



WOLLUNDRY PARK PLAYGROUND

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT



April 2024

Parks, Trees & Recreation Branch

Hornsby Shire Council

296 Peats Ferry Road

Hornsby NSW 2077

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Consultation with the Hornsby Shire community was undertaken to seek feedback on a proposed upgrade of Wollundry Park Playground, Pennant Hills.

The purpose of this report is to outline the methods of engagement undertaken and report on the results and outcomes of the consultation.

2.0 SITE LOCATION

Wollundry Park is located at 60-62X Yarrara Road, Pennant Hills. The proposed playground upgrade is located in the same location as the existing playground on the southeastern side of the park next to Yarrara Road.



Image 1 – Proposed site of the playground upgrade at Wollundry Park

3.0 BACKGROUND

Wollundry Park is located next to Pennant Hills train station, local shops and Pennant Hills Library. Given its close proximity to these facilities, it attracts a wide range of users from commuters walking through the park, mothers groups, weekend markets and general park users. The Park is owned by Hornsby Shire Council and is classified as Community Land.

In late 2023, Wollundry Park playground was damaged by vandalism, resulting in the playground equipment being unusable by the community.

Since then, Council has worked with two play equipment manufacturers to develop two different options for the playground for the community to vote for their preferred option.

4.0 CONSULTATION METHODOLOGIES

Two concept plans were prepared for the playground upgrade, and a community engagement program was undertaken between 20 February and 11 March 2024. Community engagement is important to the success of the playground upgrade and Council engaged with the community through the following channels:

- Advertisement on Council's website – YourSay Hornsby
- Online feedback form
- Social Media
- Direct mailout to adjoining neighbours
- Notices placed on site
- Notices placed in Pennant Hills Library
- On site consultation drop in session on Saturday 2 March

