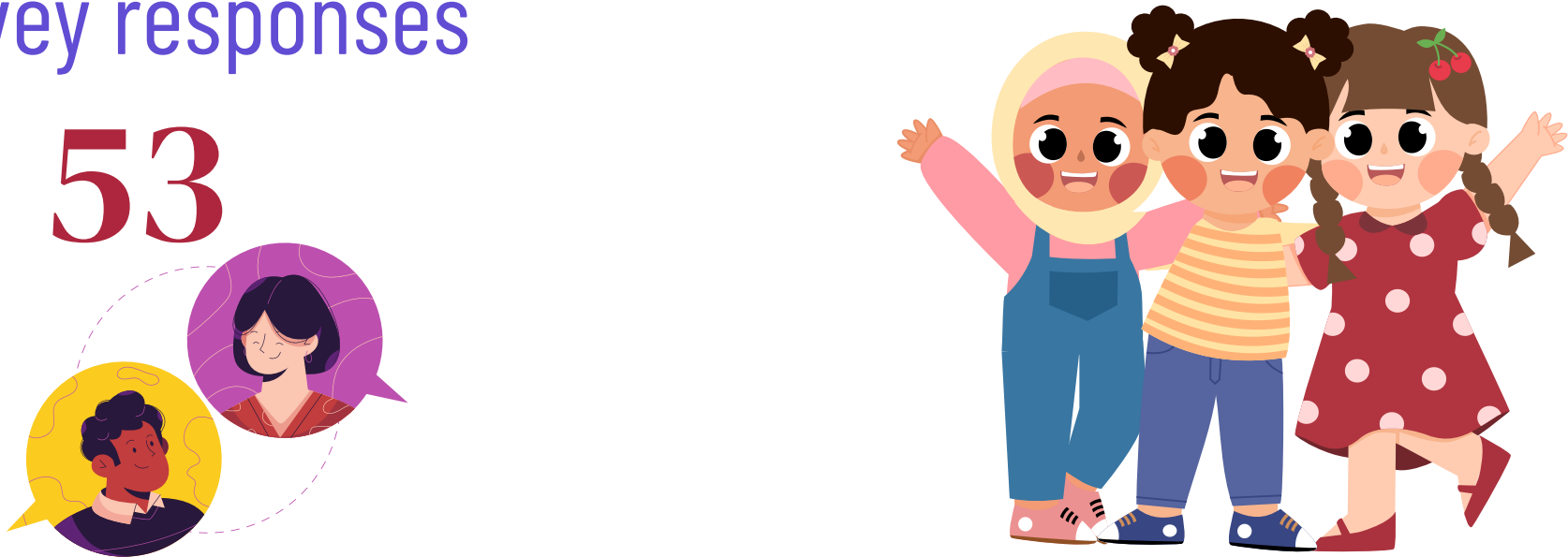


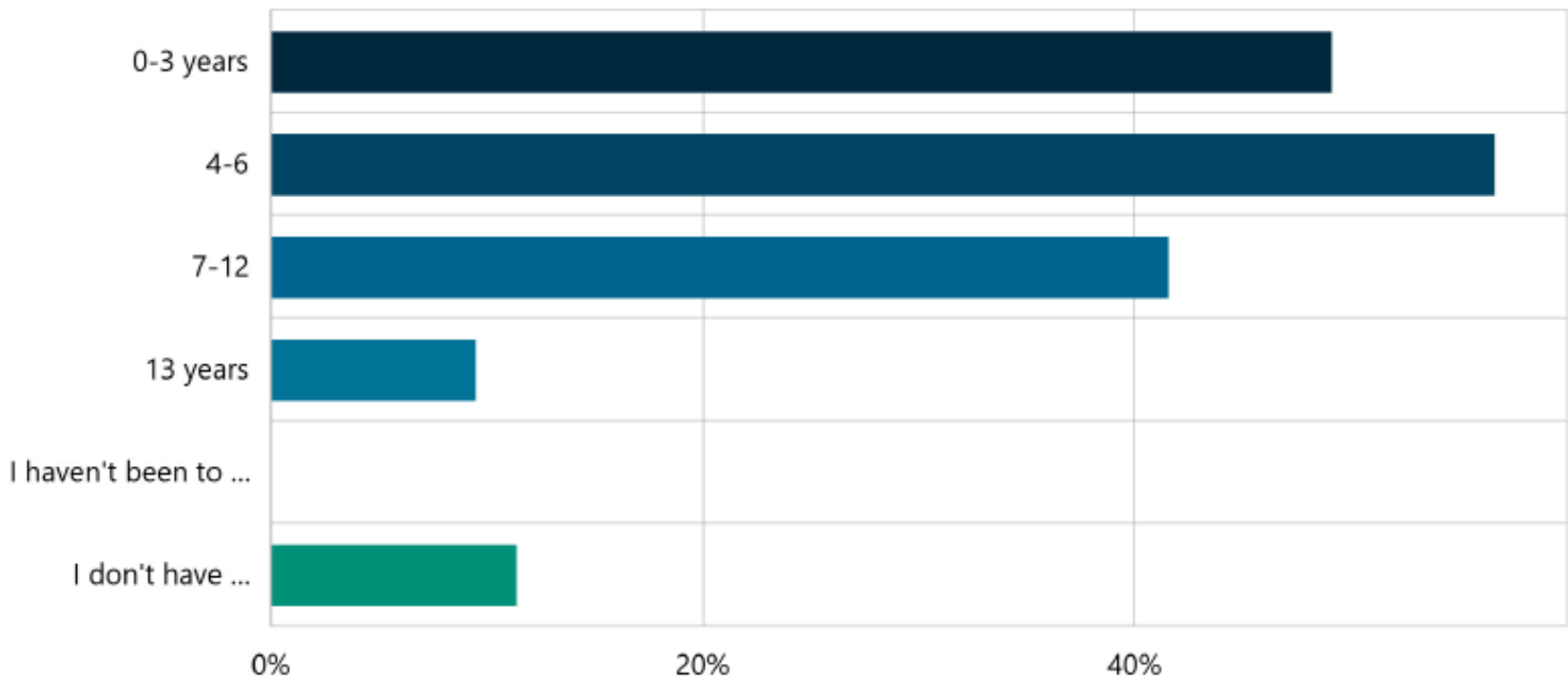
JARRETT MEMORIAL GARDENS PLAYGROUND CONSULTATION

Renmark Paringa Council undertook a community consultation to inform the design and development of the Jarrett Memorial Gardens Playground Upgrade. The objective was to ensure the new playground reflects community needs, supports inclusive play for all ages and abilities, and enhances the overall visitor experience in one of Renmark’s most iconic public spaces. The survey was distributed to local residents, families, and community groups, seeking feedback on how the playground is currently used, what is valued, and what improvements are most desired.

Survey responses



What age(s) are your children/users who play here?

