

# Ross Park, Avoca - playspace consultation

## Engagement Summary

Central  
Coast  
Council

Between 9 August and 30 August 2021 Central Coast Council sought community input on the proposed upgrade to the playspace at Ross Park, Avoca. Some of the current play equipment has reached the end of its functional life and will be upgraded whilst other existing equipment (climbing frame (spider net) and park furniture) will be renovated and retained as part of the upgrade.

The community were provided with information regarding the project and invited to complete an online survey. The questions asked were designed to assist Council plan the redevelopment in a way that reflects the values and preferences of our community.

## Engagement Results

Survey results revealed that:

- **66.8%** of participants visit in the afternoon (2pm-5pm)
- **44.4%** of participants will visit the playspace 1-3 times per week
- **58.5%** of the potential users of the playspace are between 3 and 5 years of age
- The top two priorities for visiting the playspace is playing with children in your care (**82.5%**) and exercise (**7.3%**)

Throughout the consultation period a number of opportunities to provide comments were available, key themes identified in this feedback included:

- **Playspace fencing** – the upgrade will incorporate a fencing replacement to maintain a fully enclosed playspace.

The number of pedestrian gates will be reduced from 3 down to 2 which will formalise entrances and safely direct users to new and existing shared pathways.

- **Relocate playspace/provide better accessibility to surrounding facilities e.g. toilets** - the playspace will be retained in the existing location, in accordance with the Avoca Master Plan.

Council maintain a strong commitment to safety and as part of the works, an accessible pathway has been approved for construction. This will connect the northern playspace pedestrian gate with the existing shared pathway to provide a safe and accessible route to surrounding facilities along the Avoca Beach foreshore.

## How you connected



700 visits to the Your Voice Our Coast website



411 surveys completed



More than 42,700 social media users reached generating 2,893 click throughs and 168 likes, comments and shares.



Over 35,397 stakeholders were kept up-to-date through e-news.

- **Remove sand from playspace/provide rubber softfall** - as part of the upgrade, a combination of certified rubber, synthetic grass and mulch softfall undersurfacing will be incorporated.
- **Water drinking station** - an accessible water drinking station will be installed as part of the upgrade, it will be appropriately located for users of Ross Park and the Avoca Beach foreshore.
- **Shading** - the existing shade structures will be replaced to provide better coverage over the new play equipment.  
This will be complimented by natural shade made available via the retention of existing established trees within Ross Park.
- **Skatepark/pump track** - the scope of work is for a district playspace only and does not allow for the incorporation of a skatepark or pump track.
- **Removal of exercise/fitness equipment** – Council recently installed fitness equipment at Heazlette Park and have received strong community support for the removal of the equipment at Ross Park. Council will remove the equipment from Ross Park which will be retained and installed at another location.
- **Playspace design** – Council received many suggestions regarding the design, equipment and ancillary features of the playspace which will contribute to the vision of this district level playspace.

## What's next?

Further analysis of the feedback received during the playspace consultation is currently being undertaken. These results will then be used to inform the development of a design and construction contract for the playspace located at Ross Park, Avoca.

We will present the final design to the community prior to construction, which is scheduled to commence in March 2022.

Find out more and stay up to date at [yourvoiceourcoast.com](https://yourvoiceourcoast.com)