

Penders Park Playspace Stage 2 - Engagement Report Community Webinar Notes July 2020

Webinar 1: Monday 27 July, 12noon to 1.30pm

Webinar 2: Monday 27 July, 5pm to 6.30pm

Webinar Facilitator: Sam Walsh from ChatterBox Projects

Webinar Co-facilitator/Note taker: Robyn from Cochrane Research Solutions

Panellists: Libby Phillips, Project Landscape Architect (Darebin City Council), Sunny Haynes, Manager City Futures (Darebin City Council), Anika Labadie, Co-ordinator City Futures (Darebin City Council webinar 2 only).

Councillors: Councillor Susan Rennie (Mayor Darebin City Council)

Highlights from Community Webinars

- Various methods were used to notify the community about the upcoming webinars including printed posters at the park, social media posts, updated content on the dedicated Your Say project webpage and emails to community residents who had registered for project updates.
- 165 community members were invited to participate in the online webinars, email invitations were sent:
 - community members of the former project control group who had expressed an interest in receiving ongoing project correspondence,
 - applicants of the community project control group membership expression of interest,
 - participants from earlier community design working sessions for stage one,
 - community members who had provided written submissions to Council concerning stage one proposed tree removal in early 2020, and
 - community members who had registered for project updates during earlier master plan and playspace consultations.
- Nine community members registered to attend the two webinars with seven people participating.
- Two community members could only attend for part of the scheduled webinar time.
- Panellists provided an overview of the project background, play elements delivered in Stage 1 and proposed Stage 2 play elements including project constraints, for discussion.
- Participants were initially interested in all elements and particularly positive about:
 - *more challenging and senior play activities,*
 - *play pieces that enabled greater physical movement for all abilities with their peers,*
 - *play activities which supported social engagement between all abilities users and their peers,*
 - *the inclusive, in-ground trampoline,*
 - *the inclusive spinning carousel,*
 - *the inclusive flying fox with two seats, and*
 - *the natural timber tee pee.*
- The *spinning spicas* was identified as an element that was not of high priority.
- Following the project update and presentation by panellists, targeted activities were undertaken to understand what the community playspace priorities were for stage two.
- The overall community playspace priorities are shown over page.

Overall Community Playspace Priorities

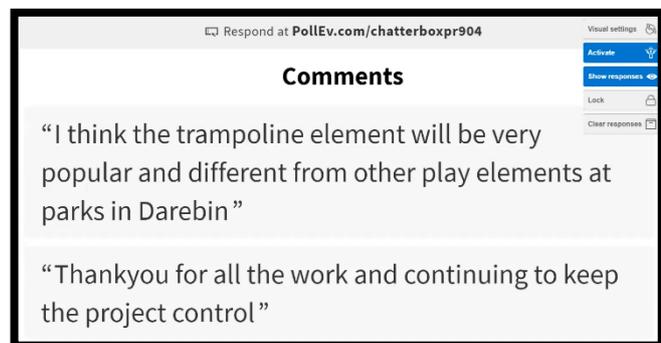
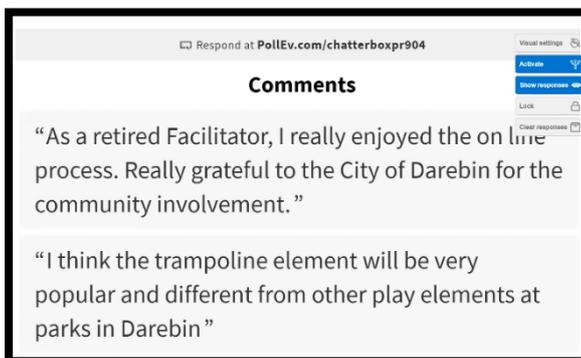
In the priority ranking activity, webinar participants reported the following priorities:

Penders Park Stage 2 – Community Playspace Priorities (July 2020)

Play Activities	Webinar 1 Results				Webinar 2 Results	Combined Results	
	Participant 1 rankings	Participant 2 rankings	Participant 3 rankings	Participant 4 rankings	Participant 1 rankings	Overall average rankings (total / 5)	Overall priority rankings*
In-ground trampoline	1	1	1	2	1	1.2	1 st
Inclusive flying fox	3	7	2	1	6	3.8	2 nd
Rope climbing course	2	5	5	5	2	3.8	2 nd
Inclusive spinning carousel	6	6	3	3	3	4.2	4 th
Natural timber tee pee	4	3	4	8	3	4.4	5 th
Enhancing the sensory wall	5	2	7	4	8	5.2	6 th
Swing set	7	4	6	7	3	5.4	7 th
Spinning spicas	8	8	8	6	7	7.4	8 th

*Note: Two participants did not participate in the priority ranking activity. One participant apologised and departed prior to the activity. The other participant did not participate due to having issues with the online voting platform and entered a comment: "I'm sure whatever choices of playground items are made will be fine".

- In addition to asking questions about the proposed Stage 2 play elements, participants enquired about:
 - the project budget and costings
 - plans for the picnic shelter/area
 - balancing playground access, barriers and child safety
 - managing dogs off-leash in play areas and picnic area and
 - improving the state of the current public toilets
 - consultation opportunities for community members unable to participate in the online webinars
- Webinar participants indicated they were pleased with the online webinar experience:



Scope

- To provide community residents with an update on the Penders Park master plan implementation and playspace delivery to date
- To present the playspace options for Stage 2 of the project
- To provide an opportunity for participants to discuss and share their priorities for Stage 2 to enable Council to move forward on finalising the design and reporting back to Council

Attendance List

Name	Role
Sam Walsh	Facilitator
Robyn Cochrane	Co-facilitator/note-taker
Libby Phillips	Panellist - Project Landscape Architect
Sunny Haynes	Panellist - Manager City Futures
Mayor Cr. Susan Rennie	Mayor
Participant 1	Former PCG member
Participant 2	Local resident, community member
Participant 3	Local resident, community member
Participant 4	Former PCG member

1. Introductions

The online webinar was delivered using the Zoom platform. Upon arrival participants were welcomed and invited to test the interactive engagement tools. The Mayor delivered an acknowledgement of country. Panellists were introduced. Participants were invited to introduce themselves and complete an ice-breaker.

2. Purpose of Webinar and Background to Stage 2 of the Project

The purpose of the webinar was outlined. An overview of the community feedback previously and an outline of the entire project context, vision, design principles and engagement activities since 2017 was provided. Images of the play space improvements completed in Stage 1 were shown. Participants were pleased with the improvements to date and look forward to seeing the play space being enjoyed pending the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions. Participants were provided with an update on the activities planned for Stage 2 including Council's commitment of \$300,000 to undertake Stage 2 in the 2020/21 financial year and the desire to check in with the community about Stage 2 priorities.

- *"It is looking really great" (Webinar participant)*

3. Description of Stage 2 Proposed Play Elements

Participants were shown indicative images of the proposed play elements, key features of each element as well as costings were outlined. The focus for Stage 2 is to provide more challenging and senior age play activities.

Proposed play element	Description of key features
Inclusive flying fox	An inclusive flying fox is one of the larger features currently proposed. There are two possible configurations: 1) A single ride with a high back harness seat for additional body support to ensure the ride is as inclusive as possible or 2) Adding a second seat (standard pommel) to enable a dual ride so that friends can enjoy the flying fox simultaneously.

Rope climbing course	The rope climbing course challenges agility and is a proposed play activity for older children. Uses natural and sustainably sourced materials, Australian hardwood and ironbark. Intention is to customise the design to blend in with the park appropriately.
In-ground trampoline	Unique play element not common to Darebin play spaces. Great for supporting sensory and regulation of movement and building confidence and happiness in children. Good for supporting development of persons with sensory processing disorders by connecting and balancing the position and movement of the body and offers health benefits.
Inclusive spinning carousel	Versatile and fun motion piece proposed with ground level access for more inclusive shared play. Spinning trains the vestibular system, building the sense of balance and spatial awareness. Popular for toddlers up to older children and adults. Good for social skills, such as cooperation and empathy by assisting friends to spin and helping others wanting to either join or exit.
Natural timber tee pee	Proposed as a natural gathering place for children to come together, socialise and plan their play space adventures, or build a natural scapes below from fallen bark and flowers. Supports imaginative and creative play. Offers a natural connection to the world by utilising natural fallen elements and provides an opportunity to connect with the seasons through imaginative play. Good for social and emotional development.
Swing set	The swing set is proposed to include a basket swing, high back harness seat and a traditional strap seat. Stage one includes a swing seat with a high back harness seat.
Spinning spicas	Rotational play elements offer investigative play and motion problem solving. Leaning into the pole will change the speed and it becomes a bit of a test in mastering the rotation element. Stimulates the cognitive skills and logical thinking. Accommodates up to three children.
Enhancing the sensory wall	Enhancing the Stage 1 sensory wall with a musical sensory play element or bespoke artistic piece.

