



Item 7.2 Petition requesting the reinstatement of a Zipline as part of Council Redevelopment at TT Buckingham Reserve, Port Melbourne

A Petition containing 105 signatures, was received via Change.org.

The Petition states the following: -

Hello friends and community members.

I have prepared this petition to seek your support with the TT Buckingham Reserve Redevelopment project. I ask you sign this petition to show your support to reinstate a zip line for the older children that utilize the park.

Following initial enquiries regarding the redevelopment with local residents (parents and children), council submitted in person, at the reserve, an initial design for review, to residents, which included 2 x 25-meter zip lines (one for the younger children and one for older).

However, the subsequent, final design had both these zip lines removed. Due to COVID, council was limited to submitting this final design for presentation/ approval to residents through an online portal only. Some residents were unaware they were required to go online to view/ review final design and consequently were unaware of the zip line removal, until the works commenced in January.

This petition will be used to request that council reinstate the zip line catering to older children to ensure the redevelopment caters for the diversity of children's age groups who utilize this park.

TT Buckingham Reserve has not had a park redevelopment for almost thirty years. During this time the Port Melbourne/ Garden City demographic and population has changed dramatically, with kids of varying ages moving into the area.

If we take for example the unprecedented rise in new local residents last year with the opening of the P. M. Apartments on Plummer St, 1km from TT Buckingham reserve.

Additionally, there are currently two new townhouse developments on Williamstown road; Port Lane (500m from TT Buckingham reserve) and The Evelyn townhouses (1.7km from TT Buckingham reserve).

The redevelopment should encourage the inclusivity of local children of all age groups which is likely to be compromised if the zip line is not reinstated.

Thank you for your support.

OFFICER COMMENT

Officers confirm that a zip line, or flying fox, was included in the original concept design for the TT Buckingham Reserve playground in 2019. The flying fox was subsequently removed from the design following community consultation. Feedback on the flying fox during community consultation was mixed with some residents supportive and others indicating it was not needed, particularly with other parks nearby already providing a flying fox, such as Garden City Reserve within 1.5 km. As a result it was determined to remove the flying fox from the final design.

MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 17 FEBRUARY 2021



The community consultation process for TT Buckingham Reserve playground followed the three stage consultation process:

Stage 1 (Consult) May - June 2019

The purpose of stage one consultation was to engage with the community to gain a better understanding of how they used the park, what they like and dislike about the park and what they would like to see in the next iteration of the design. Feedback from the community was consolidated and combined with relevant data to inform development of the draft concept design for the playground.

Stage 2 (Consult) September 2019

The purpose of the stage two consultation was to seek feedback from the community on the concept design that was developed and produce a final design that considered the feedback received. The draft concept plan provided for consultation included a flying fox. The flying fox was removed from the final design after the consultation, based on the missed feedback received.

Stage 3 (Inform) August 2020

Completion of the final design was delayed by a number of months due to COVID-19 impacts including restrictions on on-site activities. Once the design was finalised, the community was informed via signage in the park and a postcard letter box drop to neighbouring properties. The signs and postcards provided information about the final design for construction and directed residents to Council's website and Have Your Say page for further information. 3D rendered images of the final design were included on the postcards, and signs were erected in the park and on the website which showed all aspects of the final design. An email address and the ASSIST phone number were also provided as an option for residents to contact Council with any questions. Whilst stage three community engagement does not typically involve any on site consultation and this would not have been feasible due to the COVID restrictions at the time.

Project Status

A contract was awarded for the playground construction in late 2020 and site possession for construction occurred in January 2021. A change to the design at this point in time to include a flying fox is not recommended as the project is in construction. Council would incur significant cost to renegotiate or cancel the current construction contract in order to redesign the park. The park upgrade would be significantly delayed and the playground area would likely remain inaccessible to the public whilst redesign occurred.

Council can consider an option to include a flying fox in the park as a separate project. However this would require a new project and budget to complete a feasibility assessment, design and construction. Officers estimate that it would take approximately 12-months to deliver a flying fox as a separate project.

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OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the petition
2. Acknowledges the commitment of the lead petitioner to achieving improvements in their local area
3. Continues to deliver the current playground upgrade at TT Buckingham Reserve
4. Promotes the availability of existing flying fox play equipment at Council parks and reserves through Council's website and newsletter

TRIM FILE NO: F21/7

ATTACHMENTS Nil