



**HUON VALLEY
COUNCIL**



Summary of Community Engagement

MOUNTAIN RIVER HALL PLAYGROUND

MOUNTAIN RIVER ROAD, MOUNTAIN RIVER

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Mountain River Hall Playground - Mountain River Road, Mountain River

Summary of Community Engagement

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This community engagement was conducted at the “Consult Level” in accordance with Council’s Community Engagement Framework.

For the purposes of the engagement, feedback on the proposed project was invited from the community for a period of three weeks (Wednesday 12 February 2020 – Wednesday 4 March 2020).

This report summarises feedback received throughout the engagement period. A total of 22 responses to the request for feedback were received. Copies of each of the responses received are included in Appendix 1 of this report.

Mountain River Hall Committee submitted a collective submission on the playground and also raised concerns which fall outside the parameters of this consultation. The project team noted that further requests were made for extended fencing and larger playground.

2. BACKGROUND

This community engagement was conducted at the “Consult Level” in accordance with Council’s Community Engagement Framework.

The Mountain River Hall Playground located on the Mountain River Road, Mountain River requires the upgrade of play equipment due to age, wear and tear and in order to meet Australian Standards.

In preparing the concept plan, consideration was given to the need for the new design to be inclusive of the age of users, the natural surrounds of the area and the allocated budget (Asset renewal 2019/2020).

Community members were invited to share their thoughts of the proposed design, age of users and what other elements they would like to see in the future. The feedback forms also provided community members with an opportunity to be kept ‘up-to-date’ on this project by including their email address.

Engagement Technique	Date	Reach
Hard copy feedback forms at Grove Shop and Huon Valley Council Customer Service Centre in Huonville	12 February 2020 – 4 March 2020	4 completed
Community Noticeboards	12 February 2020 – 4 March 2020	Huonville, Geeveston, Dover, Mountain River, Ranelagh
Huon Valley Council Website - Community Engagement 'Have Your Say' page	12 February 2020 – 4 March 2020	203 page views 17 online submissions
Community Face to Face meeting Mountain River Hall, Mountain River Road, Mountain River	1 visit to site on Wednesday 26 February 2020	6 adults and 13 children
Facebook	12 February 2020 – 4 March 2020	8818 People Reached 739 Engaged with post

3. ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK

As indicated in the Summary to this Report a total of 22 responses to the request for feedback were received during the engagement period.

The feedback received made a number of suggestions and has been summarised in a table in the form of feedback received, comments and a recommended response, attached as Appendix 1.

The consultation asked the following questions:

- Tell us what you think of the proposed new design.
- What age group should this playground cater for?
0 – 5 years / 6 – 12 years
- Is there anything else you would like to add?

Each response was analysed with the following key themes noted:

- A desire to have a more Nature/natural design
- Inclusion of Swings
- A design that was suitable for a range of ages ranging from toddlers to young teenagers

Other comments noted when considering the feedback include the addition of a new fence to encompass the whole area and create a safe area for all users of the

playground and BBQ area. It is noted the BBQ area is currently not fenced and is located adjacent to the car park.

The Mountain River Hall Committee was formed 12 months ago and has been proactively encouraging community use of the hall. Feedback from the community has identified an upgrade to the playground and expansion of the fenced area will lift the profile of the hall, creating a more user friendly environment and a connection between the indoor and outdoor area.

The Project Team have reviewed the feedback received. Discussions have occurred with the Council's playground equipment manufacturer to consider the comments and suggestions received and to develop an alternative concept plan for the proposed replacement equipment and fenced area.

The Project Team along with the manufacturer have recommended an alternative plan to that of the consultation and is included as Attachment C.

Additional funding has been sort which will allow Council to add additional elements to the playground including musical play, slide and provide fencing for the complete area.

4. RECOMMENDATION

Based on the feedback received the Project Team will recommend that Council approve the renewal of the Mountain River Playground in accordance with the alternative plan included as Attachment C.

