



Riverview Reserve Playspace - Concept Design

Community Engagement Report

1 February 2024

ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Project name	Riverview Reserve Playspace - Concept Design		
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Operation Plan #		CM Reference	

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INTRODUCTION

Background

The playspace at Bunnys Corner in North Haven was damaged in the March 2021 floods. To reduce the ongoing risk of damage due to flooding, the decision was made to replace the playspace by relocation to Riverview Reserve.

Riverview Reserve is part of a long strip of foreshore on the banks of the Camden Haven River through to North Haven along Ocean Drive. It sits between Ostler Park and Bunnys Corner. The new site is also outside the high-risk flood zone, in a residential and recreational area and around 350m downstream from Bunnys Corner Reserve.

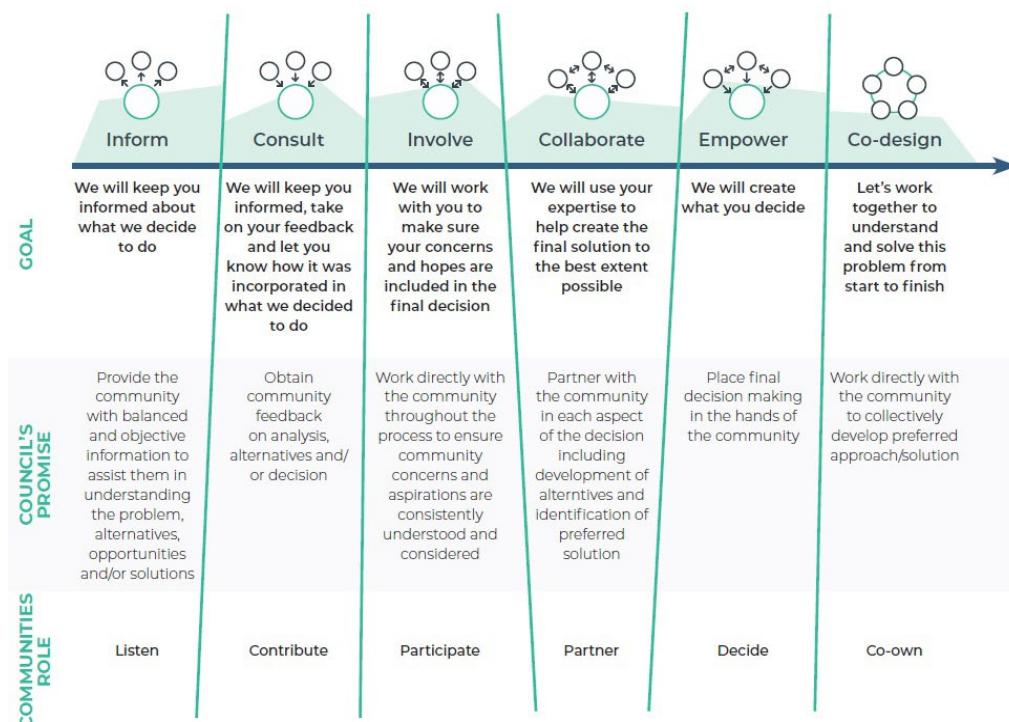
A concept design was developed for the new playspace at Riverview Reserve and residents were invited to have their say on the concept design.

Engagement approach

Engagement activities were undertaken to **consult** with the community from 14 December 2023 until 31 January 2024. The intent of the consultation was to identify and understand how the community opinion on the concept design including the proposed equipment and any concerns about the Riverview Reserve location. Key stakeholders included the surrounding residents and the general community.

Spectrum of Participation

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council undertakes engagement using the industry standard IAP2 Spectrum of Participation which is designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines Council's promise and the community's role in the decision-making process.



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Consultation focus

Council was seeking feedback on the concept design for a new playspace in Riverview Reserve, North Haven. To receive feedback on the concept design, a survey was developed with the following questions:

- Which of the following best describes you when thinking about your use of the playspace?
- Which of the following best describes you when thinking about your use of the playspace?
- Do you identify as/or are a carer for a person living with a disability?
- On average, how often did you visit the Bunnys Corner Reserve playspace?
- How often do you think you will visit the new playspace at Riverview Reserve?
- Bearing in mind that we are unable to replace the playspace at Bunnys Corner Reserve due to the flood damage risk; do you have any feedback on the Riverview Reserve playspace design?

