

# **Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report**

# Anana Reserve, Elanora Heights – Playground renewal

Consultation period: Friday 4 November 2022 to Sunday 4 December 2022

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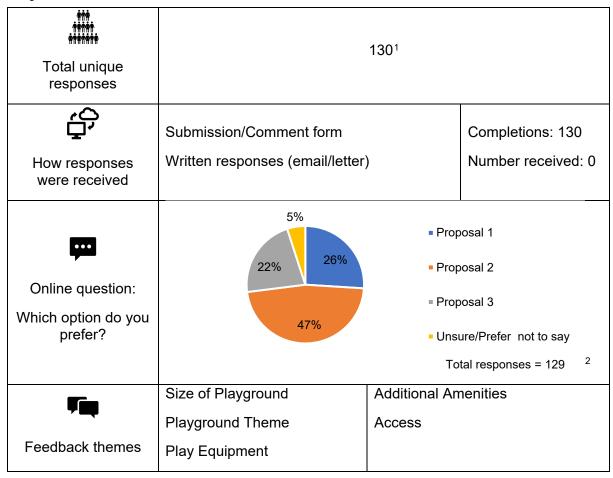
#### 1. Summary

This report outlines the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement as part of a proposal to renew the playground at Anana Reserve, Elanora Heights to meet the needs of the community with a focus on providing play for toddler and primary school aged children.

The feedback collected during consultation indicated a high level of support for the renewal of the playground with the highest preference given to playground proposal option 2.

Feedback also suggested that many respondents would like more play equipment, a larger playground and more associated amenities.

#### 1.1. Key outcomes



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Not every respondent selected an option.

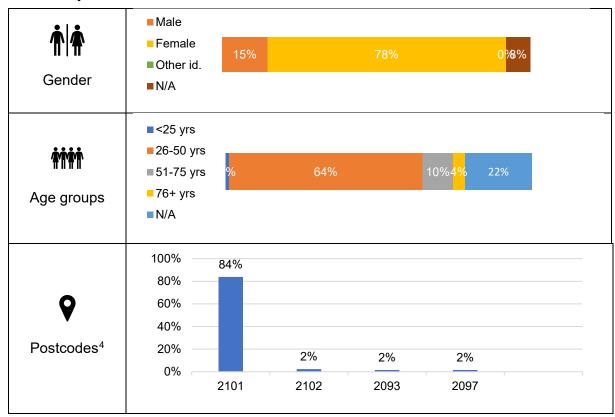


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Not every respondent made a comment in addition to selecting a preferred option.

#### 1.2. How we engaged

Have Your Say: visitation stats	Visitors: 514	Visits: 646	Average time onsite: 2 mins 13 secs
Print media and collateral	Letterbox drop: 2101 Site signs used: 2		Distribution: 230  Number of signs: 2
Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2 editions Stakeholder email: 1		Distribution: 22,000 subscribers Distribution: 1

#### 1.3. Who responded<sup>3</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Results greater than 1%



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Anana Reserve, Elanora Heights – Playground renewal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Demographic data was gathered in the online form by request only.

## 2. Background

Anana Reserve Playground is a Neighbourhood category playground located close to Elanora Heights Public School and local shops.

It has been identified that the playground facilities in this popular playground require renewal to meet the needs of the community with a focus on providing play for toddler and primary school aged children.

## 3. Engagement objectives

Community and stakeholder engagement aimed to:

- build community and stakeholder awareness of the project
- involve the community in the decision making on which design to proceed with.
- seek out and facilitate the involvement of those affected by or interested in the 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 Anana Reserve, Elanora Heights – Playground Renewal was conducted between Friday 4 November 2022 and Sunday 4 December 2022, 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 Matrix (2022).

A project page<sup>5</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, signs on site, letters to nearby residents and the community engagement register.

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 which of the three proposals they preferred.

An open-field comments box provided community members a space to explain or elaborate on their preference, as well as any other feedback they wished to contribute.

Email and written comments were also invited.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://voursav.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/anana-reserve-elanora-heights



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#### 4.1. Reaching diverse audiences

A thorough stakeholder mapping exercised 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 local residents and playground users. Letters were sent to neighbouring properties to advise them of the proposal and invite feedback.

