



Moreland City Council Garrong Park Community Consultation

Findings Report

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Authorship & acknowledgements

This report was written by Dr Andrea Cook, RedRoad Consulting, and reflects the in-depth discussion, perspectives and ideas shared by the many participants of this consultation process. We acknowledge these contributions with many thanks.

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01 Introduction

Context

Over the past two years, Moreland City Council has worked to redevelop the site at 55-61 Tinnings Street from a commercial building to a local pocket park, Garrong Park. This process has involved a range of consultations with local community members with two key (and competing) concerns emerging over that time:

1. the appropriateness of the play space for children of all ages and older children in particular.
2. the visual, noise and privacy impacts of larger scale play equipment on surrounding residents.

In response to these concerns, Council officers presented a report to Council in March 2021, and it was resolved that Council would proceed with the Garrong Park opening with current play equipment but also seek further community (and other) feedback on whether there were other options to address the issues raised (while also minimising any costs and disruption associated with reconstructing the Park).

The Park was opened to the public while final works on the toilet block and wall mural are being completed. Meanwhile, Council officers began investigating opportunities for replacing the existing combination unit with alternate play towers that would cater for older age groups and was more in keeping with the original draft concept design presented to the community. Three options were drafted for community feedback and, between 11 and 29 June 2021, those options were tested via an online survey, two face-to-face pop-ups on site and an online focus group.

This consultation report details the key findings from those engagements.

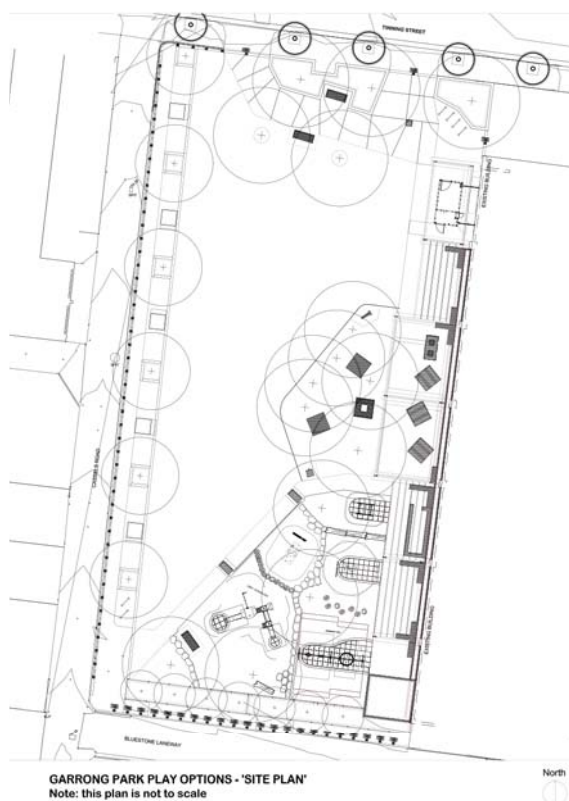


Fig. 01: A site plan of the current Garrong Park (source: Moreland City Council)

How we engaged

The goal of these consultations was to maximise the opportunity for residents to discuss how the Garrong Park play space is experienced now and whether Council should consider making changes to the existing play equipment. Between 11 and 29 June 2021, we gathered this feedback via over 340 contributions:

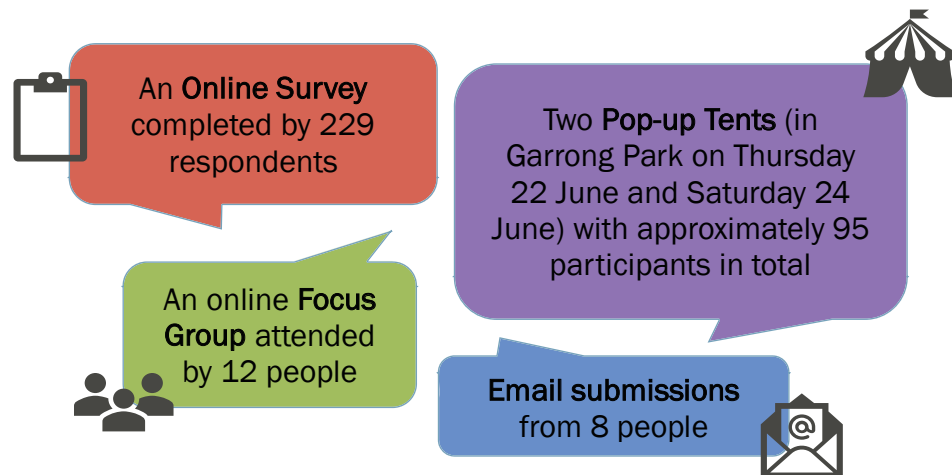


Fig. 02: Summary of the engagement activities

The consultations were framed around two key questions: “what do you think of the new park and the play experiences it offers?” and “which of the three options do you prefer and why?” (see Appendix A as well). The answers to these questions were recorded in different formats: the survey produced quantitative data while the pop-ups, focus group and email submissions generated transcripts, facilitator notes and activity photos that were transcribed, coded and themed using NVivo software.

Who participated in this engagement?

From the online survey, we know that these consultations largely involved local residents (91%), split roughly between those who lived in the area (47.6%) and those who lived in the area and regularly used Garrong Park (43.7%).

Other demographics were not comprehensively collected in the survey or in the other activities. Anecdotally, however, we can say that the participants tended to be:

- local parents and their children (of all ages)
- local residents in surrounding properties along Tinnings Street and Albion Street.

