



AUGUST 2022

# WEST COAST COUNCIL STRAHAN PLAYGROUND REDEVELOPMENT

Community Feedback Summary

Following the release of the concept design, an opportunity for the community to provide feedback was provided and is presented below in a summarized form.

The proposal was released for public comment for a period of 3 weeks, from 8 August to 26 August 2022. The comment period was advertised via social media, Council website, local radio and LinkedIn. Feedback was received via email and post to Council office.

There were eleven feedback submissions received in relation to the proposal.

**Name:** Matt James

The proposed Strahan playground looks great but the only thing I think it needs, is to cater for the smaller children as well.

**Name:** Jodi Valk, Gull Apartment

I would like to express my disapproval/opposition to the proposed Strahan playground redevelopment. This outline seems excessive and appears to remove quite a few of the existing larger gumtrees, which provide shade in the summer and have been there for as long as I can remember. I don't feel the whole beach needs to be redesigned. This redevelopment also appears that it would impact those who kayak, wind surf and launch small yachts from the beach.

As a business operator, I feel this will affect my business, as it has an impact on the view we currently have, and this forms part of our marketing appeal. It will also create more noise having all the parking immediately in front of our house. I also feel it would attract vandalism and create more of a party area.

The money would be better spent making enhancements to/redeveloping the existing playground and putting more money towards the gym/fitness centre.

**Name:** Louise Mackrell

My vote would be for the play centre with eagles nest. I think the boat is a good idea, but the children already play on a wooden boat playground at the school. I personally think something different would be more interesting.

My Questions are though:

Will the play areas be fenced?

What play options are there for toddlers?

Will there be extra seats for supervising adults to use close to the playground?

**Name:** Sherri McIntyre

With the new park upgrades I am wondering if this area will be fenced. It is a much bigger space and being near the water, roads and parking areas a fence is needed for safety. It would be especially hard for parents of multiple children and those with additional needs.

How will this layout affect the Strahan picnic? There doesn't seem to be near enough space for the events and games that have been held there for more than 100 years?

Will council put cameras up as a deterrent for vandalism? It wasn't long ago council had openly said it was refusing to replace a broken slide as it had been broken multiple times. With such an investment and new costly equipment, it would be beneficial for council and rate payers to have some sort of protection in the area, and if any vandalism occurs those responsible can be held accountable.

**Name:** Julie Jones

I agree that the playground needs moving and putting it near the beach is a wonderful idea except why are you taking away the area that is used mostly? I would like to see the area from the change rooms and toilets developed. There's lots of room there for a playground. But the thing that the council needs to take into consideration most of all is the prevailing winds. Many times, since the new playground has been put near the school, I have taken the grandchildren to play. It is often too windy with the cold southerly wind coming up the bay. When the new playground is developed it should be in a sheltered area where the kids have access to a toilet but can play in most weather. A fenced area with gates for the younger children would be a great idea. I hope that this gives people an idea of what the community really wants.

**Name:** Anna Caville

In regard to the Strahan playground redevelopment my personal opinion is a new play centre at West Strahan Beach would be ideal. This will be useful in summer months families will have older kids in the water as well as younger ones at the playground all being supervised in the one location.

I would hope the playground will be fenced off to make it safe for little ones near the water and road to and from the beach and parking area. I also hope either option for the play equipment will be designed so all ages can utilise the equipment. Such as lower play areas for the under 3s who can't climb on the higher parts.

I personally feel like the Eagle nest tube slide option would be better, as the ship design is similar to what is already at the primary school.

I also hope that the current playground in Strahan will be left as is and not demolished if the new beach playground goes ahead, as this has smaller equipment options for younger children. If the option for redesign of the current playground is chosen, I believe it absolutely needs to be fully fenced off as its dangerous to have small children surrounded by a creek, the ocean, and a busy corner with no fencing.

**Name:** Kate & Danny Jackson

I am loving the concept of the upgrade to the foreshore at West Strahan Beach, but I do feel the playground side of things isn't necessarily needed. As a local resident and parent of a 5-year-old the playground that is already in existence is perfect for pre-teens and it's a safe environment fenced on the waters edge and it's easy for children to be viewed while playing.

The plan doesn't show any kind of fencing, and with the water on one side and a road on the other as a parent it wouldn't make for a relaxing environment and would more likely avoid taking our child there.

What is the intended age of the child for the play equipment shown? The Eagle nest and boat seem to be something targeted for older children compared to the current playground. This too may detract from parents with younger children wanting to take their children there.