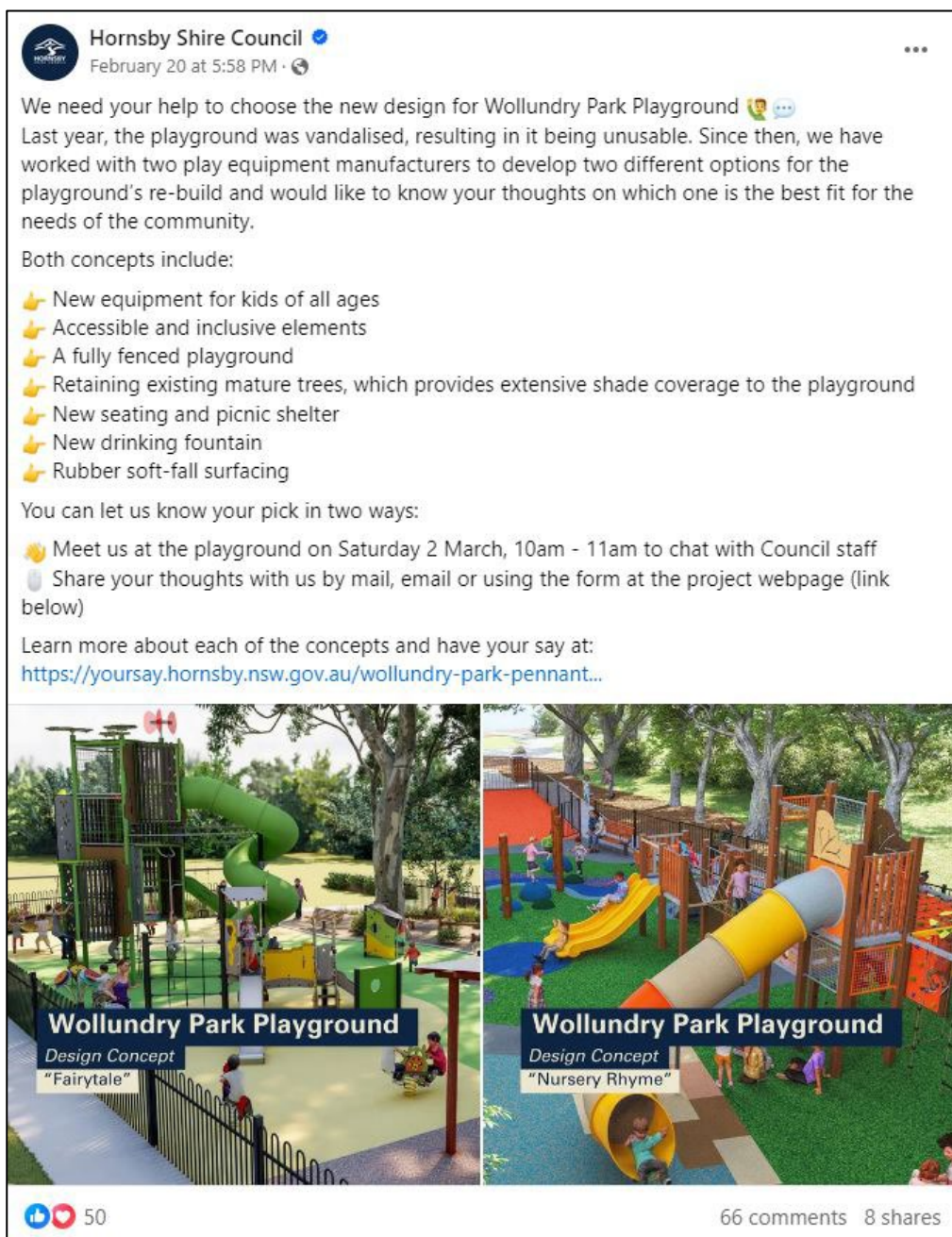


Image 2: Screenshot of Council's Facebook post

Online Feedback form

The community were asked to provide comments on the proposal via an online feedback form on Council's YourSay Hornsby website. A snapshot of the webpage and feedback form is shown below.

Wollundry Park, Pennant Hills – Playground upgrade
Which option do you prefer?
[+ Follow](#)

The Proposal
In late 2023, Wollundry Park playground at Pennant Hills was damaged by vandalism, resulting in the playground equipment being unusable by the community.
Since then, we have worked with two play equipment manufacturers to develop two different options for the playground and we now need your help to decide which one is the best for the Wollundry Park playground.
All feedback received during consultation will be reviewed and used to inform the final playground upgrade.
Both concepts include:

- new equipment for kids of all ages
- accessible and inclusive elements
- fully fenced playground
- retaining existing mature trees, which provides extensive shade coverage to the playground
- new seating and picnic shelter
- new drinking fountain
- rubber softfall surfacing

Which concept do you prefer?

Option 1: Nursery Rhyme
This 'Nursery Rhyme' design features bright and colourful equipment to link to the nearby Library and community centre. The feature play tower has a 'Humpty Dumpty' theme and includes a large climbing frame, rope bridge, a 1.5m high double slide and a 2.5m high tube slide.
The shelter has been relocated, allowing the play area to be expanded and more equipment to be provided within the fenced area.
[View the concept plan and proposed equipment >](#)

Option 2: Fairytale
This 'Fairytale' design features equipment which complements the colour palette of the leafy park setting. The feature play tower has a 'Jack and the Beanstalk' theme and includes a climbing tower, a 3m high single slide and a 4m high tube slide.
The shelter has been retained within the fenced play area.
[View the concept plan and proposed equipment >](#)

Document Library
Take a closer look at the proposed elements and play equipment.
[Concept Plan Option 1 - Nursery Rhyme Theme PDF \(3.37 MB\)](#)
[Concept Plan Option 2 - Fairytale Theme PDF \(4.93 MB\)](#)

Stages of the project

- 20 February – 11 March 2024**
Community consultation on the proposed playground design.
- March 2024 – April 2024**
Feedback review and concept plan finalisation
- Mid – 2024**
Construction of the playground

[See less](#)

For enquiries
If you have questions or want to learn more about this project, please contact:
Name Meredith Paterson
Phone 9847 6400
Email hsc@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

What do you think?
You are welcome to provide any comments on the Wollundry Park playground upgrade in two easy ways:
1. Meet us at the playground
Come chat with us about the concept designs at Wollundry Park, 64 Yarrara Rd, Pennant Hills.

- Saturday 2 March, 10am to 11am

2. Share your thoughts

- complete the Feedback Form below
- email hsc@hornsby.nsw.gov.au
- write to the General Manager, Hornsby Shire Council, PO Box 37, Hornsby 1630 marked Wollundry Park Playground.