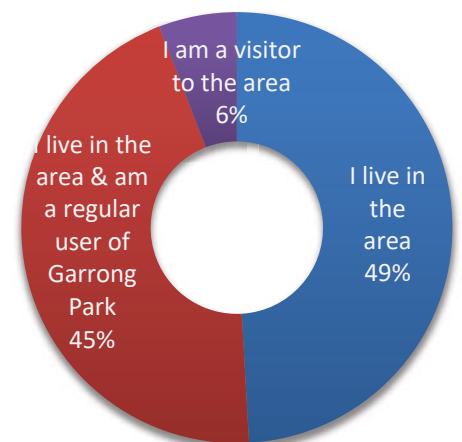


Fig. 03: ‘What best describes your connection to Garrong Park?’ (N=229)

02 Key findings

The following is a summary of the key findings from the various engagement activities, focusing on what people said and what we heard about the play space in Garrong Park.

What do people think of Garrong Park and the play experiences it offers?

The answers to these questions are complicated as Garrong Park itself is valued by the local community and there is little disagreement that it is great to have an additional open space in the built-up inner suburbs. However, there has been and continues to be a strong community disagreement about the play equipment in the park.

The survey asked participants to reflect on the quality of the current play equipment in Garrong Park. The responses illustrate the widespread dissatisfaction with the current play space and equipment with approximately two thirds (67%) of the survey respondents describing the current play equipment as 'poor' or 'very poor'. This contrasts with the 27% who assessed it as 'good' or 'very good' (Fig. 04).

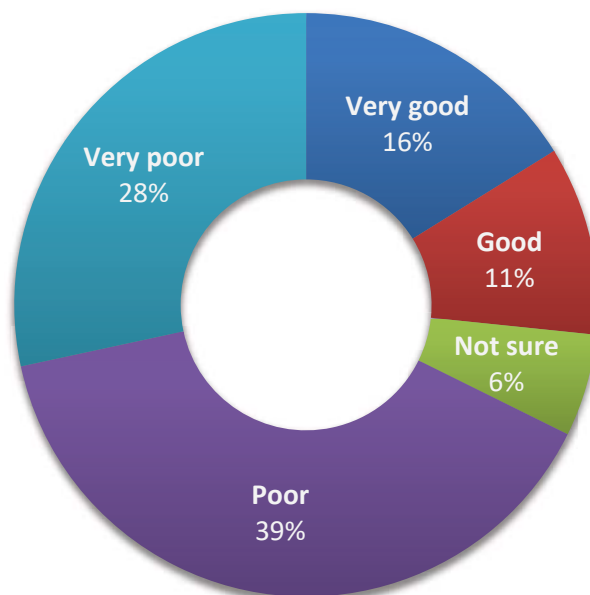


Fig. 04: 'What do you think of the current children's play equipment offering at Garrong Park?' (N=229)

When elaborating on why they felt the equipment was very poor or poor, the most common responses was that it doesn't suit older children. In fact, of the 173 comments people made to describe why the play equipment was poor or very poor, 158 (or 90%) mentioned that the equipment didn't meet the needs of older children.

The equipment is for very young children only. My 4-year-old is already too big for a lot of it. The green space is good, and the wall is great for hitting a ball against for older kids. But this park has been a real missed opportunity to cater for older kids and include nature play too. I live close by and I've never seen it busy. Big difference from the new Bulleke-Bek Park!

Survey participant

I think it's silly to ask us schoolkids what we want and then give us play equipment we can't even fit into!

Survey participant



Fig. 05: 'The equipment is too small for older kids', demonstrated during a pop up 'guided tour' (photo: RedRoad)

These views were reiterated and expanded upon in pop up, focus group and email submission comments and activities. People were additionally disappointed with the equipment's age-appropriateness because children's strong involvement in the 2019 community consultations was seen to be ignored when the installed equipment (which included a tower and slide) was removed and replaced with the

smaller equipment. In the end, the installed play equipment looks very different to the original concept plans and feels, to many, to be poor quality.



It's not very inviting and the play equipment is quite mediocre.

Survey participant

Others, however, were pleased with the current play equipment and felt that the Park as a whole balanced the needs of a range of local community members, including children, older people and people with disabilities while also reflecting the scale and size of the space.



It's a very well used park. People use the space very creatively across all ages.

Pop-up participant



Love this park!! I'm a dad and I used this park every day during my recent 3-month parental leave with my 13-month-old. We still go there most arvos since I went back to work. There is literally no other space locally that caters for little kids like this park, and I was looking for them. My little girl can climb up to that big slide all by herself. And then jump into the sandpit after. The slide equipment is just what young families need. I actually met up with a few other fathers here and we were actually able to chat over coffee whilst watching our little ones do their own thing on the equipment.

Survey participant

Some felt that this would only become truer once the park was fully completed and elements like the planter boxes (along the eastern boundary of the park) were

installed. Some worried, in fact, that the focus on the play equipment would take funds and attention away from other park projects like those boxes.

It feels empty. Where are the planter boxes along Cassels Road laneway that we were promised?

Pop-up participant

Overall (and during the consultations) people described and were seen doing the following in the park and on the play equipment:

- toddlers' equipment play (using the sandbox, swings and slides in particular)
- older children's equipment play (climbing and basket swing in particular)
- therapeutic play for adults with disability
- personal training, yoga, tai chi
- hanging out, relaxing
- ball games (handball using the wall and pavement, soccer on grass)
- running, jumping, cartwheeling
- biking
- dog walking



Fig. 06: 'Climbing and jumping in the sand pit, demonstrated during a pop up 'guided tour' (photo: RedRoad)

There is also evidence of illicit uses of the park and play equipment, including drinking/drug taking, vandalism and graffiti, though this wasn't expressed as a major concern by participants.

