

5.6. MILMAN DRIVE PLAYGROUND - SIX MONTH POST INSTALLATION REVIEW

**REPORT AUTHOR
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DEPARTMENT Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the Milman Drive Playground Six Month Post Installation Survey Findings Report, presented to Councillor Workshop on the 16 March 2021; and**
- 2. Resolves to retain the Milman Drive Playground in situ with no further significant changes.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Installation of the playground at 49 Milman Drive, Craiglie was completed in June 2020, and in accordance with Council Resolution, a six month post installation review has been completed to understand the local sentiment towards the new playground.

These findings, including both positive and negative community experiences, were presented to the Councillor Workshop on 16 March 2021. To preserve the privacy of all survey respondents, these findings will not be made public.

The survey has highlighted some minor maintenance, landscaping and infrastructure improvements that could easily be made to the park area including installation of bench seating and planting of additional shade and screening landscaping. Other more significant improvements, such as installation of a shade sail would need to be reviewed, if this is an outcome Council desires.

BACKGROUND

The proposal to install a playground on Council owned land at 49 Milman Drive, Craiglie was originally generated by two petitions, the first in July 2017, and the second in January 2018. Under the 2019/20 Parks Renewal Program, Officers selected a number of playgrounds across the Shire for renewal based on an independent condition assessment, and realised an opportunity to install a new playground at 49 Milman Drive, Craiglie. Following the award of the playground supply and install contract, there was a media release in relation to the playground project, and a letter drop specifically within the locality of Milman Drive, Craiglie.

This prompted a petition opposing the location of the playground at 49 Milman Drive, Craiglie. The petition included 11 signatures and was tabled at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 10 March 2020. Subsequently, Council received 39 emails from residents reaffirming support for the proposed playground at 49 Milman Drive, Craiglie. Around the same time, there was a front page article in the Port Douglas and Mossman Gazette reporting on the residents in favour of the playground.

At Council Ordinary Meeting on the 26 May 2020, the following resolution was carried unanimously:

“That Council resolves:

- 1. to proceed with the installation of the playground at 49 Milman Drive, Craiglie and work with the concerned residents to ensure any impacts on amenity are minimised;*
- 2. for Council staff to prepare a report for Councillors six months after the installation of the playground which is to be brought back to a council meeting to advise if the concerns of the opposition petitioners has come to fruition, and if creating adverse detriment to the surrounding neighbours recommendations of how and where to relocate the playground to; and*
- 3. to notify the head petitioners of the Council resolution.”*

COMMENT

A local survey of the estate has been completed with a letter drop of 70+ pamphlets.

The survey found that 96% of respondents had a positive response and 4% of respondents had a negative response towards the playground.

The positive and negative survey findings have been presented in the Councillor Workshop on the 16 March 2021 and to preserve the privacy of all survey respondents these findings will not be made public.

Officers recommend that the Milman Drive Playground is retained in situ with no further significant changes to this facility.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Officers identify the following implications:

1. If Council resolve to remove or relocate the playground this would incur an unknown and unbudgeted cost to Council; and
2. If Council resolve to undertake any other improvements to the playground in situ this would incur an unknown and unbudgeted cost to Council.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Nil

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Nil

Environmental: Nil

Social: Council has the ability to influence only issues within Council's jurisdiction. Matters of anti-social behaviour, harassment and trespassing should be forwarded to the Queensland Police Service immediately.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

Theme 4 - Inclusive Engagement, Planning and Partnerships

In delivering for our communities, economy and environment, Douglas Shire will ensure open and transparent engagement and communication. We will develop robust strategic plans and we will partner with our community and key stakeholders.

Goal 1 - We will implement transparent decision making through inclusive community engagement and communication.

Theme 5 - Robust Governance and Efficient Service Delivery

Strong governance and financial management are the foundations of the way in which Council will conduct its business and implement the initiatives of the Corporate Plan.

Goal 1 - We will conduct Council business in an open and transparent manner with strong oversight and open reporting.

Goal 2 - We will put the customer at the centre of our service delivery and process improvement as we deliver efficient and appropriate services based on community expectations.

Operational Plan 2020-2021 Actions:

1.2.6 - Continue capital works program in open space and landscaping to beautify the Shire.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

Custodian Council owns and manages infrastructure, facilities, reserves, resources and natural areas. In fulfilling its role as custodian, Council will be mindful of the community, the economy, the environment, and good governance.

Service Provider Council provides many services to the community from roads and waste services to libraries and recreational facilities. Services evolve over time and it is the Council's mission to ensure that these services are appropriate, delivered efficiently, and designed with the customer at the centre.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Councillors

External: Residents of Milman Drive, Dulku Close and Wandie Close, Craigie

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A letter drop of 70+ pamphlets were delivered to homes in Milman Drive, Dulku Close and Wandie Close, Craigie on the 12 January 2021. Residents were asked to survey questions and provide any other feedback by the 29 January 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil