

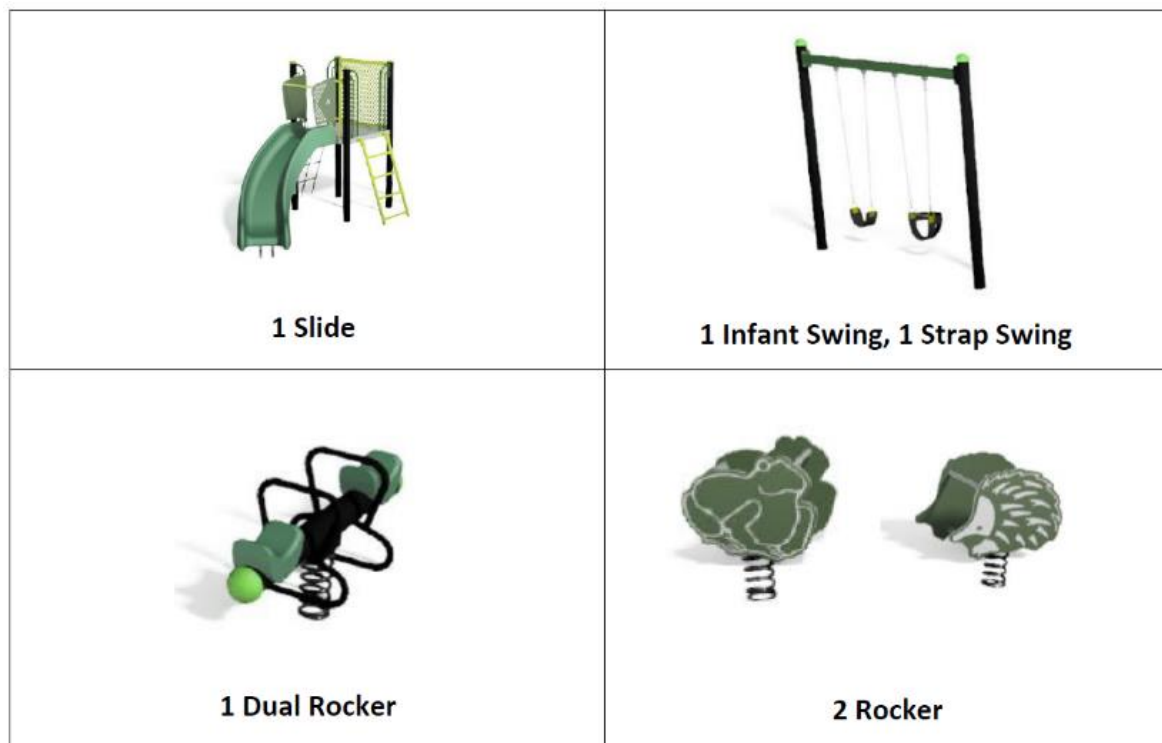


# Community Engagement Report

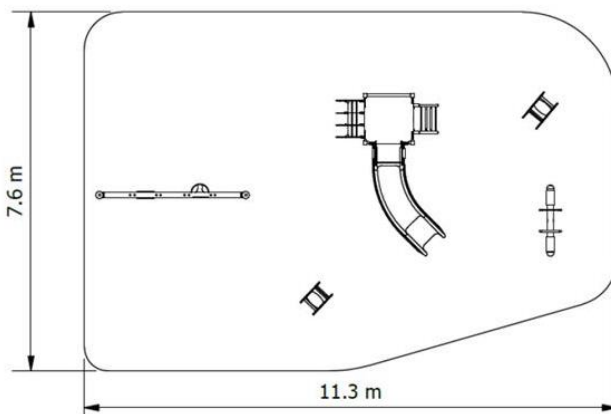
## New Playground at Goughs Bay

### Background

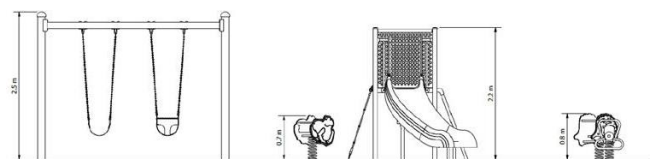
Following the strong community support identified through the Goughs Bay Plan engagement in 2023, the Goughs Bay Area Progress Association secured \$20,000 in funding through the Outlying Community Infrastructure Fund for a new playground in Goughs Bay.



