



Protea Reserve, Crafers Play Space Upgrade Engagement Outcomes Report

Image of current play space located at

1 Summary of the consultation

A huge thanks to all of those that contributed to the Protea Reserve Play Space Consultation which was undertaken between 6 July and 18 August 2023.

We received 198 responses via survey, email, school session and onsite drop-in session. All feedback has been collated and will form part of the tender briefing pack to the playground designer and construction team.

It is important to note that consultation processes often highlight a diverse range of thoughts and opinions that may be in conflict with one another.

Council staff have a responsibility to provide considered analysis of information received from consultation processes; coupled with an obligation to provide safe and well-designed play spaces for the community. Some ideas and concepts received in this consultation process may not work for the Protea Reserve site and will therefore be omitted from the project scope.

1.1 Design brief

Based on community feedback and staff feedback we have developed the following design brief:

A space that embraces the existing three tiers of the land and sits harmoniously in the natural bush setting. A space that considers play across all ages and stages of life providing adventure through tall towers and tree houses linked by slides and climbing opportunities. Allowing for free ball play on the upper tier and flexible under cover seating to cater for parties, events and gatherings for the volunteers who care for the space. A play space that links in the name of the space (protea) and the native vegetation in a learning capacity. Bike and scooter riding around the main play space and play equipment accessible for all. Consider aspect of equipment out of hot summer sun and allows for swings for little ones and multiple children. A dedicated mini ball court for older children whilst maintaining trees.

1.2 How was the consultation promoted?

Anyone with an interest in the playground was encouraged to provide feedback. Feedback could be provided by:

- AHC Social media (Facebook and Instagram)
- AHC website
- Hills Voice (eNewsletter)
- Targeted emails to community groups and local schools
- Signage at playground
- Article in Courier Newspaper

1.3 How could feedback be provided?

- Using the tools available on the online engagement portal which featured: a survey and ideas tool (engage.ahc.sa.gov.au)

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- Emailing the project team (engage@ahc.sa.gov.au)
- Posting a letter (63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling SA 5152)
- Calling the project team 8408 0400
- Attending the specific engagement event held on site at Protea Reserve Play Space on Thursday 10 August 2023
- Three school engagement sessions were undertaken at Stirling East Primary School on 3 August 2023 (offers were made to Crafers Primary and St Catherine but this did not fit their schedules).



1.4 How did we hear from people?

198 people participated in the consultation.

Table 1: Response numbers

Feedback type	Number of responses/ attendees
Email/Phone calls/Letter	6
Online survey	32
Face to face engagement event	30
Hard copy survey adult	1
School engagement (incl child feedback sheet)	126
Online ideas tool	3
Total	198

1.5 What did we hear?

We heard from local school children, families from Crafers, grandparents and local community groups.

Strong themes that emerged across all feedback was:

- Landscaping and amenities:
 - A design that compliments the bush feel of the site
 - All weather picnic area
 - Address slippery path
 - Keep quietness of the area
 - Keep open grass space for kicking balls
 - Bike or scooter path around play space (with some jumps)
 - Fence by grass area to allow ball kicking and address road safety
 - Water play and link to creek
 - Landscaping that's interesting: flowers, shade, small plants, creek and rocks, stepping stones, logs to jump over
 - Wayfinding interpretive signage for Indigenous plants / walking learning trail / dreamtime stories
 - Mushroom stools
 - Embracing the three tiers to the space
 - Considering the space name 'protea' in the design
 - Accessible to all incl. wheelchair users (no bark chips or concrete edges)
- Play:
 - Nature inspired play
 - Tall tower / tree house with bridges, slides and climbing
 - Cubby house
 - Climbing wall
 - A slide out of the sun (requests for multiple sides, interesting slides)
 - Play for all ages incl. babies, older children and adults

- Adventurous
- Free play as well as structured (e.g. build your own cubby)
- Swings: net swings, baby swings (together), swings for older children
- Specific equipment: monkey bars, flying fox/ zip line, equipment that connects, ½ basketball or netball court, tunnel, spiny play, in ground trampolines

“A space where kids can grow through all stages of life. A place of adventure and exploration. Encouragement of ball sports, bike riding and imagination, whilst also extending their gross motor development from a climbing perspective.” Parent feedback

**Note some ideas are outside of the project scope.*

Over the next few sections we provide more detail on the feedback we heard via the different consultation opportunities.