## 5. Findings

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

Three playground suppliers, that have a proven track record of providing playgrounds on the Northern Beaches were asked to provide a proposal for the playground renewal. The community was asked to identify their preferred proposal and provide any comments.

The proposals received the following preferences:

Table 1: Results of vote

Proposal	Votes for Preferred Option
Option 1 Moduplay	34
Option 2 Proludic	60
Option 3 Play by Design	28
Unsure/Prefer not to say	7

Table 2: Issues, change requests and other considerations

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Size of playground	Some respondents felt that the playground should be larger to cater for the number of children in Elanora Heights.	Anana Reserve Playground has been designated as a "Neighbourhood" playground in Council's Open Space & Outdoor Recreation Strategy. The scale of the playground and diversity of equipment offered is commensurate with that.



Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Council's response
Playground theme	Some respondents raised the issue that the playground is well known as "Fire Engine Park" and requested if the fire engine could remain or a new fire engine added.	Council acknowledges that the fire engine is a special part of the playground. It is not practical to retain and repair the existing fire engine. A small fire engine play piece has been added to the preferred proposal.
Play equipment	Some respondents requested that the playground have additional play equipment including more swings and play structures.	Anana Reserve Playground has been designated as a "Neighbourhood" playground in Council's Open Space & Outdoor Recreation Strategy. The scale of the playground and diversity of equipment offered is commensurate with that.
Additional amenities	Some respondents would like additional amenities such as toilets, water drinking fountain, shade and extra seating.	Additional informal seating will be created by the use of sandstone blocks.
		A drinking water fountain currently exists. This will be upgraded to encourage people to use reusable water bottles in line with the objectives of Council's Single Use Plastic Policy.
		Mature trees provide good shade coverage. Additional shade is not within scope or budget. Additional shade may be added in the future if funding is available.
		Toilets are out of scope of this playground renewal project. They may be considered in the future if funding is available.
Access	Some respondents requested path access from the street to the playground.	Council will provide path access from the Elanora Rd.



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

Table 2: Questions raised and Council's answers

Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Is there a possibility for the spongey surface on the ground as opposed to mulch?	Rubber soft fall has been included in high wear areas such as beneath swings, etc. Council tries to avoid using rubber in smaller playgrounds where possible due to environmental concerns, cost of product and relatively short lifespan.
Is there an Aboriginal perspective that can be incorporated through stone artworks encouraging unstructured play?	The site has no identified Aboriginal significance and this would not be appropriate at this site without extensive consultation with the local Aboriginal community.
Plant more trees around??	Council will plant more trees within Anana Reserve and will locate them to not impede the open space.
Love this concept, but where's the shade cloth?	The playground has good tree coverage which provides shade at certain times. An additional shade structure is not within the current scope or budget. This may be added in the future if funding becomes available.
Can the fire truck stay?	Council acknowledges that the fire engine is a special part of the playground. While it is not practical to retain and repair the existing fire engine, a small fire engine play piece has been added to the preferred proposal.
All of your designs are poor and over crowded, why do you need to make any changes?	The playground is being renewed as the main play equipment pieces and walling are reaching the end of their lifespan.
Please can a natural ground cover be used in preference to those proposed	Australian playground standards require soft fall below and in the vicinity of play equipment. The options for this is generally limited to rubber, synthetic turf, mulch or sand. Mulch with rubber pads in high wear areas provides a good balance of aesthetics, cost and maintenance requirements.
Are you installing a water fountain?	There is an existing water bubbler adjacent to the playground. An upgraded drinking fountain may be added if budget allows.
Will there be a picnic table?	A new picnic pad replacing the old pad will be provided to cater for group seating.



Question raised in feedback	Council's answer
Will there be additional shade provided?	The playground has good tree coverage which provides shade at certain times. Council will plant more trees within Anana Reserve and will locate them to not impede the open space. structure may be added in the future if funding becomes available.
Sustainability of materials for all play equipment should also be ranked high. Also what about repairs?	Materials and maintenance requirements form part of Council's assessment criteria when selecting the preferred supplier.
It's great that this park is getting updated but what about the rest of them in the area?	There are currently 217 publicly accessible playgrounds across the Northern Beaches, which are progressively renewed and upgraded. Information regarding upcoming playground renewals can be found on Council's Your Say website. Council has an adopted Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy that outlines future recreation projects and opportunities.
Why can't council put in something like the pump track/skills park going in at Wyatt Ave belrose and actually give our children space to learn skills like riding bikes and scooters we have the space in koorangi reserve or Woorarra lookout reserve.	This is out of scope of the Anana Reserve playground renewal project. Council has an adopted Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy that outlines future recreation projects and opportunities.



# Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses\*

Number	Comment/submission
1	More seating needed for parents. Needs shade. Keep the fire engine - it's what the playground is known for - just upgrade it, don't remove it. The space is big enough to have an area for the bigger kids and a play area for toddlers.
2	It would be good to have something more to cater to older children - this park is right near the primary school.
3	This playground appears better than most. Money better spent on others e.g. area outside elanora community centre or Wimbledon ave (where whole area has been badly run down)
4	The fire engine in this playground is a great locally recognized feature so incorporating a new version of the fire engine should be part of the design.
	Also the Climbing frames and equipment should be at a scale suitable for the bigger primary school children as this park is used by kids primary and beyond.
	Borders to the bark areas should be carefully considered in the design. In medium rain the bark gets washed out to the road. Don't replace the ground cover with soft fall. The natural material of bark and sand is a great feature that local kids love.
	The existing square bench works well for current users as often large groups of families meet together here after school.
5	As this park will attract so many primary school aged children pre/post school and for play dates with school friends, suggest some further options for older children like the monkey bars and climbing frame. Could there be another piece of equipment for ages 5-10?
6	A taller slippery dip would also be great for the older kids.
7	None these are all terrible. The designer clearly has never had babies or toddlers of school aged kids.
	Water filling station and bubblers are missing. No "natural" surfaces- Sand and woodchips are terrible. Recycled plastic is the most agreeable surface.
	I read that Elanora Heights is THE ONLY suburb on the beaches without public toilets- how embarrassing. Please put them in then kids could actually play here after school before coming home.

<sup>\*</sup>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/submission
8	None of these are great options.
	This park could have hundreds of kids and families use it but you are just updating it to another lower standard park.
	There is so much wasted space in these designs.
	It's a flat space, could have a scooter track or a few pumps for bikes.
	There is no additional seating.
	No parent wants wood chips or sand or anything other than a rubber surface.
	Parks around here that are actually good for comparison: rocket ship Warriewood (minus the sand); Newport Garbage Truck park at the surf club; Tramshed; Walter Gors at Dee Why.
	Whenever we drive away from the Northern Becahes, it's pretty evident that playgrounds here are at such a poor standard. Unsure who did these submissions for you but they either think it's 2001 or they don't have kids.
	More swings, more climbing frames, An accessibility option.
9	Being a designer I notice that the 3 designs offer different solutions to manage the fall across this park. Being there after recent rains I notice that much of the mulch ends up washed away because the areas are not flat enough. Option 1 looks pretty but is not reflective of the actual site. As does Option 2. Option 3 is the only solution to consider this from a designed perspective and resolves the site properly. Plus, the equipment colours and materials are sympathetic with the natural surrounds of this nature reserve.
10	Equipment looks the best! I like one gate as it feels safer.
11	I really like the level changes in this proposal. It will stop the mulch washing down the road after rain like it currently does. The equipment looks really fun for my kids too.
12	Has both the slide swing etc and rings, bars
13	Please enclose the swing area, or cordon it off to some extent. I've seen toddlers get cleaned up from wandering into the path of a swing in use. The health and safety of the kids must not be put at risk. I've often seen these types of accidents and near misses. Kids don't have the situational awareness. Very dangerous. I'm a father of a 5 and a 3 year old.
14	Very excited to see this being upgraded. Proposal 2 looks like it has more exciting options for various ages. Prefer the colour scheme too as would entice people to use when they drive passed it. Looks more modern and timeless than other options.
15	it would be good if there was a parkour /ninja warrior type element for older kids - there are several parks in Perth with this feature and my child loves it: https://www.kids-around-perth.com/ninja-obstacle-parks.html