*Equipment*



*Layout*



*Elevation*

Initial engagement was conducted in July 2024 by Council over the proposed location for the playground, with a draft concept plan uploaded for community feedback on Council's Engage platform. This was followed by broader consultation through the Goughs Bay Plan community engagement process in late 2024, which identified that there was some community concern over the proposed playground site on Lake Valley Drive.

Following feedback received from community members in early 2025, two alternative locations for the playground—Lake Valley Drive and Bayside Boulevard—were presented to the community through a direct mailout to all community members, with feedback sought on the preferred location. A total of 279 responses were received to this survey (which closed on 12 May 2025), with 175 respondents supporting a location on Lake Valley Drive and 104 respondents supporting a Bayside Boulevard location.

A community meeting was held on 10 May 2025 at the Goughs Bay Boat Club, to review the responses received up to that date and explore the issues and concerns being raised by the community responses. The meeting was well-advertised and attended by around 25 community members.

After providing background on the playground project and the prior consultation undertaken by Council in mid-2024 and again during the development of the Goughs Bay Plan, Council officers presented consultation results received to date and undertook a 6 Thinking Hats exercise on the playground seeking feedback from all attendees on potential solutions to the issues and concerns raised.

A range of locations was explored along Lake Valley Drive, with the pros and cons of each discussed with around 30 community members who attended the site walk on 31 May.

The final outcome, for which majority (but not total) community support was achieved, was a location along Lake Valley Drive approximately 100 metres to the south of the original site.

This report records the preferred location of the new playground from the community feedback received by Council.

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## Community Feedback

As part of Council's commitment to fostering an inclusive and participative decision-making process, we undertook a comprehensive community consultation initiative. Recognising the diverse preferences in the community for engagement and feedback, Council implemented a multi-faceted approach to ensure all voices could be heard.

A letter (attached below) to the community was sent on 10 April 2025 asking for feedback on the two proposed locations following community concerns raised during the Goughs Bay Plan engagement.

### Goughs Bay Plan: Priority projects and playground location surveys

Can you help identify the top 10 priority actions for the Goughs Bay Plan? Our planning team has been working closely with the Goughs Bay Progress Association and now we are extending the opportunity for feedback to you.

Additionally, we have granted funding for a new playground to Goughs Bay Progress Association. Two possible locations were identified through the Goughs Bay Plan. We want your input on helping us determine the final location.

The locations are:

1. Next to Bayside Boulevard, near the BBQ shelter.
2. Next to Lake Valley Drive, near Anchorage Way.

Images showing the locations are attached with this letter.

There are a few ways you can give feedback on the proposed locations and the proposed list of priority projects:

- Scan the QR code to give feedback via [engage.mansfield.vic.gov.au](https://engage.mansfield.vic.gov.au);
- Email [council@mansfield.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@mansfield.vic.gov.au); or
- Write to us at Private Bag 1000, Mansfield VIC 3724.



We are also holding a community drop-in session to discuss the priority actions proposed in the Goughs Bay Plan and answer your questions. The meeting will be held at the Goughs Bay Boat Club on **Saturday 10 May 2025 from 9 – 11am.**

We hope to see you there.

Kind regards,



**Kirsten Alexander**  
Chief Executive Officer

Playground location option 1:



Playground location option 2:





Council received 279 responses including several email submissions as of 12 May.

