I realise you can't do anything about the weather but another shade sail to protect the area would be appreciated. This area floods during heavy rain. Can the playground be moved to the north? Thank you for the installation of the toilet facilities.</p> <p>Regards XX Freshwater</p>
4	<p>Dear Ms Waugh,</p>

	<p>I have only one question about the playground upgrade: are any of the swings suitable for teenagers/young adults?</p> <p>I live right next to the park so I get to see the people who use it. During weekdays it is all preschoolers and primary school children. But in the evening, sometimes small groups of teens and possibly young adults come to the park, sit a while then move on. Quite often they use the swing (or swings; until recently there were two swings suitable for fully-grown people but one has been replaced by a toddler swing.)</p> <p>These young people are quiet (unlike the primary schoolers) and peaceable, and I would like to think their needs are catered for as well as for the more boisterous (and admittedly, much more numerous) children.</p> <p>Regards,</p>
5	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>I have another point about the upgrade. I would like more picnic tables included. Also, current shade tables are awkward – if you sit at them you are forced to face away from the person you are talking to which isn't great. Picnic tables with benches would be much easier for children and parents to sit at.</p> <p>Many thanks,</p> <p>XX Parent and resident</p>
6	<p>Congratulations on the upgrade for Jack Park.</p> <p>However, We would like to suggest the entry/exit area for the play area should be reconsidered as it is dangerous for little children to walk straight out on the Footpath especially when children on bikes are using the path.</p> <p>We have experienced this problem with our grandchildren.</p> <p>With appreciation XX XX Soldiers Ave Freshwater</p>
7	<p>Hi</p> <p>I just saw the 'have your say' for the upgrade of Jacka Park. I wanted to point out your history of the park is incorrect.</p> <p>Blanche Jacka was married to Leslie Jacka and I believe the park is dedicated to Leslie.</p> <p>I found the correct information on Harbord RSL</p> <p><a href="https://www.harbordrslsubbranch.org/jacka">https://www.harbordrslsubbranch.org/jacka</a></p> <p>Regards</p> <p>XX</p>
8	<p>Hello,</p> <p>We are local Freshwater residents and with 3 children, we have been frequent users of Jacka Park for many years. It was welcome news to hear of the planned upgrade.</p>

	<p>The proposed changes look wonderful for the 0-7 year age group but I wanted to point out that there doesn't seem to be anything to interest the many many children over that age that use the park. This seems an oversight that could be corrected with the addition of a basketball hoop (or netball) and/or a wheels/skateboarding zone.</p> <p>Please do consider the needs of the 8-13 year olds that come to the park.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>XX XX Carlton St Freshwater 2096</p>
9	<p>Hi Lisa,</p> <p>Re Jacka Park, Freshwater</p> <p>Could I request, if not already done so, that you please add my name and email to the updates regarding Jacka Park Freshwater, playground upgrade?</p> <p>Thanks in advance</p>
10	<p>Hi Lisa</p> <p>Lovely to chat with you yesterday re: the proposed Jacka Park upgrade. I like the overall concept of catering to older children i.e. over 4 years. A few comments covering what we discussed yesterday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) I agree that it is good to keep a large area of open space, as many parents and their children kick balls around in it.</li> <li>b) Can I suggest the removal of the baby swing near the entrance? Some teenagers swing it back and forth as forcefully as they can and it seems they are trying to break it!</li> <li>c) Replace current garbage bins with banks of garbage and recycling bins.</li> <li>d) Retain as much of the sandstone dwarf wall as possible. It adds character.</li> <li>e) Add signage directing people to the toilets.</li> <li>f) Construct a section of footpath (approx 30 metres long) on the southern part of Wyndora Ave (from Eric St to Jacka Park), so that parents with prams and children do not have to cross the busy Wyndora Ave. This will complete the footpath from Oliver St to the eastern end of Wyndora Ave.</li> <li>g) Repair the timber fence between Jacka Park and Glen St.</li> <li>h) Children about 8 to 11 years of age are building dirt jumps for their bikes in Jacka Park on the boundary of my property. I'm pleased they are doing this rather than be inactive at home, however it indicates that there is a dearth of purpose-built bike tracks for these children, such as the one at North Balgowlah. Perhaps staff could consider a</li> </ul>

	<p>building a local mountain bike course, such as next to the skateboard ramps at Nth Curl Curl.</p> <p>Thanks for considering my suggestions. I look forward to seeing the draft plans in due course.</p> <p>Kind regards XX XX Wyndora Ave Freshwater</p>
11	<p>Great news. How about a swing for wheelchair bound children? Kind regards</p>
12	<p>Hi Lisa,</p> <p>Perhaps a suggestion would be to place some speed humps on approach to the roundabout, on Albert, Carlton, and Evans Streets. I live in a unit block at that intersection, and at most times of the day and night you can't cross the road due to speeding cars. Police do not monitor the area in question, and they seem more pre-occupied getting free coffees at the local shop on Albert Street - regardless of one death (that I am aware of) in this area due to that traffic hazard presented. Sorry for what may appear to be sarcasm; however, I believe that money would be better spent on preserving children's lives (and other local residents also) rather than an upgrade to entertain them in a local park.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>





## **SUBMISSION ON UPGRADE OF JACKA PARK, FRESHWATER**

4 September 2021

The Friends of Freshwater has long been involved with Jacka Park.

