

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

RITCHIE PARK PLAYSPACE UPGRADE

Following the adoption of the *Playspace Strategy* in October 2020, Council is undergoing a program of playspace renewals across the Council area to improve community access to quality recreational play facilities, with a commitment to playspace design following the NSW Government *Everyone Can Play* principles. Ritchie Park is a Category 3 playspace as identified in the Strategy, located on Suttor Drive, Moss Vale.

A concept design was prepared for the new playspace, which aims to provide;

- Play features suitable for a minimum of one (out of three) age groups.
- A basic level of inclusive design and provision that focuses on minimising barriers to accessibility.
- Minimum 50% shaded area, provided naturally through the use of trees or ancillary facilities such as shelters.
- 8-15 play features.
- Seats, shelters and tables will be provided at sites in line with the Parks Strategy 2016.

THE CONVERSATION

The Ritchie Park Playspace is located on Suttor Road, Moss Vale and was identified as a priority project in the *Playspace Strategy*, which was adopted in October 2020.

The \$200,000 project is co-funded by Council and the NSW Government's *Stronger Country Communities Program*.



Council has engaged a Contractor to design and construct a new playspace and sought feedback from the community on the design and colour palette. The initial design has been developed following the principles detailed in the Council adopted *Playspace Strategy* for a Category 3 Playspace.

Public consultation for the exhibition of the concept plan commenced on Monday 27 March 2023 and ran until Monday 24 April 2023. The project page received 36 visits and 16 visitors contributed to the online feedback form.

WHO WE ENGAGED

The consultation targeted Wingecarribee residents but did not exclude those who visit from outside the area. The consultation was promoted via numerous channels including the Your Say Wingecarribee website, Community Update, Social Media, Council's eNewsletter and signage at Ritchie Park.

WHAT WE HEARD - DESIGN

We would like to thank those who provided feedback on the proposed design for Ritchie Park Playspace. Overall, there was great support from the community for the project, however some of the key items raised by the community are summarised in the table below along with Council's response.

Community Comments:	Council's Response:
The design does not cater for older children (11+).	Level 3 Playspaces generally provide play opportunities for one out of three age groups, however the design will be modified to include a climbing play element suitable for older children.



Requests for additional infrastructure such as; water fountains, bins, bike racks, toilets, basketball courts, wombat crossing and additional footpaths on Suttor Road.

This project is restricted to the renewal of the existing playspace. The playspace design is consistent with infrastructure provided at Level 3 playspaces, in line with the *Playspace Strategy (2020)* and *Parks Strategy (2016)*. A new footpath is included in the design to connect the playspace to the existing footpath on Suttor Road.

Select environmentally friendly materials and more natural elements in the design.

The design incorporates natural elements in sandstone blocks and plantation timber/pine. Other materials used include;

- HDPE plastic sheet materials containing up to 30% recycled content.
- Aluminium platforms constructed from Australian made aluminium which consists of up to 60% recycled content.
- Wetpour rubber cushion layer is manufactured from recycled rubber tyres.

Ensure that shade provision provides adequate UV protection for children.

The shade sail shown in this design has a UVR (Ultra Violet Radiation) block of 92.5%, which offers high protection against the sun.

Improve accessibility of the picnic table, and ensure the playspace ramp and landing are wheelchair friendly.

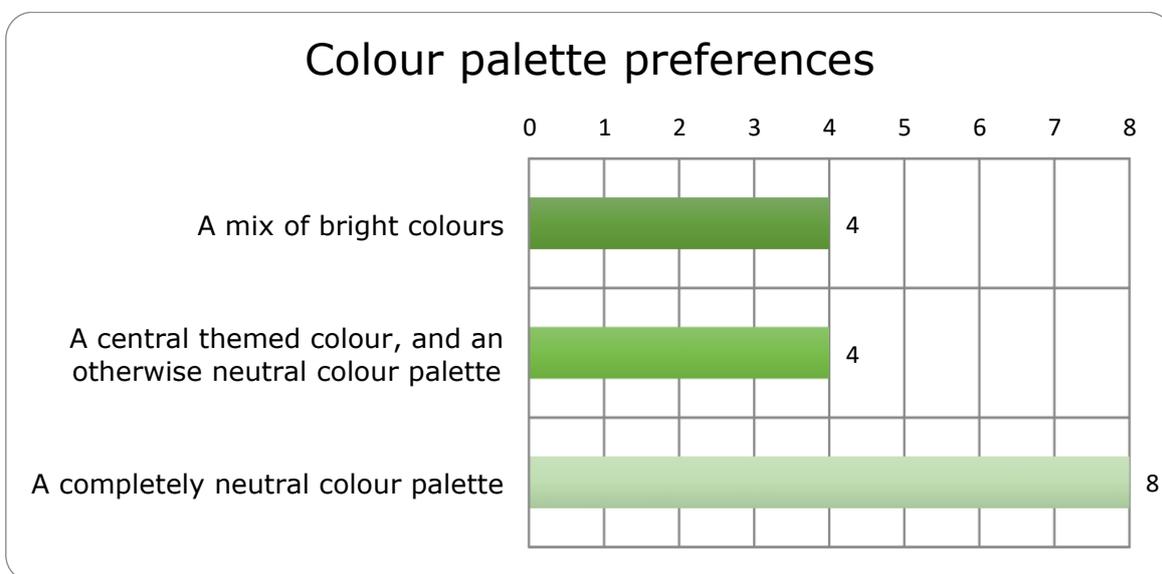
The picnic table has been modified to include a half-seat on the side closest to the playspace, while the landing at the top of the ramp has been expanded with additional play elements to increase play opportunity and manoeuvrability.



Change the 'Find the Bees' play element to 'Find the Tulips'.

This is a great idea that references the Southern Highlands Tulip Time Festival. The design has been modified to include this.

WHAT WE HEARD – COLOUR PALETTE



Where a central theme colour was preferred, blue (2) and green (2) were the popular choices.



WHATS NEXT?

Thank you once again to all the community members who provided us with valuable feedback. A new design is now available which incorporates community feedback. You can view this on the [Project page](#).

Updates will continue to be provided via the Your Say page. If you have any questions about this project or would like to be kept updated on its progress, please email Matt Harvey (Project Manager) via mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