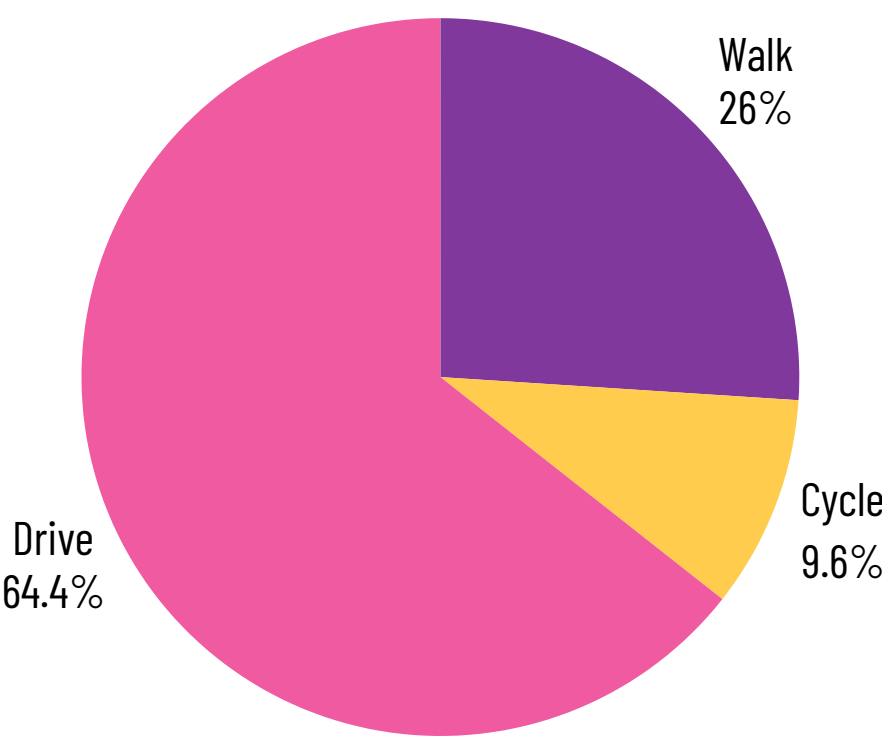


Answer choices	Percent	Count
0-3 years	49.06%	26
4-6	56.60%	30
7-12	41.51%	22
13 years	9.43%	5
I haven't been to this playground	0%	0
I don't have children, but I am interested in contributing to its improvement	11.32%	6

How often do you play here?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
Daily	0%	0
A few times a week	13.21%	7
Weekly	18.87%	10
A few times a month	30.19%	16
Every 2-3 months	9.43%	5
A few times a year	16.98%	9
When visiting the region	7.55%	4
Have never been	0%	0
I choose not to play here	3.77%	2
Total	100.00%	53

How do you get to the playground?



Have you visited the playground and barbecue area for a social gathering i.e birthday party?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes, many times- it's the place to be!	35.85%	19
A few times	45.28%	24
Just once	5.66%	3
Nope, never	13.21%	7
Total	100.00%	53

Feedback for why respondents don't use the playground (summarised)

- Current playground mainly suits young children (0–7 years); lacks challenge for older kids and teens.
- Requests for more adventurous equipment – climbing structures, flying foxes, tall slides, and risk-based play.
- Need for more toddler-friendly options – lower equipment and additional swings.
- Facilities lacking: no water refill station, limited shade (especially over swings), and toilets too far away.
- Playground seen as outdated and not engaging; desire for nature play and inclusive (disability-friendly) equipment.
- Comparisons to better-equipped playgrounds in nearby towns (Barmera, Loxton, Berri).
- Overall wish for a modern, diverse, and well-planned space catering to all age groups.

Feedback on specific accessibility requirements (summarised)

Accessibility:

- Bark surfaces are difficult for wheelchairs, prams, and walkers; strong preference for soft-fall rubber surfacing instead.
- Requests for inclusive equipment suitable for disabled and special needs children.
- Some respondents personally have disabled children and emphasize integration, not separation, of play spaces.

Age Inclusivity:

- Requests to balance playground design—don't focus only on older children; include toddlers and younger age groups.
- Suggestion for a separate toddler-friendly area or safer play zone.

Safety & Layout:

- Suggestion to fence off the picnic/play area due to proximity to the river.
- Fencing around playground generally supported for child safety.

Family Use & Extra Features:

- Requests for BBQ areas, party spaces, and more family-friendly facilities.
- Ideas for small bicycle or road-safety track for kids learning to ride.
- Some interest in interactive or educational features (e.g., chess area, traffic signs).

Feedback on what people like about the playground (summarised)

Safety & Accessibility

- Strong appreciation for the fencing, which allows parents to relax while children play safely.
- Close proximity to the library and BBQ/picnic areas is valued.

Shade & Shelter

- Undercover areas and shaded play equipment are highly praised.
- Provides year-round usability and comfort in hot weather.

Equipment Variety

- Swings, slides, climbing structures, and spinning equipment are popular.
- People like having two sets of swings and play options for different age groups.
- Requests for more monkey bars, flying foxes, and creative/nature play elements.

Design & Environment

- Appreciated for being family-friendly and set in natural, scenic surroundings.
- The open layout and mix of play elements for toddlers and primary-aged children are positives.

Amenities

- BBQ area, seating, and toilets nearby make it ideal for gatherings and parties.

Additional Comments

- Some suggest adding more sunlit spots, educational/nature features, and inclusive equipment.

Feedback on what people don't like about the playground (summarised)

Outdated Equipment

- Play structures are old, faded, and limited in variety.
- Few options for younger children, who get bored quickly.
- Lacks modern, engaging features such as in-ground trampolines or imaginative play spaces.
- Minimal challenge or excitement for older children and teens.

Ground Surface (Bark)

- The most common complaint — bark chips are messy, unsafe, and inaccessible.
- Difficult for prams, wheelchairs, and walkers to move across.
- Causes discomfort (in shoes, scratches, babies eating it).
- Strong preference for rubber soft-fall surfacing.

Accessibility & Inclusion

- Playground is not suitable for children with disabilities; lack of inclusive or adaptive equipment.
- Surfaces and layout make access difficult for carers using prams or mobility aids.
- Some play structures are too high or unsafe for small children.