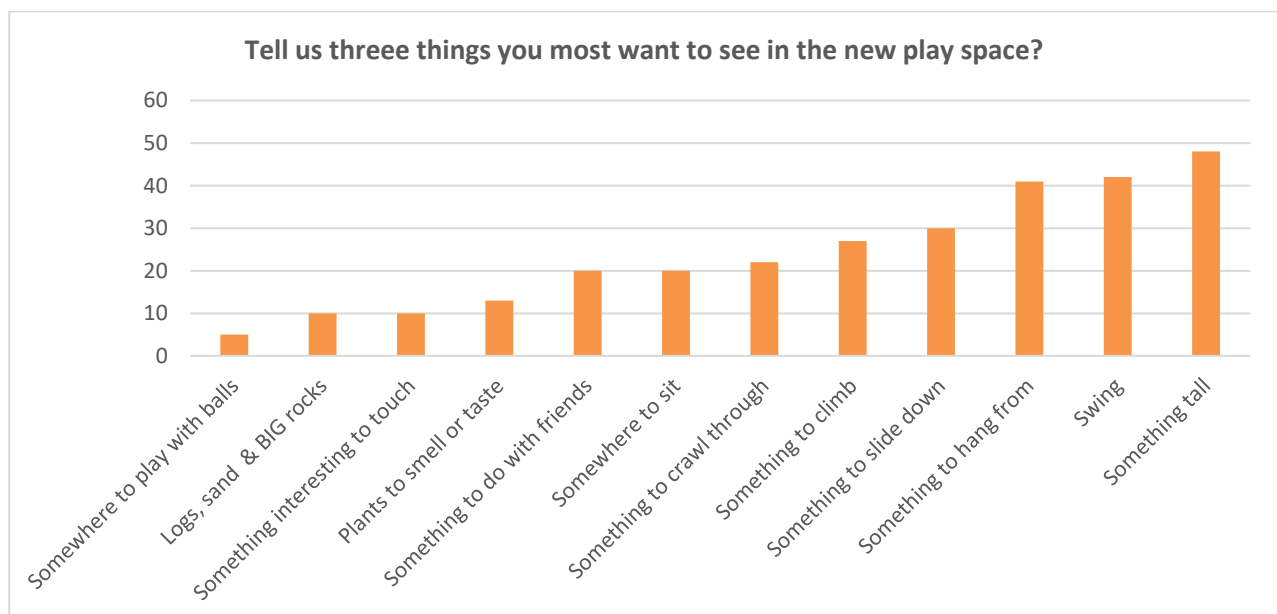
1.6 School sessions

We visited Stirling East Primary School on 3 August 2023 to chat with the children what they would like to see that the play space.

We held sessions with three classrooms: **year one, year three and year five to six** and the feedback we captured has been divided by class (age range).

In the children’s feedback form we asked how they feel about the current space – 49% (n=29) rated the space five out of five.

We also asked all children across ages at Stirling East Primary School what three things they most want to see in the play space.



Something tall, swing and to hang from were the most popular responses.

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This table provides the number of votes provided for each option.

Things children want to see in the play space:	Number of votes
Something tall	48
Swing	42
Something to hang from	41
Something to slide down	30
Something to climb	27
Something to crawl through	22
Somewhere to sit	20
Something to do with friends	20
Plants to smell or taste	13
Something interesting to touch	10
Logs, sand & BIG rocks	10
Somewhere to play with balls	5



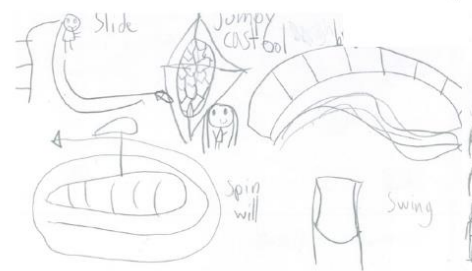
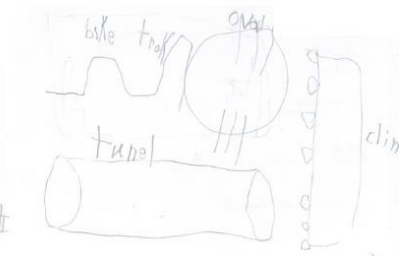
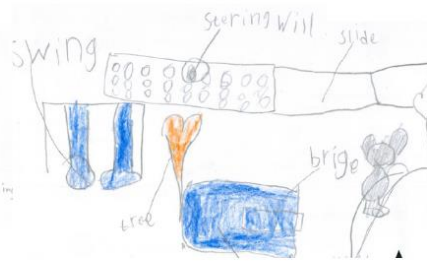
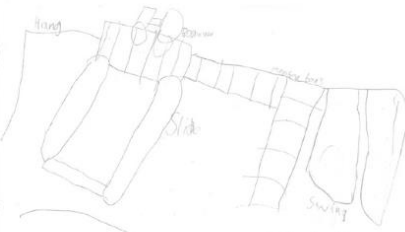
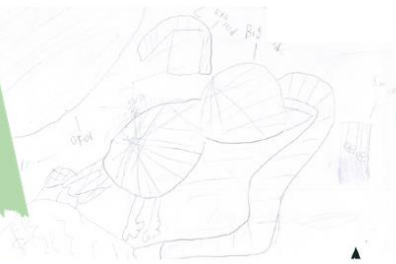
Year one class at Stirling East Primary School