Finally, several people – proponents of the existing play equipment and those seeking to have it changed alike – remarked on and celebrated the capacities for children to play with what was at hand in creative ways.

How do people feel about the process of creating Garrong Park?

While there is wide and shared support for having a new neighbourhood park, there is also wide and shared concern about the consultation, design and implementation of the park and the play equipment in particular. So prevalent were these comments that they have been added to the discussion as a unique and new question for Council to respond to.



A source of pride, celebration and community has become a source of deep division. I am very upset that something that was such a positive has turned so sour and become such a source of distress.

Pop-up participant



I live directly behind the park as an owner-occupied resident and have found the whole process from design, consultation, implementation and re-consultation personally distressing for me. This process has taken so much of my time, energy and emotion. Larger play equipment at this park will impact mine and my neighbour's privacy and really increase the noise pollution which I as a resident will need to bear on a very personal level every single day in my home... With yet another round of consultation, I find we are still addressing the same issues.

Email submission

These comments reflect a contestation that dates back to the earliest stages of consultations in 2019 and has not been resolved in any iteration of the play equipment. The process itself has contributed to further dividing the community along 'parents and children' versus 'surrounding residents' lines.

The 'procedural' concerns raised (by all, despite their different outcome goals) encompass:

- the civic, emotional and time expense for community people
- not being heard/listened to and perceived Council favouritism, bias or predetermined views (towards people/groups, positions and outcomes)

- the material costs of the consultation, design and implementation thus far and the cost of further work
- the ‘relativeness’ of the process to what is a small pocket park

These are serious concerns and perceptions of process and have cultivated an environment in which neighbours are wary and mistrustful of each other and of Council. Both supporters of the current playground and those seeking change were upset about the way in which decisions had been reached over the past few iterations of the play space.

Some were worried that their concerns as residents living next to the park were being drowned out by the ‘numbers game’ of “dotmocracy”-type activity, both in this phase of consultations and in previous engagements¹. The surrounding residents were, in their view, shouldering more burden in terms of noise and privacy impacts and were less able to get organised as a lobby group (as the school community had).



Adjoining residents feel abandoned by Moreland Council. Council is likely to appease the loudest group which is unfair to surrounding residents (of which there can only be a certain number).

Pop-up participant

Any sort of voting, then, felt ‘rigged’ and unfair.

For others, the voice and needs of local children was being ignored and in a manner that had been very opaque. Concept plans, with children’s input, had been developed and installed only to be removed without notice or explanation, leading to a cynicism about community engagement amongst young people.



My 10-year-old daughter was consulted in the early stages of the project but is disappointed with the process/ outcome and is “done with consulting!”

Pop-up participant

¹ there were ‘dotmocracy’ – voting activities using dot stickers, pom poms or other techniques to determine priority – aspects to the consultations held in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project as well, as described in the consultation reports.



The previous history is important to contextualise the current park consultation... one of the five key themes that came out of the initial design consultation was point 3 “accessible play for children of all ages and abilities”.

In the second phase consultation with the artist impression of the park incorporating the large tower (suitable for older children), over 90% of respondents liked the way the park was taking shape.

Email submission

Unfortunately, the time to draw these different parties together to take a more deliberative and/or negotiated approach to the conflict is likely passed. While there are calls from some community members for arbitration, others feel that enough time, money and human resourcing has already been expended on this small park.

Nonetheless, it cannot be overstated: these deteriorating neighbourhood cohesion issues are the most important findings of this report and it underpins a very big disclaimer for the following section: making decisions based on ‘votes’ alone will further fracture this community. It is more important to explore why people have selected the option they have and to think about other potential ways to deliver on those needs and aspirations.

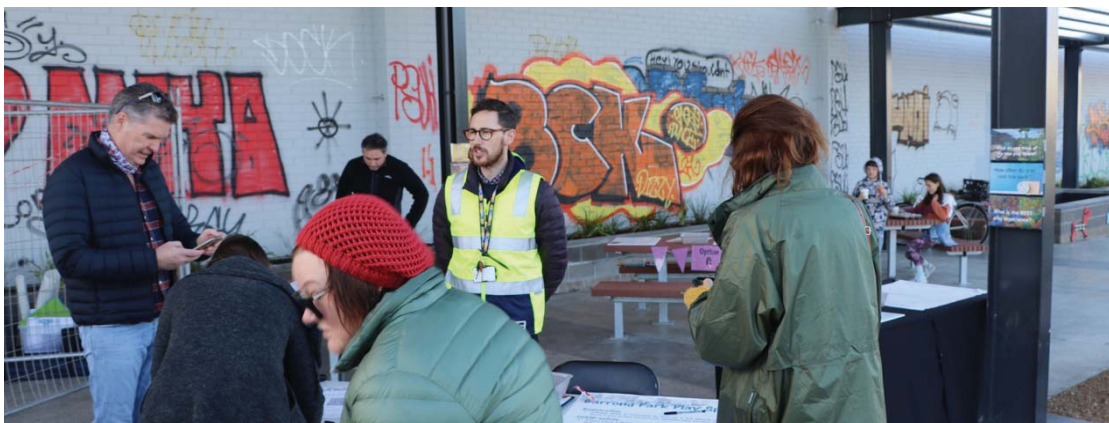


Fig. 07: People exploring different playground options during a pop up, June 2021
(photo: RedRoad)

What do people think of the three play equipment options?

