



Public Pool and Splash Park Survey Results



Prepared 26 November 2020

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Structure of Report.....	3
Results	4
SECTION ONE.....	4
Q1. Do you think Port Douglas needs a Council run public swimming pool?	4
Q2. Do you think Port Douglas needs a Splash Park?	4
Q.3 How Often Would You Use this Facility?	4
SECTION TWO	5
Q4. What additional facilities/features would you like to see?	5
Facilities in other Locations Mentioned as Good Examples	12
Style of Pool	14
Keep it Natural	17
Activities	17
Funding	18
Attachment One - Mossman Facilities	19
Attachment Two – Lagoon Style	20

Introduction

Douglas Shire Council is continuing its investigation into a public swimming pool and splash park in Port Douglas and released a survey in mid-October 2020.

The survey, which attracted 628 responses, closed 26 November 2020 and this provides a summary of the findings.

Structure of Report

The report is presented in two sections.

The first looks at the quantitative results. Responses to the first three questions tell us what proportion of the community think Port Douglas needs a public pool and a splash park, and how often they would use the facility.

The second section is the qualitative results which is an analysis of the open ended question inviting comments. A total of 439 respondents provided comments. By analysing these, we are able to paint a picture of the community's expectations related to:

- the types of features people thought should be incorporated in the facility;
- facilities elsewhere people thought were good examples;
- style of pool preferred (lap pool, free form, length);
- activities which could potentially occur at the facility; and
- funding and pricing expectations.

This report will be provided to consultants to guide and prepare concept plans and designs which will be put back out to community consultation for further feedback.

If we have missed anything or you would like to register to receive updates, please email gaye.scott@douglas.qld.gov.au.

Results

SECTION ONE

Q1. Do you think Port Douglas needs a Council run public swimming pool?

Just over two thirds of respondents (68%) thought Port Douglas needed a Council run public swimming pool.

Response	No.	%
Yes	425	67.7%
No	144	22.9%
Not sure/Don't Know	54	8.6%
No Response	5	0.8%
Total	628	100%

Q2. Do you think Port Douglas needs a Splash Park?

86% of respondents said Port Douglas needed a Splash Park.

Response	No.	%
Yes	539	85.8%
No	68	10.8%
Not sure/Don't Know	18	2.9%
No Response	3	0.5%
Total	628	100%

Q.3 How Often Would You Use this Facility?

Almost 70% of respondents said they would use the facility at least once a week or more.

Response	No.	%
More than once a week	242	38.5%
Once a week	196	31.2%
Once a month	102	16.2%
No Response	52	8.3%
Once a year	36	5.7%
Total	628	100.0%

SECTION TWO

Q4. What additional facilities/features would you like to see?

When asked about complementary features, many people mentioned toilets, change rooms, showers, lockers, bins and wheelchair access. Council sees these as being a given in these types of facilities. Other features mentioned by respondents were:



Shade, shade, shade and more shade. Shade was mentioned more times than any other feature—94 people.

Most commonly, respondents wanted lots of shade over seating areas, BBQs, grassed areas and picnic areas.

A few mentioned shade over the pool to keep the water cooler in summer and also over the splash park to protect people from the sun.

- Shade and comfortable seating to be geared for all age groups
- Shade and lots of it.
- Shade areas, seating areas or somewhere to sit and picnic, toilet facilities nearby. The splash park could have areas suitable for different ages. I only said no to a pool as we live in PD and use the wonderful Mossman pool easily so a splash park is something different that my kids would also love, as long as it isn't just for little children (perhaps have a dedicated under 5's area?).
- Shade for parents to watch children.
- Shade over the pools Drinking fountains Grassy areas for sitting
- Shade sails or similar, playground equipment
- Shade structures, more BBQs, climbing playground equipment for older kids.
- Ensure shade. Most of all ensure it is designed with local residents in mind and not just glamour for tourists.
- Shade over the pool is essential as melanoma skin cancer is very high in the North with the sun as our medical and scientific professionals have stated. If no shade the water would be too hot also. If you cannot provide safe shade don't build the pool. DSC or who any other body involved has duty of care to people visiting and locals with the tropical sun.
- Undercover/shaded seating and BBQ areas. Think Cairns lagoon with a bit more shade. A cafe that sell all your swimming needs, zinc (not sunscreen, to protect the reef) towels and hats etc.... safe swimming options will attract more tourists, they only come for short stays as they think it's unsafe to swim anywhere (I have spoken to many visitors, having worked on the ferry and now living down south, it's a common thought I hear when I tell them where I'm from)
- Something simple, with trees and shade, that is in an already cleared location to minimise environmental impact. The pool at QT/Oaks could be upgraded, solar heating needs to be incorporated so that children have year-round swimming lessons available in the shire. Currently this is not an option.
- Good shade sails, change rooms and toilets. An additional dry playground for when the weather is cooler.
- Good shade, grass area if possible
- Lots of shade, cafe, great lighting, beautiful gardens and birthday areas
- Lots of shade, picnic tables, adventure play area, good toilets and nice lighting at night.

- Lots of shaded and BBQ areas for families to gather.
- Shade, amenities and showers and BBQ facilities
- Shade, BBQs, Picnic Tables
- Shade, gazebos, BBQs, public toilets & showers, bins, grassed areas, food & drink stand, water fountain, seating,
- Shaded areas to relax when not swimming.
- Shaded tables & benches for picnics, BBQs, showers/toilets, an area for toddlers only, an area for bigger kids, a small kiosk . aboriginal art could be incorporated within the facilities. Perhaps a small amphitheatre for kids /families to enjoy music /show events .
- Shaded tables and chairs. Shaded grass areas for picnics. Meandering concrete path or boardwalk for families. I would put the splash park as the priority.
- Shaded undercover areas, perhaps lockers and a kiosk
- Nice comfortable shady spots to relax while the Children are playing but also you can see the children and not having to go look for them.
- Needs to be sufficient shade areas. I think it's O.K to charge an admission fee with maybe a concession card for locals. Create a dedicated area alongside, where local businesses can bring food trucks and/or market type stalls.



Café, Kiosk, restaurant was the second most commonly mentioned feature—93 people.

Apart from drinks, snacks, ice creams and coffee, respondents suggested the café could have a function room to hire out, a few wanted a swim up bar, or seated wet areas where people can get wet and cool and still enjoy a bevy! Another mentioned having a café serving healthy food.

- Cafe for parents to be able to watch children play. There is nothing for kindy aged children to do in Port Douglas
- Cafe for parents, secure fencing, monitored security cameras.
- Cafe like middy's. Also playground incorporated to bring families into town centre.
- Cafe, pool suitable for competitions, ice cream stand, shade areas, Port Douglas badly needs this facility for both locals and tourists.
- Cafe, possible child minding for swimmers, exercise class facilities, yoga etc PS; I would not be a user of the pool as I have one at my home. But Port Douglas needs a suitable pool/ swimming area for locals and tourists of all ages. This would allow year round SAFE swimming, particularly in the summer months when the beach is out of bounds due to stingers. The "Council" has been talking about a swimming facility for probably 15 years now... Why not be the Council that is remembered as the one the finally got it done.
- Cafe, shaded area, sun lounges, grass area,
- Cafe, toilet block/change rooms and showers, BBQ area and adjacent picnic area
- Cafe, tourist info, little kids area
- Cafe onsite
- cafe, accompanying play area
- Cafe, BBQs and nice green grass that's irrigated with shade areas for picnics
- Cafe, gym, exercise stations
- A cafe but if it was out near Surf Club on grassed area in southern side it would already be there

- Cafe/ takeaway, amenities block. Water park could have large reef inspired structures. Council should look at the water park in Hervey Bay that features whales.
- Café/cake shop
- Cafe/kiosk, family relaxation areas, separate to adults only areas.
- Canteen or Cafe. Shaded sitting area.
- Canteen/café
- Toddler and baby area, toilets, changing facilities, cafe onsite
- Chairs, cafe, shade sail, slide, BBQ area, playground.
- A shop geared towards the swimming pool and/or splash park so you can easily purchase swimming related items such as floaties, goggles etc. Also group trainings such as water aerobics and swimming lessons etc. A kiosk would be good too depending on the location and if there was already existing premises close by that could meet that need.
- Areas to sit and enjoy , kiosk BBQ areas
- It needs to be attractive to visitors and locals alike. Needs to cater for everyone, splash parks are generally only attractive to children. Restaurants/cafes are challenging, maybe a kiosk. Variable depth. Combined pool and splash park options.



Picnic areas, grassed areas and BBQs, places for events and birthday celebrations were the next most frequently mentioned—74 people.

- A BBQ and picnic area within the splash park. Toilets and change rooms and plenty of seating and shade. The Mission Beach splash park is small but a very good design and a great model to look at.
- Outdoor cinema
- Park / Picnic areas / BBQ Facilities / shaded area / kiosk with light refreshments
- Picnic area, or a place to purchase food and drinks from at the facility.
- Picnic area, shaded seating, canteen with hot food. Make it place to stay all day
- BBQ areas with adequate seating and undercover seating as well. Drinking fountains.
- BBQ areas, lockers, changing rooms, plenty of shaded areas, grassed areas for balls games, plenty of bench seats near pool areas to sit and watch children. Adventure play area for children of different ages with equipment for disabled children.
- BBQ facilities, big outdoor cinema to sit in pool and watch movie, gelato shop.
- BBQ facilities, large lagoon, parklands, seating, covered/shady areas
- BBQ facilities, splash park, tables and chairs, environment suitable for multiple age levels, natural environment.
- BBQ picnic area, shaded areas
- BBQs, Shade, Kiosk, ample toilets, Information Centre
- BBQS, covered seating, lots of toilets, shade, shade, shade and more shade. The only reason I wouldn't go to the pool much is that I live in Mossman and go to the pool there. I think it would be great to have one in Port for the locals there though.
- BBQs, grassy areas, change rooms/bathrooms, lockers
- A grassed area for people to picnic/sunbathe on. A small kiosk for drinks and basic hot food.
- A place for parents to sit. Bins. Shade sails for shade. Picnic table if possible but not essential. Grass area for picnic blankets. Toilets would be good.