1.6.1 Year one feedback (6-7 year olds)

Children provided drawings on their feedback sheets (see next page) and we've interpreted those and summarised as follows:

- **Landscaping:** Mound/hill with long slide and then a little slide, bench, big rocks, trees, greenery
- **Swing:** daddy swing, trapeze swing
- **Other equipment:** flying fox, tunnel, mini workman equipment, fort with monkey bars, zip line, spinner, twisty slide, jumping castle
- **Water play:** lake, lily pads, bridge over pool, waterfall
- **Structure:** tree house with a slide, steering wheel on fort with slide, 'tree house with glow in the dark windows star and love heart shaped, swings, ladders, slides, outside TV', bridge, mini golf, mini road with traffic lights and street signs (e.g. stop and giveaway), equipment all attached to each other: monkey bars, swing, slide, horizontal swig/hang bar, binoculars
- **Slide:** rainbow slide, twisty slide
- **Bike:** BMX track
- **Climbing:** wall, rock climbing, platform with multiple levels attached to climbing wall

PROTEA PARK
6-7 YEAR OLDS
Yr1 students
Stirling East
Primary School



1.6.2 Year three feedback (8-9 year olds)

As part of our consultation with the Stirling East Primary School Year 3's, they voted for the pieces of equipment they would like to see in the space. Approximately 80 children participated.

Ranking was as follows:

1. Tall tower for climbing up / sliding down
2. Swing (accessible + for more than one person)
3. Something that spins
4. Long / high curly slide – this is also captured as part of the tower
5. Bike jumps
6. Trampoline
7. Equal Votes
 - Cubby / Tee Pee
 - Monkey bars
 - Water play
 - Toddler equipment



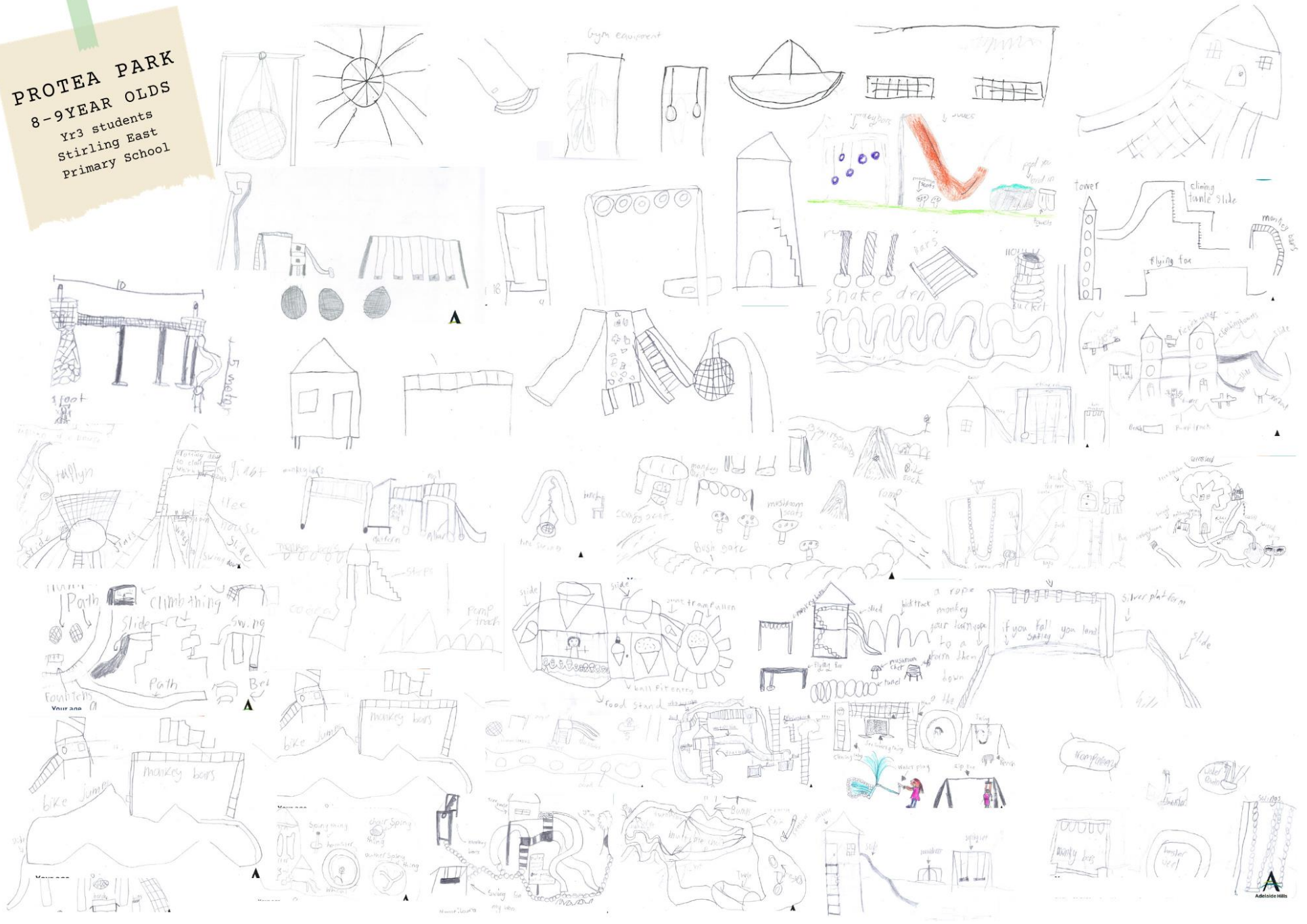
Children provided drawings and words on their feedback sheets (see next page) and we've interpreted those as:

- **Swings:** 5 swings, exercise swing, extreme swing, hill and slide
- **Slide:** a really tall slide, mini slide for toddlers, slide with a pool to land in and towels to dry off with, water slide into a pool, twirly slide, three slides together, tunnel slide, 5m high slide
- **Hanging:** monkey bars attached to a fort with a slide, multiple rings in a row to hang from one to the next, ropes to swing on, flying fox
- **Bouncing:** 3 in ground trampolines, trampoline with a slide off it
- **Climbing:** tree to climb, rock climbing wall, ladder, climbing frame
- **Amenities:** Benches, rubbery floor, colouring in area, fences around the danger spaces, pathway, bins, shelter for shade over playground, circular shelter
- **Landscaping:** flowers, shade, small plants, DO NOT cut down trees, creek and rocks, stepping stones, logs to jump over
- **Other:** honey bucket, hamster wheel, tunnel, exercise things for elderly, drinking fountain, bush gate, spin bowl, seesaw, ball pit, pond, sandpit, baby play equipment/ baby area, bike track with tunnel, balance logs, disabled flying fox, rocking animals to sit on, three yellow capsule like forts to top of slide, Shade shelter with circles to create shadows
- **Structure:** snake den (twisty tunnel), tow storey cubby, giant tree house with a place to draw and craft with friend, ship with holes in it, bush cubbies, castle, cubby house on stilts with ladder and slide, huge cubby with ladder spiral slide and ramp, tunnel joining two cubbies, chalk board, springy animal to sit on, giant fort in shape of a cat with the tail as a slide, bush cubbies, double flying fox
- **Water:** water feature, water play, frog pond, lake, water with bridge
- **Tower:** one structure with monkey bars, fireman's pole, high platform with rail, slide, hut, platform, binoculars, level fort/towers with round windows, slides coming off all levels of tower, Silver platform, treehouse with a rope ladder, ramps and slides, wobbly bridge, two towers 10m apart with a bridge between
- **Bike:** bike track, bike, skateboard & scooter jumps, bike path with traffic light
- **Seating:** mushroom stools, chair inside and a mushroom lamp, chair on a spring

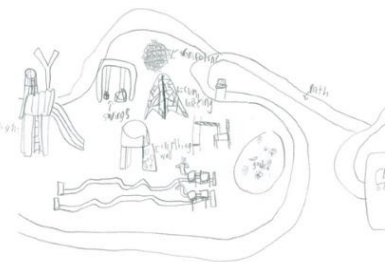
There was also an opportunity for comments on sticky notes, we've condensed the list to:

- Castle with a throne made of wood
- Swings
- Hamster wheel
- In ground trampolines
- Creek with stepping stones
- Flying fox / zipline
- Climbing tunnel with slide
- Tree to climb in
- Climbing web / net
- Spiny thingy
- Plants to smell or taste
- Monkey bars
- Water slide
- Bike tracks
- Round-a-bout
- Mushroom seats
- Rock climbing wall (not too high or steep with a slide)
- Food stand
- Spiral running track
- Seesaw and bubble machine