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ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES, TIMELINES AND RESULTS

Letters



Letters were posted to 76 residents living nearby both Bunnys Corner Reserve and Riverview Reserve in December 2023. The letter outlined the project, provided a description of the new location and reasoning behind the relocation. (See appendix 1)

Email



Respondents were invited to submit their feedback by email. We received 7 emails regarding the proposed playground, safety concerns because of the perceived lack of supporting infrastructure, perceived loss of views and requests to upgrade the existing rock wall and sandbar. These de-identified emails can be found in *Appendix 3: Emails received*.

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 have your say

[Home](#) [Projects](#)  [annabelle.sneddon](#)



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New Playspace for Riverview Reserve

Consultation has concluded

A concept design has been prepared for a new playspace in Riverview Reserve, on the Ocean Drive, North Haven and you are invited to Have Your Say.

The playspace is a replacement by relocation of the Bunnys Corner Reserve playspace, which was damaged in the March 2021 floods.

The site is in a residential and recreational area close to the shops in North Haven and other areas of community interest. There is currently recreational facilities already installed in the area such as covered picnic tables and Outdoor Fitness Equipment.

We know how much locals and visitors enjoyed the riverfront playspace however, the decision not to rebuild on this flood-prone land follows consideration of our Flood Policy, community safety and ongoing costs. The new site will also be on a riverfront area, however it does not pose the same risks to flooding, as can be seen in the provided flood mapping. Bunnys Corner Reserve will continue to support locals and visitors with walking paths, shaded picnic tables and amenities.

The new playspace is being delivered under flood recovery funding, so the size and type of equipment will be similar to that of the former Bunnys Corner Reserve playspace. However, maintaining river views has been considered in the design and selection of the new equipment.

How to get involved

View the concept design and provide feedback by:

- Completing the survey below.
- Emailing council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au
- Posting to:
Chief Executive Officer
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
PO Box 84
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

All submissions must be received by close of business on **Wednesday 31 January 2024**.

Who's Listening

Jimmy Manning
Community Engagement Officer
Port Macquarie Hastings Council



Phone 6581 8111
Email jimmy.manning@pmhc.nsw.gov.au

Documents

 **Riverview Reserve Concept Design (2.56 MB)**
(pdf)

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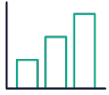
Have Your Say



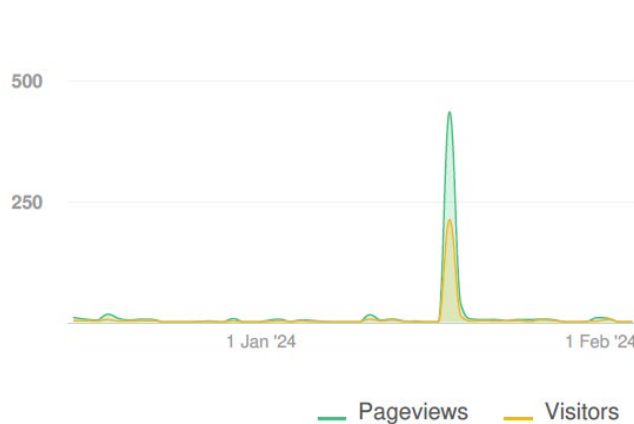
A Have Your Say page was published on 14 December 2023. The page featured information about the project, a copy of the concept design and a survey providing the opportunity for residents to have their say.

Engagement data snapshot

There were 324 visits and 20 survey responses submitted through the Have Your Say Page.



Visitors Summary



Highlights

TOTAL VISITS	MAX VISITORS PER DAY	
324	212	
NEW REGISTRATIONS		
14		
ENGAGED VISITORS	INFORMED VISITORS	AWARE VISITORS
20	121	289

- 50% of respondents were a parent or carer of a young child.
- 33.3% of respondent identified as/or are a carer for a person living with a disability.
- 27.8% of respondents visited the Bunnys Corner playspace weekly.
- 77.8% of respondents said they would visit the Riverview Reserve playspace weekly or every few weeks.