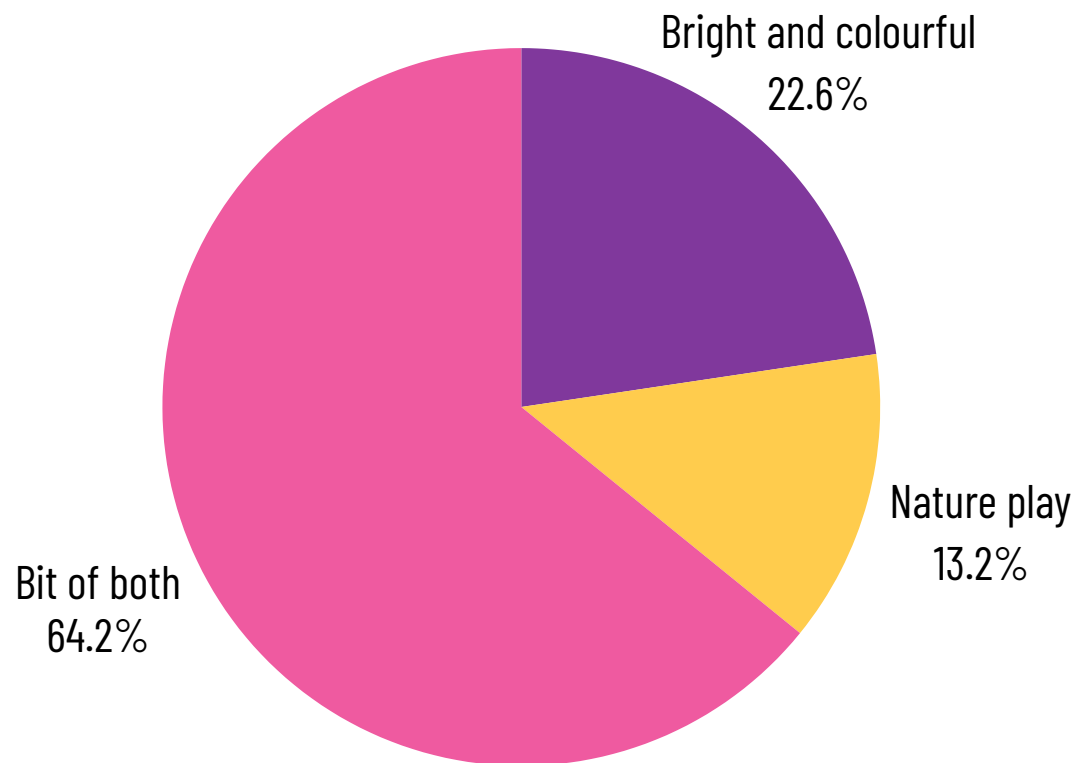
Facilities & Comfort

- Limited seating for parents/grandparents inside the fenced area.
- No water fountain or bins; some suggest adding more shade or extending the roof.
- The play area feels cramped, with wasted open space and poor flow.

Design & Appeal

- Lacks creative, nature-based, or imaginative play areas.
- Visually tired and in need of repainting and modernisation.
- Too small to accommodate multiple families at once.

How should the playground look?



Theme suggestions (summarised)

River / Nature / Local Environment (Most Common)

- “River Murray” or Riverland-themed playground celebrating the river, wildlife, boats, and native plants.
- Suggestions include boats to climb, steering wheels, river animals (pelicans, fish, dragonflies, possums, ducks, Murray cod, etc.), and rocks or logs for nature play.
- Emphasis on natural materials, shade, and fitting the surroundings near the riverfront.