PROTEA PARK
 8-9YEAR OLDS
 Yr3 students
 Stirling East
 Primary School



PROTEA PARK
8-9YEAR OLDS
Yr3 students
Stirling East
Primary School

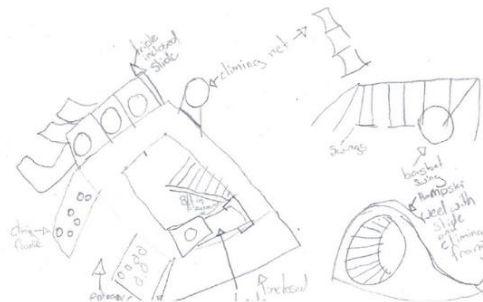
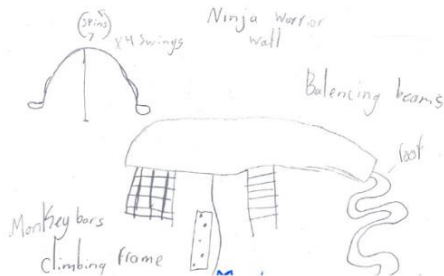
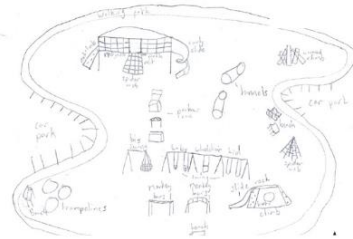
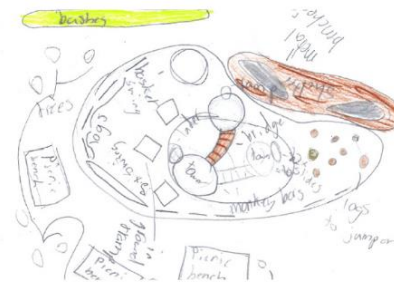
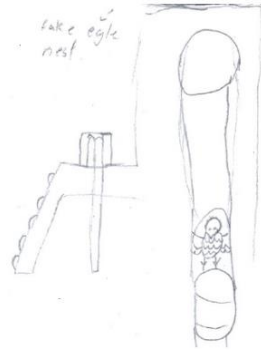
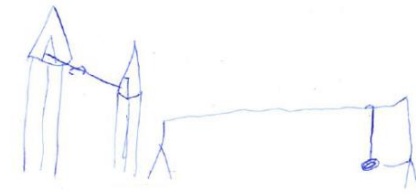
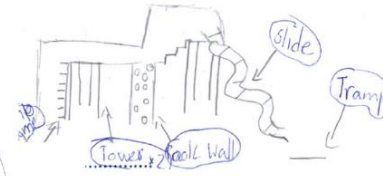
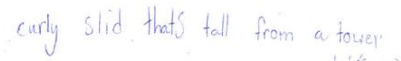
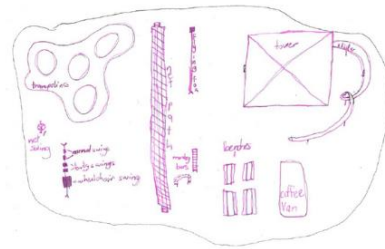
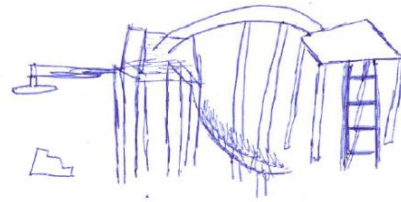


1.6.3 Year five and six feedback (10 – 12 year olds)

Children provided drawings on their feedback sheets (see next page) and we've interpreted those as:

- **Seating:** 3 chairs, benches next to coffee van
- **Climbing:** Rock wall, climbing net, climbing frame, monkey bar, ninja warrior wall
- **Slide:** three enclosed slides, scary slide, curly slide from tower, large rock with slide off it, long slides
- **Tower:** with bridge connecting to a platform, with spiral slide, large mushroom with a ladder and spiral slide, five story pyramid tower with two tube slides one straight the other spiral, towers with bridges connecting them, tower with slide and eagles nest on the top, monkey bar tunnel going up 20m to wooden castle with a ramp also going up then down a clear slide
- **Swings:** Swing set with baby swing, two regular swings, wheelchair swing, giant rope swing, extreme swing, 4 swings off one pole that swings around
- **Other:** Flying fox, et path, hamster wheel with slide to climbing frame, balancing beam, spinning donut, human sized caged cat run with a slide to exit, large peacock structure with monkey bars behind it and inside it there is a slide duck see saw and a cubby house in the head space, trampolines in ground, colourful, vibrant, exciting.

PROTEA PARK
10-12YEAR
OLDS
Yr5-6 students
Stirling East
Primary School



1.7 Online survey responses

We received 32 responses to the online survey. The online survey had a mix of 10 open and closed questions to gain an understanding of who the current play space users are, what they value about the play space and what they would like to see in an upgraded play space. Users could also submit photos as part of their response. 460 people visited the project engagement page.