Appendix 1

#	Tell us what you think of the proposed new design:	What age group should this playground cater for?		Is there anything else you would like to add?	Council Comments
		0 – 5 years	6 -12 years		
1	I love this idea but maybe have a couple of baby swings	✓			A baby swing has been included in the design
2	The new design seems to cater for the younger age group but I think it would be nice to have a flying fox or climbing frame/monkey bars included in the design for the older kids. My 7yo said a larger fort area would be cool. If the playground did have a variety of equipment for ages 5-8 we would be more inclined to use it and the BBQ area attached.	✓	✓	There used to be a jack jumper nest near the playground which did deter people from using it. I'm not sure if it has been eradicated but it was an issue in the past.	A climbing frame and slide is now included in the design for the older ages. The jack jumper nest has been removed.
3	Nature based play with organic elements that compliments the local surroundings and engage children in inquisitive and challenging features	✓			A timber-based design is recommended for implementation
4	I think it is a bit for the younger kids and there isn't much for the 6-12-year-old children Why not make it a park which every one wants to be attending. Similar to apex park in Lindisfarne	✓	✓		Unfortunately, the area is only small. When designing playgrounds, a fall zone is required around each equipment element which limits the number of equipment pieces Council has developed a new plan for
5	The park needs to cater for older children also up until approx. 12 years of age.	✓	✓		A climbing frame and slide is now included in the design for the older ages.
6	I like the design some shade would be a good idea and somewhere for parents to sit. Anything that promotes open play and encourages imagination is brilliant for kids. Sometimes simple is best. Another swing for older children would be great.	✓	✓		Seating will be consider as funds become available. A toddler and regular swing has been included in the design
7	Could be a bit more imaginative as well as durable. Is there a better plan of this park that I could have a look at please?	✓	✓	Please ensure a playground that is inclusive for children of all abilities.	All ability equipment has been included.
8	I'm wondering if it would be possible to relocate the playground to the side of the building so that it allows for passive surveillance for safety? Other than that, a mural/green wall would be nice :)	✓			Unfortunately to relocate the playground to the other side of the building is cost prohibitive. The fencing of the whole area will help with safety and the installation of signage at the entrance will highlight the playground. A mural/green wall would be a welcome idea and will be considered at a later stage in consultation with the hall management committee

#	Tell us what you think of the proposed new design:	What age group should this playground cater for?		Is there anything else you would like to add?	Council Comments
		0 – 5 years	6 -12 years		
9	It's a little basic. Would like to see inclusion of different sorts of play - musical, physical etc.	✓			Additional elements have been included in the amended plan to include climbing equipment, slide and music play.
10	From my experience the rock climbing walls are useless and do not get used. Perhaps something catering the the younger age group (1+) would be more suitable, like a rocking spring animal and more cost effective	✓	✓	The location of the playground could be moved to be more appealing. The current location is tucked away and dingy. Most likely why it doesn't get much use. Perhaps moving it to the other side of the BBQ area would be safer, more open and would encourage more use, I doubt most people know it's there.	Additional elements have been included in the amended plan to include climbing equipment, slide and music play. As detailed above, relocating the playground is cost prohibitive, however promotion and signage will be installed on the entrance recognising the play space.
11	Hi, I understand the design of the new playground is to replace what is currently there, however I think the proposed new design is very limited to who it would be suitable for and not offer any other benefit than it would be safer than what is currently there.				Please see the amended plan, we hope this captures a more creative space for children and adults of all ages
12	I love that the hall is getting an upgrade to the playground!! It would be fantastic to see a nature-based play space rather than the traditional play equipment suggested. Swings are lovely, but they could be set amongst a cool nature trail with a wooden cubby/tree house. No need for mirror wall and the rock-climbing wall could be created with natural materials. A similar styled park is on Burwood Drive in Blackmans Bay; and the more recently designed parks follow this theory. Kids of all ages can then enjoy the space	✓		Is it possible to extend the fencing for the playground so that it covers the hall doorway? Currently there is no safe way for children to move from the hall to the playground without going near the car park	Thank you for the Burwood Drive suggestion - we have reviewed the design and propose an alternative plan. Unfortunately the area available limits the design for space, but we have been able to include the hall entrance in a new fence area, more wooden materials in the playground design and incorporate the grass area.
13	Absolutely rubbish. There is no play value at all	✓	✓	Consult the community! Ask what the parents want	Council undertakes Community Engagement to seek the community's feedback on designs and proposals. This engagement is an opportunity for the community to express their visions for the area, with the open-ended question enable the vision to be expressed. We encourage the community to become involved in any of the Council's engagement activities under the Have Your Say program.