Number	Comment/submission
16	Consideration for kids waiting for buses just outside park in the afternoon would be prudent, ie benches, safe entertainment. Nature play opportunities further up bank would be amazing.
17	The rubber soft mat instead of bark makes it more accessible after rain and less anxiety around a toddler eating the bark. The baby/toddler swing seat is far safer. All surfaces utilized with interaction.
18	Separate areas for different age groups, various levels of difficulty for practicing. Great for younger and older kids
19	Having spoken to my grandchildren who have spent many happy hours at Fire Engine Park ,as we call it. They would like if possible for the Fire Engine or a similar structure to be included. They have chosen option 2. Thank you
20	Would be great to include a picnic table for after school catch ups or kids to do homework outside.
21	Please make sure you still have a bubbler at the playground!
22	Has play equipment for a broader age range of children, particularly covering preschool age
23	Proposal 1 and 3 do not have enough options for toddlers and small children to play. Proposal 2 caters nicely for all ages including baby swing and toddler slide
24	This will be a big (much needed) improvement on the current space. Proposal 2 appears to have more options for play. This is also our preferred toddler seat for the swing as it provides more safety than the single chain strap across the middle. Is there a possibility for the spongey surface on the ground as opposed to mulch?
25	Still pretty bland. So many kids hang there after school, mind do! Would be nice to have some more equipment such a big park and more seating for parents I guess it all depends on budget
26	A big improvement on the current playground.
	It would be good to have more seating and shade.
	Is there an Aboriginal perspective that can be incorporated through stone artworks encouraging unstructured play?
27	Please can it have the soft rubber flooring and not the pine bark as this is not good for babies who try to eat it. Thanks
28	It suits a wider age range, proposal 2 &3 are more suited to younger, pre school kids
29	Please put more than two swings in as they are the most popular thing in the park.
30	What a great initiative. We have recently discussed in our family that an updated playground in this space would be a great addition to the community given the number of small children in the area.  Our boys would certainly appreciate a solution with lots of climbing.
31	Use this park often with my Grandaughter. Perimeter fence not necessary here. Good variety. Plenty of room around swings. Great seating wall.



Number	Comment/submission
32	It would be great if you could add a fire engine type play vehicle to the design. It has been know by locals as "fire engine park" for 20+ years or more.
33	I would ike to see more swings. It os god to have a baby/toddler swing, but swings are very popular and so adding another swing set for older children rather than the one only might save the todler swing form being vandalised by larger kids using it as so often happened in previous parks. AN inground trampoline space would also be good but I really like all the different zones
34	Proposal 3 offers a well rounded park option for toddlers and school aged children. This would be a great addition to the neighbourhood!
35	It seems an opportunity is being missed to design a playground that takes advantage of the site's unique qualities, eg. topography and bushland setting when off the shelf equipment is being catalogue shopped by manufacturers under a D&C contract. A better starting point would have been to engage with the children at EHPS who use the park every day on what they would like their playground to be. It would be a simple afternoon - there is literally a captive audience behind a fence! I would argue none of the options provide the best possible outcome for the community and an independent landscape architect or designer should have been engaged to create a place based response with an unbiased choice of equipment at their disposal to better meet the community's needs.
36	Visually sits the best within the environment. Has designated play areas, however the footprint appears a little larger.
37	Number 2 seems to have a great balance of everything in particular the climbing apiarist on the right hand the older kids will love this. May i suggest 2 swings one for a baby/toddler and another regular seat as opposed to just the baby seat as this park caters mostly to primary age children who love the swing sets as they dont have these in the school.
38	Please consider providing:  1) 4 swings (2 babies + 2 normal swings);  2) water fountain;  3) tall slide (eg. Rocketship park) + smaller slide for toddlers;  4) separate areas for toddlers versus older kids (eg. Rocketship park);  5) additional shade and seating.  ** This park is used by the local community and a LOT of kids from the primary school. It needs sufficient space and play options for volume of kids.  Thanks!
39	Needs something for older kids as well. Perhaps large chess or other game, oversized black board, zipline etc
40	I like the range of abilities th is would cater to. Soft fall is always great for babies who eat bark and sand etc! Also can go there's straight after and even during rainy days. Great that the wall would prove inbuilt seating Plant more trees around?? Always better to have more natural shade.
41	Love this concept, but where's the shade cloth? It gets very hot there.
42	3rd option looks good. A baby swing would be good in the 3rd option though! Maybe the same baby swing as the one at Elanora park looking over the lake!