Cultural / Educational Elements

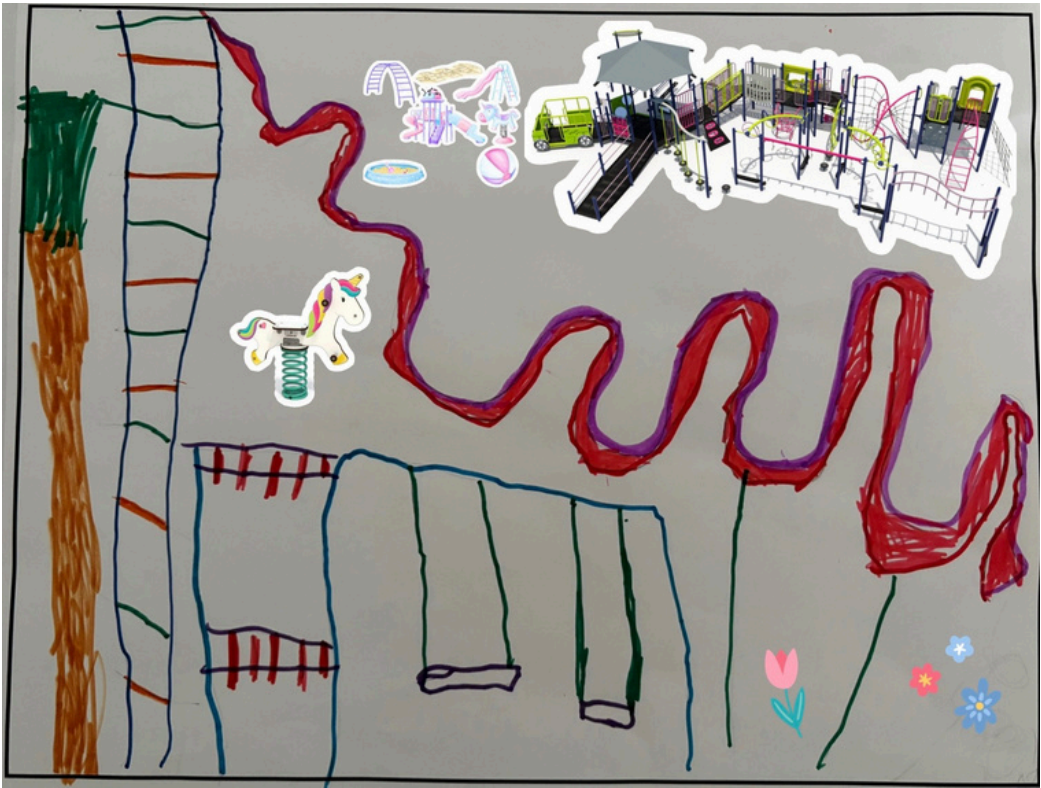
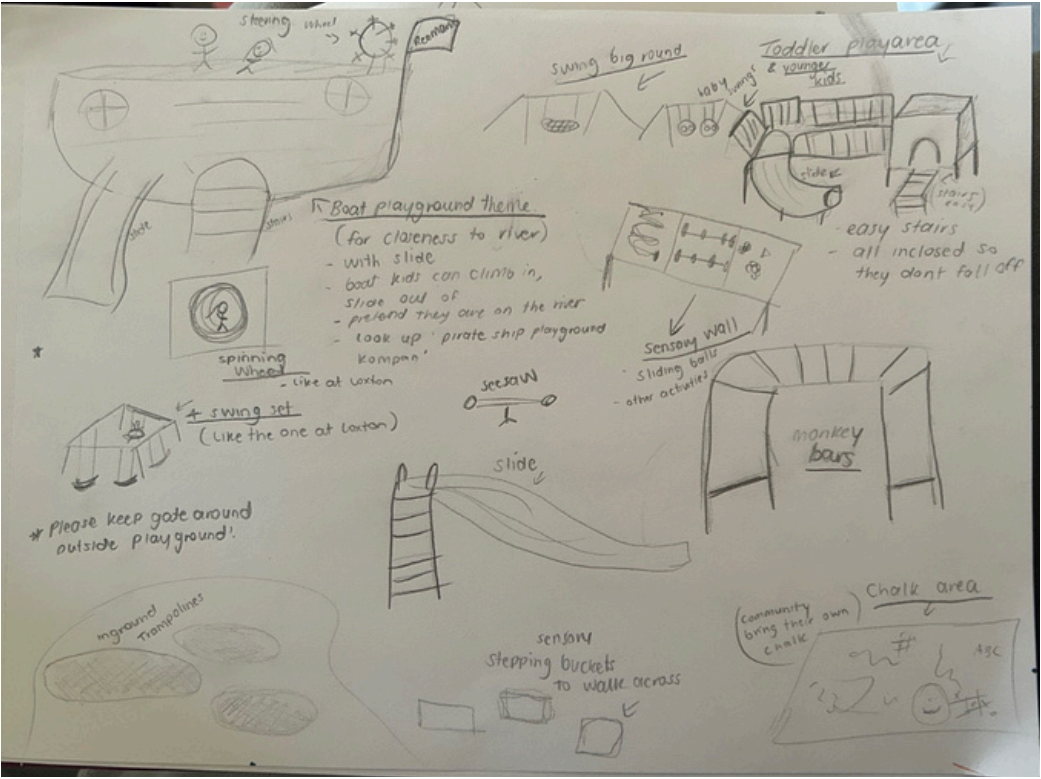
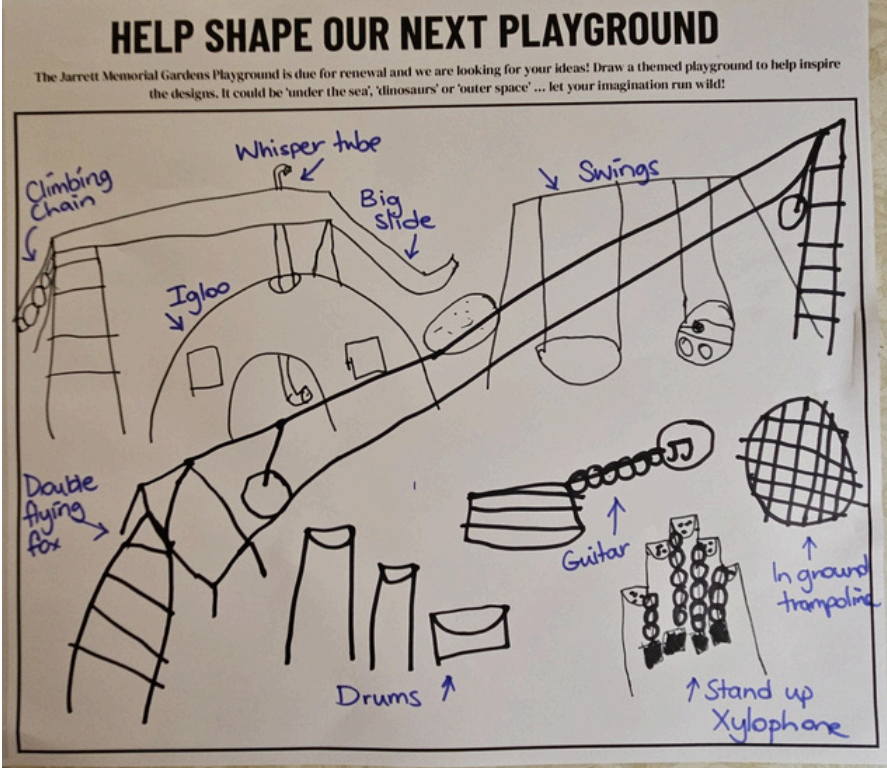
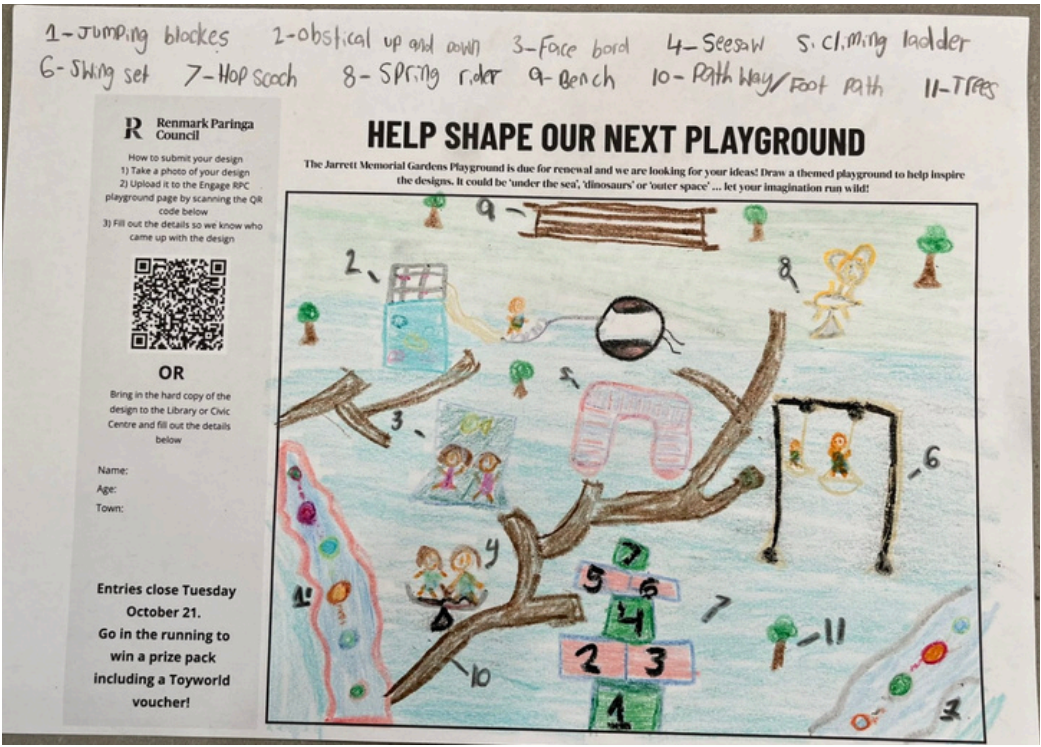
- Incorporate Aboriginal art or storytelling (e.g., the story of Pondi carving the river).
- Focus on learning through play about local ecosystems and cultural heritage.

Other Creative Ideas

- Dinosaur theme – several mentions.
- Book or “Bookworm” theme – inspired by the playground’s proximity to the library.
- Pirate ship / boating theme – imaginative play linked to the river.
- Adventure / risk-taking theme – with climbing structures and challenging features.
- Animal or under-the-sea themes also mentioned.

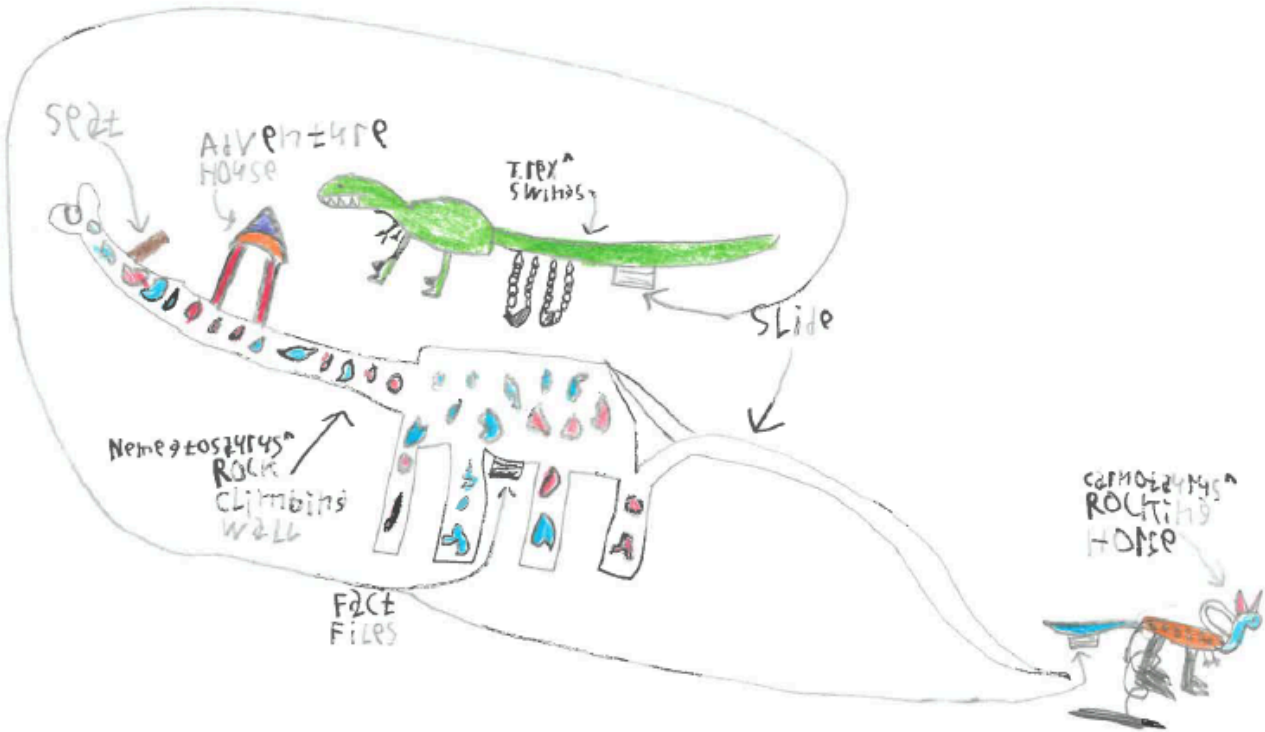
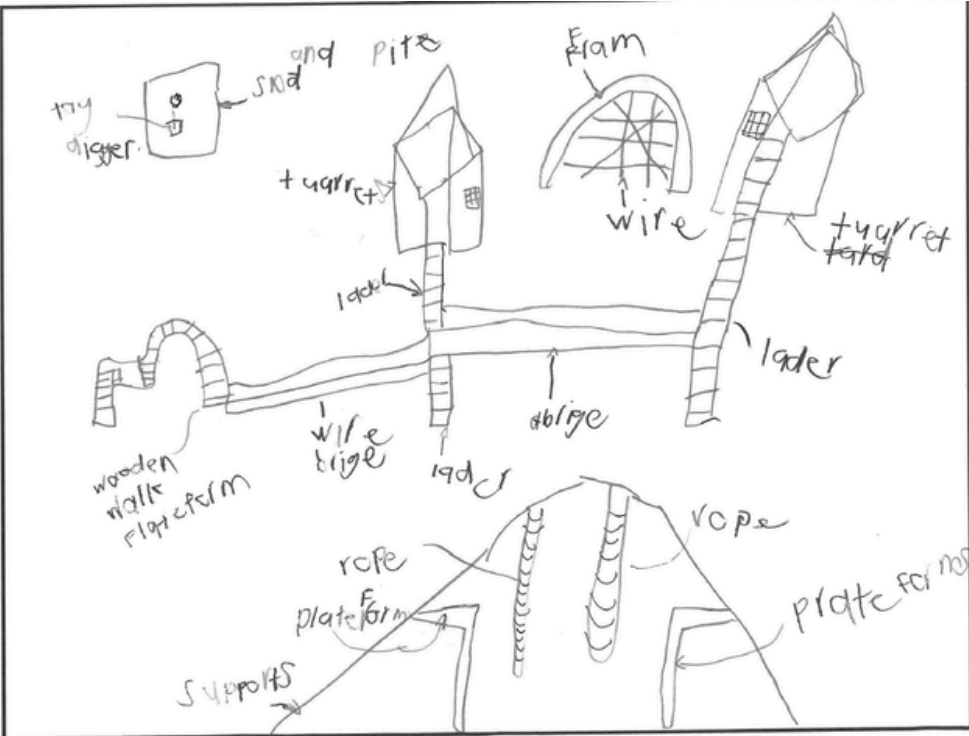
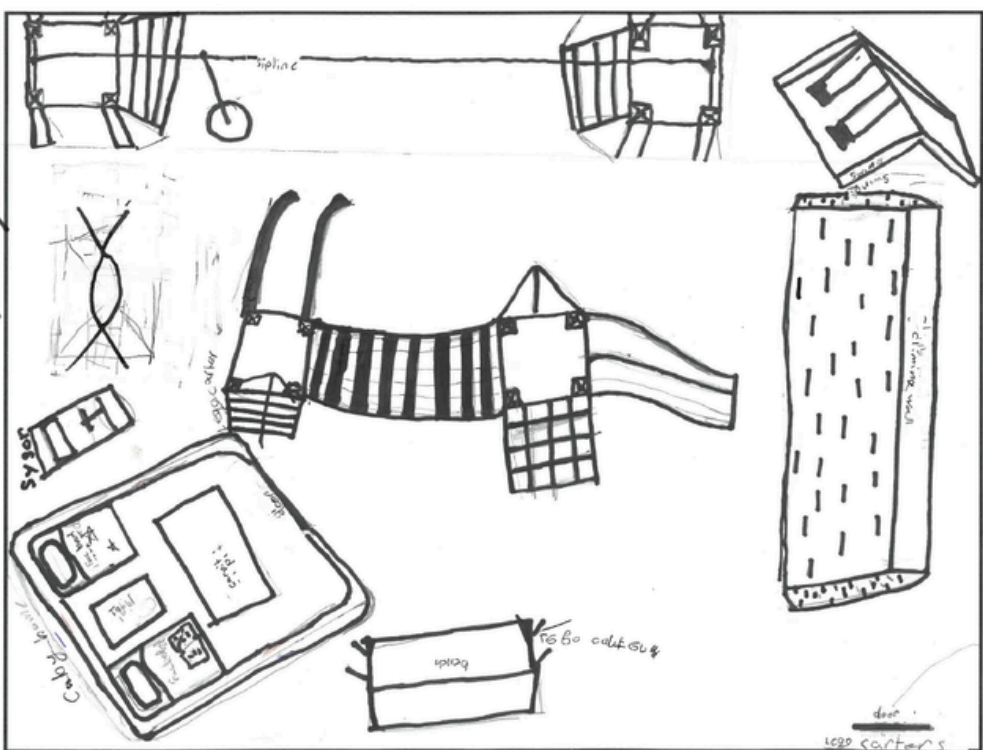
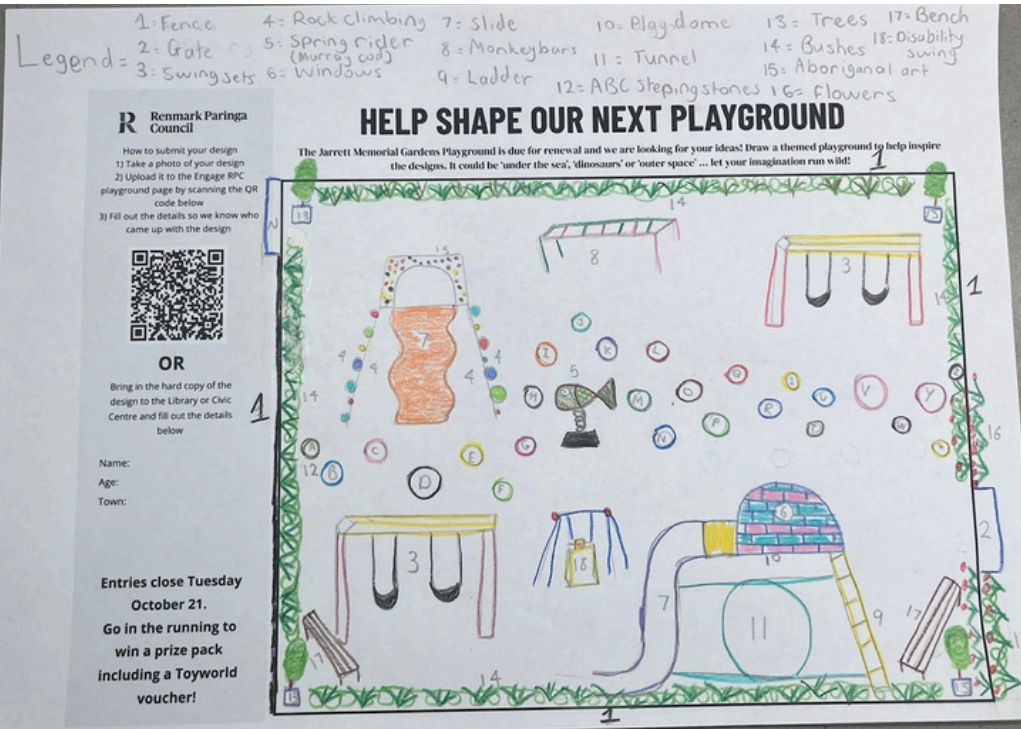
Drawing submissions