Response themes



The below themes are summarised from the free text responses received through the survey. The unidentifiable verbatim is in Appendix 2.

Inclusive Design

- There are mentions for inclusivity in the design, including equipment for children with limited mobility and wheelchair accessibility.

Safety and Accessibility

- Concerns are raised about safety, particularly regarding access to the park given there is no pedestrian crossing in the direct vicinity of the park. There is a crossing east on Ocean Drive and a nearby median refuge island, but these seem insufficient to some respondents. Car parking is also mentioned as being inadequate for the potential increased usage the park will see. The main safety concern expressed by respondents, however, was regarding the river/sandbar and the need for proper steps, safe entry points and a potential sea wall.

Amenities and Comfort

- Requests for seating, shade, water stations (for both humans and dogs), and neutral colours to blend with the environment highlight a focus on comfort and practicality.

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Varied Play Equipment

- Suggestions and desires for specific play equipment. There are several requests for a slide.

Corflute signs

A corflute sign outlining the proposed plans was install at Bunnys Corner Reserve.

Another colfute sign was installed at Riverview Reserve.



have
your say

Riverview Reserve Playspace Concept

Have your say on the concept design for a new playspace in Riverview Reserve, on Ocean Drive, North Haven.

The playspace is a replacement by relocation of the Bunnys Corner Reserve playspace, which was damaged in the March 2021 floods. The new site is outside of the high-risk flood zone in a residential and recreational neighbourhood approximately 350m away from Bunnys Corner Reserve.

We know how much locals and visitors valued the popular riverside playspace however, relocating the playspace reduces the ongoing risk of replacing the equipment, and the new site is also riverside, just in a less flood prone location.

Bunnys Corner Reserve will continue to support locals and visitors with walking paths, shaded picnic tables and seating throughout the park.

Follow the QR code to submit your feedback before
Wednesday 31 January 2024.



visit
pmhc.nsw.gov.au/riverview-reserve
or call us on 6581 8111



LEGEND

1. Crossing & scramble
2. Monkey bar
3. Swing
4. Seesaw
5. Rocker
6. Shade tree
7. Existing bench to be relocated to 8
8. Relocated bench from 7
9. Existing outdoor fitness equipment
10. Existing lightpole
11. Existing shrubs
12. Existing tree



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RESULTS SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

The feedback highlights the foreshore location as a beloved community space, with most responses to the concept design being both positive and constructive.

Outlined within the thematic responses are key considerations expressed by the public:

- The need for inclusive playground equipment catering to people with disability.
- Safety concerns relating to access to the park from the northern side of the road.
- Safety concerns relating to the riverbank/sandbar.
- Suggestions for the addition of a slide to the playspace.
- Requests to provide adequate seating, shade, and amenities.
- Considerations regarding car parking arrangements.

NEXT STEPS

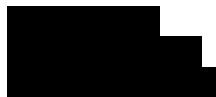
The concept design for the Riverview Reserve playspace will be reviewed with consideration of all feedback received.

Further information on the final design and construction timeline will be provided to stakeholders and the community once confirmed.

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APPENDIX 1 - Letters to residents

15 December 2023



Dear Resident,

RE: New Playspace for Riverview Reserve - Have Your Say

We have developed a concept design for a new playspace at Riverview Reserve on Ocean Drive, North Haven

The playspace is a 'replacement by relocation' of the Bunnys Corner Reserve playground, which was damaged in the March 2021 floods.

We know how much locals and visitors enjoyed the riverfront playspace however, the decision not to rebuild on this flood-prone land follows consideration of our Flood Policy, community safety, passive surveillance and ongoing costs of continual replacement. The opportunity to add play equipment to existing outdoor fitness equipment and maintain a riverfront location while moving away from flood risk makes Riverview Reserve an optimal alternative.

Riverview Reserve is located outside of the flood risk area approximately 350m away from the former riverside playground and fits well with other recreation offerings in this area. We anticipate the playspace to be used as a local recreation area rather than a destination playspace.