I agree that West Strahan beach is in need of an upgrade and would love to see it made into more of an open area all rather than a playground. With the upgrade of the area, you would

expect increase traffic both foot and vehicle to the area, has there been thought to putting a footpath down beach street past the police station? That road is quite narrow.

As residents of Beach Street, I would hate for our current view of the water to be obstructed.

**Name:** Trevor Giles

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I wish to object to this concept as it does not provide playgrounds protection from cold southern winds and does not consider Beach Street traffic movements.

#### REASONS

1 Possible site for playground relocation are, original site opposite Post Office Western end area known as "running track. Our children deserve warm and protective space.

2 Foreshore parking should remain as it provides opportunity for patrons to enjoy the view protected from cold winds.

3 Large vehicles such as caravans, delivery trucks, WCC bin truck need the existing site to reverse and turn to exit.

4 The proposed limited access to beach could not support heavy machinery needed to replenish sand each year as the beach is actually artificial since the diversion of Manuka River.

5 To help prevent beach erosion, the aboriginal site should be connected to a large rock groyne similar to existing on western end connecting to a rock or gabion barrier to prevent loss to southern winds.

6 Consideration should be given to parents who wish to remain in their car and still supervise their children. And provide shelter from sudden weather changes.

**Name:** John Nolan

After reviewing your papers for the Strahan Playground Redevelopment, I would like to put forward my views.

I feel the best option would be to replace the playground in its present location. To block access to the recreational and BBQ area, allowing no turning room for caravans, large vehicles and the general public would be madness. Every second tourist that visits Strahan along with locals alike, take the time to visit West Strahan Beach and admire this particular spot.

If you think it really necessary to relocate the playground, the best idea would be to develop an area on the western side of the BBQ area, which would also allow for plenty of parking. If you have managed to gain funding or grant monies, it would be best spent on preventing further erosion.

Had it not been for a community effort and the common-sense approach of a certain Strahan identity 10-15 years ago, there wouldn't be a beach, or Beach Street for anybody with grandiose ideas to practice drawing circles on anything.

I think the best course of action is to concentrate on retaining what we have got.

There was an informal meeting held at west Strahan beach 9.00am Wednesday 17th August 2022 with 3 Beach Street residents: Jodi Valk, John Nolan and Trevor Giles, and also the Mayor Shane Pitt of West Coast Council present.

Jodi was against any development citing loss of income for her business from parking alterations and concerns of lack of access for kayak users. The money would be better spent at the recreation hall.

John was against relocation of the playground and alterations to parking. In particular the shoreline parking, as it is used regularly by visitors enjoying a peaceful lunchbreak or simply soaking up the view. Given that Beach Street is a no through road, this area is necessary for turning of caravans, delivery trucks and WWC bin truck. He pointed out that without the action of a residential group, erosion would now be at street level.

Trevor recognised that there were concerns with the playground and suggested two alternate sites: the original site opposite the PO and west end of the running track (which in his opinion provided better care for children) and left of the foreshore area as is. Money should be spent on control of beach sand erosion.

Shane gave advice after listening to residents and was generally supportive of their views. The meeting closed at 9.45am and notes were taken by Trevor Giles.

**Name:** Strahan Picnic Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Strahan Playground

Redevelopment. At our recent committee meeting, the Mount Lyell Strahan Picnic Committee Inc. asked me to relay the below points to you for consideration:

1. It is the Committee's strong preference that the playground is kept in its current location near the Strahan Primary School, and, that this area is developed and improved.
2. The Committee believe that the current playground does need upgrades and that these upgrades should occur to the playground at the current site:
  - a. Secured fencing all around the playground with child-proof latches on gates,
  - b. Installation of a crash barrier on the outside of the fence,
  - c. Installation of seating,
  - d. Installation of wet weather shelter.

3. The Committee do not support the relocation of the playground to the West Strahan Beach precinct at/near the current Picnic Shed for the following reasons:

- a. The grass embankment encroaches on the running track
- b. Erosion of the West Strahan Beach area with the removal of trees
- c. The current plan is 'overdeveloped', and interferes with the natural beauty and amenity of the area
- i. That is to say, there is a risk of ruining the natural beauty of the area with the installation of bright and colourful plastic
- d. The removal of trees and shrubbery at the West Strahan Beach precinct
- e. The risk of anti-social behaviour concentrating at West Strahan Beach, on/around the Picnic Shed (especially afterhours).

The Committee are currently planning for the 125th annual Mount Lyell Strahan Picnic and respectfully request that no works commence prior to Picnic Day (26/01/23).