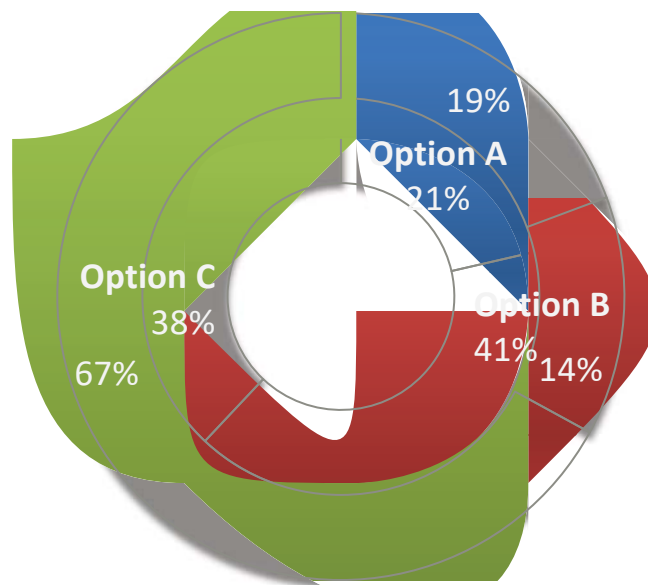
These engagements were framed around a core question of what people thought of three options for the play space in Garrong Park. The survey and the pop-up activities both set about asking people about their preferences for:

Option A - No change. Retain the existing play equipment

Option B - Replace existing combination play equipment with new play equipment offering expanded range and more challenging play activities

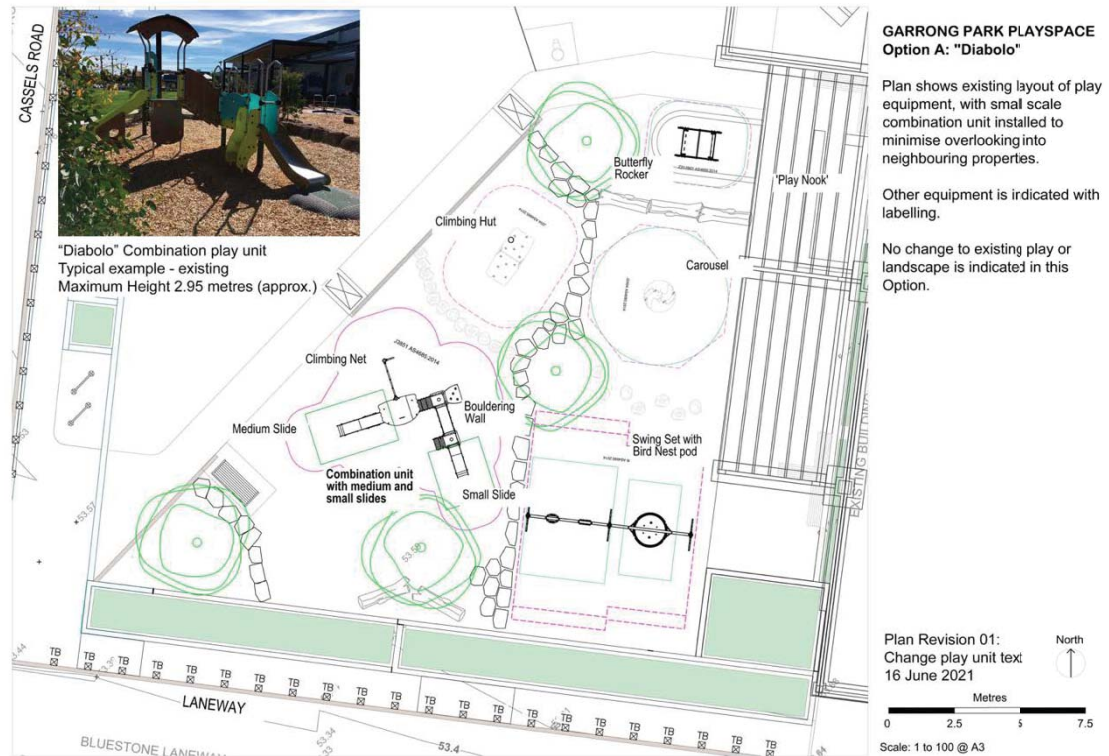
Option C - Replace existing combination play and some additional equipment with new play equipment offering expanded range and more challenging play activities

For the reasons outlined in the previous section, however, we urge that the following 'voting' results (Fig. 08) not be read in isolation of the deeper discussions about what people are hoping to achieve for the space and the community via their choice. We also caution against the options being seen as the only three possible routes forward.



In both survey and pop ups, the preference was for a change to the play equipment, whether that be Option B, C or another resolution to the gaps in offering for primary-aged children to play on the play equipment. The following is a quick summary of the aspect of the three options that appealed to people.