4. Initial Community Feedback - Proposed Play Elements for Stage 2

Proposed play element	General sentiment	Initial participant feedback
Inclusive flying fox	---	---
Rope climbing course	---	---
In-ground trampoline	Positive, priority	Yes, good for children and young adults with disabilities
Inclusive spinning carousel	Positive, priority	Yes, accommodates a child in a wheelchair which allows the parent or care to step back and provide some space and independence
Natural timber tee pee	Positive, priority	Yes, good for children and young adults with disabilities. Children of all abilities can access the garden beds and be together in a quiet space with lots of texture. Children are currently climbing trees around the park. It was noted that some children have already created a cubby in an existing tree and are having fun. However, the cubby is small and would not be accessible to all children
Swing set	---	---
Spinning spicas	Not a priority	Suggestion to omit this element, not regarded as a significant piece of equipment. Last on my list
Enhancing the sensory wall	---	---

5. General Discussion - Proposed Play Elements for Stage 2

- *“Really excited about the inclusive play equipment that is being proposed. It will permit those in wheel chairs to develop body confidence and allow the opportunity to move and move freely. Parents/carers will be able to step back and let them play” (webinar participant)*
- *“Everything is great” (webinar participant)*
- *“I’m sure whatever choices of playground items are made will be fine” (webinar participant)*

Status of Stage 1: **Question:** Has Stage 1 has been fully completed? **Panel response:** Yes, the only outstanding items to be installed are some safety handrails, however the implementation is mostly completed and handover of the site to Council is anticipated to be in the month of August. The grassed and unbuilt area within the temporary construction fenced zone of stage one has been used to store soil and the work office for stage one. This area is proposed to be within the footprint of stage two, whereby stage two will connect to the stage one and flow on from there towards the west.

Project budget and costings of proposed play elements: **Question:** Budget and space wise, what can we select and fit in (along with the BBQ and picnic area)? The budget is less than the proposed costs. Are there areas where we can reduce or shift costs? **Panel response:** The design must be delivered within the approved budget envelope and we cannot guarantee the pricing of each item until we undertake a thorough and competitive construction tendering process. This community engagement webinar is intended to seek the community’s feedback on the overall playspace priorities for stage two. The following items can be considered to have costs reduced through modification:

- Some equipment will be bespoke or customised to meet the needs of all abilities and to suit the constraints of the playspace area and Penders Park. Bespoke play elements are generally more expensive than standardised ones but offer benefits that may not be achieved from standard elements. Pricing will be confirmed with suppliers through the tender process and it has been noted that there has been a general price increase during the COVID-19 restrictions period.
- The Flying fox is a bespoke item and is proposed to be up to 20m long at most. It is possible to deliver one seat rather than two, however officers recommend that two seats are provided including a harness with back support as well as a standard pommel seat, to ensure all abilities users can use the flying fox with their peers.
- The rope climbing course could be a bespoke or a standard unit. A smaller or off-the-shelf type structure for the ropes climbing could be delivered for significantly less cost than a bespoke item. Officers recommend that a smaller, bespoke climbing course is delivered that offers some inclusive element for children of all abilities to interact with their peers.
- Some elements cannot have soft fall mulch and require a rubberised surface to be inclusive.
- The Spinning carousel and tee pee costs shown are accurate and cannot be reduced through design modification.
- There are swings delivered in Stage 1 which include a high back harness seat and standard seat. For this reason, officers recommend that the swings proposed for stage two might not be as high a priority as other unique and inclusive play elements, however we would like to hear from the community what is most important. The swing set could include a single basket seat which is more inclusive, or a basket seat along with a harness and strap seat in a three-seat configuration. There is not a great deal of cost-effectiveness between delivering a single basket swing seat compared to a basket/harness/strap seat.
- Officers are confident there is enough space to deliver the proposed play elements.

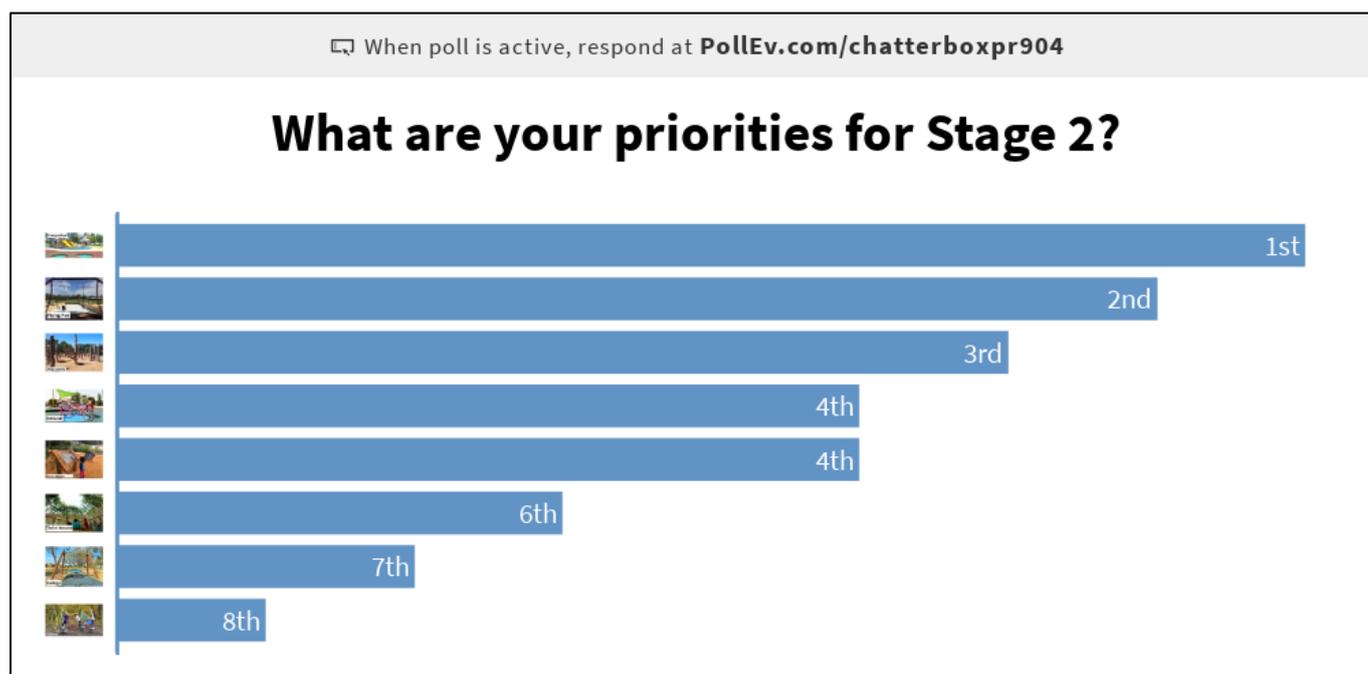
Plans for the picnic shelter/area: **Question:** What is going on with the picnic shelter/area? **Panel response:** the positioning of the picnic shelter will vary from its original orientation to ensure the best possible tree protection and to avoid tree removal. Officers currently recommend that the picnic area be deferred to future implementation so that the budget can be prioritised for play elements. The proposed area will be future proofed to allow for future installation of a picnic shelter. If anyone has a strong view on the picnic shelter being implemented as part of stage two, we would like to hear this and will report to Council accordingly.

Clarifying the area for Stage 2: **Question:** Has the area for Stage 2 altered? **Panel response:** The area for Stage 2 is as presented.

6. Community Playspace Priorities - Proposed Play Elements for Stage 2

Following the discussion of the proposed play elements, four webinar participants reported their priorities for stage two. One participant did not vote due to technical issues with the voting platform, however they did provide comment that *“I’m sure whatever choices of playground items are made will be fine”*.

	Participant 1 rankings	Participant 2 rankings	Participant 3 rankings	Participant 4 rankings	Overall aggregated average (total / 4)	Overall priority rankings
In-ground trampoline	1	1	1	2	5/4 = 1.3	1 st
Inclusive flying fox	3	7	2	1	13/4 = 3.3	2 nd
Rope climbing course	2	5	5	5	17/4 = 4.3	3 rd
Inclusive spinning carousel	6	6	3	3	18/4 = 4.5	4 th
Enhancing the sensory wall	5	2	7	4	18/4 = 4.5	4 th
Natural timber tee pee	4	3	4	8	19/4 = 4.8	6 th
Swing set	7	4	6	7	24/4 = 6.0	7 th
Spinning spicas	8	8	8	6	30/4 = 7.5	8 th



7. Discussion of General Aspects of Stage 2 and Penders Park

Proposed planting for Stage 2: The proposed planting was outlined and received positive feedback.

Balancing playground access, barriers and child safety: **Question:** The playground area is located nearby a street. Will the playground area have barriers or fencing for safety? **Panel response:** The topic of barriers and fencing has been discussed in previous consultation sessions. The community expressed a preference for the Park to be very accessible, the playground area to be located close to the footpath and that fencing may limit accessibility. In light of consultation feedback, balancing priorities and budget restrictions, Council officers indicated fencing is not regarded as critical and sought to understand the reasoning behind this change of view. Participants indicated a preference for a barrier near the playground areas and garden bed in the corner for the following reasons:

- *“There must be ways around achieving accessibility and providing security and safety for the playground area which is on the street” (webinar participant)*
- *“There is a need for some type of fencing on the footpath/road side otherwise children will be running around the swings and be too close to cars. A safety barrier is needed for children who are sensory unaware” (webinar participant)*
- *“The Stage 1 swing set feels too close to the footpath and needs barricading to stop kids running down. Fencing plays a pretty big part for safety, there are accessible opening gates” (webinar participant)*
- *“There is no space for a row of dense planting or bushes. There have been issues with off-leash dogs and having a fence around the smaller play areas gives parents peace of mind that dogs and small children are separated” (webinar participant)*

It was noted that the existing play space is fenced for young children, not older children. The original fencing is intended to be repurposed a bit differently. The area near the swing is open to ensure it is accessible from the street. It is not intended to be a main entrance, just an accessible entrance. **Outcome:** The preference for fencing around the playground will be noted for Stage 2.

Managing dogs off-leash in play areas and picnic area: **Comment:** Fencing is necessary to separate children and dogs. We see dogs off-leash and there could be safety issues around the playgrounds and picnic area if there is not barrier. **Panel response:** It was noted that Penders Park is a dog off-leash park, however, dog owners are required to ensure off-leash dogs are not within 25M of playgrounds and picnic areas. This requirement is referenced in Council By-laws and State Government regulation and is regulated through Council’s Local Laws team. **Outcome:** The preference for separating children and dogs is noted and the Local Laws team be asked to reconsider and review signage.

- *“Agree with the need for accessibility but would like to see some sort of fencing to keep kids in and dogs out (love both) from running in and out” (webinar participant)*

Improving the state of the current public toilets: **Question:** Can new toilets be considered as part of Stage 2? The toilet block a major concern. Council is creating an amazing new play space and the current toilet block or facilities are not accessible. They are fairly open, there is an issue with the lock. A new changing places toilet is preferable, however, we need to do something for the community to match the new play space being delivered. We cannot wait years for it. Some paint and lighting would help but lying a child down on a concrete floor is safety issue. **Panel response:** The Changing places toilet upgrade is a future priority action to be considered by Council. **Outcome:** The current rounds of State Government grants will be reviewed to see whether this item may be eligible. The concerns about the current public toilets are noted.

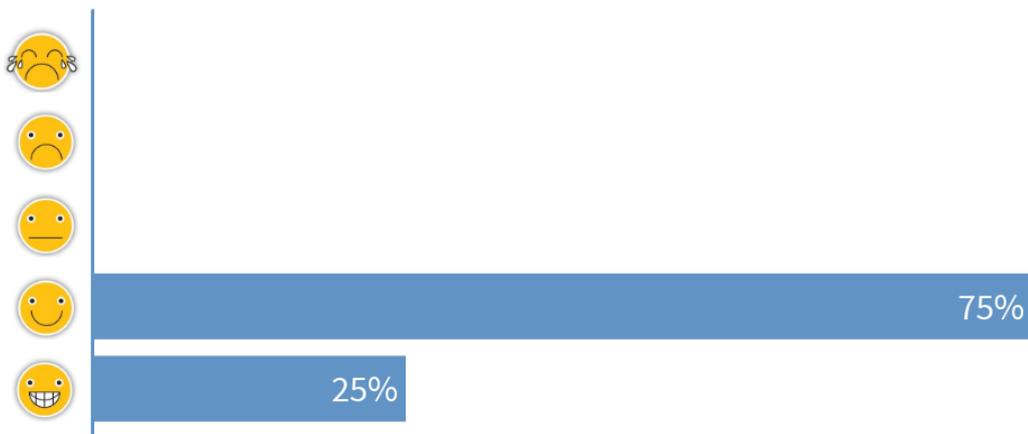
8. Webinar Evaluation

All webinar participants indicated they were pleased with the workshop experience.

- *"Thank you for continuing to engage with the community" (webinar participant)*
- *"I need to leave now but thank you for the opportunity to participate. Will wait to hear next steps" (webinar participant)*
- *"Thank you Council for holding this webinar. Much appreciated" (webinar participant)*
- *"Good. Better than I'd hoped. Chatterbox was a bit clunky for people who aren't super quick on their phones" (webinar participant)*

Respond at PollEv.com/chatterboxpr904

How did you find today's webinar?



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Anika Labadie	Panellist – Coordinator City Design
Sunny Haynes	Panellist - Manager City Futures
Mayor Cr. Susan Rennie	Mayor
Participant 1	Community member
Participant 2	Community member
Participant 3	Registered, did not attend
Participant 4	Registered, did not attend

1. Introductions

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Natural timber tee pee	Proposed as a natural gathering place for children to come together, socialise and plan their play space adventures, or build a natural scapes below from fallen bark and flowers. Supports imaginative and creative play. Offers a natural connection to the world by utilising natural fallen elements and provides an opportunity to connect with the seasons through imaginative play. Good for social and emotional development.
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Enhancing the sensory wall	Enhancing the Stage 1 sensory wall with a musical sensory play element or bespoke artistic piece.

4. Initial Community Feedback - Proposed Play Elements for Stage 2

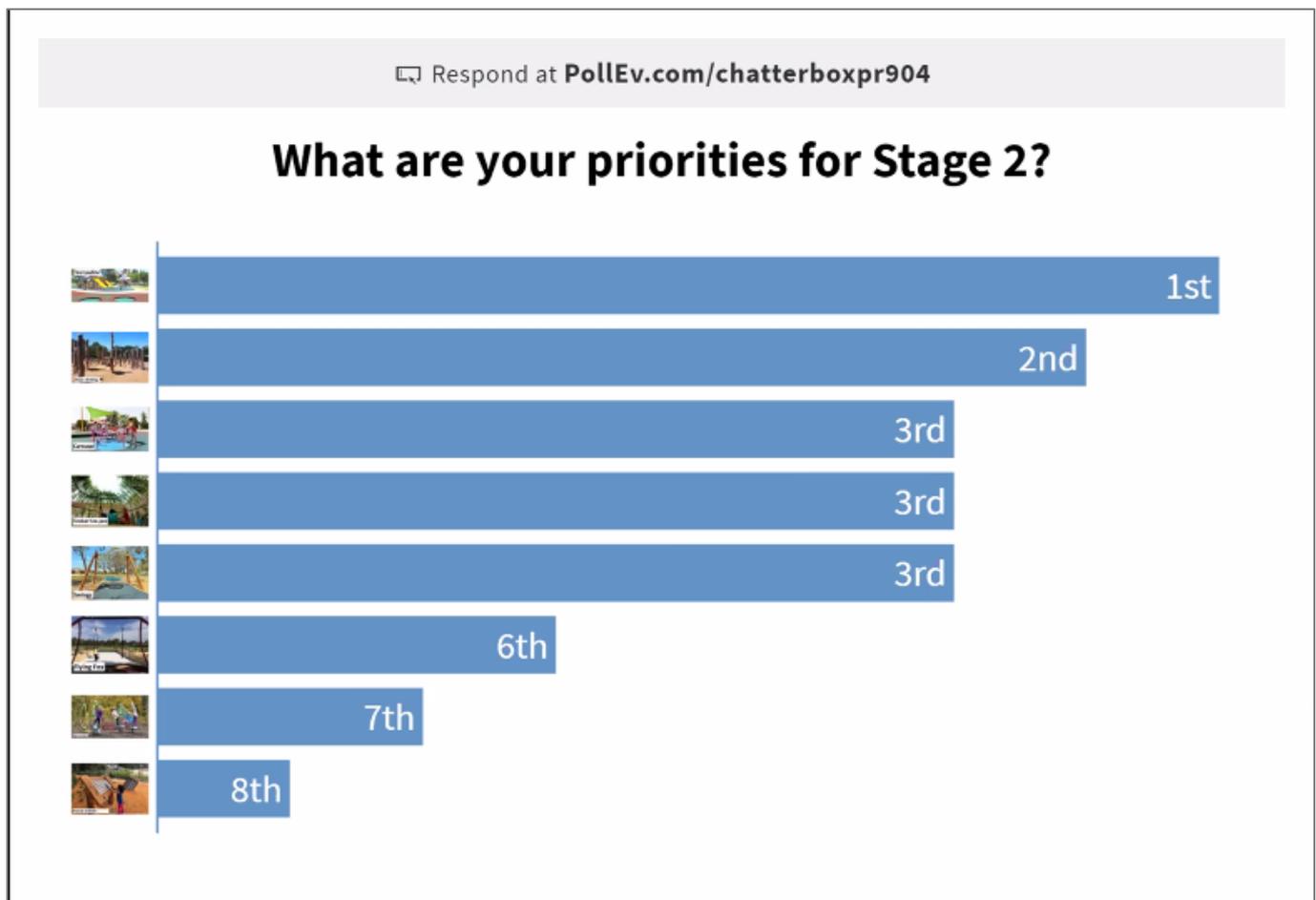
Proposed play element	General sentiment	Initial participant feedback
Inclusive flying fox	Positive, priority	Need play equipment for older children that provides a sense of risk
Rope climbing course	Positive, priority	Need play equipment for older children that challenges upper body strength
In-ground trampoline	---	---
Inclusive spinning carousel	Positive, priority	Need inclusive play equipment
Natural timber tee pee	---	---
Swing set	---	---
Spinning spicas	Not a priority	Spinning elements are at the lower end in terms of priority
Enhancing the sensory wall	Not a priority	Musical element is not a high priority

- *“Need enough play equipment for older children, equipment that is challenging, physically challenging and inclusive” (webinar participant)*
- *“Stage 2 priorities are things for older children aged 7 years and over” (webinar participant)*
- *“Want to get the best value from the funds that are available” (webinar participant)*

5. Community Playspace Priorities - Proposed Play Elements for Stage 2

Following the discussion of the proposed play elements, one workshop participant reported priorities. The other participant apologised and departed the meeting prior to the priority ranking activity.

	Participant 1 rankings	Overall priority rankings
In-ground trampoline	1	1 st
Rope climbing course	2	2 nd
Inclusive spinning carousel	3	3 rd
Natural timber tee pee	3	3 rd
Swing set	3	3 rd
Inclusive flying fox	6	6 th
Spinning spicas	7	7 th
Enhancing the sensory wall	8	8 th



6. Discussion of General Aspects of Stage 2 and Penders Park

Proposed planting for Stage 2: The proposed planting was outlined.

Status of picnic shelter: **Question:** What is happening with the picnic shelter? Will it be done in Stage 2 or will you leave a gap in the design? Families would like tables to socialise and celebrate with their family if there is no picnic shelter. **Panellist response:** Officers are recommending that the picnic shelter is not prioritised for Stage 2 delivery, instead the approved capital budget is recommended to focus on delivery of play based elements. The future picnic shelter will vary from its original orientation to ensure the best possible tree protection and no tree removal. It is currently recommended that the picnic area be deferred but the picnic area will be future-proofed for a shelter. If the community indicated the picnic area and shelter was more important than play elements and a priority item for Stage 2 then we could look at smaller options to reduce the cost or possible rounds of State Government grants. It could be consolidated into one or two areas. **Outcome:** The current rounds of State Government grants will be reviewed to see whether the picnic shelter, picnic area or public toilets may be eligible. The interest in the picnic shelter, area and tables is noted.

- *“If a grant was available, I would support improving the toilets before the picnic shelter and area” (webinar participant)*

Balancing playground access, barriers and child safety: **Question:** What is happening with the fencing issue in the corner? **Panel response:** Barriers and fencing has been discussed in previous consultation sessions. The area is currently open as the community expressed a preference for the Park to be very accessible and indicated fencing may limit accessibility. The original fencing is intended to be repurposed a bit differently. **Outcome:** This area of fencing is to be reviewed as it is a small area and is unlikely to have a large impact on the budget.

Consultation opportunities: **Question:** Is it possible for community members who could not participate in the online webinar to have a one on one phone call to offer their input? **Panel response:** Council offers welcome community feedback and are happy to set up phone calls if asked.

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