

Your Say Wingecarribee

Report on what we heard

DAVID WOOD PLAYFIELDS ADVENTURE PLAYSPACE UPGRADE

The Wingecarribee Shire Council has an upgrade planned for David Wood Playing Fields Playspace in East Bowral which will be funded by Wingecarribee Shire Council through the Retford Park Planning Agreement, in partnership with local community group, The 4K's. Council is also seeing additional grant funding for the project through the Stronger country Communities Round 5 Fund.

The upgrade of the playspace aims to deliver an all-inclusive adventure playground that is adjacent to the David Wood Playing fields.

Council presented a masterplan and concept design of the proposed playspace to the community. The design included a variety of play opportunities encouraging explorative play, all abilities equipment, pathways, seating, BBQ and picnic facilities, shade structures and soft landscaping elements including semi-mature tree plantings.

The draft design is to essentially form a masterplan which will allow Council to undertake works without compromising future potential of the space.

Given the magnitude of proposed works, the project has been broken into seven stages. This will allow for implementation as funding allows. The scope of works and timing would be subject to funding availability.

Public consultation for the exhibition of the draft concept plan commenced on Tuesday 20 September 2022 and ran until Friday 14 October 2022.

The project page received 1350 visits. Documents and information were viewed by 619 visitors, and 88 visitors contributed to the online feedback form.

THE CONVERSATION

Online Survey

An online survey was open during the consultation period on the *Your Say Wingecarribee* website for the community to provide feedback on what they were most excited about in the concept design and what elements of the design that they were concerned with. A total of 88 surveys were completed through the *Your Say Wingecarribee* website. Additionally, submissions were made via email to Council.

Community Drop-In Session

A community drop-in session was held at David Woods Playing Fields on Wednesday 12 October 2022 from 3pm to 4:30pm to promote the consultation and provide the community with an opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts. We spoke to approximately nine people during the drop-in session.

Council staff also met with adjacent residents of the proposal at Retford Park on Tuesday 13 October 2020, who requested additional consultation. This provided an additional opportunity for adjacent residents to ask questions and share their thoughts on the project.

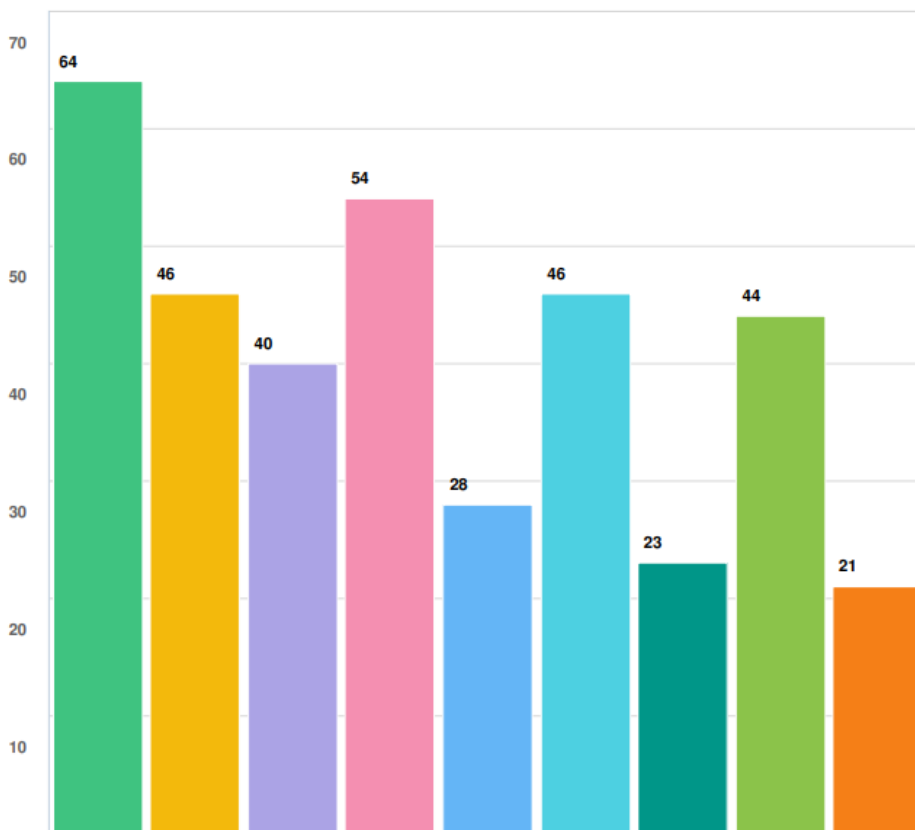
WHO WE ENGAGED

The consultation targeted Wingecarribee residents but did not exclude those who visit from outside the area.

The consultation was promoted via numerous channels including the Your Say Wingecarribee e-newsletter, Community Update, social media, Council's e-newsletter, radio, along with emails to identified groups.