The new playspace is being delivered under flood recovery funding, so the size and type of equipment will be similar to that of the former Bunnys Corner Reserve playground. However, maintaining river views has been considered in the design and selection of the new equipment.

Have Your Say

You are invited to submit feedback on the concept design by completing our online survey at pmhc.nsw.gov.au/riverview-reserve, emailing us at engagement@pmhc.nsw.gov.au or posting to:

Chief Executive Officer
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
PO Box 84
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Consultation closes at 5pm, Wednesday 31 January. Construction is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2024. For more information, please contact our Liveable Communities Engagement team on (02) 6581 8111 or email us on the details above.

Sincerely

Lucilla Marshall
Group Manager, Liveable Communities

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APPENDIX 2 - Verbatim responses

Bearing in mind that we are unable to replace the playspace at Bunnys Corner Reserve due to the flood damage risk; do you have any feedback on the Riverview Reserve playspace design? (255-character limit)

Would it be possibly to incorporate a slide into the design please

Please think about including some more inclusive playground equipment for kids with limited or low mobility.

I think the design look amazing

The design is nice. As a resident myself and my other locals/visitors use the river/sandbar adjacent to the planned play space. It would be a great idea create a rock wall/steps down to the river sand to make it safer and crate a nice area to enter water

I walk through there every day and I love the location, seeing families using the area everyday for the last 7 years that I have lived here brings joy . Its a perfect place for the comunity and visitors

I think adding a slide to this design would be a great idea Dunbogan Park doesn't have a slide makes it harder to use for young children.

Parking and traffic congestion is already a huge issue this needs to be addressed.

The new design looks great thank you

Seating, shade, and amenities are essential

In your concept design I can not see any equipment for the Riverview Reserve for children who are in wheelchairs. These children like to interact with others and are often forgotten.

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My grandchildren would like a slippery dip. I have concerns about the increase of visitors and their access to the sandbar. The rockfall in that area is dangerous for children. Could the council also create a couple of safe beach access areas ?

I would like a water station for dogs and people to fill up bottles with fresh water

Having activities suitable for all ages and abilities would be better considered

Sun shades over equipment (country of high skin cancer and without them only can use at certain time of day and in summer equipment gets to hot. Nothing for those with disabilities. Nature based activities, logs to climb balance are low cost

Please use neutral colours so that the playspace does not visually dominate the environment

Suggestions include: Waterplay area or mud kitchen? Fenced area? Flying fox? Slide? Water bubbler/refill station

Love the concept . My grand children love to visit the Reserve for swimming and fishing, My only concern is the state of the river edge, its badly eroded and covered in oysters, there's no safe entry to the water. I'd love to see a safe little beach.

The water access near to the play space needs tidying up, with proper steps to ensure safety

We live directly across the from this new park & do Not want to lose our view of the water, which is why we bought the property in the first place with nothing obstructing the view other than a couple trees. So please maintain our views in your design

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APPENDIX 3 -Email responses

Hi,
My survey was sent in premature I didn't finish my feedback.
My name is _____ and I reside in _____, mother to young children.
I think the new park is a great idea however, I'm a big believer in doing things right the first time, or at least with the future in mind to be able to add on seamlessly.
The parking and traffic in the area is already a congestion zone especially in the holidays, this needs to be addressed to add a playground here, 5 car spaces near the park is not adequate enough.
Playgrounds naturally target families which more often than not have more than one child, or meeting friends with more children so the pedestrian activity in Thai area is heightened.
We need a pedestrian crossing at the shops. It is already a dangerous area without adding more activity.
We need the amenities moved closer to the new park location; it is not logistical and is unsafe to have them so far away. As mentioned most visitors will have more than one child with them, it's too far to leave a child at the park to take another to the amenities. There's so many hazards (traffic, people, water, rocks and oysters) not to mention the child would be unsupervised from so far away.
There is not enough seating in the plan. Bench seats, sanded posts, large rocks, logs, natural play items can be used as seating is need be and serve a dual purpose.
Need more undercover tables, there's simply not enough shade for groups to safely and comfortably make use of the area.
We need a safe access to the water and the large natural sandbar; the current rocks are unstable and covered in oysters and prevent all abilities from enjoying the water. Placing a park here will organically increase the visitors to the area and those wanting to make use of the water, plus the bbqs.
Take note of the lake Cathie waterfront reserve.
It is constantly full of visitors, locals, families, various aged groups and types.
Our area is a very sought after tourist attraction yet we have some of the most dated facilities and attractions.
Surely we can look at Lake Cathie and see how well this has been received by the public and use that to show why our North Haven area is the best place to spend time with your loved ones.
I really hope PMHC considers these points, the community here often feels that we are overlooked whilst the immediate Port Macquarie LGA is constantly having beautification works and has the newest and flashiest playgrounds, attractions and amenities.
Let's make the whole of our Hastings area a fantastic place for those living here but also the tonnes or visitors we get every year.
Thank you