Comments close: Monday, 11 March 2024.

Feedback Form
[Open](#)
Please provide your comments on the Wollundry Park playground upgrade below.
Which concept is your preferred option? Required
 Option 1: Nursery Rhyme theme concept
 Option 2: Fairytale theme concept
 Not sure
 Neither option
Comments

First Name Required
Meredith
Last Name Required
Paterson
Email Required

Suburb Required

[Submit](#)

Image 3 – Screenshot of YourSay Hornsby webpage

Notices installed onsite

The below notices were displayed at Wollundry Park playground and at the Pennant Hills Library.

WOLLUNDRY PARK PLAYGROUND

PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

In late 2023, Wollundry Park Playground was damaged by vandalism. The damaged section was beyond repair and was therefore removed.

Following this, Council has worked with two play equipment manufacturers to develop two different options for the playground. Council now needs to hear from you to help decide which one is the best for Wollundry Park Playground.

Both concepts include:

- New equipment for kids of all ages
- Fully fenced playground
- Retaining existing mature trees
- New seating and picnic shelter
- New drinking fountain
- Rubber softfall surfacing



OPTION 1 - Nursery Rhyme Theme



OPTION 2 - Fairytale Theme

HAVE YOUR SAY

Complete a short survey

View the two playground options and complete the online survey at:

<https://yoursay.hornsbym.nsw.gov.au/>

Provide a submission

Please title your submission 'Wollundry Park Playground' and forward to Council at:

Email: hsc@hornsbym.nsw.gov.au
Post: The General Manager
Hornsbym Shire Council
PO Box 37, HORNSBY
NSW 1630

Drop in session

Date: Saturday 2 March
Time: 10.00am - 11.00am
Location: Wollundry Park Playground

We invite you to drop in to site to discuss the project with Council staff

Submissions close Monday 11 March 2024

If you require any further information please contact Council's Landscape Architect / Project Manager, Meredith Paterson on **9847 6666** or visit Council's website at <https://www.hornsbym.nsw.gov.au>



SCAN QR CODE TO ACCESS COUNCIL'S PROJECTS PAGE



Image 4 – Notices installed on site

5.0 RESULTS

The community's interest in the Wollundry Park Playground upgrade was evident with a total of 498 submissions received.

As indicated in Table 1 below, 53% of respondents indicated their support for the Nursery Rhyme concept, 43.4% were in favour of the Fairytale concept, 1.6% were not sure about either option and 1.5% did not support either option or were opposed to the proposal.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

ISSUE/THEME	DETAILS	NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	% OF SUBMISSIONS
Support for Option 1	Respondents were generally supportive of Option 1: Nursery Rhyme	267	53.6%
Support for Option 2	Respondents were generally supportive of Option 2: Fairytale	216	43.3%
Not sure	Respondents were generally supportive of either option	8	1.6%
Neither option	Respondents were generally not supportive of either option	7	1.5%
	TOTAL	498	100%

6.0 KEY THEMES AND ISSUES

Key themes and issues raised by the community are addressed below. They have been grouped in the following themes:

- Table 2 – Design
- Table 3 – Materials
- Table 4 – Security / Anti-social Behaviour

TABLE 2. DESIGN

ISSUE/THEME	DETAILS	NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	RESPONSE
Option 1	<p><u>Option 1</u> - love the colour scheme, bigger space, is well spaced out, high traffic area, close to pre-school, suitable for younger kids has two slides for younger kids, includes play areas and equipment for children with disabilities so encourage inclusive play, please include monkey bars, double swing, like Westleigh include a bike/scooter/walking light coloured paths/pavements around the inside perimeter, include a tree house with climbing ladder, include a sandpit, toddlers need steps/stairs to climb not rope ladders, replace rope bridge as per bridges Beecroft station park, please include options for babies, avoid climbing area box or enclosed slides - older kids trap small kids and bully/intimidate them</p>	267	<p>While Option 1 was successful in the community vote, numerous comments were received regarding elements of each design which the community were in favour of.</p> <p>Council has worked closely with the play equipment manufacturer to amend the successful Option 1 design to reflect the comments received. The main changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retaining the fun / bright colour scheme at ground level and slowly transitioning to a more “natural” colour palate for the taller pieces • Increasing the play provision for older kids by redesigning the play tower and including monkey bars to provide more challenging play opportunities • Amending the toddler unit to include an open double slide with stepped platform access, to allow toddlers to play independently, as well as a shop front underdeck for role play
Option 2	<p><u>Option 2</u> - design colours visually better, caters for a wide age group, gives greater flexibility to different ages groups and abilities, adventurous - please include a flying fox, space doesn't appear as big, less options, design connects with the leafy environment, larger climbing frame and slides suitable for older kids not younger ones, visit parks in Lane Cove & St</p>	215	