WHAT WE HEARD

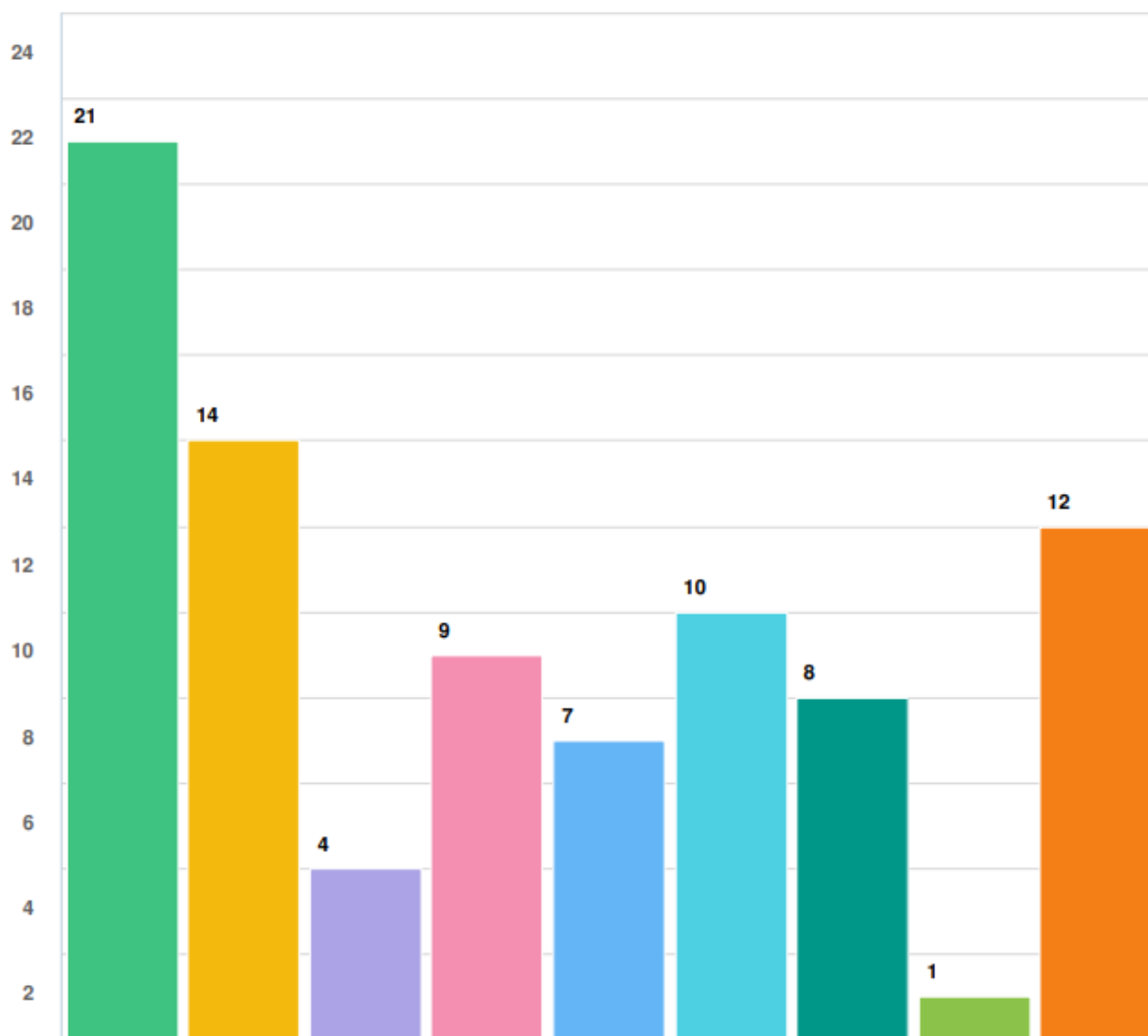
What elements of the concept design are you most excited about? Multiple selections can be made.



Question options

- Main playspace area
- Pump Track
- Learn to Ride
- Ninja Warrior Course
- Park Furniture & Carpark
- Flying Fox
- Upgrade to old tennis court to multi-purpose facility (eg. Rage Cage)
- Nature Trail through reserve to north
- Replace existing play equipment with fitness equipment

What elements of the concept design do you have concerns about? Multiple selections can be made.



Question options

- Main playspace area ● Pump Track ● Learn to Ride ● Ninja Warrior Course ● Park Furniture & Carpark
- Flying Fox ● Upgrade to old tennis court to multi-purpose facility (eg. Rage Cage) ● Nature Trail through reserve to north
- Replace existing play equipment with fitness equipment

Concerns in relation to the Main Play Area

- **SHADE:** Submissions indicated the need for Council to provide adequate shade over the whole play area. There was a common concern by residents that the concept design does not provide enough shade. This was the most common concern by the participants in the survey.
- **FENCING:** Request to provide fencing or partial fencing in the playspace to protect children from accessing the road and car park as well as to stop young children running on to the more adventurous play areas. Fencing around the swale was also mentioned to reduce risk.
- **ACCESSIBILITY:** There was a request for all the equipment to be accessible for children with disabilities including the play tower.
- **PLAY:** Some submissions indicated more play equipment including providing more imaginative play for younger children (12-18months), sensory play and water play as well as additional swings
- **MATERIALS & FINISHES:** Many respondents requested for more sympathetic materials and colour palette to reflect the area.