Snapshot of response data:

- A majority of people who responded to the survey lived within 300m of Protea Reserve (72%, n=23) and the wider Adelaide Hills Council Area (28%, n=9).
- 29 people live in Crafers, 1 from Bridgwater and 1 from Crafers West and 1 from Heathfield
 - Most respondents were parents (n = 25), 3 were grandparents, 2 carers and 4 said the play in the playground other comments included: using the open space and tables, nearby resident that uses space for walking and outdoor exercise (3), resident who contributes to the Park weeding and planting when required and historical connection to space from childhood.
- 3-4 year olds were the biggest age category that the respondents said they visit the playground (n=17) and this was closely followed by the 7-10 (n=12) and 0-2 (n=9) and 5-6 age category (n=9)
- Most people who come to the playground said they walking, skipping, wheelchair or stroller (n=24) compared to drive (n=7)
- Most people said the visit the playground once a month (n=18)
- The top three elements people enjoy the most about the play space were: the quiet and natural environment (n=29), using the play space equipment (n=24), meeting up with friends (n=14) and areas to picnic, read and relax (n=13)
 - *The space brings the community together. The friends of Protea Reserve meet monthly to maintain the space and use the area to celebrate special occasions.*
- People said the play equipment their children enjoy the most was: swings, natural play elements (boulders, logs, sand, water play), slides, balance beams and monkey bars and ladders bridges and platforms.

We asked people what makes this play space **special** to them and they told us:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Quiet area | • Surrounded by nature and habitat, the birds, creek and trees |
| • Proximity and open area | • Connection to the creek wetland/bush land area. |
| • Double slippery dip | • Grass play space |
| • Peaceful and quiet | • Natural buffer between surrounding houses |
| • Safe | • The openness and freedom to use it as a multi-purpose space. |
| • Easy parking | • The walking path along the creek to Michael Moran creates a space to explore. |
| • A community focal point a space that brings community together | |
| • Community events including working bees and Christmas party | |

In their words:

- *The double slippery-dip! And the wide green spaces around the playground.*
- *I have been coming here for 30+ years, since I was a child and now with my own children. It's a beautiful playground because it's tucked away which makes a nice change. It's also a nice walk to get there, or nice to walk on the adjoining tracks after a play.*
- *Its natural setting, engaged community. No dogs.*
- *Lots of things for kids to do apart from just playing on equipment.*
- *It is the heart of our neighbourhood, a sanctuary for wildlife and location of special events for our neighbours and friends. We have watched kids grow up playing in the park and love the sound of their laughter and antics echoing through the neighbourhood.*
- *It's great to be able to go somewhere close for a short bursts to burn off kid's energy and get fresh air without having to pile into the car and pack lots of stuff.*

We asked people what their **vision** is for this play space and to think about what they would like to do here in the future.

- **General play design comments:** *a space where kids can grow through all stages of life. A place of adventure and exploration. Encouragement of ball sports, bike riding and imagination, whilst also extending their gross motor development from a climbing perspective.* Small expansion but nothing too big, simple natural play structures, incorporating creek as part of the play area, play equipment which complements the natural bush land area, play equipment which caters to a range of abilities, heights and ages, integrating different levels of challenge and risk.
- **Amenities:** picnic shelter, no metallic bench, somewhere to teach children to ride their bikes, logs and benches for seating (next to play space), bike racks, tracks and walking paths, shelter for parents/carers/babies on rainy days, pétanque court on the terraced area next to the existing playground to facilitate the play needs of young and old.
- **Landscaping:** no wood chips or concrete edging, a path for bike riding a loop with small jumps, smooth scooter track, grass space for handstands, rolling and playing, logs for cubby making, exercise space for older children/adolescents/adults, preserving the open spaces, incorporating creek into play.
- **Specific equipment requests:** swings together, double slide, nest swing, water play, sand play, flying fox, carousel or spinning equipment, balancing beams, more equipment for older children to enjoy, half court with basketball ring and fence or netted area to kick/ throw balls, built-in trampoline, equipment for kids age 10+ such as nina style, monkey bars.
- **Considerations outside immediate scope:** toilets, bbq facilities or shared community garden.
- **Accessibility:** safe, easy access surfaces, suitable for disabled, no wood chips or concrete edging, dogs welcome on leads.

Other play spaces mentioned:

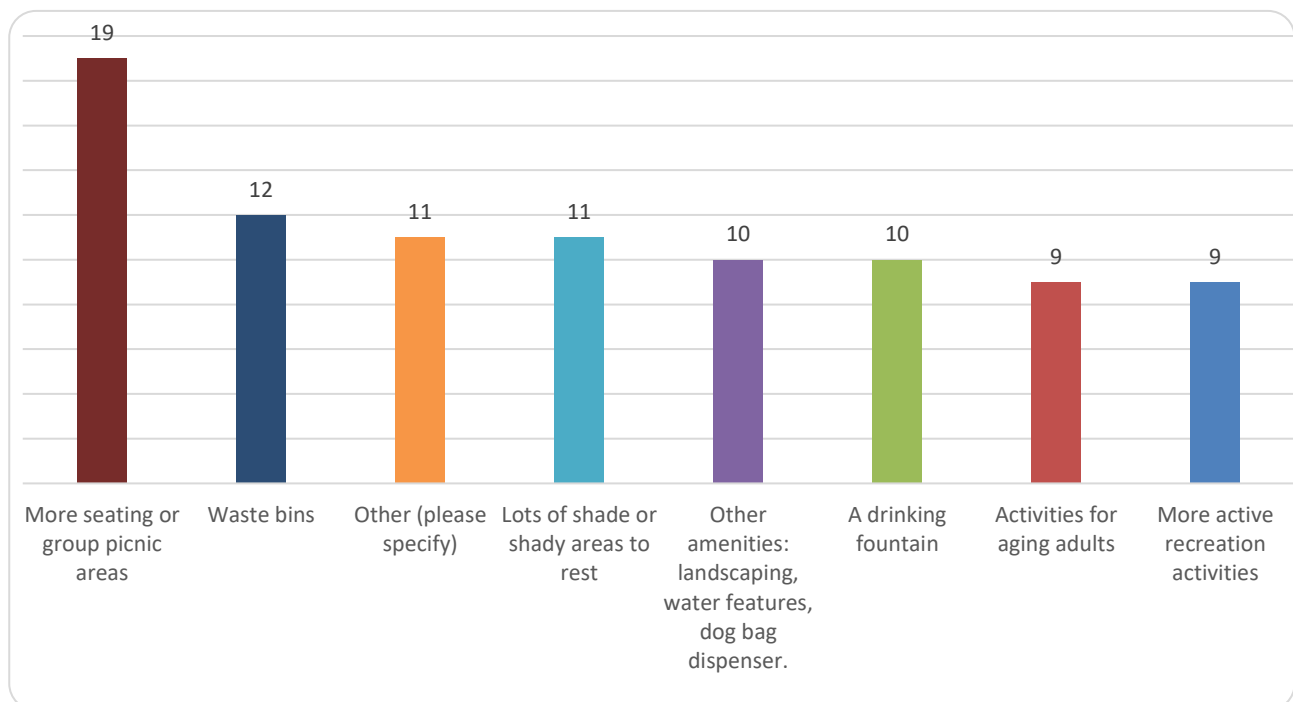
- Glen Osmond (Ridge Park) which has basketball area and other outdoor equipment
- Kensington reserve
- Morialta playground
- Brockhoff park in Balhannah's equipment particularly the big nest swing and the spinning cargo net
- Marshmallow Playground off Glen Osmond
- Victor Harbour-foreshore playground
- Springfield
- Yankalilla (a path for bike riding a loop with small jumps)
- Glover East playground

In their words:

- I would like to be able to use this playspace several times a week and have equipment that my children can use at multiple stages in their life, both young (toddlers) and as they get older. For example, cubby areas and lower climbing sections with enclosed sides (no fireman's poles) and slides for littler ones, whilst then providing more challenging higher climbing (like ropes) for older kids. The Glover East playground in the Eastern Adelaide parklands (park 15) does this quite well. A small bike pump track or bike path circuit on the flat section up top for older kids would be great given most backyards are not very flat in the area. I would also like more swings - including side by side baby swings as I have twins and then can push them both at the same time and mitigate fighting and tantrums with taking turns). I would like to be able to meet friends here with plenty of space to sit and watch the kids with good line of sight and access across the area (not broken up with a fence between swings and play equipment) and would like to feel more secure in their safety from the roads and down to the creek (better fencing or physical barriers). Lastly, would be great to see the playspace bring in some nature play elements (not too much as kids prefer climbing and equipment) and take inspiration from the name - Protea - and perhaps the shapes of the structure/equipment takes reference from the protea flower (the shape of the petals of the flower could create cubbies or enclose climbing equipment etc)*
- This is a fantastic community space and it would be great to keep it that way and also add some more things to do for slightly older kids. It would be good to be able to incorporate some of the natural elements into the play space. There is a fantastic opportunity to include the creek into the area, which is an underutilised area, by creating a nature play space area with the creek and also to use the slope for a flying fox.*

Besides updating the play space, **what other features or park amenities** would improve your experience at Protea Reserve?

Most people who responded to the survey talked about more seating or group picnic areas.