	Leonards - <i>parks compliment the area and are not eye sores</i> , visit St Ives showground.		
Shelter / Seating	Support for more sheltered seating/picnic tables within enclosed play area and outside	17	<p>The design proposes to move the existing picnic shelter outside the fenced area to maximise space for play.</p> <p>The design has been revised to include an additional table setting within the fenced area. The design also provides three park benches and numerous sandstone seating within the fenced play area.</p>
Shade	More shade preferred natural or mountable shade e.g. swings, shade sails - keep tree sap and other stuff that comes out of the trees from dropping all over the equipment, preserving existing trees and natural vegetation	14	<p>Where possible, Council prioritises the use of natural shade for play areas and open spaces as it is a long-term, cost-effective solution which also provides environmental benefits.</p> <p>Wollundry Park Playground contains numerous mature trees which provide extensive shade to the play area. Therefore, no shade sails have been proposed.</p>
Trampoline	Supports trampoline (more than 1 preferred) in either design, but ones with proper tramp mats similar to PCYC - gentle on little feet and clips don't break.	14	<p>Wollundry Park Playground is situated beneath a mature tree canopy. While the tree canopy provides extensive shade for the playground, the trees drop leaves which can accumulate in the base of the trampolines. Trampolines can be found at other Council parks where this is not an issue, e.g. Waitara Park and Brickpit Park (coming in late 2024).</p>
Water Play	Include water play, e.g. like in Livvis Place parks	12	<p>Council's Play Plan proposes the following locations for water play within the Hornsby LGA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warrina Street Park, Berowra (built 2022) • Fagan Park, Galston • Hornsby Quarry, Hornsby <p>These locations were recommended due to the space available for water play infrastructure, the scale of the park surrounds and scale of the playground (e.g. Regional and District).</p> <p>Water play not proposed at Wollundry Park Playground due to the limited space available within the playground and park area.</p>
Fence	Secure gate and fence required	9	<p>The proposed design includes a new fence and two gates.</p>
Inclusive Design	Designs lack options especially for disability/wheelchair e.g. swing. Many groups from special schools visit park. Improve access.	6	<p>The play area has been designed to provide play opportunities for children with a range of different abilities. Some of the specific wheelchair accessible play opportunities include:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubber soffit throughout the playspace, ensuring wheelchair users can access all areas • Basket swing, enabling easy transfer in and out of a wheelchair onto the swing • Play panels (incl Eco Charging Station, Little Bus), Voice Tubes, and Timber Bridge <p>The design also considers the accessibility needs of parents and carers by providing a range of seating options and creating a level, fully rubber surfaced play area to assist in accessing the play areas.</p>
Options for Older Kids	Needs to cater for all ages. More options needed for older kids e.g. table tennis, mixed equipment similar to Ruddock Park, climbing equipment, monkey bars, basketball rings similar to Ruddock Park, skate park similar to Chatswood,	6	<p>The Wollundry Park playground upgrade is limited in size due to site constraints including adjacent road and existing mature trees.</p> <p>The successful “Option 1 – Nursery Rhyme” design has been amended to include a taller, more advanced play tower to provide more challenging / advanced play opportunities. The new play tower includes monkey bars, a higher tube slide, a banister slide and more difficult access, to help to divide the playground into age targeted zones.</p> <p>Facilities such as a basketball court and table tennis table can be found at nearby Rudock Park. Nearby Brickpit Park in Thornleigh contains a skate park and the playground (being upgraded in late 2024) will contain a flying fox, large climbing net, large trampoline</p>
Similar Design	Designs similar to other parks nearby - limited options in both designs e.g. inclusive play, not suitable for 21st century, Storey Park is amazing	6	<p>The Wollundry Park Playground upgrade aims to provide play opportunities for everyone to enjoy. Certain play pieces are popular (e.g. swings and slides), and are therefore present in most playgrounds. Nearby playgrounds include Ruddock Park and Brickpit park (coming late 2024), which have a range of different play opportunities (e.g. flying fox, table tennis, basketball court).</p> <p>Council has worked closely with the play equipment manufacturer to create a custom play tower which is the first of its kind and responds to the comments received during the community consultation.</p>
Swings	Request plenty of older style bendy swings seats, at least two baby swings are required - all swings very popular including disc swing / pod seat	5	<p>The design includes a range of swing options to try and provide something for everyone, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x basket swing • 2 x toddler seat swings • 2 x traditional strap / bendy seat swings