**Option 1** – Bayside Boulevard: 104 votes

**Option 2** – Lake Valley Drive: 175 votes

**Option 1: Next to Bayside Boulevard, near the BBQ shelter.**



**Option 2: Next to Lake Valley Drive, near Anchorage Way.**



*Potential Playground Locations*

After sending the letter to the community inviting them to the community meeting at Goughs Bay Boat Club on 10 May 2025, the following themes were extracted from the email responses. Full responses have been included in the confidential appendix B.

Key concerns received via email
Installation of fence/barrier for child safety
Proximity to water (drainage lines and lake foreshore)
Need for shade sail
Need for picnic tables
Type of playground equipment and visual impact
Need for playground (4 responses received against installing a playground)

## Community Meeting

Council conducted a community meeting on 10 May 2025 at the Goughs Bay Boat Club. These sessions provided a forum for residents to ask questions and provide feedback on the playground. As part of the session, Council ran a 6 Thinking Hats Exercise for community members to express their opinions and thoughts towards the playground to see if solutions could be identified to the issues raised.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown to the community members at the Drop-in session on 10 May 2025 (shown below).

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### Background

During engagement on the proposed Goughs Bay Plan in 2023 there was a clear need identified for a new playground in the township.

The Goughs Bay Area Progress Association successfully applied for Council funding via the Outlying Community Infrastructure Fund and received \$20,000.

A concept plan was finalised and initial engagement was undertaken in July 2024, with 4 responses received.

Council then commenced engagement on the final draft of Goughs Bay Plan including the playground location and received feedback on social media on the proposed site.

Following review of this feedback, two possible locations have been identified for the new playground and community members have been asked to identify their preferred site.



Slide 1

### Playground plans

Item	Amount
Infant swing	1
Strap swing	1
Rocker	2
Dual rocker	1
Slide	1



Slide 2

## Proposed Locations

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**Option 1: Next to Bayside Boulevard, near the BBQ shelter.**



**Option 2: Next to Lake Valley Drive, near Anchorage Way.**

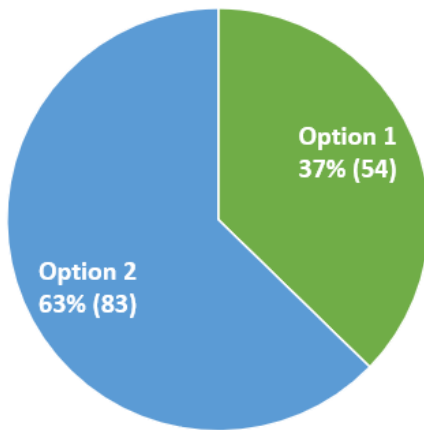


Slide 3

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## Engagement Results

Responses



	Responses
<b>Option 1</b> Next to Bayside Boulevard, near the BBQ shelter	104
<b>Option 2</b> Next to Lake Valley Drive, near Anchorage Way	175
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>

Slide 4



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## Key concerns received via email

- Installation of fence/barrier for child safety.
- Proximity to water (drainage lines and lake foreshore HWL).
- Need identified for shade sail.
- Need for more picnic tables.
- Type of playground equipment and visual impact.
- Need for a new playground (4 responses received against installing a playground).
- Any other concerns?



Slide 5

**Six Thinking Hats** is a tool that can help with looking at problems from different perspectives one at a time to avoid confusion from too many angles or concerns crowding the thinking. Each hat represents a unique perspective (e.g., facts, emotions, creativity, etc.). This process encourages clearer and more structured problem-solving.

A summary of the results from the six thinking hats exercise are shown as follows. A full list of responses has been included as Appendix A.

Summary of Six Thinking Hats	
Blue - Process	The main agenda of the meeting is to decide what's the right location for the toddler's playground.
Red - Feelings	The feelings were that the community is frustrated, disappointed, confused with the long process, Others were passionate and excited for the new playground to be constructed for the kids to enjoy.
White - Facts	The facts were that the current location has safety concerns and that a better location could be explored. The community was split on the preferred location.
Yellow - Benefits	The benefits of building this playground were more fun things for kids to do, will attract more tourists to come to Goughs Bay, more community activities to do, etc.
Green - Creative	Many creative options were discussed such as upgrading the existing picnic hill playground, inclusion of car parking, exploring a better and safer location, etc.
Black - Caution	The community raised safety issues such as fencing, traffic, vandalism, Graffiti, etc.

