



Support by the VHDPA for Hall Park Upgrade

Following issues with the initial bike track submission, a multi group team was set up in early May 2019 to progress a new proposed upgrade of the Hall Park. The group consisted of:

- Naomi Lee – Policy Lead, Better Suburbs, TCCS
- Dr Renee Duarte – Manager, Open Space Planning and Policy, TCCS
- Anna Chauvel – Landscape Architect
- Graeme Bryce - Bike Track representative
- Darren Stewart – Track builder
- Phil Robson - Hall Rotary
- Olga Minion – VHDPA
- John Starr – VHDPA.

The group met on a number of occasions with its main aim to progress the Hall Park Upgrade whilst ensuring community endorsement.

Early on community consultation was identified as a critical aspect of the success of the upgrade. Landscape Architect Anna Chauvel from Place Laboratory developed a draft design concept based on the various bits of community input that had already been received. (See map at end of this report)

An initial pop up exhibition was held at the Hall election polling booth on Saturday 18 May. The TCCS Group spoke to approximately 50 people on that day, with 42 adults and children placing votes on their favourite activities in the play space.

At the Hall school bus stop on Gladstone Street on Thursday 6 June another pop up was held with approximately 90 people, including 83 children aged from approximately 4 – 16 years voting on their favourite activities in the play space.

Overall the adventure trail and rope swing were the most popular activities voted for at the election popup, whilst the rope swing and rope climbing elements were the most popular activities voted for by the children at the school bus pop up.

A final consultation was held on Wednesday 3 July outside the Hall Post Office to present the draft design concept to the community. Posters were placed around the village inviting residents to attend. Three people from TCCS attended and provided plans and information for those Hall residents who came along and voted. Approximately 60 people attended on a very, very cold night. Questions on the night centred on:

- Length of track
- How will the upgrade be used
- How has the community had a say
- Who is funding this
- How will we recognise Aboriginal heritage
- What is the timeframe
- Who is responsible for maintenance

Feedback on the plans was very good and all in attendance were impressed with what was to be done.

The process then moved to Heritage and to ACT Planning for approval. The Heritage consultant circulated the Statement of Heritage Effects report to the Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAO). The document was open for comment by the RAOs for two weeks. The report found that there were no impacts on Aboriginal heritage from the nature play space and the submission moved to the Heritage Council for approval.

Plans at that time were for the upgrade to commence during the school holidays in September/October and to be completed by December.

As per the relevant legislation, the Heritage Council has requested further information of the works being proposed as under the Heritage Act they require a scaled, detailed plan of the site regardless of the type of project proposed. Landscape Architect Anna Chauvel was asked to prepare this for TCCS. The Council also asked for further information about the construction methods for the track. The TCCS Heritage consultant sees this as a positive sign and demonstrates the rigour of the Heritage approvals process.

This means that the start date for construction has been delayed.

TCCS has advised that the detailed plan and information on construction methods has been provided as per legislation. They re-submitted the application on 15 October 2019 and the application is currently with the Aboriginal Taskforce for review. We will hopefully hear of the outcome in the next couple of weeks.