#	Tell us what you think of the proposed new design:	What age group should this playground cater for?		Is there anything else you would like to add?	Council Comments
		0 – 5 years	6 -12 years		
14	<p>The rock-climbing wall is a great idea... it would be good if you made this taller as it would be something older kids could enjoy too and wouldn't detract from younger kids enjoying it also. The mirror panels councils tend to install in playgrounds always end up covered in graffiti, scratched or are terrible quality and kids don't play with them for more than one second anyway - this is probably a waste of funds.</p> <p>It would be great if the toddler seat was a deep bucket seat to accommodate very small toddlers and make it a safer option for all toddlers from tipping. Some wheels (as in steering wheels) at ground level and even switches or dongles to shift back and forth would be great for toddlers too. Making sure the stairs have a lower hand rail as well as the higher one would be great. And making sure the slide is actually steep enough for kids to slide but not so steep they are thrown too far off would be something to consider... I also find it wonderful when the slide has some flat space at the very start of it so kids can walk onto it and have enough room to manoeuvre into the appropriate sitting position before sliding... when it's steep straight up the younger kids struggle to use the slides safely</p>	✓		I love that there are stairs to access the slide (and not some form of climbing apparatus), the baubles and animal wheel are a great idea and the chair for parents is also wonderful. The little red roof seems unnecessarily high but this could just be the picture.	The climbing wall has been amended to a climbing structure that is suitable for many age ranges, with the mirror panels removed. Unfortunately, all playgrounds need to be installed to meet Australia Standards and as such the slide is required to be of a certain style. Seating will be considered as funds become available.
15	I think the playground needs a little update, but what it really needs is a toilet. I can't tell you how many times we've been sitting there waiting for someone/something or watching my niece play and needed to use the toilet but there isn't one	✓	✓		Unfortunately, the budget available for this project does not include a toilet. This is something that would need to be considered in a future budget
16	I think a mural on the back wall would take away that 'prison camp' feel, and make it more enticing for children to play in.	✓	✓		A mural/green wall would be a welcome idea and will be considered at a later stage in consultation with the hall management committee
17	I personally am not a fan of the climbing wall. I would like to the park have more of a nature play feel to it. Google Nature Play Area for examples	✓	✓		The climbing wall has been amended to a climbing structure that is suitable for many age ranges, with the structures replaced with a nature play feel.
18	Needs to be for bigger kids not just toddlers	✓	✓		A climbing frame and slide is now included in the design for the older ages.

#	Tell us what you think of the proposed new design:	What age group should this playground cater for?		Is there anything else you would like to add?	Council Comments
		0 – 5 years	6 -12 years		
19	Fantastic	✓			
20	Leave the existing and add swing		✓		Unfortunately, the current equipment is reaching its end of life and compliance with the Australian Standards which means we need to renew the equipment. Huon Valley Council cash funds its depreciation to enable the renewal of playgrounds once they have met their end of life.
21	Nothing wrong with the playground only it has no swing. Don't waste our money.				Unfortunately, the current equipment is reaching its end of life and compliance with the Australian Standards which means we need to renew the equipment. Huon Valley Council cash funds its depreciation to enable the renewal of playgrounds once they have met their end of life.
22	<p>Submission from Hall Committee as attached. In summary the submission covered key themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide opportunity for the broader spectrum of ages to engage in open ended play • area is unsafe for children to transition from the hall to the playground • construction of a fence that encloses the hall entrance to enable children to transition safely from the hall down the side of the building to the playground without the capacity of small children to enter the carpark. • grassed area including the BBQ space and playground included within a safety fence. • The playground area as it currently stands is limited in size. • could community members dismantle the current equipment voluntarily and hence remove the need for that cost within the budget? 				A climbing frame and slide is now included in the design for the older ages, with the addition of fencing to incorporate the BBQ and grass areas. The dismantle of the current equipment and fencing etc, is included in the replacement costs and the supply and install quotation .

