

Title	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT ON MOUNTAIN RIVER HALL PLAYGROUND, MOUNTAIN RIVER ROAD, MOUNTAIN RIVER
Agenda Number	19.011/20*
Strategic Plan Reference	3 and 4
File Reference	22/69
Author	Community Engagement Officer
Responsible Officer	Director Community Services
Reporting Brief	The Director Community Services presenting a report from the Community Engagement Officer on the Community Engagement Summary Report on Mountain River Hall Playground, Mountain River Road, Mountain River
Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Summary of Engagement - Mountain River Hall Playground C. Original Proposed Design - Mountain River Hall Playground, Mountain River Road, Mountain River D. Alternative Proposed Design - Mountain River Hall Playground, Mountain River Road, Mountain River

Background

It has been identified that 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 continue to meet Australian Standards.

Careful consideration was given to the proposed new design including the age of children in the area, the natural surrounds of the area and the allocated budget (Asset Renewal 2019/2020).

Community Engagement was undertaken at the at Consult level between Wednesday 12 February 2020 and Wednesday 4 March 2020.

Following the Community Engagement period, the feedback received was compiled into the Summary of Engagement Report which is included as Attachment A to the Reports. The feedback was reviewed and considered by Council Officers responsible for the project.

Following the deferral of this item at the Ordinary meeting of Council held on April 8 2020 and following a Council workshop held on Wednesday 22 April 2020, the purpose of this report is to represent to Council the summary of the feedback received and determine the next course of action.

Council Policy

The Council at its September 2018 Ordinary meeting adopted a Communication and Engagement Policy and Community Engagement Framework.

Legislative Requirements

All playground equipment located within the Council parks and reserves is required to meet a number of Australian Standards.

Risk Implications

Community members have volunteered considerable time to consider the project and provide feedback. It is acknowledged that due to opposing and diverse community views, there will be some community members who will disagree with the project design.

Council must ensure that all playground equipment located within its parks and reserves continues to meet the appropriate Australian Standards.

The Council's Communication and Engagement Policy ensures the final designs will consider the feedback received, the common themes raised, budget implications, broad community benefit, access and best practice design standards. The rationale for those recommendations will be shared with the community.

Engagement

Engagement was undertaken at Consult Level in accordance with the Council's Community Engagement Framework. The techniques included are outlined in the below table and detailed further in the Summary of Community Engagement Report included as Attachment A to this report.

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, Grove, Dover, Geeveston, 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	1 visit to site on Wednesday 26 February 2020	6 adults and 13 children
Facebook	12 February 2020 – 4 March 2020	8,818 People Reached 739 Engaged with post

Notification of the resolution for the Mountain River Hall Playground will be provided to the community at an Inform Level.

The Mountain River Hall Committee submitted a collective submission on the playground and also raised concerns which fell outside the parameters of this consultation. The project team noted that the Committee and community members have raised concerns around the safety of access to the playground and have requested that Council consider a perimeter fence to enclose the area.

Human Resource and Financial Implications

This project has an Asset Renewal Budget allocation of \$33,823 in 2019/2020 financial year.

Following consideration of the feedback received from the community and the hall management committee, it was originally recommended that an additional \$16,000 be allocated to the program from the Playgrounds Asset Renewal Budget. This additional allocation would enable the delivery of a playground that is suitable for the broad ages in the area including an extension to the playground fenced area to incorporate the grass area.

This extension will address an ongoing safety concern of the Hall Management Committee and enable a greater use of the overall site for indoor and outdoor functions and children's birthday parties.

An additional \$5,000 has been committed from the hall management committee funds to enable the relocation and replacement of the water tanks on site which require replacement due to deterioration.

Additional grant funding will be sought to extend the playground fencing to include the BBQ and grass area.

Discussion

As outlined in the Summary Report, community engagement at the Consult level was conducted for a three-week period.

Feedback was received online via the Council website, through hard copy forms available at Council and Grove Shop. One onsite meeting was held on 26 February 2020 at the playground.

Community members were invited to share their thoughts of the proposed design and what other elements they would like to see in the area 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.

A total of 22 responses were received. Following a review of the comments and suggestions made, Council Officers revisited the design and have amended the design to something more aligned to that described in the feedback received.

Through additional funding, the fenced playground area will be able to be expanded to incorporate the grassed area and additional equipment such as soccer nets.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Following the Council workshop held on Wednesday 22 April 2020, a review of the budget has been completed. Council has been successful in obtaining funding of \$5,000 towards the playground renewal project bringing the total funds available for the playground renewal project to \$38,823.00

Quotations for the renewal of the playground and the installation of new fencing to connect the playground with the hall area have been confirmed within the playground renewal budget allocation available.

The extension of the playground area to include the BBQ and grass area will be completed as a separate stage on confirmation of the availability of additional grant funding.

It will be recommended that the Community Engagement Summary Report be received and noted, that based on the feedback and suggestions received, the renewal of the playground will be undertaken in accordance with the budget allocation and that any extension of the playground area to include the BBQ and grass area be subject to the availability of grant funding.

19.011/20*

RESOVLED

CR WILSON

CR BIRD

That:

- a) The Report on the Community Engagement Summary Report on Mountain River Hall Playground, Mountain River Road, Mountain River be received and noted.**
- b) Renewal of the Mountain River Hall Playground in accordance with the 2019/2020 Asset Renewal budget allocation for Playgrounds be completed.**
- c) Any extension of the playground area to include the BBQ and grass area be subject to the availability of grant funding.**

Councillors Enders, Doyle, Newell, Gibson, Campbell, Wilson, Bird and O'May voted for the motion and no Councillors voted against the motion.