What people liked about Option A



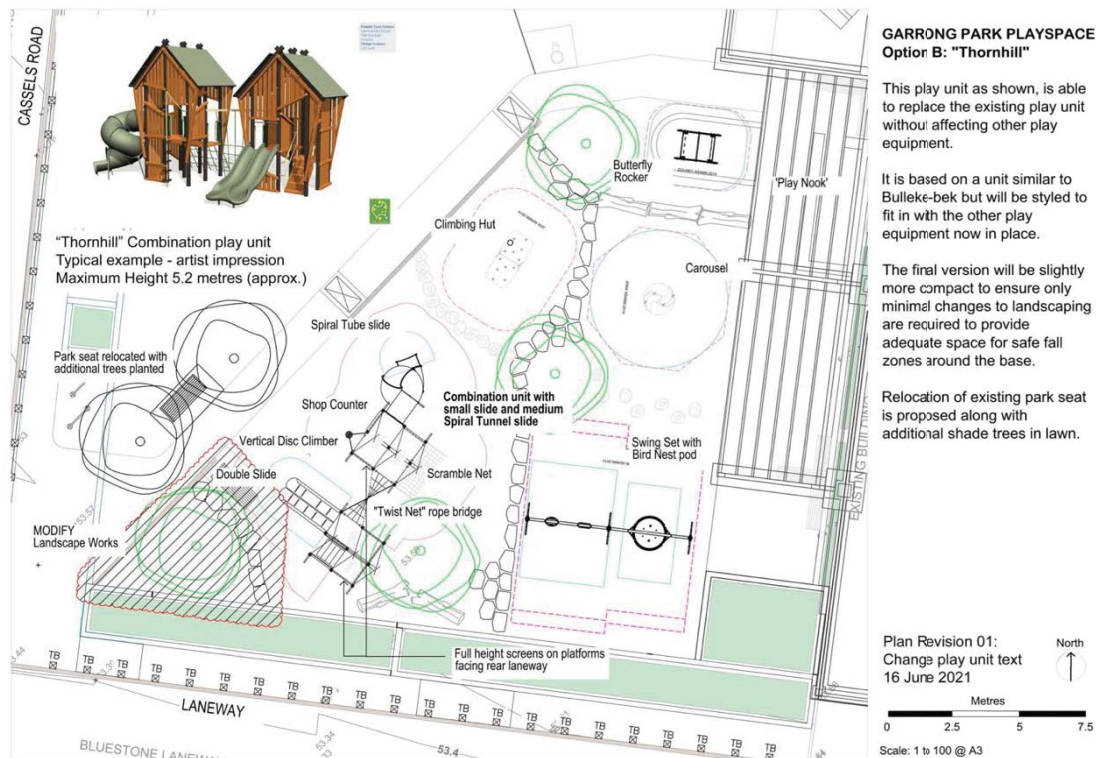
Option A was the preference for 21% of survey respondents and 19% of pop-up visitors. This was the preference for many (but not all) surrounding residents, who want to avoid greater noise and privacy impact.

It's the first park that has equipment where my newly walking baby and toddler can both play and build their climbing skills, and I don't even need to hold their hand. It's brilliant!

Survey participant

Parents of toddlers were appreciative of the space because it allowed them to let their very young children play with less direct supervision and with less worry that they would be pushed aside by older children playing. The sand play and swings were especially popular but there weren't any particularly disliked elements either.

What people liked about Option B



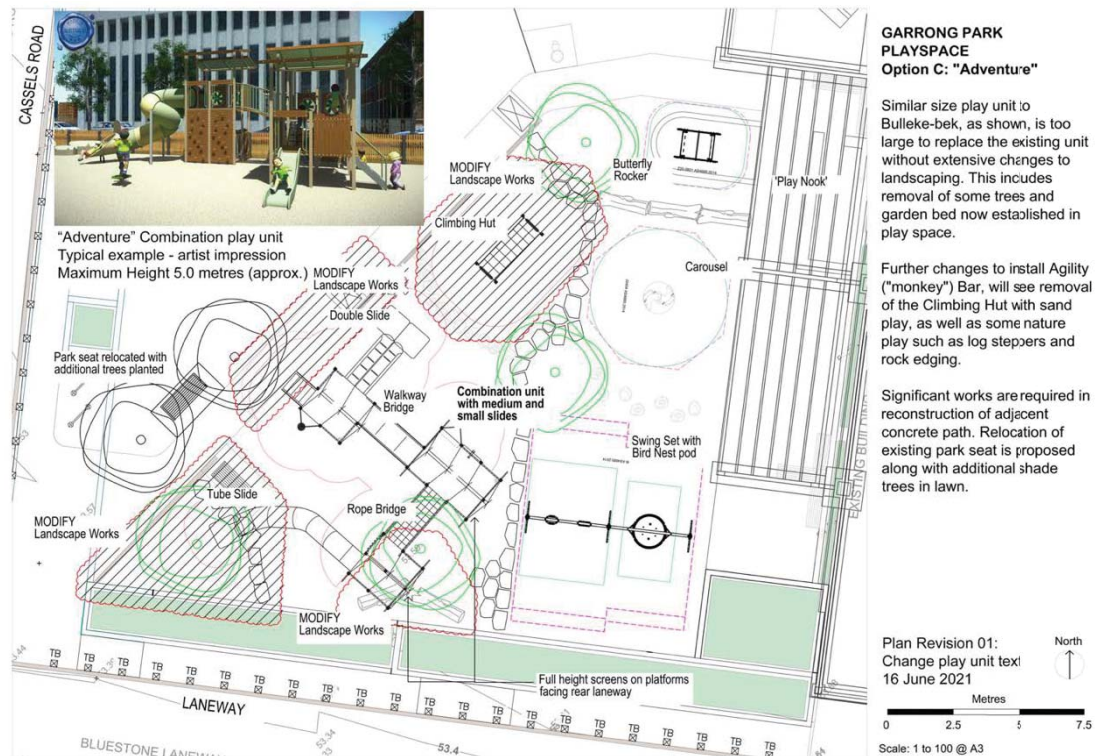
Option B was the preference for 41% of survey respondents and 14% of pop-up visitors. Option B was the first preference for survey participants and second preference for those attending the pop ups.

I'd be keen to see the equipment at Bulleke-bek Park replicated at Garrong - a hit with young and old kids and containing nature play elements with the water play.

Survey participant

People liked this equipment option as it was very popular at the nearby Bulleke-Bek playground and was suitable for a range of ages. It also offered a 'nature' aesthetic that people liked and saw as complementing community (including children's) ideas for the play space in the past.

What people liked about Option C



Option C was the preference for 38% of survey respondents and 67% of pop-up visitors. Option C was the first preference for pop up participants and second preference for the survey participants.

