

26 November 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) – reference: 7672046 (OIR 2021-120)

I refer to your information request we received on 30 October 2020 for the following in relation to the current refresh programme for local playgrounds:

1. *What evaluation is being carried out after the playground upgrades are carried out?*

There is no formal evaluation carried out after the playground renewals are completed.

a. *Are playground users being surveyed after the revamps to track their feedback and their satisfaction with the new equipment?*

As above, there is no formal evaluation undertaken specifically about the playground renewals.

b. *Are user numbers being recorded, to see if user numbers are increasing, decreasing or staying the same after the revamps?*

We are not able to record user numbers of playgrounds.

c. *How are the evaluation outcomes made publically available?*

As we do not undertake formal evaluation after the playground renewal, there is no information to make publically available. However, the information gathered during the engagement prior to the upgrade is shared on the Council website and directly with those who were involved in the process and via signs at the applicable playgrounds.

A link to the information on our website is here:

[Playground upgrades - Kāpiti Coast District Council \(kapiticoast.govt.nz\)](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz)

2. *Climbing equipment for under-5s is being extensively removed. What is the plan for replacing this climbing equipment (I am aware that props for imaginative play are being provided. I would like to know specifically about climbing equipment for this age group).*

Climbing equipment for under 5's isn't being specifically targeted for removal. Playgrounds are renewed based on the condition of the equipment. Based on feedback from the initial

community engagement plus a review of playgrounds near the location being renewed, we work with suppliers to identify appropriate equipment within the budget.

The New Zealand playground standards have changed meaning that the new playground is often quite different to what was previously provided. Particularly with regard to climbing equipment as it is designed in a way that (generally) young children can't end up in a situation that they aren't ready to deal with. The equipment that is being installed is appropriate for the age range of children identified as needing to be catered for at that specific playground. For example, ladders to a higher challenge piece of equipment will be at a height that an under 5 can only reach with assistance.

3. FAQs state that budget constraints are the first reason for reducing the amount of equipment. How was the community consulted about the decision to reduce the budget and downgrade the playgrounds?

There has not been a decision to reduce the budget or to downgrade the playgrounds. There is an allocated budget for playground renewals and the budget is set dependent on the type of location. For example, a small neighbourhood reserve that services families within the immediate location will have a smaller budget than a destination park such as Maclean Park. As part of the current Long Term Plan process, the Parks team have requested additional funding annually to allow for increased provision at each playground that is due for renewal.

4. The upgrade programme shows that playgrounds are being completely overhauled. This is more expensive than simply replacing like for like, so this must contribute to the need to downgrade the equipment in order to fit into the budget. How was the community consulted about this decision?

The renewal of playgrounds is based on asset condition and safety. Sometimes partial replacement is undertaken when not all the equipment is the same age, and therefore some parts don't need replacing. As mentioned previously, due to the change in the New Zealand playground standards it is often not possible to replace like for like as the original equipment is no longer suitable for the space or available as it is no longer made due to the new standards.

If you would like to discuss your concerns further, Alison Law, Parks and Recreation Manager would be happy to meet with you. Please feel free to contact her at alison.law@kapiticoast.govt.nz or 027 555 5740.

Ngā mihi



Darryn Grant
Acting Group Manager Place and Space
Te Kaihautū Takiwā, Waahi hoki