Our involvement over the last decade has been with other community groups such as the Harbord RSL Sub Branch; the Soldiers Avenue of Honour Stakeholders Group, Freshwater SLSC and the Harbord Literary Institute and includes: -

- The Formal registration with the State Government of the War Memorial as a Community War Memorial now known as the Freshwater Anzac Precinct. This Precinct also includes the heritage listed Soldiers Avenue of Honour. This is only the second war memorial to be so registered on the northern beaches.
- To coincide with the Centenary of Anzac in 2015 and the Centenary of Armistice Day in 2018, we gained funding support from the State and Federal Governments to commission two Commemorative Sculptures, cast in bronze, by renowned sculptor, Alan Somerville. This also included permanent seating and explanatory plaques. These form a part of the permanent infrastructure of the Park
- We have also received funds from Northern Beaches Council to hold successful commemorative events for these Centenaries.
- A decade long campaign to obtain adequate toilet amenities for the Park resulted in our concept of a Council workers shed being successfully converted by Council to a public toilet facility.
- Lobbying to upgrade playground facilities.

Freshwater, as a suburb, has been identified by Council planners as having, other than Brookvale, the least green space of any suburb on the northern beaches. In this context, Jacka Park is particularly prized as an open green space uncommitted to a particular sport or activity. Now, with the provision of public amenities, it has come alive as a picnic area for families with young children. The upgrade to the playground facilities will be much appreciated. It is also used by a nearby School as a passive outbreak area.

Our initial discussions with Council included the relocation of the current playground away from the Freshwater Creek pipeline overflow area. This was because the playground and


its soft fall was regularly damp, mouldy and unhealthy for children of a crawling age. It was thought that the playground would be relocated further up the Park to a relatively drier area. The current playground would then be modified to become an outdoor gym. These, in Covid Lockdown, are extremely well utilised elsewhere.

Disappointingly these concepts are not recognised in this Upgrade and given the pressure on Council to provide public amenities across the LGA are unlikely ever to be realised.

Our previous discussions with Council also included the provision of a further Shade Structure to complement the two existing Structures. Increased use of the Park by the community would make this a useful addition to the Park infrastructure.

We provide these comments for your further consideration.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Harley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Peter Harley OAM**  
**President**

5 September 2021

Lisa Waugh  
Asset Management Officer – Parks & Recreation  
Northern Beaches Council

By email: [council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Waugh

**Submission – Comments on Jacka Park upgrade Concept Plan**

I am a Freshwater resident and mother of a boy aged 18 months. We have been enjoying Jacka park for the last year or so and are very happy that an upgrade of the playground has been proposed. We feel very lucky to have such big space close to us for our little one to use and explore and would love to mention a couple of things that are important to us when it comes to the playground's environment, play and gross motor equipment for our boy and all the children of the Freshwater community, big or small. Here are some of our comments:

- We love the idea of a garden of native plants and flowers within the playground space, it is both a beautiful way to link the space with its former history and to introduce our children to the native flora of our beautiful environment. It would be great if the garden was significant enough to attract native fauna too (eg if there were a 'lizard lounge'). We also wonder whether the garden beds could feature in more parts of the playground rather than being 'one-off', maybe in the form of a small maze for the children to explore?
- While we understand that safety is a big part of the planning when it comes to a playground, we wonder whether the council could take into account the ground surface materials used to provide this safety as well as the educational potential those materials might have for our little ones. While softfall might be the easy 'go-to' way of providing safety for our children, it is not a natural material and disintegrates over time. I have countless experiences of my child crawling around playgrounds that use this material, ending up covered in the small particles which stain his clothes, and trying to eat it. Softfall and synthetic turf both fail to give 'feedback' to the child from a pedagogical / learning perspective. As a pre-school educator, I know how important it is to allow our children to experience the natural environment first-hand, in order to understand concepts such as hot/cold, hard/soft, wet/dry, smells and textures. A far better material would be tan-bark. As a parent, I would rather my child put bark in his mouth and got dirty from the natural environment, rather than crushed rubber.

I have included some photos below of the challenges with softfall (especially as it gets older) and some photos from a beautiful park at Mungo Scott Place in Summer Hill, which you can see utilises bark to create a very natural environment.



*Use of tan-bark at Mungo Scott Place, Summer Hill*



*Images of disintegrating softfall at Jacka Park*



Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

Yours sincerely



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