Number	Comment/submission
43	2 is the best out of a reasonable bunch. I feel the entire playground needs a fence though to prevent the kids from running up the hill and into the bush and then onto Elanora roadand also, can the fire truck stay? That's the best feature and the kids love it.
44	The playground is used by school ages children a lot and needs more equipment. There is space for more options.  The climbing type frames are popular. Some more equipment to suit 7-10 year olds would be preferable.
45	A toilet there would be great! Keep the fire engine?? It's pretty iconic to that playground for lots of kids in the area. Thank you for upgrading it does need a facelift.
46	Very disappointed that the park seems once again dedicated to small children only. Please note that in year 4 at Elanora primary there are three classes, each of > 25 children, that's more than seventy ten year olds who are completely ignored in the park design you propose. Same goes for all the tired, existing parks in Elanora Heights. Time to cater for the forgotten 8-10 year olds please.
47	Please add elements to the reserve which can be used by kids in the 8-13 year old age group. There are a lot of kids in that age group living in Elanora Heights without age-appropriate public play areas. A parkour course would be ideal - either as built structures or a more organic natural materials style course.
48	Please make sure there's appropriate shading, the colour of the substrate not being too dark and attention for equipment in the full sun that gets very hot.
	Shaded seating for (grand-) parents / prams either by shadow sail or trees. A goal or ball sport related equipment (f.e. Funnel ball) a bit away from this playground would be very appreciated too. I'm an architect and happy to volunteer in any way that is helpful, please don't hesitate to contact me in this regard.
49	My son likes option 1 the best :). He is 4 years old and I have another son who is 1. We live around the corner from this park.
50	Option 2 seems to provide the most facilities for a wider age range and makes the most of the space.
51	Do not remove the Fire Engine. It is the favourite play item in Elanora and all the local children love to go to the "For Engine Park" All of your designs are poor and over crowded, why do you need to make any changes?
52	Please can a natural ground cover be used in preference to those proposed. Large quantities of small plastic pieces washed downhill from public parks have been found in Deewhy lagoon, and I think the council should be striving to prevent this occurring in the development of future parks. Currently this park uses woodchip and it works well.



Number	Comment/submission	
53	Please do not fill this playground up with 'metal' if there are no sails or cover allocated - this is a very important community playground as so near the school and is used all day every day after school pick up and drop off and also by children during the weekend who love to run around the park and use the structures.	
54	Hello, Thanks for the opportunity to have some input. We believe Proposal two is the best layout and complexity. Only comment is that an additional set of swings would be of benefit. There is often a few kids standing about waiting for a go. The tots bucket swing is essential. Some pics show it and some don't but we assume it will be included.  Finally, we will be sad to see the beloved fire engine go. It's very popular. They all love to drive it and crash the gear knob. Could it be refurbished perhaps?	
55	And also a path around the perimeter for scooters	
56	All options could be amended to provide more shade on seated and play areas	
57	I prefer the design with more swinging, climbing and hanging. I feel that kids don't do enough of that. All look good though.	
58	It's a shame none of the options include a fire truck. This park is known by locals as fire truck park and it would have been great to be able to retain this name with some kind of nod to its previous structure.	
59	Please ensure they're are extra swings. Swings seem to be the best part about a park. At least 3 to 4	
60	Whichever design chosen should be improved by some native garden planting adjacent to the playground area for shade, to make the play area cooler and for children who love to observe nature.  It's not clear from pics what the ground surface is, however bark/mulch is far superior to the rubberised surfaces in some playgrounds, which are hot, smelly/toxic and polluting.	
61	Due to lots of rain there were spots at the playground that were very deep muddy, softened ground. Could possibly lead to ground drop.	
62	I meet my grand daughter after school in front of this park and see that it is used by both younger children and primary school age children-thinking most of the play equipment in all 3 proposals are for younger age group and it is boring for primary age kids  Little more challenging would be better used	
63	Having equipment for both toddlers and older kids is very helpful.  Access to a bathroom is also needed.	
64	We like the equipment in proposal 2 best as more adventurous and attractive to all age groups. We love the sandstone edging. The surface needs to be durable (ie not bark chips which are continuously eroded away) but also eco-friendly and where the surface temperature doesn't get too high.	
65	Great diversity in play for all kids. I like the tiered design that offers different areas of play.	
66	Any more shades would be good.	