As part of the consultation, Council also ran a competition to ask for drawing submissions for a themed playground.



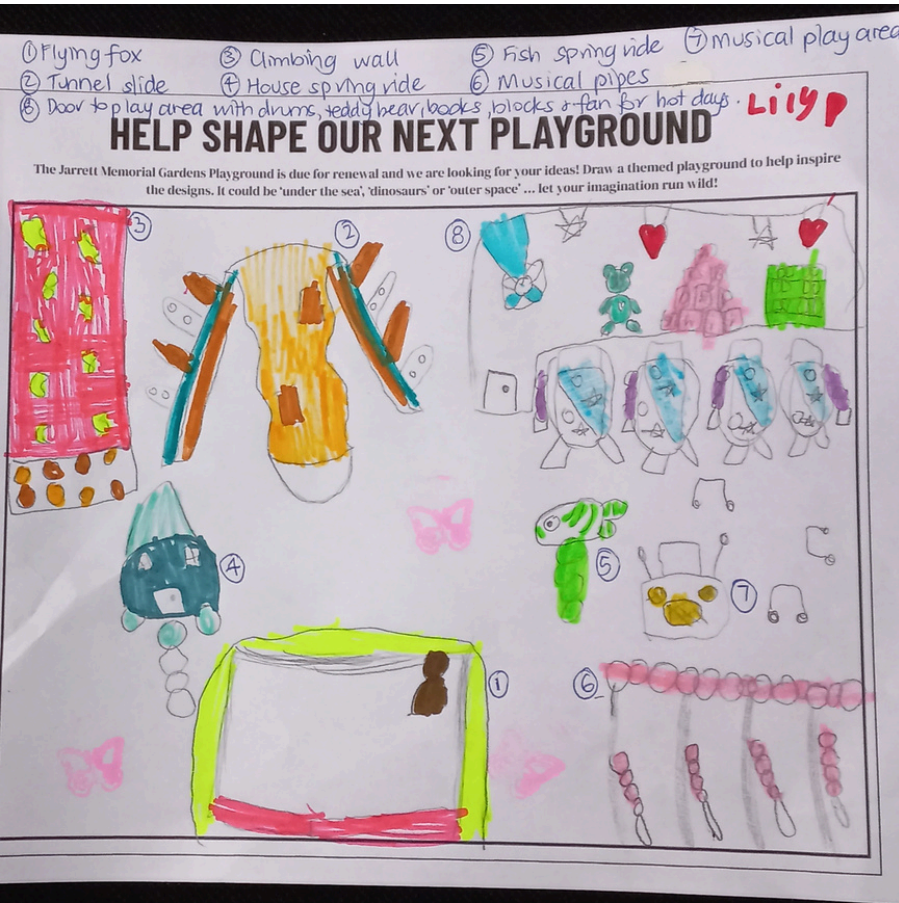
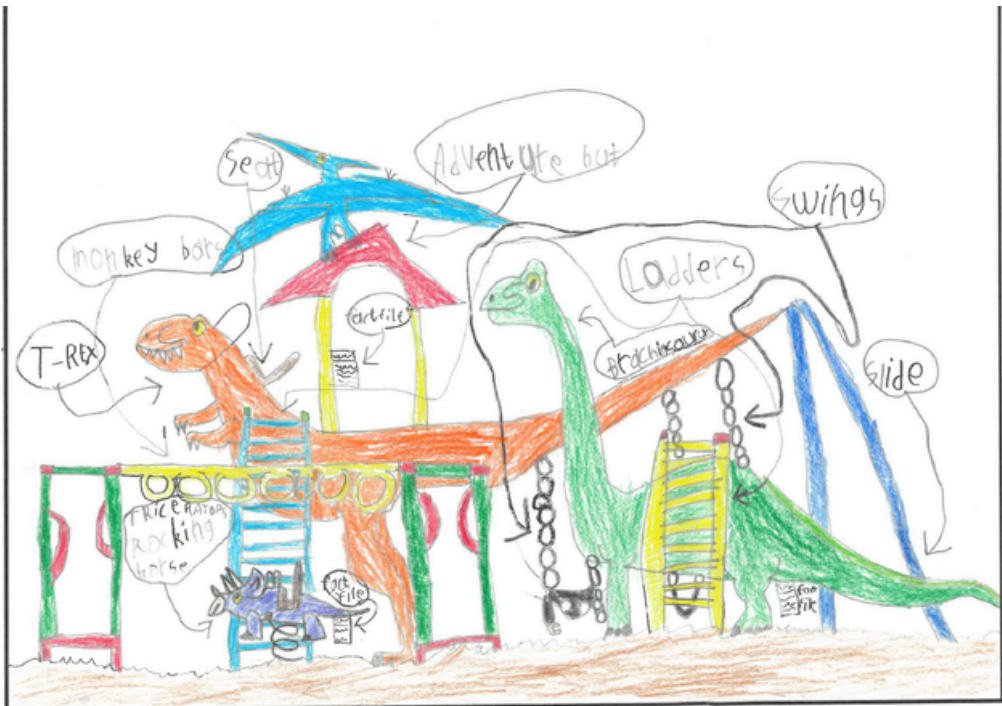
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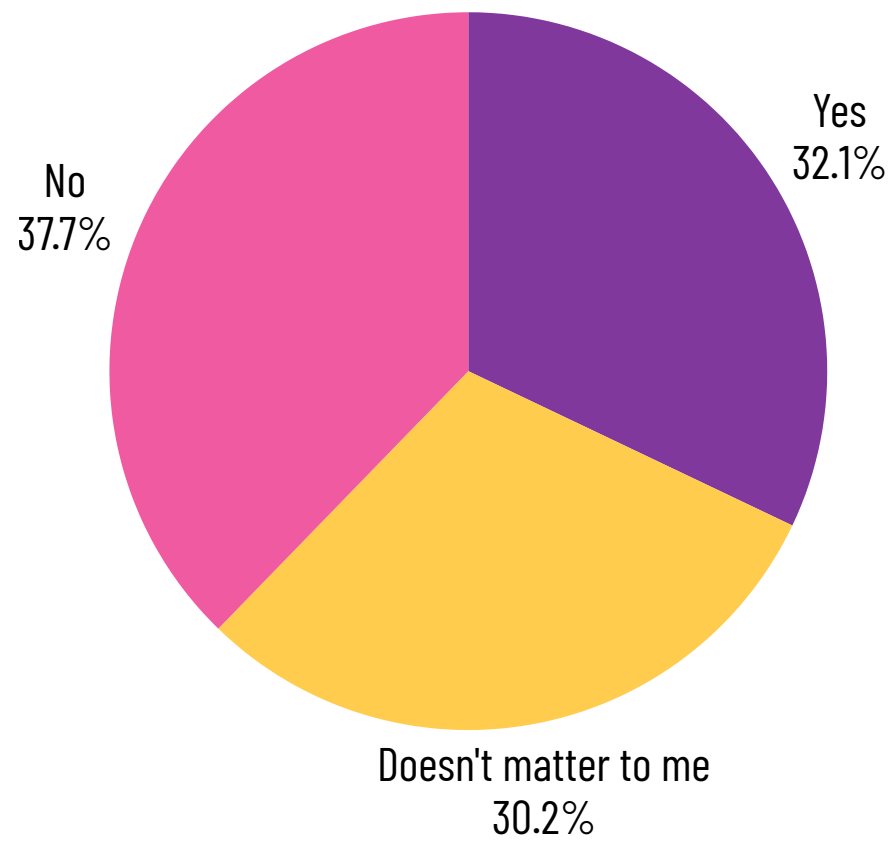