Approximately 25 people attended and discussed what the advantages and disadvantages are of both playground locations.

The feedback from this meeting included:

The attendees agreed to the construction of the toddler's playground on the Lake Valley Drive side because there is already two existing playgrounds, BBQ shelters, and public toilets on the opposite side of the lake. Installing the new playground on the Lake Valley Drive side was considered a more balanced and equitable option.

The initially proposed location on Lake Valley Drive was not preferred by the community as it was too close to the unofficial boat ramp and the road.

The community also proposed to go for a site walk along the Lake Valley drive to find a safer spot which is closer to the foot path as well as a safer distance from the road and the boat ramp, this area also has screening from neighbours' views.

from this, it was decided that a site walk through would be conducted to further discuss the location of the playground.

A letter was sent to all community members on 14 May 2025 inviting them to a site walk along Lake Valley Drive.

Enquiries: Fabian Rukshan  
Telephone: (03) 5775 8555  
Our Ref: E11179

14 May 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,  
**Join Our Site Walk Along Lake Valley Drive**

We invite you to join us for a site walk to review location options for the new playground proposed for Goughs Bay.

In our recent engagement over two proposed locations, we received 137 responses including several email submissions. There was near unanimous agreement that a playground is needed. 83 respondents preferred Lake Valley Drive and 54 preferred Bayside Boulevard.

About 25 community members joined our community drop-in session at the Goughs Bay Boat Club on 10 May to discuss the playground. We held a "thinking hats" exercise to work through concerns and advantages for both locations. Participants at the session agreed to proceed with the Lake Valley Drive option, and that a site walk should be arranged at **1pm, 31 May** to look at options for moving the playground site along the road to a location which has better support from the community.

There was also a strong desire for Council to look at fencing and car parking/access as part of the final design and siting review.

We encourage all community members to join us from **1pm, 31 May meeting near the water tank** on Lake Valley Drive foreshore to review possible locations along Lake Valley Drive and to discuss any other concerns.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me or phone on (03) 5775 8555. You can also visit [engage.mansfield.vic.gov.au](https://engage.mansfield.vic.gov.au) for updates on the project.

Yours sincerely



**Fabian Rukshan**  
Coordinator Capital Works

## Site Walk

On 31 May 2025 Council officers (including the CEO, Manager Operations & Capital Works and Project officers) met with community members to conduct a site walk to further discuss the future playground location. This activity allowed community members to engage directly with council representatives, share their insights, and discuss their concerns in an informal, yet productive, setting. Approximately 30 community members attended and walked along Lake Valley Drive to identify a more appropriate location for the playground.

Several alternative sites were discussed; however, some of these locations were not supported by the community due to concerns such as proximity to the water, potential obstruction of residents' views, distance from the main road, and lack of natural shade.

The previously proposed location on Lake Valley Drive was deemed unsuitable, as it was located too close to the boat ramp and provided quick access to the lake—posing a safety risk for young children.

A final location was selected that provided natural screening from existing trees (preserving residents' views), ample shade, and a safe distance from both the lake and nearby roads—making it a safer environment for playground users.

The majority of community who attended the site walk were supportive of this final location.

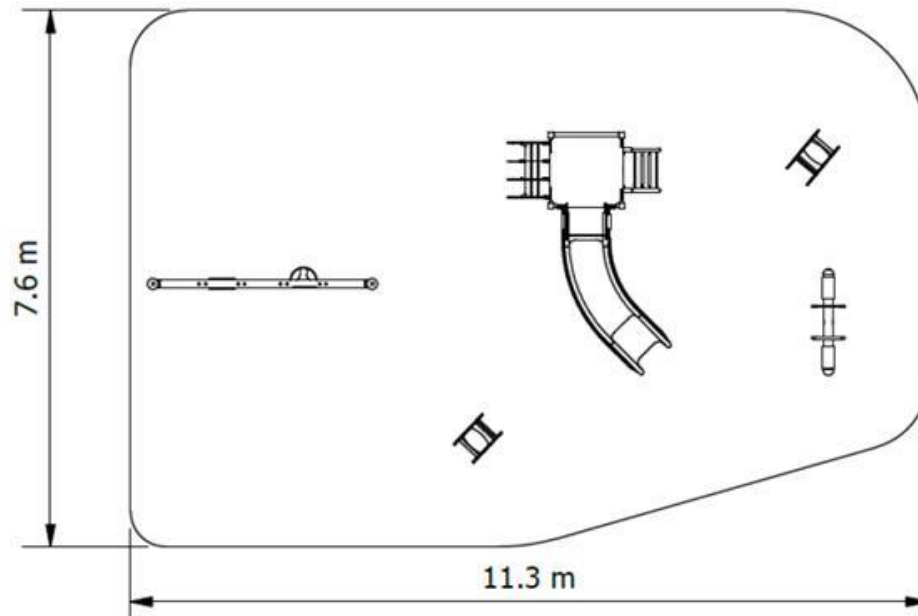
The image below shows the final location, recommended for construction of the playground.



*Playground location.*

Plans for the proposed playground are shown below

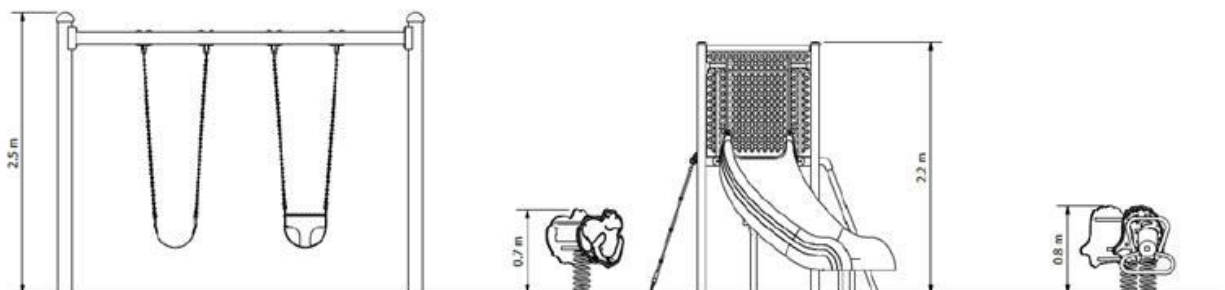
### Playground Layout



Surface Area = 79.7m<sup>2</sup>

Perimeter = 34.7m

### Playground Elevation Plan





## Goughs Bay Playground Equipment



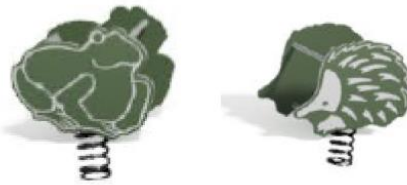
**1 Slide**



**1 Infant Swing, 1 Strap Swing**



**1 Dual Rocker**



**2 Rocker**

## Update to Community on Final Proposed Location

following the final community engagement sessions and compilation of all feedback received, Councils Engage Page was updated and a final letter was sent on 16 June by email to community members who had registered or provided feedback with the final location.

Copy of the final letter emailed 16 June is attached below.

16 June 2025



Dear Resident/Rate Payer,

### Outcome of Community Site Walk for the Proposed Goughs Bay Playground

I am writing to update you on the selection of a location for the proposed new playground in Goughs Bay.

As agreed at the community meeting held at the Goughs Bay Boat Club on 10 May, a site walk was arranged to discuss potential playground locations along Lake Valley Drive. This was advertised to all community members through email and letter drop and was attended by approximately 30 community members on 31 May.