Appendix 1

Submission from Mountain River Hall Committee

The Mountain River Hall Committee would like the following to be considered within the current consultation for refurbishment of the Mountain River Hall Playground.

Mountain River as a whole is an ever growing rural community. There has definitely been an increase in the presence of families to the area with new houses being built and properties being purchased on a hot market. Unlike many other rural communities in the Huon Valley, there is minimal community engagement nor the presence of a 'hub' or village which other Huon valley communities thrive from. Mountain River is lacking a central point of connection and it is envisaged that one day into the future the connection between members of the community can be brought about utilising the Mountain River hall.

It is exciting to look forward to a newly refurbished playground attached to the Hall. As a committee that is attempting to engage the community in utilising the Hall we often hear feedback from community members and hope that we can represent some of this within this submission. Items we would like considered are:

- The playground is currently not suitable for a broad range of ages, it is limited in its current equipment, and hence this opportunity to bring into the space some new equipment is very exciting. Playgrounds in general around the state are moving away from conventional equipment which is designated for a set age range, and are now progressing towards open ended play spaces. It would be wonderful if the new mountain river hall playground provided opportunity for the broader spectrum of ages to engage in open ended play. Such examples of equipment could include:
 - Mud kitchen
 - Climbing frame (Burwood park in Blackmans bay have a wonderful climbing frame that can be enjoyed by little ones as well as teenagers)
 - Swings
 - Balance steps
 - Cubby space
- Currently the Hall is underutilised. It is an asset that the community are resistant to hire out. Over time and with investment in changes we hope that this will alter. However, currently if the hall is hired out for an event that includes young children it is unsafe for the children to transition from the hall to the playground. To move from an event inside the hall space children need to go out the front doors and down the side of the building. This transition is not fenced and they are exposed to the car park and the road whilst travelling to the playground. It is vital that children can move safely from the hall into the play area, and the refreshment of the playground provides the perfect opportunity to tackle this issue. Possible ways to rectify the concern and to ensure the safety of our children could include:
 - An entrance from the hall directly into the play space. This would require the installation of a new external door on the western side of the hall and appropriate ramp from the hall level to the ground space.
 - A newly constructed fence that encloses the hall entrance to enable children to transition safely from the hall down the side of the building to the playground without the capacity of small children to enter the carpark.
 - Ultimately it would be amazing if the grassed area including the BBQ space and playground was included within a safety fence. Such a space would encourage the use of the hall for children's birthday parties, outdoor community events and increase the capacity for playgroups etc to return to the area.
- The playground area as it currently stands is limited in size. It is a very small space that provides for limited equipment opportunities. Fear is that if limited by this current size many pieces of equipment that would be wonderful for the community cannot be incorporated. Such equipment as a swing set, a basketball hoop or larger climbing frame would not be suitable to fit the current perimeters of the playground.

- The budget allocation for playground works it is assumed would include not only equipment and installation but also the removal of the current equipment. We are aware that equipment and installation need to meet Australian Standards and therefore cannot be undertaken by volunteers, however could it be considered that community members dismantle the current equipment voluntarily and hence remove the need for that cost within the budget?

It is well understood that the playground refreshment funding is to be a 'like for like' arrangement. However, as a committee we would strongly like it considered that the community profile as a whole has changed a lot over the past 10 years, the needs of the community has altered and the use of the hall as a community space is poor. To increase community engagement and support, to bring new and longstanding families in Mountain River together it is important to have a safe space to meet and enjoy. We are aware that new fencing and resizing of the playground are outside of the scope of this consultation, however we would really like it put forward that these things make a huge difference to the capacity of the hall to be utilised. We look forward to working with you further on this project following the consultation phase into project planning and onto the commencement of works.