- An area separate for toddlers and bigger children, picnic areas with shade by trees sails/or whatever would be appropriate, tables, BBQ' everything that families can have to go outdoors with their family and friends, to have birthdays at or just to get together
- Areas for all ages and disability access. Lots of shaded areas and landscaping in keeping with the region. BBQ and picnic areas. Exploration zones for visitors to learn about our native wonders.
- BBQ area, Lights tables for friend catch ups
- BBQ TABLES COFFE SHOP OUT DOOR SHOWER
- BBQ, playground, shelters, toilets
- BBQ, bucket, warm showers, shade, seats, picnic areas, bubblers and water bottle refill station.
- Grassed picnic areas, bike racks, drinking fountain and complimentary children's play facilities
- Lawned area for families to Enjoy a picnic! I think this is a fantastic idea and something young families (including mine) will utilise often.
- Lots of BBQ and picnic areas. Shop/refreshment, cafe, toilets/showers/change rooms. Shade area, trees kept where possible, install shade area. Make it a one stop place for people to stay for hours.
- Some picnic tables/BBQ area so you can make a day of it, and maybe a button on the splash park do it can turn off after not being in use after a certain amount of time. Plenty of shade in water area and dry areas

The next most commonly mentioned facilities included:



Playground —41 respondents

- Playground and BBQ areas.
- Playground and Splash Park with a Cafe onsite that the council could lease out to collect a revenue
- Playground, cafe, picnic areas
- Playground, nice picnic areas and lots of shade!!
- A playground and splash park together
- Basically, it would only need to be a big playground with some water features for smaller children, like Muddies in Cairns and a cafe facility for parents
- Bucket feature or similar, playground for all ages, adequate amenities for large crowds. Plenty of shade around for parents, guardians and supervisors.
- Incorporated kids playground
- Shaded sitting areas, cafe, playground
- Showers, BBQ and picnic area, swings/ playground, muddy kitchen



Seating, particularly for parents to watch children—35 respondents

- Toilets/change facilities and some undercover bench seating close by so parents can watch their kids in the splash park.
- Seating, picnic tables, drinks van/kiosk/ice cream vendor, shaded (preferably by trees) surroundings/sails for shade

- Seating, uncover! Trees ,shade ..Lighting and fencing for safety .Separate kiosk with undercover tables. I believe Cairns did a really excellent job I be proud of one the same.
- Seated wet areas where people can get wet and cool and still enjoy a bevy! A pool which also acts as a meeting place for locals and tourists alike.
- Seating Picnic areas
- Seating and shade, public toilets and local shops for lunch ice cream etc
- Seating, grass area, BBQ and toilet facilities, multiple interactive areas for all age groups, kiosk, interactive playground for all age groups with exciting equipment. Wongaling has an amazing mini waterpark, with a park and basketball courts suitable for all ages.
- Seating, grass area, BBQs, toilet and change room
- Drinking fountains. Rubbish bins Seating and shade Night lighting
- Easy parking close to pool, people are lazy. Picnic or seating areas.
- Needs to accommodate all age of children young to teenagers. Needs to be shaded areas and seating for parents or supervisors to watch their children. Possibly a beach area for volley ball
- Plenty of shaded seating, BBQ facilities, baby pool, swimming lessons.
- Safe kids area with shaded seating for parents...



In terms of the water facilities, the following water features were mentioned:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----|
| ▪ Water slides | 28 |
| ▪ Water squirts; fountains | 23 |
| ▪ Bucket Spiller | 22 |
| ▪ Wave pool/Flow rider | 9 |
- Water based play activities that cater for kids under 5 years old
 - Water cascade bucket
 - Water fountain, toilets close by
 - Water play equipment, Bar-b-q's
 - Water slide for children at this splash pool.
 - Water aerobics classes to engage with older community
 - Water slides/an aquatic playground. Also, an inexpensive aqua aerobics classes affordable especially for pensioners.
 - Water supply security before pool or splash park.
 - Gym on the water, features fitness there is no gym in town that isn't a decent price for families including the old generation and the handicap, unless you go Smithfield or Cairns. an undercover pool as skin cancer kills, an all year-round pool centre, why is most pools in the full sun? All year round? Most places have a dip pool or small pool at home but where can we exercise? And swim laps in Port Douglas? I drive to Cairns where the pool is clean and well maintained
 - Slides, bucket tipper, wading pool, squirter, animal theme good facilities amenities, cafe, well shaded areas, nice gardens, water bubbles, space so doesn't get too cramped.
 - Slides, water buckets for the kids, shade cloth, bright and colourful, it would be a huge hit with locals, families & a big plus for Port Douglas. A definite winner

Facilities mentioned by other respondents:

- Beach area for volley ball
 - Jumping pillow
 - Mechanical bucking crocodile or cassowary (like a bucking bull)
 - Mini golf/putt putt
 - Outdoor cinema
 - Outdoor gym facility
 - Ping pong
 - Water guns
-
- Disability access included. Wheel chair ramps into water with rails...
 - A big water bucket, water the shots out of the ground, a playground to compliment the splash park.
 - Spa outdoor area
 - Sea themed artworks and sculptures, Kiosk, bins, shady grassed area, sandy beach area, and a peaceful, adults only section banning little kids.
 - Incorporate swings and things to climb . and dump bucket. Townsville has a great one at the strand.
 - In my south Australian country town they had a basic mini golf course to the side which you could hire clubs and balls for. Could be a good revenue raiser? Otherwise lots of shady areas to sit and a canteen.
 - I would like to see it start with a splash pool like Muddies with the possibility of adding a lagoon style pool later. A river ride on tubes could be added to a lagoon for older children's entertainment and keeping it aesthetically interesting.
 - A water bucket. I think we have a great asset with the Mossman pool but it desperately needs upgrading- in its current state no one can use it to its greatest potential. Please give us a competition standard pool.
 - An outdoor cinema (it can be used for a variety of reasons including concerts) and perhaps volleyball pit.
 - A diving board
 - Trees, grassed area, infinity area for photos over ocean, picnic tables, natural looking meandering pathways through park, sand area entering pool.
 - Bucking crocodile. Hedge maze. Coral splash park. Pool with fake turtles. Cocktail bar. Mini putt putt.
 - Snack bar. Surf Life Savers. BBQ area. Table & Chairs. Playground.
 - Bike racks, BBQ facilities with drink/washing options, plenty of seating and shade, rinsing off showers.
 - Boardwalk area and children's play equipment
 - A nice fountain or similar would be great but not a cheesy "Disneyland style" splash park. Lots of shade and maybe a small cafe. Cairns Lagoon is great, stylish and not like a leisure park.
 - Tipping bucket, shallow water features with vertical sprayers for kids, more orientated towards the kids of the region.
 - Wave pool

- A great reference for a splash park would be something like the Glengarry Big 4 water park, multiple children's parties are held there each year and is extremely expensive to book. An alternative to compete with their pricing would be fantastic as there's nothing in port that competes currently. Flo-Rider like Tobruk pool would be fantastic.
- A hydrotherapy all access pool that can be used for rehabilitation and year round swimming lessons.
- A safe place for children to play- with water, maybe a fountain or turning buckets
- A tropical oasis swimming pool near tennis/basketball courts in town.
- All ability access
- An adjoining park for kids to play in also. Areas for birthday parties and group gatherings.
- An area for toddlers especially, shallow pool
- At healthy cafe/sandwich bar and coffee, either ran by the shire or tendered out.
- Baby/toddler friendly areas
- Bar (parents can have a drink while supervising children), Cafe (same as Bar), Ice Cream parlour, Changing Rooms, Showers
- Big Water Slides
- Change facilities and bathroom shower amenities. Toddler specific areas as well area for older children and adults. Fountains they can play under. Non slip. Shaded areas, slides, play areas. BBQ facilities, picnic tables, fenced, natural water filtration and sanitation rather than straight chlorine.
- Covered areas to protect from our burning sun
- Depending where it is you should have eateries or at least one like Cairns
- Drinkable Water fountains Shaded Areas, Coin operated Gas BBQ
- Enough showers and change rooms, large lockers, covered areas or large trees that produce shaded areas.
- Facilities for dogs
- Fitness park and playground
- Flow rider
- Fun activities to entertain the kids as there is nothing up here in Port Douglas.
- It would need an awning over the pool because of the heat. Cairns pool has done wonders for tourism but should be covered in a part of it.
- More trees please. Also please stop cutting down the existing trees.
- Perhaps a reference to NEMO type of theme?
- Public toilets, disability accessible and friendly. Free entry, free parking, sunshade, water bottle refuel station, canteen for food and drink, extended opening hours school holidays, open later into the evenings.
- Sufficient public parking area nearby
- Wave machine and slides for kids....and big kids!
- Trees, grassed area, infinity area for photos over ocean, picnic tables, natural looking meandering pathways through park, sand area entering pool.
- Tropical landscaping
- Water slide, BBQs, shaded huts




Facilities in other Locations Mentioned as Good Examples

Adelaide – play spaces
 Airlie Beach
 Cairns (Muddies)
 Cairns (Fig Tree)
 Cooktown
 Darwin
 Gladstone (East Shores)
 Glengarry Big 4
 Hervey Bay

Hughenden
 Mackay
 Mission Beach (Wongaling)
 Redcliffe
 Richmond
 Singapore
 Sydney (Iceberg Pool)
 Taronga Zoo – play spaces
 Townsville
 Yeppoon

- Anything fun for the kids! There are very little options in the Douglas Shire so we go to [Cairns](#) - lagoon ,big 4 Park, cinema bowling mini golf.. not saying we need or want all of this however some type of waterfront park would be amazing!
- I have seen some great splash parks in [Cooktown and other regional towns](#). their use by both the community kids and tourists is invaluable both socially and as a tourism attraction
- Anything like Cairns would be great. [Darwin](#) has a great set up too, with restaurants/cafes located in the area.
- BBQ area, Pavilions Just look to [Mission Beach Rotary](#) splash park for inspiration
- BBQ, climbing and play areas, shade, grass, gardens, privately run coffee and food, change rooms, toilets. Needs to be lit so families can meet there and have BBQ dinners together to help build community. Check out the development in [Gladstone](#) council called East Shores. This on a smaller scale
- Combination of pool and splash [Mackay Cooma](#). Quite a few dotted all over Queensland. Handicapped features most essential
- Coin operated BBQs at splash park shade area or nice large trees for shade [Cooktown's](#) is Fantastic
- [Darwin](#) has a lovely lawn area and it would be good to see pop up hotdog/ice cream vans.
- Has anyone considered an ocean baths such as [Sydney](#) has? It could be netted/meshed for safety. Wouldn't require filtering, chlorinating or vacuuming. Beach known as Cops Beach in Rex Smeal Park partly surrounded with rocks already is beautiful site with parking, lawn areas, toilets etc. Best kept secret in town by toffs on hill who think it's their private beach. I am a senior without pool but would not use public pool but would love to be able to swim in ocean safely as we once could but not now with crocodiles marauding.
- Even small water features for kids to play in (like at Muddy's playground in [Cairns](#)) A stage/ podium by the pool for live music:-)
- I really love the water areas at [Muddy's in Cairns](#) on the Esplanade. Kids love running through the water and I feel like they are safer than if they were in a deep pool. We'd be there more than once a week if it we're available.
- I think it needs positioning for a view of the inlet or the ocean or the ranges but not tucked on a block that could be anywhere in Australia. The water views will attract

many to use it. Beautiful lighting and evocative artwork/ sculptures. Some water feature in the pool adding movement. Open Lawned areas perhaps some terraced areas like seen in [South Bank Brisbane](#) if the location worked to have it. Park like for relaxation and meeting friends. Some park benches but not rows of them

- I'm a gran and unlikely to use a splash park... but feel if it was located near the 4 mile Beach there would be plenty of children to use it.... I love the idea of the one in [Cooktown](#) 
- Something kid-friendly like [Cairns](#). And close to the water, either near Four Mile Beach or Dickson Inlet. Free admission as part of a "must-see, must-go" Port attraction, particularly during stinger season.
- Just recently visited [Harvey bay](#) and they have a great Splash park for All ages! I have an 18m old and a 3 year old who both played in all of the areas. They had water jets that would come up really high for the older kids, and a smaller area for smaller children. They also had a small water playground that had 2 different sets of slides and a big water bucket that occasionally dropped a tonne of water. It was situated right next to a takeaway and a cafe do allowed local businesses to benefit from the people who visited the park. Each time we went it was packed with people. I think this would be very beneficial for our community as there is not much to do with smaller children and I do not find the beach safe.
- Like Muddies splash park on the [Cairns](#) Esplanade.
- Look at any public pool area such as [Cairns](#), [Townsville](#), [Airlie Beach](#), [Yeppoon](#) and so on. They seem to have the right formula. Open space for sitting and lots of shade surrounding the pool would enhance enjoyment.
- Look at [Cairns and Airlie Beach](#) as perfect examples of what we need.
- Look at [Darwin](#) waterfront it's fantastic and we should replicate to suit port Douglas! Wave pool , park, enclosed swimming area with net for all year swimming.
- Look at muddies in [Cairns](#), there are areas for toddlers, little squirt areas easy access for young parents with prams. It should also have a pool for the older children to enjoy . You could even set up a little cafe. Endless opportunities for port! We really need a safe environment for our children to swim without being concerned about the crocodiles
- Love the splash park at [Mission Beach & Townsville](#) it's our first stop while traveling there
- [Mission Beach](#) splash park is amazing. You should do exactly that.
- [Moreton Bay](#) council has just completed a new putt putt course in [Redcliffe](#). Fantastic and would be great in this shire.
- Muddies in [Cairns](#) is the perfect example; Splash Park, Outdoor Nature Playground and a Cafe. Port Douglas is a great safe family destination and we need to target that. This would be a fantastic asset for our town. A small tiny attempt won't do us any justice. It needs to be a substantial size to cater for visitors and local families.
- Muddy's [Cairns](#) a place to cool down and be safe for all ages. [Cook town](#) also has a splash area. [Mossman](#) has public swimming pool. [Port Douglas](#) has the Ocean that's not safe!!!
- Recently have been to [Mackay's](#) new aqua centre is exactly what Port needs. So schools can host swimming carnivals and the public can host more events like pool rescue competitions. Has lighting to host event at night. With facilities such as a Cafe. The [Mackay](#) facility is a perfect example and should be looked at by Douglas Shire Council.
- Reusable water like the one in [Cooktown](#).
- Same as [Mossman](#)! And A kiddy pool area.
- Go & look what [Yeppoon & Darwin](#) have done - much better than a splash Park.
- See what [Cooktown](#) has done, it's amazing

- Similar to [Cairns](#) or [Airlie beach](#) lagoons with a splash park area but also safe year round stinger and croc free swimming areas
- Smaller version of [Cairns](#) lagoon pool with water park similar to muddies
- Some sort of area like Muddies in [Cairns](#) for younger toddler age group to go with Splash park as well here in Port would be nice .. I use to have lots of families say to me it would be a fabulous idea
- Something similar to Muddy's in [Cairns](#) where the children can play and parents can relax and have coffee etc.
- Something similar to the foreshore at [Cooktown](#) would be amazing!
- The splash park in [Townsville](#) seems all age and ability safe. Would love to see something similar here.
- Upgrade Esplanade Grass area with a proper path, irrigated grass comparable to [Palm Cove / Cooktown](#). This area is a disgrace and an embarrassment. Would not cost that much to fix. Please make this a priority.
- A section for small children, and facility to change nappy or family change room, and lockers so you can keep your stuff safe when your keeping your children safe while watching them in the water. [Harvey Bay](#) has a great set up.
- It doesn't have to be fancy or costly to provide a splash park that kids would like and benefit from. Please look at the one in [Mission Beach](#) which is perfect and would suit our needs.
- Play for kids naturally like the wheels in the pool at [Southbank](#) it's a great facility ports would be lots smaller but that one is a good example
- Surrounded by large grassy areas, the pool to have filtered sea water, adequate & easily maintained change rooms & amenities, a Council owned but leased cafe, shaded picnic tables & electric BBQs - pool & surrounds to be modelled on [Townsville's Strand](#), also including fishing platforms. All surrounding BBQs & furniture to be made of modern, easy to clean materials & maintained in top condition.
- This would be a wonderful attraction for the town. I have been to the [Cairns](#) esplanade and families love it. We need this.



Style of Pool

Respondents varied in their preference of the style of pool, ranging from the chemical free lagoon looked at in 2019, to a 50m FINA standard pool with grandstand seating for swim meets, diving board and blocks, through to a simple a 25 metre pool for fitness and exercise classes accompanied by a wading pool for infants-toddlers.

- 50m FINA standard along with 25m heated pool
- Lanes for lap swimmers. Early opening and late closing 6am - 7pm.
- Need a lap pool that can be cooled in summer and heated in winter
- 50m pool, good grandstand seating for swim meets. Splash park - environmentally friendly design - looks like nature play
- I think we could manage to have both a 25m pool with lap lanes, and a toddler pool or splash park . I was in Malaysia, Langkawi last year, at Kuah and stayed in a relatively small resort that had 2 pools and a splash park in a fairly small area. Kids love the splash more I think than a toddler pool, and bigger kids could use a lane of the lap pool

- 50m pool for competitions, diving board and blocks, picnic areas, shade areas, water spray features
- Needs to be suitable for lap swimming at least 25m but preferably 50m. Trinity Anglican School has an L shaped pool which caters for laps and beginners. Splash Pool nearby is great. Most of the Cairns pools now have great facilities. Solar heating in winter a must.
- Pool for swimming and laps plus a kids pool
- Rock pool with free lap lanes but only a few. Kids & visitors definitely need a splash pool if budget doesn't allow both go for splash pool
- Saltwater, not chlorine. A separate swimming pool for adults only and lap swimmers, so quiet lap swimmers can get away from splashing and kids.
- Starter blocks etc for swimming comps at pool
- At least 25m but preferably 50m
- Would be good to have a place for locals to do lane swimming. A place that also is like the Peppers Pool - like a fake beach that is safe and shaded for toddlers. A swim up pool bar would also be lovely for tropical events and parties - could be used as an events venue and gain revenue.
- Port Douglas really needs a heated 25m lap pool to be ensure year round kids and adult swimming lessons. At the moments some parents travel to Smithfield during winter to continue lessons.
- A 25 metre pool for fitness, exercise classes, swimming lessons etc...accompanied with a wading pool for infants-toddlers.
- If you don't want to go to 50m, make it at least 40m.
- Smaller indoor learn to swim/hydro pool, outdoor 50m pool, both heated
- We need a large, (Olympic size) pool for everyone, and a free form shallow pool for children.
- If you are not going to do a lagoon, I think the key thing Port Douglas needs is a swimming pool with enough length for people who are good at swimming to be able to do laps. 30 metres or less is inadequate - I can cover that distance in a single breath and stroke. If you don't want to go a full 50 metres, then make it at least 40m. I've no idea where a facility like this could go in Port Douglas but I love swimming for fitness and Mossman is too far from Oak Beach so I never go swimming any more. Summers are getting more unbearable here of late and it's impossible to do other forms of exercise that I can do in the cooler months so I tend to become fat and unfit. I hate the gym. The sports clubs are expensive. A pool is the only sensible alternative that is cooling and can help me maintain fitness over summer. Now a splash park. What is that? Just a bit of fun for kids. I cannot support a facility like this which is essentially only for kids. For me, give us a pool, a lagoon or nothing and I don't care whether there are any other facilities that go along with the pool. If you have extra money to build all these extras, you probably have enough money for a decent swimming pool so let's just stick with that please. A lap pool is adequate for kids. It's what I and my whole school grew up with.
- Mix of decent pool to enjoy, swim and relax along with water park for kids.
- Smaller indoor learn to swim/hydro pool, outdoor 50m, both heated, Swim club area, BBQ area, kiosk/cafe
- Needs to be suitable for lap swimming at least 25m but preferably 50m. Trinity Anglican School has an L shaped pool which caters for laps and beginners.



Style of Splash Park

Respondents varied in their preference of the style of splash park, ranging from "Muddies" in Cairns" to Langkawi, Malaysia .

- A fun splash area for toddlers and young children featuring water spouts and playful water zones as well as a swimming lagoon for the older children and adults. Relaxation zones and picnic areas with BBQs, a cafe and dining option. Look at Cairns, Townsville, and Yeppoon Lagoon for inspiration. A necessity and an attraction for any tourist town.
- Something for young kids to play in water a splash park like muddies I'm sick of driving to Cairns
- Splash park facilities like 'Muddies' in Cairns with children's playground.
- Splash park to have facilities close by so you can have kids parties and groups there
- Splash park to not have huge noisy bucket that is dangerous To toddlers who are unstable on water surface, and scares some children . Slippery dips in pool, best fun ever!
- Splash park with lagoon, large kids playground undercover. Attached eatery/bar with outside seating area and Large TV for outdoor cinema events ongoing
- Splash park with Playground and cafe adjacent to it
- Splash parks are great for young kids/toddlers but please don't forget older kids and adults and their recreational needs. They would like to slash in a proper Pool/lagoon especially during summer/ stinger season.
- splash pool similar to Cairns would be an extra drawcard to the area especially if it overlooks the water.
- Splash water Park should feature water animal spray features in the splash pool for younger children, slides, shade cloths, water buckets which tip with water, there are many great options to put in a splash park. Cafe.
- Splash park and water slides, we would be happy to pay for the kids to use them this town desperately needs things for kids to do, maybe there could be local vs tourists rates to help cover cost and grow revenue to eventually expand
- I'd like to see a splash park in Mossman more so than Port Douglas. I would use the Mossman one regularly. Build two. One in Mossman, one in Port. Even a simple design like Richmond & Hughenden is better than nothing & can be built on.
- Splash parks are great for young kids/toddlers but please don't forget older kids and adults and their recreational needs. They would like to slash in a proper Pool/lagoon especially during summer/ stinger season.
- Free splash park in a convenient location where there is room for parents to sit while the kids play. A space where the kids can't run to a dangerous space easily eg not too close to the road or a big fence surrounding. It would definitely need shade
- It doesn't need to be fancy Or excessive amounts of money, just a simple splash water park something for the little ones to get wet in!! Water!! Play !!
- Make a splash park that adults can enjoy as well. More areas of water spray as you walk through them, places to just sit in the water i.e. sun lounges that are half submerged.
- Sand beach, timed water fountains, sprayers to run through, splash bucket, shallow pool with lots of shade areas similar



Keep it Natural

- Design style that is complementary to the Barrier Reef, and is large enough to accommodate large numbers. A small park may look good but will quickly become overrun and limit return attendance.
- Integrated into the surrounding environment.
- Muddy's is great, with some timber play equipment maybe trying to move away from the brightly coloured plastic
- Natural
- Natural environment.
- Not horrible colourful recycled plastic .. if have to use tonal please! If comes down to funds keep it simple! We don't need Mossman gorge ... we have that already ... naturally!
- Please consider embracing the reef and rainforest around us in design, message and ethos. Children need natural and interesting play spaces not rainbow plastic everywhere.
- Seating and sitting platforms like Cairns Lagoon, drinking fountains, showers and rinse off taps, bins, shading, plenty of tropical plants and greenery, toilets/change rooms, a look and feel of nature, tropical, indigenous and nature art, sculptures etc, and finally be as green, sustainable, environmentally designed as possible, i.e.: materials, solar, etc
- Something that fits in with the natural beauty of our town and its local environment. For example the layout and style of the public lagoon in Airlie Beach would fit better than one similar to Cairns which is designed to fit in with the city.



Activities

Several respondents suggested activities which could be run in the facility.

- Free water gymnastic classes for all ages
- An inexpensive aqua aerobics classes affordable especially for pensioners.
- Water aerobics classes to engage with older community
- Swimming lessons
- Gym on the water, features fitness there is no gym in town that isn't a decent price for families including the older generation and the handicap,
- Aqua aerobic classes could be held for our residents
- Exercise class facilities, yoga etc.
- Group trainings such as water aerobics and swimming lessons etc.
- Toilets, showers, changing room, kiosk/ bistro, BBQ area, benches/ sun lounges, lots of trees for natural shade, free water gymnastic classes for all ages, solar lights, grass and sand area



Funding

Several respondents suggested ways to generate revenue, a few wanted the facilities to be free and a few thought an admission fee would be okay.

- A cafe to help subsidise this facility. Yeppoon has a great lagoon and they have a beautiful first floor area that they rent out for functions to subsidise the area
- A coffee shop close by. A variety of pool memberships; i.e. short term, annual, casual
- Airlie Beach is a great example. Grassed areas well maintained, shade, toilets. Fund it by putting a levy on all accommodation for tourists.
- Café opportunities at either end to lease out, and function bar/restaurant above to rent out to pay for operating costs of the lagoon/lifeguards. Would assist all local business with wet season tourism opportunities.
- Free admission as part of a "must-see, must-go" Port attraction, particularly during stinger season.
- Free entry, free parking, sun shade, water bottle refuel station, canteen for food and drink, extended opening hours school holidays, open later into the evenings.
- FREE to use. Plenty of options for big and little kids.
- Fund it by putting a levy on all accommodation for tourists.
- I think it's okay to charge an admission fee with maybe a concession card for locals. Create a dedicated area alongside, where local businesses can bring food trucks and/or market type stalls.
- Make it just like Muddies it's perfect and always full of happy kids and happy parents. A cafe with tender options to help negate the cost as well.
- Membership option with a key card for access to facilities for example from 6am to 6pm. I pay \$600 p.a. at Mirage Country Club. I paid \$400 p.a. when QT Pool facilities were available. I swim 5 to 7 days a week.
- Playground & Splash Park with a café onsite Council could lease out to collect revenue
- The facility needs a F&B facility just like muddies cafe. This brings in revenue from a lease to the council to assist in ongoing operational costs and it provides a services for those that use the facility. I would be more than happy to open and operate this facility.

Attachment One - Mossman Facilities

Fourteen respondents mentioned the need for facilities in Mossman, either a separate facility, or upgrade of the existing public pool.

- All access ramps for existing swimming pool in Mossman
- Any designs drawn up for Dickson inlet site to have a fence to keep the crocs out. I think a splash park could be added to the Mossman Pool- encouraging tourism to Mossman. Port Douglas has 4 miles of beaches and all resorts have pools and a very high percentage of the population also have pools. Plus we can't afford it at this time.
- Fix the Mossman Pool! Put a kids play area in there and promote it! We cannot afford two public pools in the shire.
- Full shade over Mossman Pool and perhaps a splash park in that centre.
- I think we have a great asset with the Mossman pool but it desperately needs upgrading. In its current state no one can use it to its greatest potential. Please give us a competition standard pool.
- Mossman near the playground would be a much more appropriate area as Port Douglas already has a free patrolled beach. Mossman park is a stop for many tourist passing through and the all abilities park is already established. Making it more accessible for ALL abilities
- Port Douglas Has 4 Miles of beach and a stinger net for summer swimming. How many pools are there currently in Port Douglas? The Douglas Shire has an excellent 50 metre public pool with 2 smaller pools 20 minutes' drive away in Mossman. There are numerous cool rivers to swim in close to Port Douglas. Why do we need another pool.? Do we really have the funds to push something we don't need?
- Splash Park in Mossman
- Upgrade the Mossman Pool. No need for a pool in Port Douglas.
- Water slide at Mossman Pool and total refurbishment to include a splash park would be great and it uses existing infrastructure.
- We already have a great pool in Mossman. Put in some slides. Make it a feature. Save us poor ratepayers some money
- We have a GREAT POOL in Mossman spend the money and fix it. Don't waste money on another pool in port Douglas.