A new location on Lake Valley Drive was identified for the toddler playground, which was located further away from the lake access point, improving safety for young children, while addressing the concerns raised by community members during the initial engagement.

Issues considered during the site walk included proximity to water, the potential impact on neighbouring properties (in terms of views etc), proximity and access from walking paths and roads and opportunities for natural shade.

Following consideration of these factors, a new location for the playground on Lake Valley Drive achieved majority support (refer plan below), which is proposed to go to Council for endorsement on 24 June. This location was selected due to the natural screening on both sides by existing trees which will help to preserve residents' views and provide some shade for the playground. The proposed location is also further from both the lake and nearby roads, however, is easily accessible from the existing shared path.



New playground location indicated in yellow

Council would like to thank the Goughs Bay community and the Goughs Bay Area Progress Association for collaborating with us to determine the best location for Goughs Bay's new toddler playground. The plans for the new playground can be seen on the Engage Mansfield website.

For more information, you can contact Council on (03) 5775 8555 or at [council@mansfield.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@mansfield.vic.gov.au).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Maple'.

**Nick Maple**  
Acting Executive Manager Capital Works and Operations

## Appendix A: Six Thinking Hats Exercise Responses

Blue Hat - Agenda
Playground for small children
opposition to proposed location of playground
here to organise where to put the playground
because of disagreement on position of playground
location of playground
To get a solution to the problem
Playground location issues
to decide
will our votes count
to discuss developing ideas
Red Hat - Feeling
Worried about adults
Needed for community
passionate
want young children to enjoy
generally, a playground is a good thing for kids
happy to see progress in Goughs Bay
great idea for entertaining kids
Frustrated
childing
annoyed
disappointed
very petty
Confused
White Hat - Facts
Homeowners not wanting the playground on their side
some homeowners are concerned about the activity on their house
toddler playground so there will be 100% supervision
safety concerns
two locations for playground
the area is safe and it's not busy
proximity to the potential risks to the children
accepted guidelines and standards
Research about how many toddlers are there in Goughs Bay
can we look at 3rd option



**Blue Hat - Agenda**

no decisive agreement in the community

the 2 locations do not satisfy

not everyone voice is heard

mostly holiday visitors use playground

**Yellow Hat - Benefits**

Fun for kids

Great new facility for kids

kids having fun

community activities

residents agreeing to build it as a community

extra facilities for the community

lots of shade and area for kids to enjoy

picnic hill away from the traffic

less pressure on the busy side of the lake

**Green Hat - Creativity**

2 Playgrounds with easy access both sides of the lake

Male Goughs Bay Adults only community

Consider Local groups more than visitors

Additional infrastructure on the existing playground

promote the natural environment along the existing paths

Simplify process timeline

Include car park

memorial wall for celebrations

Education to the people what the playground will look like

Split the equipment for both sides

Upgrade picnic hill playground

Explore other sites for playground

Children will be happy and can be used during school holidays

Don't listen to 3 people listen to the community

engage community for new ideas

need more feedback on actual toddler numbers

why only 1 option to choose could be more

Make playground adults only community

**Black Hat - Caution**

Fencing Bollard to protect children from vehicles

Fencing Bollard to protect children from vehicles

traffic and safety for the toddlers

### Blue Hat - Agenda

Damage Vandalism

Cars driving by next to them

Fencing Bollard to protect children from vehicles

Shade for summer

Safety parking issues

Boat ramp close by

Need BBQ and Toilets

Safety is the most important

Speed the vehicles going in boat ramp

Safety for children

Graffiti

Breakage

area will get developed to bigger infrastructure like BBQ, toilets, parking

money could be spent on more usable things

present site divides the community

Doesn't matter where you put it the community will object

No Risks

just do it

Its affordable as its volunteer labour

## Appendix B: Engagement Results

*Confidential*