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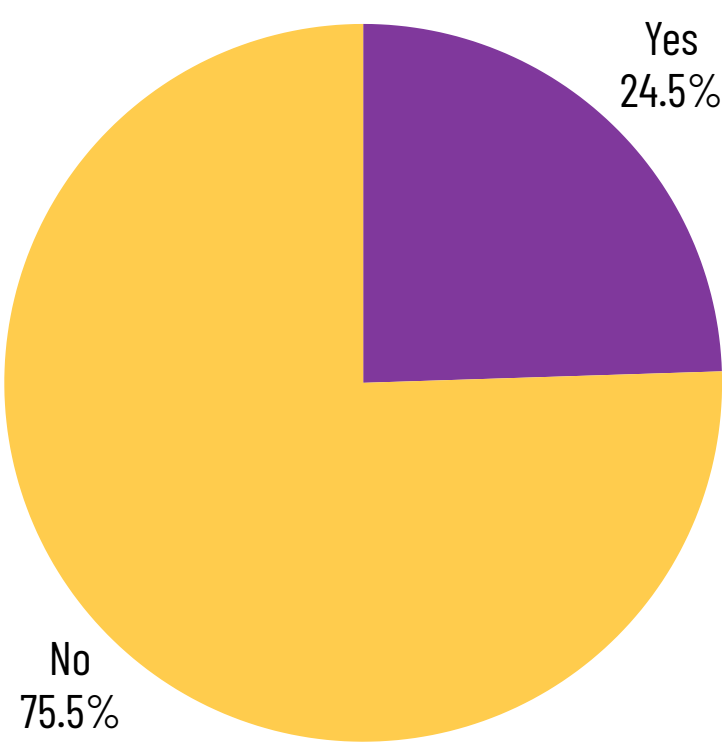
Would you like to see the Lions barbecue area included within the fenced space?



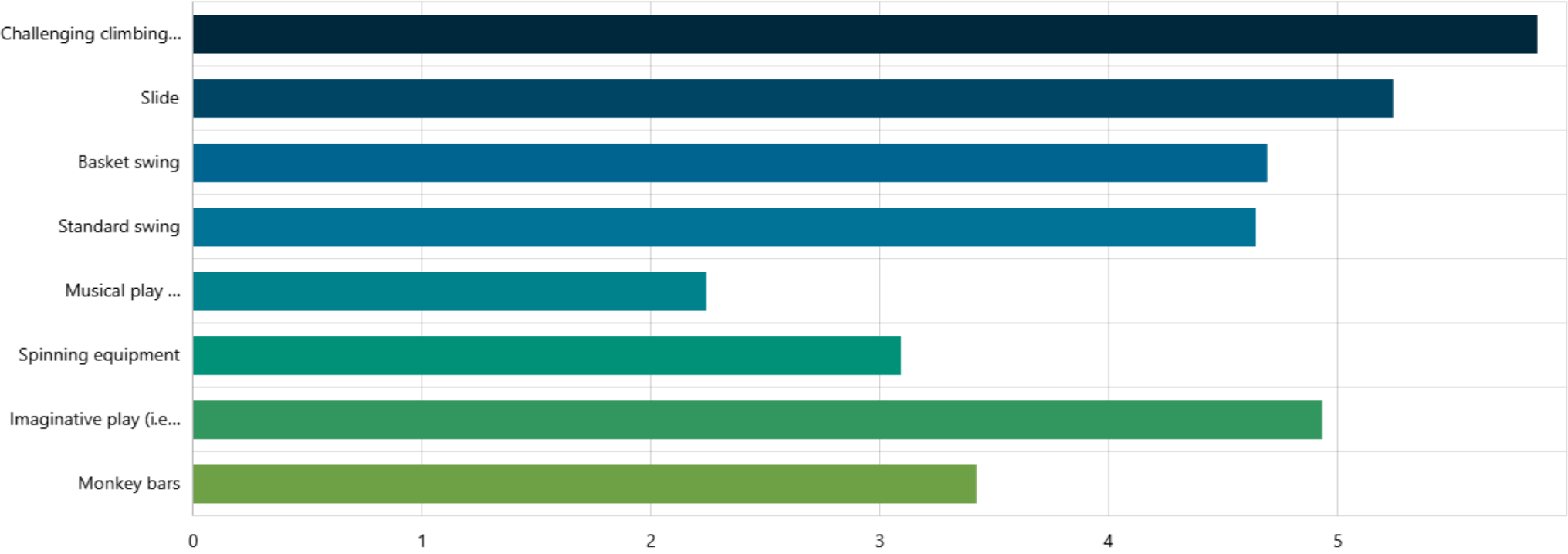
Reasons against (summarised)

- General consensus:
- Prefer to keep the BBQ area separate from the fenced playground for safety and practicality reasons.
- Key safety concerns:
- Risk of young children touching or getting burned by hot BBQs.
 - Children may treat BBQs as play equipment, increasing hazards.
 - Potential for accidental ignition if controls are easily accessible to kids.
- Practical benefits of separation:
- Keeps play and cooking areas distinct, reducing mess (rubbish, food, party decorations) in playground.
 - Allows BBQ to be used by community members without children independently.
 - Easier for adults to monitor food preparation away from children's play.
 - Separates birthday party activities from general playground use.
- Suggestions:
- Place BBQ controls on top to prevent children from turning them on accidentally.
 - BBQ area should be close enough for supervision but outside the fenced playground (like Glassey Park example).

