



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Media Release
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Mount Barker set to embark on its biggest play space yet

A premier regional reserve in Mount Barker is set to have its play space updated and improved.

Mount Barker District Council has released the final concept plan for the play space upgrade for Keith Stephenson Park following community engagement in March and April this year.

Over 200 people completed a survey provided by the council and many more gave feedback at a family fun day at the park in April.

Shade structures and fencing around the children's playground were the two most common suggestions from the community, both of which have been included in the final design.

Other suggestions added to the design are water play features, more seating near the play area and seating that can accommodate multiple group gatherings in the park.

Several community members with lived experience of disability have been meeting with council and the design team since May to provide feedback around access and inclusion to the play space.

There was a strong desire from this group that there be a variety of different play features and experiences so that there is something for everyone.

During a safety assessment of the proposed site for the expanded play space, undergrounding of the existing overhead power lines and an upgrade to the switchboards was found to be necessary.

There was other useful feedback on elements of the park that were outside the scope of the project to upgrade the play space. This feedback will be taken into consideration for future park planning.

The council endorsed the final concept plan and revised budget of \$1,290,000 at its August meeting.

Completion of the upgrade of the play space is expected to be by mid-2023 and will be funded from the council's asset renewal budget, indirect developer contributions reserve and from the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) grant.

“Council thanks everyone for their feedback. Keith Stephenson Park is so essential. It's a place that is just used so much and to have an updated play space will be just so welcomed by parents and caregivers who take the children to play there,” Mayor Ferguson said.

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