Theme	Playground does not require a theme. Instead encourage nature/adventure play.	4	The design has been revised to scale back on the Nursery Rhyme theme. The revised design includes a bridge over a small swale with sandstone and planting to encourage interaction with natural elements. Within the fenced play area there are areas where kids can explore beneath the existing mature trees informally and by balancing along the play trail or sandstone edging. The size of the play area limits more adventurous play pieces from being provided (e.g. large climbing frame or flying fox) due to the large fall zones required by these pieces.
Visibility	Design should enable parents to keep track of multiple children at once with no sight obstructions e.g. maintain vegetation and helps with security.	4	Area to be fully fenced with planting proposed around the edges of the playspace, allowing clear sight lines throughout the fenced play area.
Maintenance	<u>Option 1</u> - Beanstalk appear hard to clean thus creates a safety issue	2	Beanstalk option was not successful in public vote, therefore beanstalk not proposed.
Colour	Awful colour options for nearby residents	2	The colour scheme has been reworked to have bright colours at the lower levels for the kids to enjoy, and then slowly transition into more “natural” green colours as you start to look up, minimising visual impact to nearby residents.
Play Pieces	Include boat and house design in either option	1	The boat and tiny town has been included in the design.
Play Pieces	Please include fire truck theme from original park	1	The design includes a play bus and an eco-charging station to assist in educating children about sustainable energy.
Play Pieces	Please include a sand pit	1	The limited space available and the leaves dropped by the existing mature trees above, does not make this playground suitable for a sand pit.
Environmental Education	Living in the “bush” shire, it’s really important to teach the younger generations how to care and appreciate our environment. Please plant for trees to be succession plants, infographics for children that teach them about seeds, plants, growth, and the environment in the “bean stalk” theme.	1	Wollundry Park Playground upgrade is set in a highly urbanised area of the Shire and is quite limited in size. Council has therefore chosen to prioritise more traditional play opportunities in this park. Council’s recently opened Children’s Forest in Fagan Park provides opportunities for children to learn about the life of trees, why are leaves green, animals who live in trees etc, in a fun and playful setting.
Planting & Indigenous Acknowledgement	Please consider planting some natives for sensory experiencing (for young children, children with disabilities, adults) and native flora and fauna encouragement and education. Please consider inclusiveness	1	Low shrub planting is proposed as part of the playground upgrade. Council will investigate options for planting which provide sensory experience but are also resilient to survive within a playground setting.

around indigenous Australian acknowledgement e.g. a historical plaque, some bush tucker planting.

TABLE 3. MATERIALS

ISSUE/THEME	DETAILS	NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	RESPONSE
	Encourage use of recyclable, sustainable and durable material e.g. natural materials e.g. sandstone, timber that reflects existing natural landscape/environment - limit moving parts thus limits maintenance and repairs e.g. Reddy Park. Sandstone retaining wall substantially increases seating availability.	8	The design includes sandstone, timber and planting to provide natural elements which will complement the new play equipment. Equipment has carefully been selected to minimise any risk for ongoing maintenance issues regarding moving parts.
	Prefer sand or mulch, no rubber softfall. When rubber is exposed to direct sun it emits harmful VOCs.	3	Council installs a mix of mulch and rubber softfall in our playgrounds. Rubber is preferred in high wear areas (e.g. under swings and at the base of slides), as it does not require the same level of maintenance as mulch and provides level and accessible access. A combination of rubber and mulch softfall was previously installed at Wollundry Park Playground, however due to the slope of the playground, the mulch was not successful and was replaced with rubber. Rubber softfall is proposed throughout the playground due to the slope of the site. The binding agent used in Australia does not emit harmful VOCs.

TABLE 4. ANCILLARY ITEMS

ISSUE/THEME	DETAILS	NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	RESPONSE
	Include exercise equipment, especially for teenagers and adults	4	Council to investigate installation of exercise equipment in other area of the park.

Please include a BBQ	2	Council to investigate installation of BBQ as part of the future park upgrade.
Toilets with change tables required	2	No change to the existing toilets provided in the community centre are proposed as part of these works. Council to investigate options for installing a change table as part of the future park upgrade.
Bins required	1	Bins will be included as part of the playground upgrade.
Bubblers / water stations required	1	A drinking fountain will be included as part of the playground upgrade.
Is it also possible to include communication boards in new park builds as standard?	1	Council to assess condition of current signage in park and replace if required.

TABLE 4. SECURITY / ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

ISSUE/THEME	DETAILS	NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	RESPONSE
	Lighting improvements required within park, grassed areas & on Yarrara Rd and the paths/streets that lead to park	4	Upgrades to the existing lighting is outside of the scope of the playground upgrade works. Council to investigate lighting improvements as part of the larger park upgrade works.
	Please include high definition, night vision surveillance CCTV	8	Installation of CCTV is outside of the scope of the playground upgrade works. Council to investigate installation of CCTV or other anti-social behaviour deterrents as part of the larger park upgrade works.
	Please consult the Police on how to reduce/deter future anti-social behaviour? i.e. teenagers and young adults gathering and drinking at nighttime within enclosed park area, leaving behind hazards such as broken glass, bottles, cigarette butts and drug paraphernalia and seating within enclosed area, escalates	7	<p>The playground has been designed with Crime Prevention Through Design (CPTD) principles in mind. The playground is to be as visually open as possible to provide clear sight lines in and throughout the space. The large play tower will use mesh panels which provide visibility and in turn discourage antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>Council's regulations signs note that smoking and the consumption of alcohol except with Council's written permission is not permitted in Council's parks. Council Rangers patrol Council's parks enforcing these rules.</p> <p>As part of the larger park upgrade works, Council will undertake consultation and investigate options for additional ways to deter anti-social behaviour.</p>

vandalism incidents, declare park
an *Alcohol Free Zone*

7.0 ON-SITE DROP-IN SESSION

10 people attended the on-site drop-in session on 2 March from 10:00am – 11:00am.

Comments received included the following:

Who	Comment	Council Response
Pennant Hills Civic Trust representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional benches and picnic tables within the park outside of playspace.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indicated Council would consider this part of the project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Request adjustment to the meter board power box to make safer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indicated Council would consider this part of the project
Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requested flying fox be included.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advised that there was insufficient space at this playground
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requested trampoline be included	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advised that one proposal included a trampoline

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on feedback received from the community, Option 1: Nursery Rhyme is the preferred choice.

Council has collaborated with the play equipment manufacturer of Option 1 to amend the design to address comments received during the consultation period. The main changes include:

- Retaining the fun / bright colour scheme at ground level and slowly transitioning to a more “natural” colour palate for the taller pieces
- Increasing the play provision for older kids by redesigning the play tower and including monkey bars to provide more challenging play opportunities
- Amending the toddler unit to include an open double slide with stepped platform access, to allow toddlers to play independently, as well as a shop front underdeck for role play

9.0 CONCLUSION

In late 2023, Wollundry Park playground was damaged by vandalism, resulting in the playground equipment being unusable by the community. Council has worked with two play equipment manufacturers to develop two different options for the playground for the community to vote for their preferred option.

Consultation with the community was undertaken specifically for the proposed playground upgrade at Wollundry Park in February/March 2024. The results reflect significant interest in and support for the project. The playground design was amended in accordance with the comments received and is due to be constructed in mid 2024.