I stood in front of port council as they told the entire community of Kendall that there weren't enough funds to complete Kendal skate park, which hasn't even been started yet.

I said to my wife and friends after the meeting, "You watch council fart ass around and build parks all over the Hastings before they touch kendal skate park.

And surprise surprise,
You guys are the kings of wasting our hard earned tax payers money and you continue to piss it up the wall ,

Build our skate park in Kendall you promised us before you piss funds up the wall on more parks for an area that already has parks and play equipment .

PULL YOUR HEADS IN!

Hello.
I attempted to do the survey for the playspace at North Haven, however the survey malfunctioned and finalised it before I had finished. Unfortunately there must be a glitch of some sort that is causing this issue as it has happened to me once before.
Anyway, back to the survey. I was unable to see the questions. The concept plan didn't show exactly where the play equipment is to be located eg between street X & Y, or near the community hall, or

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near the rock pool. Can I please be advised as to exactly where it is proposed that this playspace could be located.
Thank you.

Hello,

I was unable to download survey to have a say on proposal. As a resident and won with grandchildren aged 6mths to 10years. I would hope the department put in age variant equipment, safety features and disability inclusiveness. Interactive music and Water playground with safety rubber matting. Barkchips like has been used is a costly and unfriendly use of materials will wash away in high king tides and flooding. Plenty of shade sails , paths and fencing around area.

Dear Jimmy,

I am writing to you in regard to the proposed playground at Riverside Reserve North Haven.

I personally think that the proposal is a perfect chance to bring some life to our beautiful reserve /waterway.

I also believe that it is a perfect opportunity to push for enhancement of the foreshore! the existing rock retaining wall is extremely dangerous, unsightly and badly eroded.

Our sand bar is possibly the most popular attraction we have in North Haven and is well used but the nature of the existing rock barrier, makes accessing the water anywhere along the park dangerous and limited.

Considering that the new playground will attract even more children and family's to the location, I understand that Crown Lands Dept is responsible for this work but I urge you to Investigate and initiate a new and user-friendly wall to be considered with stairs and a sandy beach rather than oyster covered rocks.

I live close to the reserve and have witnessed so many serious injuries caused by the rocks and oysters over the years to mainly children and dogs.

I have included some images taken at the reserve highlighting the urgency. Example of what it could look like !? 🙏

To Whom it may concern

I am a neighbour of who has sent the email below & I completely concur with her feedback. The new proposed playground will attract many young kids & families which will want to access the sandbar like many locals & visitors do each year, so the access into the water's edge & the foreshore retaining area needs serious attention if you plan to put the new playground in that position.

I can be contacted directly on my phone below if you would like further clarification

To Whom it may concern

I am a local property owner across from the new proposed playground area. I am not opposed to the position of this playground, however I bought the property for the uninterrupted waterview's so my disabled daughter can sit out the front & enjoy. When we purchased the property there was no playground so I would like to maintain these views and would like careful consideration of the placement of the equipment so we do not lose these waterviews.

On another important note, the new proposed playground will attract many young kids & families which will want to access the sandbar like many locals & visitors do each year, so the access into the water's edge & the foreshore retaining area needs serious attention if you plan to put the new playground in that position. At present there is a badly eroded rock/seawall plastered with oysters and I have seen many councils along the NSW & QLD coast that have beautiful foreshore designs. The seawall is also badly eroding up to the pathway which is close to this new proposed playground.

I can be contacted directly on my phone below if you would like further clarification