Concerns in relation to the Pump Track

- **SAFETY:** Some respondents expressed their concern that the playspace will draw in inappropriate social behaviour such as loitering teenagers and vandalism.
- **PLAY:** Many comments were made about integrating a skate park facility. One proposal was to replace the pump track facility with a skate park as it can provide more of a diversity of users (skaters, BMX and scooters).
- **MATERIALS & FINISHES:** Request for more soft planting and barriers to be used around the pump track to improve safety and amenity.
- **SAFETY:** Some respondents expressed their concern that the playspace will draw in inappropriate social behaviour such as loitering teenagers and vandalism.
- **PLAY:** Many comments were made about integrating a skate park facility. One proposal was to replace the pump track facility with a skate park as it can provide more of a diversity of users (skaters, BMX and scooters).
- **MATERIALS & FINISHES:** Request for more soft planting and barriers to be used around the pump track to improve safety and amenity.

Concerns in relation to the Learn to Ride Area

- **SAFETY:** Request to reduce hazards between learn to ride and main play area
- **PLAY:** Many comments were made about integrating a skate park facility. One proposal was to replace the learn to ride facility with a skate park as there are many footpaths in the area to learn to ride.

Concerns in relation to the Ninja Course

- **SHADE:** Submissions indicated the need for Council to provide adequate shade over the whole play area. There was a common concern by residents that the concept design does not provide enough shade. This was the most common concern by the participants in the survey.
- **LOCATION:** Some respondents were concerned that it was located too close to the residents.
- **PLAY:** Some respondents were concerned that the equipment was too dangerous.

Concerns in relation to the Park Furniture and Carpark

- **PEDESTRAIN AND BYCICLE ACCESS:** Many comments were made about providing safe connections from the playspace to the existing shared path network.
- **SHADE & AMENITY:** Provide shade in the car park and provide drinking fountains and bike parking and accessible BBQ facilities.
- **ACCESSIBLE TOILET BLOCK:** request for a 'changing places' toilet block.

Concerns in relation to the Flying Fox

- **ACCESSIBILITY:** Consider depth under swing and include tie downs at each end.
- **NOISE:** Some respondents were concerned that it was located too close to the residents

Concerns in relation to the Rage Cage

- **PLAY:** The 2nd least desired activity. Some responses indicated that they would still like to use it as a tennis court/basketball court.
- **Skate Park:** Suggestion to replace the rage cage with a skate park.

Concerns in relation to the Nature Trail

- **LOCATION:** Some respondents were concerned that it was located too close to the residents.

Concerns in relation to replacing existing equipment with fitness facilities

- **PLAY:** The least desired activity. Many residents commented on the park focusing on providing play facilities and noted that fitness equipment is hardly used or maintained.

General comments

- Overall, there is support from the community to deliver the adventure playspace at the David Wood Playing Fields.
- Many of the adjoining residents were concerned about Noise and Visual pollution for adjoining residents
- Drainage and water
- Wildlife and nature

The main playspace area will most likely be constructed first. To help us plan ahead, the community were asked to rank the remaining areas in order of preference. The results are as follows:

1. Pump track learn to ride & ninja warrior course
2. Flying Fox
3. Park furniture & carpark
4. Nature trail through reserve to the north
5. Upgrade of old tennis court to multi-purpose facility
6. Replace existing equipment with fitness equipment

KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Opportunities:

- Materials colour, indigenous historic interpretation / storytelling (from the Gundungurra People), connection to the adjacent cultural heritage, interpretation of historic use of the space, planting palette, native species habitat (ducks, frogs)
- Robust, durable and natural materials where possible
- Sensory and educational garden, artwork and bespoke play and educational equipment
- A resilient, yet attractive playspace that fits in with the local surroundings
- Provide additional shade.
- Provide fencing to some of the playspace. Provide informal barriers (planting and or park furniture) between playspaces to improve safety.
- All park furniture including BBQ's to be accessible.

Considerations:

- Car parking and traffic management.
- Pedestrian access from existing shared path network.
- Natural screening to adjacent neighbours to the north along Caroline Avenue.
- Accessible toilet facilities.
- Need to provide accessible entrance from car park (and toilet block) as part of stage 1.

WHATS NEXT?

Feedback from this first stage of engagement will help shape the future stages of this project including the draft detail design for the David Wood Adventure Playspace.

Updates will continue to be provided via the Your Say Wingecarribee page.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK