

Grassy Head Playground Upgrade Community Feedback Summary

What do you think of the designs for the new Grassy Head playground?

Kempsey Shire Council has been exploring options to replace the existing swing set at Grassy Head which has reached the end of its life. The project is in Council's Delivery Program and has received \$200,000 in grant funding.

After receiving mixed feedback from the community about this upgrade we carried out a community engagement process to gather community views on this project.

Council wishes to thank those in the community who took the time to provide feedback, including formal submissions, email, social media etc.

Results

The community was asked to provide their thoughts on the proposed changes across a range of things such as playground elements, playground layout, outdoor furniture and the location.

We received a significant response to our call for feedback on the proposed playground. It was pleasing that this came from a broad cross section of people who visit and use the space including nearby residents, those from the surrounding region and visitors from further afield who enjoy holidaying at/near Grassy Head.

We have now reviewed all the feedback received and acknowledge there were wide ranging views, from strong support to strong opposition for the project as well as a range of comments on various elements of the project.

In assessing the feedback received, consideration was given to:

- The overall level of support for the project.
- Whether the submission was unique or provided as a petition or pro forma
- How closely the demographics of respondents matched identified key stakeholder groups. (eg local residents, parents or carers of children who use the playground)

The analysis of the submissions then formed part of the decision-making process, along with other factors including budget, environmental factors, safety and industry best practice.

The split community feedback on the issues of location and equipment (see below) was balanced against the considerations that had initially informed the original proposal. On balance, it was considered the support for the project was relatively strong and Council has decided to proceed with the project delivery as exhibited, as well a couple of additional elements.

Grassy Head Playground Upgrade Community Feedback Summary

What's next?

From mid-August, the project team will be on site to undertake works on the upper reserve (fenced site for the new Playground). We anticipate play equipment, furniture and hardwood elements will be installed in early September, with the project scheduled for completion prior to the Spring school holidays.

In response to feedback received, we will also be:

- working with local suppliers and planting native tree species around the site
- completing minor Improvements to the amenities block.
- installing a raised crossing which connects the playground to the amenities block.

Summary of responses

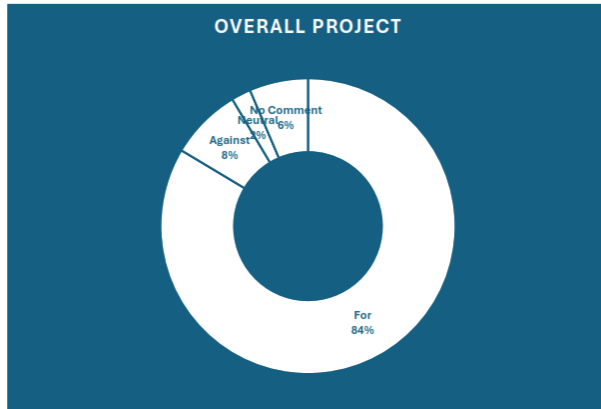
140 submissions were received as part of the community engagement project, with a further 8 responses removed as duplicates.

- The vast majority (84%) agreed that something should be done in the area.
- Individual responses varied significantly on the scope and extent of works that should proceed.
- The choices in play equipment received a split response, with a small majority against (53%).
- The relocation to the upper reserve area also received a split response, with a small majority against (51%).

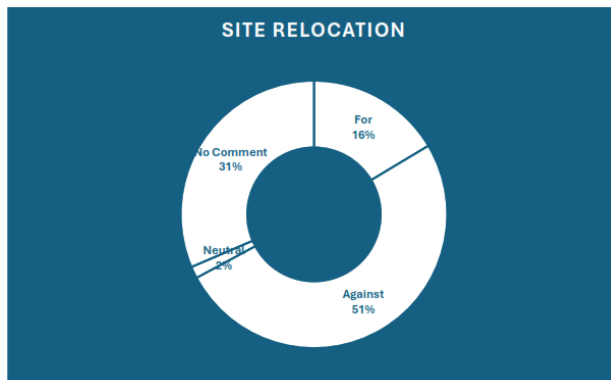
It was noted that a large percentage of submissions received indicating they were not in support of the new equipment and location, were variations on a pro forma response drafted by a representative group. When unique submissions from a broader stakeholder demographic were considered, there was a slight majority approval for the new playground location and stronger support for the proposed equipment.

While Facebook is not a verifiable engagement tool, the split response was also reflected on social media, where the engagement with the project was 55% positive.

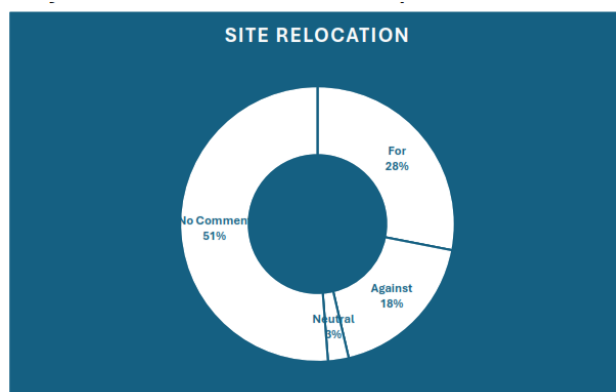
Grassy Head Playground Upgrade Community Feedback Summary



Total responses

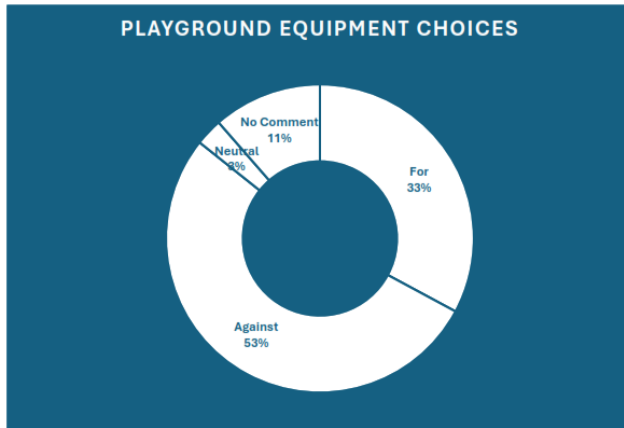


Unique responses

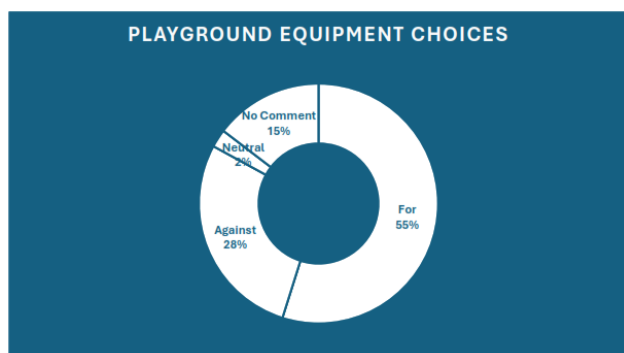


Total responses

Grassy Head Playground Upgrade Community Feedback Summary



Unique responses



The unique responses were considered (as well as the total responses) as they generally focused on the specific issue of concern to the respondent. Pro forma responses effectively treat all issues as a single question. This is in line with government practice regarding petitions.

Common suggestions for project improvements

1. Upgrade the toilet amenities block for accessibility and renew public showers
2. Upgrade Reserve Road to fill potholes
3. Improve Parking availability at the reserve
4. Improve beach access track

Again, we appreciate the time the community have taken to submit their feedback.

Grassy Head Playground Upgrade Community Feedback Summary

Background

During site inspections for the upgrade of the Grassy Head playground, it became clear that the existing site has shortcomings, including exposed roots and heavily sloped ground.

For these reasons, a new site was proposed, allowing more trees to be maintained and achieving a larger playground footprint. In addition to the new playground, an electric barbecue and table will be installed.

Key project images are provided on this page under **Playground Information** including:

- Proposed [playground elements](#)
- Proposed [playground layout](#)
- Proposed [outdoor furniture](#) and
- Proposed [location](#)