Thank you for your consideration,

The Mountain River Hall Committee

Appendix 2

Social Media Post Performance


Post Details
✕

Huon Valley Council
Published by Georgia Pauline Jordan [?] · 14 February at 16:44 · 🌐

HAVE YOUR SAY 🗨️

Due to the age, wear and tear of the existing equipment, the Mountain River Hall Playground located on Mountain River Road has been identified for renewal.

We'd like to hear your thoughts on the proposed design for the new playground. ... See more



HUONVALLEY.TAS.GOV.AU
Mountain River Hall Playground renewal - Huon Valley Council

✔️ **Get more likes, comments and shares**
When you boost this post, you'll show it to more people.

2,933
People reached

295
Engagements

Boost Post

👤 Sue Jordan, Judd Lovell and 22 others 7 Comments 15 shares

👍 Like
💬 Comment
➦ Share
🌐

Performance for your post

2,933 People Reached

106 Reactions, comments & shares 🗨️

55 Like	26 On post	29 On shares
1 🤔 Haha	0 On post	1 On shares
33 Comments	10 On Post	23 On Shares
17 Shares	15 On Post	2 On Shares

189 Post Clicks

0 Photo views	39 Link clicks 🗨️	150 Other Clicks 🗨️
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide post	1 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts


Post Details
✕

Huon Valley Council
Published by Georgia Pauline Jordan [?] · 25 February at 16:46 · 🌐

We'll be on site tomorrow between 3pm and 6pm at the Mountain River Hall Playground for an info session about the proposed design for the new equipment.

Come along for a free sausage and a chat about the design.

If you haven't yet given your feedback on the design, you can still do so on our website before next Thursday 5 March. ... See more



HUONVALLEY.TAS.GOV.AU
Mountain River Hall Playground renewal - Huon Valley Council

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2,408
People reached

109
Engagements

Boost Post

👤 Nika Stewart, Damian Lovell Oates and 16 others 2 Comments 6 shares

👍 Like
💬 Comment
➦ Share
🌐

Performance for your post

2,408 People Reached

45 Likes, Comments & Shares 🗨️

34 Likes	18 On Post	16 On Shares
4 Comments	2 On Post	2 On Shares
7 Shares	6 On Post	1 On Shares

64 Post Clicks

0 Photo views	16 Link clicks 🗨️	48 Other Clicks 🗨️
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide post	0 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

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Meeting: 25.03.2020
Item Number: 19.004/20*
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Huon Valley Council

Published by Renee Cordwell [?] · 26 February at 15:35 · 🌐

Lisa our Community Engagement Officer is on site now at the Mountain River Hall until 6pm. Come along for a free sausage and have your say about the proposed design for the new playground.
Or have your say at: [https://www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/.../mountain-river-hall-p-.../...](https://www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/.../mountain-river-hall-p-.../)



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3,477 People reached **335** Engagements [Boost Post](#)

👍❤️ David Gutteridge, Ekkoworld and 18 others 6 Comments 4 shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share 🌐

Performance for your post

3,477 People Reached

54 Reactions, comments & shares ⓘ

25 Like	19 On post	6 On shares
1 Love	1 On post	0 On shares
23 Comments	15 On Post	8 On Shares
5 Shares	4 On Post	1 On Shares

281 Post Clicks

21 Photo views	10 Link clicks ⓘ	250 Other Clicks ⓘ
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide post	0 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts



**ORIGINAL PROPOSED DESIGN
MOUNTAIN RIVER HALL
MOUNTAIN RIVER ROAD,
MOUNTAIN RIVER**



**NEW PROPOSED DESIGN -
MOUNTAIN RIVER HALL
PLAYGROUND MOUNTAIN RIVER
ROAD, MOUNTAIN RIVER**