Option C gives maximum amenity and use for the playground, catering to the widest group of children. It provides a different style of playground to the nearby Bulleke-Bek playground. The monkey bars are a great inclusion and a much better use of space than a sandpit with a tiny hut that is very age limited.

Survey participant

People liked this equipment option as it was similar but different to Bulleke-Bek playground and gave neighbourhood children different play options. It also includes a set of monkey bars, one of (if not the most) popular requests for equipment type across playground consultations.

A summary of what we heard during these consultations

These consultations highlighted some shared and some disputed feedback about Garrong Park and the play equipment. The following is a summary of the key areas of agreement and key areas of disagreement:

Consistent/shared feedback	Contested/disputed feedback
<p>Having a new neighbourhood park is a good thing:</p> <p>There was wide consensus that the new park was a great resource for the local community.</p> <p>“The fact that the Council has bought factories and installed a park is amazing! Thank you and well-done Moreland!” (survey participant)</p>	<p>Garrong Park is poorly used:</p> <p>Some thought that the park was underused while others disputed this.</p> <p>“The [parents’] group position that the park is under-utilised is 100% wrong. We know that it is being used as we literally watch who uses the park every single day at all times of day” (email submission)</p>
<p>There should be 0 to 100-year-old leisure opportunities in the park:</p> <p>People agree that ‘all ages’ is not simply about children of all ages but that this small park needs to create a welcoming space for people all ages, abilities and backgrounds.</p>	<p>The play space is too small:</p> <p>Relative to the park as a whole, people disagree about the play space area:</p> <p>“Appropriate size for the park.” (survey participant)</p> <p>“Way too small. Can’t hold many children (even little ones) at once.” (survey participant)</p>
<p>The play space and equipment installed is not as promised through prior consultation and engagement:</p> <p>Proponents for the status quo and for change agreed: the installed play equipment wasn’t what had been promised.</p> <p>“Our older primary school aged children have no play equipment options at this park currently. They were originally consulted in the planning of the park and have been grossly overlooked and sidelined in the current offering.” (survey participant)</p> <p>“I feel like the park is unfinished. What’s that weird walled area? Was there supposed to be sand in there? And wasn’t there supposed to be water and nature play?” (survey participant)</p>	<p>Noise and privacy are an issue for park-adjacent properties:</p> <p>While most can see that the play equipment is located close to the townhouses at the southern boundary, people disagree about the impact this creates for those residents:</p> <p>“It is also distressing that Options B and C are even bigger than the original slide tower that was subsequently removed because Council officers agreed it was overbearing, an intrusion on our privacy and would increase noise pollution into our homes.” (email submission)</p> <p>“I live directly behind the playground and do not feel either proposal B or C impinges dramatically on privacy to the properties along the laneway and support either plan... If neighbours have issues with the proposed designs, they need to consider the great</p>

	<p>planting and trees that are along the edge of the park which will provide privacy and shade.” (survey participant)</p>
<p>It is a local park, not a ‘destination’ park:</p> <p>People agreed that this is a small neighbourhood park, catering mainly to local residents. It wasn’t and couldn’t be a ‘destination’ park.</p> <p>“This was not designed to be a destination park. It is a ‘park close to home’ to offer relief to all ages from the high-density life of Brunswick.” (email submission)</p>	<p>The solution to older children’s play needs is a tower:</p> <p>The needs of older children’s play have been conflated with the installation of play towers, but some see other solutions.</p> <p>“Please make the play area bigger, with more equipment to suit a wider range of kids. Climbing frames and obstacle course type things – tunnels, large blocks etc – would be great!” (survey participant)</p>
<p>The ‘three options’ discussion is reductive:</p> <p>While not a huge theme in the consultations, there was a current of frustration that the discussions were centred on three ‘predetermined’ options and missed an opportunity to weave in previously expressed goals for the space (like nature or water play).</p> <p>“Why are the three options so limited?” (pop up participant)</p> <p>“The equipment is limiting and would be great to see more natural wooden play equipment using logs and water play” (survey participant)</p>	<p>The broader play context of the suburb caters to older children’s play:</p> <p>Some felt that nearby parks that were popular for older kids’ play were reason to not replicate that offering at Garrong Park while others felt that it was an access issue and that all local parks should provide comparable equipment for all ages play.</p> <p>“There are lots of parks in Brunswick with play equipment for toddlers but very few that are suitable for older children.” (survey participant)</p>
	<p>Screening is a possible solution to the noise and privacy concerns:</p> <p>While somewhat shared, there is still some concern about the ways in which screening could be [mis]used after installation.</p> <p>“Option B and C which have been tabled can be accommodated to address these concerns including options such as the sides of the play equipment which face the residents’ property can be fully enclosed so that children cannot look into residents’ property.” (email submission)</p> <p>“children will then climb on the screening structures...” (pop-up participant)</p>

The really critical issues we heard in these engagements remain the two issues that have driven community involvement, organisation/advocacy and concern over the past months and years:

- how can the play space better cater to older children?
- how can the impacts on surrounding residents be minimised?

Neither of these driving concerns are in any way unreasonable. Nor are they intractable and unsolvable. Some thoughts for moving forward and resolving some of this contestation are suggested in the following section.

03 A way forward

To test community views about possible changes to the play space in Garrong Park, Brunswick, Moreland City Council engaged in a short community engagement in June 2021. The process underscored two central issues that have mobilised the local community over the past months and years:


- how can the play space better cater to older children?
- how can the impacts on surrounding residents be minimised?

These have become a polarising set of questions that has led to community division and strife. But there are some ways in which these two priorities might complement rather than compete with each other.

We understand that Moreland City Council will need to consider all the consultation information from this process, including these ‘way forward’ ideas, in the context of several information streams and that the consultation outcomes of this process are a part of – not the sum of – the information that will inform the decision making about project’s next steps. Still, we hope that the Council and the community can reflect on the following ideas as ways to resolve some of the more contested aspects of the play space at Garrong Park.

(Re)commit to equity principles.

Council and the Garrong Park communities of users need to (re)commit to the principles of equity that drive both these questions. Families’ needs should not come at the expense of surrounding neighbours’ peaceful enjoyment of their homes. Surrounding residents’ needs should not mean the displacement of older children, reasonable play noise and use of public space.

 *We have already given up some level of privacy for the benefit of the community. We deserve to retain some level of peace and privacy.*

Focus group participant

The site equity also needs to extend to other park users. For example, people described the use of the playground by people with intellectual disability and their carer. Removing elements like the sand play area to create a climbing tower would

impact on that type of use of the space and affect equity principles in other ways beyond the question of children's rights and residents' rights.

Revisit the 1st phase nature play aspiration.

The initial consultations created expectations for play equipment amongst local children and families. However, the most desired play equipment from those first engagements was not a play tower but nature play. Parks like Royal Park (Fig. 09) were specifically mentioned as worth looking at and drawing inspiration from.

Rather than installing 'up', then, there may be an alternative where Council installs 'green' instead and introduces more complex nature play elements that allow a variety of experiences. Several of those who 'voted' for Option C did so in a qualified way, highlighting the appeal of the (relatively no-conflict) monkey bars in that option as well as the desire for more natural play elements.

I know you can't build a high play fort, but some rope climbs or nature play could be used.

Survey participant

Children are 7 and 4 years old and they selected Option C as a more appropriate use of the space for all. Monkey bars are good... but where is the nature play??

Pop up participant (with children)



Fig. 09: Nature play options in Royal Park, Melbourne
(photo: <https://www.outdoordesign.com.au/news-info/return-to-royal-park/3695.htm>)

Presumably, installing nature play would be a 'win-win' option, especially if done in conjunction with the next idea.

Install a climbing wall option

In the report to Council in March 2021, there were four options for consideration. The fourth was a ‘climbing element’ along part of the wall forming the eastern boundary of the park, under the steel arbour.

This option reflected that the park design had purposefully included a number of unprogrammed spaces so as to respond to future needs within the park. Installing a climbing element in one of those spaces could specifically cater to older age groups’ play needs and even be a point of artistic interest.

The new climbing element could be either integrated or framed by the art mural already commissioned for the factory wall, subject to collaboration being agreed with the artist.

Council Report, 10 March 2021

This option was recommended by Council officers as an option that would “provide an interesting and challenging play activity for older children while not diminishing any of the existing play value provided by the current design”. It also creates none of the privacy conflict that other options might.

Install screening and buffering for noise and privacy

Options B and C both describe “full height screens on platforms” but the options for what this screening might look like and be constructed of is not visualised. A number of people involved in these consultations made note of their concern about the potential screening and whether it would be attractive, provide another climbing surface (and privacy concern) and so forth.

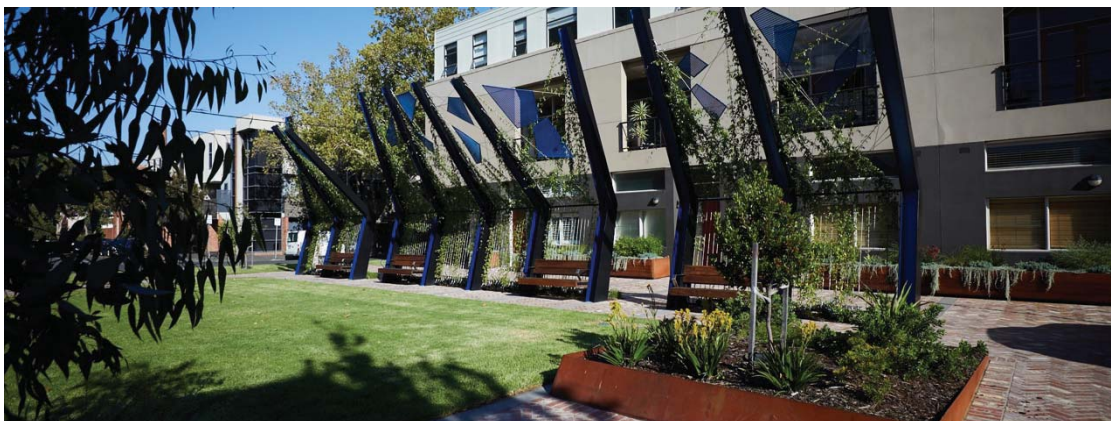


Fig. 10: Sculptural green screening in a pocket park in Abbotsford, Melbourne
(photo: <https://www.hansenpartnership.com.au/projects/charles-mollison-st-pocket-park/>)

People also questioned whether the trees along the southern boundary were actually trees (or shrubs) and what sort of visual screen they would provide.

It would be useful for the Council to provide some visuals for the screens and to clarify how the green screening will be achieved (e.g., how tall are the species planted, how long until they are mature, etc.). Inspiration may be found in similar parks in Melbourne. For example, privacy concerns drove the design for and installation of sculptural green screening, with built in lighting, in Mollison Street, Abbotsford (Fig. 10).

Support community strengthening and repair

The process of developing Garrong Park has caused discord in the community and this process has highlighted that further changes to the playground and park need to include activations and programming that can bring people together and help heal the rifts.

This could include running co-processes with the community in installing some of the simpler nature play elements, hosting planting days, getting community gardening happening in the planters, encouraging street parties/picnics, helping the community mount group activities or sport (outdoor yoga and tai chi have both been mentioned) and/or running “learn to... (ride a bike, rock climb, etc.)” clinics.

Adopting a ‘community development’ lens will be useful in rebuilding trust between community members and between community and Council.



Fig. 10: Celebrating and strengthening the community
(photo: stock photo)

Appendix A: Project FAQs

(<https://conversations.moreland.vic.gov.au/Garrong-Park>)

Why is Council doing this?

We are committed to creating a great space for the community. Some members of the community have expressed dissatisfaction to Council regarding the play space and equipment at Garrong Park. The concern is that the playground is too targeted at younger children and doesn't provide enough play experiences for older children. As part of the original community consultation and concept design, a larger combination unit was proposed than what was ultimately installed. The larger combination unit was a key element that received wide support from the community as part of the consultation and is a key reason for some members of the community being disappointed with the play equipment.

Councillors have directed Officers to engage with the community to seek your views on this matter before deciding whether any changes should be made to the playground.

We are now seeking your feedback as to whether Council should consider making changes to the existing play equipment to cater for a wider range of ages, particularly primary school aged children, or whether to leave the park as it is.

How will you engage the community in this project?

We are using a range of methods to understand community views and perspectives:

- Pop ups to broadly gauge community sentiment, the user experience of the park, things people do or don't like, etc.
- Online survey to gather preferences and the reasons for these
- Zoom meeting to have a focused, more in-depth discussion about the issues.

By using a range of methods, we are overcoming the limitations of any single engagement method. Our method is in keeping with the standard of engagement at the IAP2 level of 'involve'.

What is negotiable and what is non-negotiable in this project?

This engagement project is only concerned with children's play equipment at Garrong Park. The negotiable aspects are that there are three possible options for changes that can be made to children's play equipment at Garrong Park:

- Option 1 - No change. Retain the existing play equipment.
- Option 2 - Replace the existing play equipment with new equipment targeted at older children.
- Option 3 - Replace the existing play equipment with new equipment targeted at both older and younger children.

There are no other negotiable aspects of this project as no other changes will be made to the park. It is also not possible to influence any individual design elements at the park.

What will you do to gather community feedback?

We will be hosting different methods of engagement to gather as much feedback as possible to inform future decision making about play equipment at Garrong Park.

First, we will carry out engagement online via the Conversations Moreland website.

We will also host two pop-up events at Garrong Park to investigate how users of the park experience the park and gather feedback on the three options for the future of the children's play equipment.

Finally, we will host an online zoom meeting to have a focussed discussion about the future of the play equipment at the park.

By providing three methods of engagement, we overcome the limitations of any single engagement method, and we will also provide a range of opportunities for people to have their views heard by Council.

What will happen at the pop-ups?

At the pop-ups we will collect community feedback about their experience and perceptions of the children's play equipment at Garrong Park on a rating scale.

We will also investigate community views about three options for the future of children's play equipment at the park.

How will you make your pop-ups Covid safe?

We want to make sure that we keep the community safe while they share their ideas with us. We'll be doing this by ensuring that our staff and contractors will only attend if they are not experiencing symptoms of Covid-19. Participants at the pop-ups will also be required to sign in to our pop-ups; adhere to physical distancing, personal hygiene practices and we will ensure appropriate cleaning of the pop-up area.

How will you be engaging diverse communities in this project?

We know the local community around Garrong Park is diverse.

We are taking the steps below to help all community members have conversations with us:

- We will make flyers and other materials from this project available in translated formats on request including the following 4 languages: Italian, Greek, Chinese (simplified) and Arabic. These are the 4 most commonly spoken languages in Moreland by people with an English barrier.
- Online engagement will be made available in the above 4 languages on request.
- At our pop-ups all activity materials will be translated, and interpreters will be available on request.
- If you or anyone you know wants to speak with Council's Customer Service about Garrong Park through an interpreter, you can call Language Link, our free telephone interpreting service.
- We are prioritising Plain English language, to make our communications more accessible to everyone.

What will happen to any play equipment removed from the park?

If Council ultimately decides to replace some of the play equipment, Council's Open Space Design and Development Unit will retain the removed equipment and seek to use it in a future park project. This will ensure that the play equipment will continue to be enjoyed by the community in another location within the municipality in need of new equipment.

Who will decide if any changes are made to the playground?

A report will be presented to Council which details the outcomes of this community engagement activity. The report will also include estimated costs for the options to replace the play equipment. Your Councillors will ultimately vote on whether any changes to the playground occur.

Who will pay for any changes?

The funding for any proposed changes will be funded through Council's Public Resort and Recreation Land Fund (PRRLF), which receives funds via developer contributions. The project is not funded through Council rates. Any additional funding will require approval from Council as the use of funds from the PRRLF will impact on funds that will be available for future park projects across Moreland and the additional expenditure is outside of the existing project scope and budget.

When will the park works be finished?

There have been some delays with the toilet building construction, due partly to Covid-19 restrictions, and works will continue into July. Following completion of the toilet, there will be artwork painted along the full length of the factory wall and toilet building, which may not be completed until sometime in August 2021. The park and play space will remain open for use during all that time. Official opening of Garrong Park will depend on what further work on the play space, if any, might be carried out later this year.

What happens next?

A report will be presented to Council which details the outcomes of this community engagement activity. Your Councillors will then vote to decide if any changes are made to the park or whether the park and play equipment will remain unchanged. If Council decides to make changes, Officers will proceed to arrange for the new equipment to be installed. The expected timeframe for this to occur is expected to take 5-7 months, subject to lead times from the suppliers of the play equipment. The construction and installation of any new equipment is expected to take 3-4 weeks. The park will remain open for the community to continue to use until the equipment is ready to be installed, to minimise the impact to the community.