Do you feel there is adequate seating and places to rest at the current playground?



Most preferred equipment



Other suggested equipment

Inclusive & Accessible Equipment:

- Swings for children with disabilities (including “mum & bub” swings).
- Ground-level/inground trampolines for mobility-impaired children.
- Equipment flush with the ground to allow wheelchairs/walkers to access safely.
- Tunnels and sensory walls suitable for children of all abilities.
- Chair-style flying fox with straps for support.

Physical & Active Play:

- Zip lines (regular and larger versions).
- Spiral or larger slides.
- Rope courses, climbing walls, nets, and balance trails.
- Stepping stones, balancing logs, and beams.
- See-saws, spinning wheels, and hamster-style wheels.
- Small basketball ring/half court or other ball play equipment.
- Hills or mounds to climb.
- Vehicles that rock back and forth.

Nature & Imaginative Play:

- Pirate ship-style or themed playgrounds (e.g., Barmera inspiration).
- Sand pits and mud kitchens.
- Cubby houses or huts built from natural materials.
- Nature-based sensory experiences (river animals, carvings, textured surfaces).
- Water play, streams, or water devices for drinking.
- Chalk or artistic areas for creative play.

Multi-age/Open-ended Play:

- Equipment suitable for both younger and older children.
- Adventure-style playgrounds with interconnected elements (slides, tunnels, rope courses, climbing, spinning).
- Areas for imaginative/role play.

Educational & Interactive Features:

- Sensory gardens.
- Interactive or educational elements about nature, local wildlife, or river ecosystem.

Additional suggestions and comments (summarised)

Community Support & Excitement:

- Respondents are enthusiastic about the upgrade, valuing the playground’s central location and regular use, and want it accessible for all ages and abilities.

Design & Features:

- Recommendations include a fully fenced, sheltered playground with separate toddler and older children’s areas, colourful and engaging equipment, challenging yet safe structures, nature-inspired elements alongside traditional play, more seating, drinking water, and adequate shading. Larger slides and climbing equipment for older children were also suggested.

Accessibility & Inclusivity:

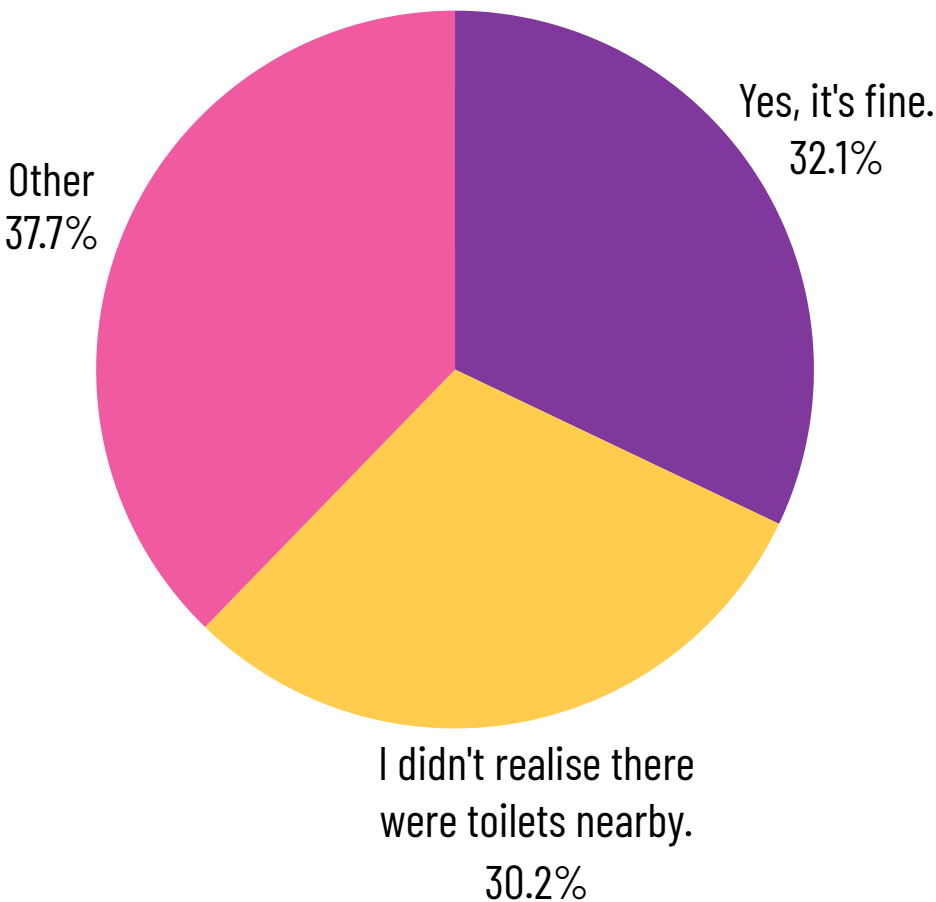
- Ensure play equipment is accessible to children with disabilities, including swings, ramps, and ground-level elements. Sensory and nature-based features for all abilities are encouraged.

Community & Equity:

- Upgrades should consider other areas of Renmark to promote equitable access, with funding prioritised for under-served locations.

Do you feel that access to the nearby toilets is suitable?

As part of the consultation process, Council took the opportunity to ask questions around the awareness and accessibility of the nearby toilets.



Main concerns:

- Toilets are too far from the playground, making access inconvenient, especially for families with young children.
- Distance and location create safety and supervision challenges, particularly for single parents or carers managing multiple kids.
- Toilets are often not visible from the playground, making it hard to keep an eye on children.
- Many find the toilets dirty, poorly maintained, or uninviting.

Additional points:

- One toilet is insufficient for the playground’s needs.
- Toilets are hard to find and not well signposted.
- Some worry about who uses the toilets, noting concerns about family-friendly access.
- Relying on library toilets is problematic if the library is closed.

Suggestions:

- Toilets should be closer to or within sight of the playground (e.g., on the playground side of the library).
- Improve signage and cleanliness to make toilets more accessible and welcoming.

Summary point:

- Families want clean, safe, clearly marked toilets that are close and visible from the playground to better support young children and caregivers.