Additional 'other' comments included:

- Planting additional native plants
- A water feature (that feeds into the creek for water play)
- Sandpit with fake dinosaurs Fossils to find
- Nature play akin to Morialta
- No car parks please
- Shared garden would be nice
- Picnic space for community gatherings is important
- Toilet, ball sports area, bike track, in built trampoline, more equipment to explore and develop skills.
- Public toilet
- The existing path along the creek has moss growing on it and, when wet poses a falls hazard
- Fencing

In their words:

- *Lack of appropriate fencing means I do not use it as much and prefer to put the kids in the car and go to Steamroller park in Stirling as it is less stressful. The park sits really close to two roads (the side that is fenced doesn't even have a gate) as well as a steep decent into the river and with 2 year old twins this is very difficult to manage. I think this playspace would be used more if it felt safer.*

1.8 Online ideas tool

Three people shared ideas via the online ideas tool:

1. Flying fox and bike jumps would be very fun things to play on (8 years old)
2. A non-slip option for the pathway. The path from Lesley crescent side is dangerously slippery
3. Big slide, good swings, rock wall, monkey bars, wobbly balance discs & something big to climb on. Remember it's always wet (5 years old)

1.9 Face to face event

Approximately 30 adults and children came along to the Protea Reserve Drop-In Session on 10 August 2023.



The team had materials for providing feedback including sticky dots to vote for favourite equipment, post it notes for additional feedback, children's feedback sheets and we collected verbal feedback. All feedback received is summarised below.

Voting sticky dot summary:	Number
Something that can be used by many	14
Hang - like monkey bars	12
Swing on	10
Slide down	8
Bouncy	8
Sit together	7
Climb on	6
Crawl through	4
Interesting to touch	3
Balance	1
For little ones	1



Additional comments provided in post it notes and verbally to Council staff:

Landscaping:

- Native flowers/cultural garden
- Wayfinding interpretive signage for Indigenous plants and signage to promote other parks near by
- Leave grass area as is for soccer, cricket and footy, petanque/ badminton (cricket pitch, hockey goal, footy goal)
- Path gets covered with moss and slippery. Aggregate path into the reserve that is not slippery.
- Educational (wildlife, signage, walking learning trail, cultural dreamtime culture) / quizzes of animals and trees/ QRcoded environmental and wildlife interpretation / maintain open space and wildlife corridor for nature (opportunities for learning)
- Formalise parking (gutter/water flow)
- Remove fallen trees
- Bike path
- Keep fence or extend along Lesley Crs to go across green grass space (to allow for ball kicking / balls rolling on road)
- Preference for current table being kept
- Picnic area (gazebo) needs to have shade and an umbrella hole in picnic table
- Shelter not in front of view of #3 Protea Cr
- No carpark
- Hideout under tree and trees to climb
- Integrated artwork pebble powered sound sculpture
- Two level playground for little and big kids
- Animal statues (ducks, snakes)
- Pond with lily pads
- Take cue from the protea flower (shape and structure)

Equipment:

- Slide needs to be in shade and directed away from the sun (east/south)
- Monkey bars (ninja/warrior type)
- Carousel (springy thing) / round-a-bout
- Inground mini trampoline
- Tree climb / climbing
- 1/2 basket ball court / netball court
- Nature play /natural resources
- Water play/pumps
- Flying fox
- Balancing beams. Stepping stones like previous logs
- High and low slide
- Extra swings- 2 baby swings together for twins
- Bird nest (extreme) swing
- Bike jumps and bike paths for kids to learn to ride and for walkers
- Road signs warning of park or speed hump to slow traffic down.
- Low climbing platforms and higher platforms suitable for many ages.
- Cubby house or play shop
- Curved monkey bars
- Area for chickens
- Skateboard track
- Bike/scooter tracks with jumps

- Recycle what is there (the play equipment)
- Quentin Gore sculpture on site (www.quentinogore.com.au)



1.10 Emails received

We received six emails and feedback can be summarised as:

- New playground equipment to include some items suitable for teenagers eg. Flying Fox, ninja type course
- Clear naming and address on future communications
- Question around justification for site being upgraded
- Grandparent uses space used regularly after school for picnics with 8 & 9 year olds
- Something at play space for older children such as a basketball pole and cement area around it (must be able to practise dribbling)
- History of playground and how it came to be

2 Summary and next steps

Huge thanks to all who participated in this first stage of the consultation.

In broad terms the next steps will be:

- Council to finalise stakeholder consultation outcome report
- Council to go out to tender (for design and construct)
- Council to email feedback report to all stakeholders and have available on our website and social media channels
- Council to select concept plan (ensuring it reflects community engagement data and fits within the budget) and for it to be available to view on our website.
- Finalise design
- Construction of play space upgrade
- Play by 30 June 2024