Attachment Two – Lagoon Style

Comments from respondents suggesting a lagoon style pool:

- A fun splash area for toddlers and young children featuring water spouts and playful water zones as well as a swimming lagoon for the older children and adults. Relaxation zones and picnic areas with BBQs, a cafe and dining option. Look at Cairns, Townsville, and Yeppoon Lagoon for inspiration. A necessity and an attraction for any tourist town.
- A lagoon near Anzac Park
- A lagoon pool would be required like Cairns.
- A lagoon style pool on the waterfront like the one in Cairns
- A pool like the lagoon one on the esplanade at Cairns with a splash park would be amazing And would be utilized by locals and tourists alike
- Cafe near splash park. I would prefer a lagoon to a pool and I think it needs to be right in town. I do not think the old oaks lap pool would be utilised.
- Don't waste our money. Stay the course on getting a lagoon done.
- I believe the Port Douglas public swimming lagoon plan was perfect covering everyone's needs.
- I think the chemical free lagoon was a wonderful vision, forward thinking and safe for little ones. Integrating cultural knowledge, toilets, BBQ, native plants, music and sensory play and all ability access are all important.
- I think the eco-friendly vision from last year in the suggested location on Four Mile Beach would have enhanced Port Douglas as a tourist attraction, and been good for families with children, and provided evidence that the shire is trying to look after the environment in that way.
- It has to look like a lagoon pool not a rectangular laned pool that would be way to boring actually it would be disgusting and unattractive to the tourists if it's just going to be an everyday pool you may as well not waste our ratepayers money it has to be like Garry Hunt's design tropical paradise looking
- Just any area that can be used for tourists and local especially through the stinger season that still gives that great 'day at the beach' feel. We spend so much time at the beach through the winter months and find during the stinger season we are never there for obvious reasons.
- Kiosk/Café/Bar facilities. A lagoon in my opinion is still the way to go. Nice landscape design gardens and surrounds. BBQ and seating facilities.
- Lagoon
- Lagoon for teenagers and adults.
- Lagoon pool
- Lagoon Pool near sugar wharf, a splash park with a tipping bucket would be great!
- Lagoon style pool
- Lagoon style pool with sandy beach in keeping with our beautiful surroundings.
- Lagoon style pool with gardens and waterfalls with BBQ facilities and grasses area for picnics
- Lagoon style that is family friendly. There is already a lap pool in Mossman.
- Lockers, small shop selling drinks ice creams etc, same as Cairns splash park for kids and separate lagoon for all to enjoy, obviously a smaller version than Cairns but not too small.
- Maybe a small cafe on site. Similar set up to muddies plus a lagoon pool. Its need to be down near the marina. Greg Hunt's idea is the best idea so far.

- Not t sure what is meant by a splash pool..?? I would like to see a lagoon pool similar to Brisbane - not a kiddies splash pool which adults would never use
- Ocean lagoon
- Please don't design focused on small children utilise the public spaces with something for all ages to enjoy, BUILD A LAGOON POOL!!!!
- Rock pool with free lap lanes but only a few. Kids & visitors definitely Need a splash pool if budget doesn't allow both go for splash pool
- Sand beach, timed water fountains, sprayers to run through, splash bucket, shallow pool with lots of shade areas
- Smaller version of Cairns lagoon pool with water park similar to muddies
- When I answered "not sure/don't know" to the public pool - as do you mean a lagoon style?? Or a Mossman Pool style? Definitely YES if a lagoon style, with BBQs, cafe, shade
- Would prefer lagoon style pool
- Yeppoon, QLD, Lagoon style would be perfect. Great lagoon style.
- There is already a kids water park at Mowbray. It would be nice to have a lagoon like the one in Airlie Beach and have a small area for children.
- Water park similar to the strand with the buckets. I would not use a lap pool or pool similar style to Mossman as we would prefer a more relaxed style pool. My kids and whole family would use a lagoon style pool-probably more than a water park.
- We need a lagoon pool with a splash park next to it. Mossman has a pool already. Please visit online the splash park in Singapore for inspirations! Other suggestions, a tidal pool like Townsville. The community has been asking for a safe place to swim with a view, BBQ facilities...
- The Townsville esplanade is a really good example of what can be achieved. The pool needs to provide a relaxing and refreshing meeting place for locals and visitors in a suitable location, catering for both adults and children. It should have, or be located close to, restaurants, BBQs, grassed areas for relaxing and sunbaking, as well as shade trees and undercover eating areas. A splash pool should be located away from areas where adults without children will be situated so the pool will not become purely the domain of noisy children, which will limit its use. The older lagoon pool concept should not be disregarded as this underwent extensive community engagement and was generally regarded positively. The lagoon pool concept is more suited to the Port Douglas lifestyle and would be an addition to tourist activities, whereas a pure swimming pool and splash pool would end up becoming a noisy family-oriented activity centre. The 'adult' pool should be beautifully landscaped to fit in with the Port Douglas image and have a natural tropical feel. The splash pool can then be designed for children. There needs to be some separation between the two pools. As a ratepayer I would NOT support the development of a pool of a similar size and / or type to that at QT or one that is geared to families only. We already have that in Mossman and it is not appropriate for Port. However, it would be ridiculous for a local government to develop a public swimming pool when it has not solved its basic water security issue first - a major role of Council and the common promise of all councillors prior to the election.

