

Anglesea Coogoorah Park Playground Renewal



The playground at Coogoorah Park is due for renewal. The playground was constructed in 1999 and designed by Thomas Birrel. The customised Inverlochy ship play element has been the signature attraction in the park but needs to be replaced because rotting timber will make it unsafe in the future.

Why is the playground being renewed?

As the playground was built in 1999, it is in deteriorating condition and is due for replacement. Independent and internal audits have identified that the majority of items in the playground are rated as being in poor condition.

The rating system used in the assessment helps Council decide if the equipment can be maintained, is still safe to play on or has reached the end of its natural life.

Recent assessment has confirmed the poor condition of the ship and its need for replacement or removal. Another contributing factor is the acid sulphate soils in the area as well as the coastal environment with salt laden moisture heavy climatic conditions contributing to dry rot in timber assets.

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The location of the playground adds complexity because the land is often wet meaning the timber materials from 1999 are starting to rot, reducing the safe-use life of the equipment.

Is the current playground safe?

Currently yes, Council is maintaining the playground to safe standards. Quarterly audits are completed to ensure safety and highlight required maintenance. However, we have received advice that we need to replace the playground within the next year or it will be unsafe in the future.

Will the existing Inverloch Ship be replaced?

In 2019 Council engaged with park users, and the community sentiment at the time was to keep the ship theme as the hero element

Council then went to tender seeking quotes from suppliers. All of the quotes were significantly over the available project budget, and with ships that did not match the theme or look of the current park landscape. We sought designs for a like-for-like replacement, unfortunately, the project budget will not enable a custom bespoke replacement.

Can the existing Inverloch Ship be salvaged and placed elsewhere?

Due to the deteriorating condition of the ship, it is not possible to carefully remove the current ship, and then transport and re-build elsewhere. It is unlikely that the ship could be transported without significant damage occurring. Specific Inverloch related items such as the existing signage, can be salvaged and re-used if desired by the community.



What will the new playground look like?

There is an opportunity for the community to develop a new theme for the playground or keep the nautical theme in acknowledgement of the Inverloch. Once we hear from the community, Council will tender this project as a design and construct project, which will allow playground suppliers to submit proposals based on the community theme and available budget,

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What involvement will the community have?

Community members will have opportunity to provide input via on-site listening posts and an on-line survey. These will be communicated via Council's social media channels, or alternatively people can contact the project manager to register interest. Consultation will occur during December.

Playground Equipment Costs

1. Council generally pays the same price for equipment that anyone would pay from a commercial supplier.
2. The playground suppliers have set prices for each particular product and the prices advertised on the websites are generally for the purchase and supply only, and not the installation.
3. There is also the cost of labour to install the equipment, as well as the cost to supply and construct the required footings for equipment (e.g: excavate for footings, supply and install steel and concrete for footings). This generally requires earth moving machinery to undertake also.
4. The plastic type playgrounds are generally the cheapest and timber playgrounds are more expensive due to the cost of the materials.
5. Council has more stringent guidelines around how we spend public funds and our procurement processes are different to private.
6. Examples of costs of some equipment can be found here (insert inks)
7. Council does not mark- up supplier costs

Tenders and Suppliers Process

In regards to a local builder building the Inverloch – When we publicly tender a project, anyone who meets our criteria in terms of required insurances and OHS requirements can submit a tender.

- Most commercial builders would meet these requirements.
- The last version of this project was a specific custom design that was publicly tendered, where anyone (including local builders) were welcome to submit.

- Council only received two tender submissions for that tender and unfortunately Local Suppliers did not submit a tender.
- Custom building is more expensive than off the shelf, as aside from the generic playground equipment parts (e.g. slide, climbing ropes), it needs to be made from scratch, which involves more labour.
- This would be the case with the Inverloch being replaced like for like. A builder would need to build the ship on site, as per plans we had, and also co-ordinate the purchase and installation of the specified play equipment.

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When will these works be undertaken?

The works will be tendered early next year following consultation and the collaboration of requirements.

Further Information

Please contact Kane Rogozik, Project Manager, Surf Coast Shire on 03 5261 0600 or info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au.