Number	r Comment/submission		
67	Great free play climbing section and bars for the older kids - great for those of us who have kids of varied primary school ages. Great stimulation - the bars/rings/ladder/frame etc. Cheers. :)		
68	I feel like this is a lighter design which is important during summer as the equipment gets too hot.  Just checking that you'll be installing soft fall as the bark is always a bit dirty. Are you installing a water fountain? Will there be a picnic table? Will there be additional shade provided?		
69	As long as the ground is either not the current mulch as it all washes out in heavy rains, or it is built up so as to prevent that happening		
70	Proposal 2 caters for a wider demographic with the inclusion of more equipment, climbing/outdoor fitness equipment and passive play elements like sandstone blocks. Inviting and fun layout to entice kids play.		
71	I have fond memories of playing with my young children in Anana Reserve, a lovely neighbourhood playground. I still visit there with family friends that live in Elananora. Option 2 looks attractive to both children and adults, and has a good mix of both physical and imaginative play activities.		
72	It's got something for everyone I like the natural wooden equipment used. I think it blends into the environment while still being practical for the children going to be using it.		
73	Honestly, all 3 of them are great in comparison to what is there now.		
	Love having them spaced out and utilizing more of the space that is there.		
74	Proposal two has a more diverse range of equipment providing for a larger age range of children		
75	My child goes to Elanora Heights Public School and votes for proposal 2. What is missing in all proposals are more seating spaces for parents and pram parking. I would also love to see some water fountain and sun shade.		
	Sustainability of materials for all play equipment should also be ranked high. Also what about repairs?		
76	A toilet would be good if possible.		
77	We know this park as "Fire Truck Park". They meet their friends at Fire Truck Park. It would be great to add a fire truck as the main focal point.		
	It would also be good to include play items for bigger kids, such as a rope pyramid.		



Number	Comment/submission
78	Please add a pathway leading from the footpath to the park. Getting a pram up to the park is a nightmare especially when it's damp & grass hasn't been mowed.
	Another thing, and probably need to submit this somewhere else, the foot path out the front of the park is regularly covered in algae and is very slippery and dangerous. It would be great if this could be rectified as it's a matter of time before someone hurts themselves badly.
79	Path required from footpath up to the playground. This is due public safety with wet ground, long grass and ground water erosion.
80	My 2 daughters voted for the proposal number 2 because it has more fun equipment to play in their point of view.
81	It's great that this park is getting updated but what about the rest of them in the area? Why can't council put in something like the pump track/skills park going in at Wyatt Ave belrose and actually give our children space to learn skills like riding bikes and scooters we have the space in koorangi reserve or Woorarra lookout reserve. Future proof our parks and recreation areas and provide something children of all ages can use and stop limiting and dating our facilities. Toilet facilities and drinking water are a must. Something like Lionel watts reserve in belrose could be considered!
82	My daughter likes the look of number 3
83	Please consider additional shade to cover and protect children. I like that Proposal 1 has no solid walls, prevents youth/teenagers hiding and vandalising the area. A public toilet would be a good addition to the park.
84	They all look great but I think proposal 2 looks to cater for a bigger age range of kids. Thanks!
85	A basket ball hoop would make it perfect!
86	Proposal 1 looks more aesthetically pleasing more natural
87	Please provide shade A water fountain A toilet is a must with kids so



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Approval	Content provided and approved by Parks Asset – Planning Design & Delivery Team. Responsible manager: Jeremy Smith		
Status	Final		
Related Projects	Let's Play - Open Space and 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.		

