

Dear Helen

We hope that you will accept this late submission on Council's draft Playground Strategy.

We make the following comments in relation to the draft.

1. Need to identify customer

The strategy should be clear as to which age group playgrounds are intended for. There are significant changes in play and equipment demands as children mature and become stronger.

In the case of smaller ie Local or Neighbourhood playgrounds it may not be possible to develop separate play areas to avoid danger to young children playing in proximity to older children. In this respect, the playground at Bob Campbell Oval (either current or proposed under the BCO Master Plan) is too small to meet the needs of children from 2-14 years.

2. Classification of the playground at Bob Campbell Oval (BCO) unclear

It is noted that the playground at BCO is classified in Figure 3 as a neighbourhood playground.

It is also noted that the playground at BCO is listed in 3.3 as a District Playground. It is suggested that this classification is inappropriate as BCO is not a destination for visitors (other than residents) who make a special trip and may stay for a number of hours to enjoy the experience. It is no Centennial Park.

BCO is more appropriately characterised as a neighbourhood playground associated with supporting and complimentary facilities such as sports fields and activities for older children such as rebound walls and basketball / netball hoops.

3. Replacement of BCO playground under 5 year replacement program

Figure 5 includes an action for BCO as follows:- *2021/22 Prepare masterplan for reserve, relocate playground with new play equipment.*

The draft strategy should have made it clear that a Master Plan has already been prepared for the entire BCO environs and that the plan proposes a change to the location of the playground. This Master Plan was put forward to the DPIE to support an application for funding, which has now been granted.

There has been no community consultation about the Master Plan and, in terms of the draft Playground Strategy, the playground within it.

The reference to BCO in Figure 5 should be deleted – the BCO Master Plan is not an action item. It has been completed, albeit with no consultation.

It is not clear why a figure of \$200,000 has been included as the cost of developing a Master Plan that has already been prepared.

Similarly, it is not clear why a figure of \$25,000 has been included in Figure 12 for BCO for 2021/22.

4. Master Plan Guidelines

The GCA supports the general principle on p 31 that the design of the whole park should be considered when installing new or upgrading existing playgrounds.

In terms of BCO, the GCA would expect, at minimum, the level of detail in planning as outlined for Neighbourhood Playgrounds on p 32.

Neighbourhood Playgrounds

- *Preferably* – a masterplan carried out the year prior to the playground construction, assessing things such as playground siting, CPTED and accessibility and inclusivity principles, associated facilities and basic park elements such as shade trees and other planting, paths, seating, tables, bubblers and possibly barbeques.
- *At least* – a landscape concept plan of the immediate playground environment or the whole reserve if it is less than 1 ha in size, assessing things such as playground siting, CPTED and accessibility and inclusivity principles, associated facilities and basic park elements such as shade trees and other planting, paths, seating, tables, bubblers and possibly barbeques.

5. Community Consultation

The GCA supports the principles of community consultation outlined in 6.7 but notes that none of this has happened with BCO.

The GCA expects that Council will commence and undertake a completely new master planning exercise for the entire BCO environs (including the playground) in a single coordinated community consultation process in accordance with Council's guidelines, notwithstanding that it has received funding for a Master Plan in respect of which there has been no community consultation.

It is expected that this master planning exercise will be resourced appropriately to ensure full community engagement in the design of all elements of BCO.

6. Public Health considerations to underpin selection of playground infrastructure

The GCA requests Council to revise the focus of 6.9 to ensure that all material selected for inclusion in playgrounds (and in open space enhancements, generally) is selected with regard to the need to eliminate public health risks.

7. Removal of slide in Shell Park as outlined in Figure 9

It is acknowledged that there may be some safety issues with the slide at Shell Park but it would be regrettable to remove it and replace it with no other equipment.

A slide or swing at the beginning or end of the foreshore walk is a pleasant experience for children and it is hoped that a suitable piece of equipment such as a flying fox could be installed as an alternative to the slide.

Regards

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