

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Themes" survey responses	
Do you think the design reflects the top 6 themes?	Can you tell us why?
Yes	
Yes	
Unsure	I do like the design and think its a good starting point. My children were eager to see if there was a flying fox and monkey bars. i love the concept of the original but would like to see elements that are present in new playgrounds added like mini built in trampolines, different types of monkey bars, stepping stones, water pumps etc.
Unsure	While it reflects the themes, I can't help but think it all looks a bit bland. Hoping I'm mistaken and the real deal looks a bit more exciting than the plans.
Yes	my son looked at this with me and would love it to be bigger with more spaces to go. i would have loved a water play space for summer.
Yes	The design looks similar tot the original while also taking into account swinging, climbing & hiding activities that were enjoyed by children of all ages. Love the addition of a sandpit
Yes	
No	<p>This design seems to have one slide. The original had 3. One for every level of development. Toddler to 10 years old.</p> <p>I see no mention of a climbing wall.</p> <p>One of the things I liked about the old playground was no sandpit. I feel this takes up too much space.</p> <p>I don't like the placement of the water tank. If it must be there can it not be integrated into the design such as adding a platform over it with a slide?</p>
Yes	The description speaks directly to these. A 3D model or fly through would have helped with this. The site-lines and sense of integration with and nestling into surrounding nature was something that I wanted to feel more of. It might be there, I just cant visualise it.
Unsure	After reading this and looking at the designs I'm a little dissapointed. The play area looks alot smaller which is not a good thing considering its the most popular park in the area and there doesnt seem as many things for children to do/play on.
Yes	
No	It looks like there is less to do in this design than the original play ground. It looks like there is one less slide, less poles, the rock climbing walls have gone. It does not look like the see saw, flying fox, monkey bars, balancing beam, and outside platform are not included in the design and the inside area doesn't look like it has much to do as the original. My children loved all of these elements and will be devostated that they won't be included in the new design. Not only that the majority of use will come from school aged children from Eltham north and it looks less interesting and challenging than the original. Not sure why the original design couldn't be used since it's what the overwhelming majority of the community want.

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Do you think the design reflects the top 6 themes?	Can you tell us why?
Yes	The top three themes seem well represented. They do seem well suited to older children. It is hard to see if similar adventure and climbing options are available for smaller/junior children who would be daunted by the larger slides/nets/poles.
Yes	The different levels and areas creates plenty of opportunities for adventure. Love the design.
Yes	The previous design was great. I'm not a huge fan of the proposed climbing net. Small children could easily fall through, its quiet hard for a parent to retrieve a child in trouble whilst watching another. Sandpits are a great place for snakes, rubbish, animal waste and syringes. In this day and age you'd be crazy to put one in. Clearly this has been a hangout for teenagers for many decades why make it hard to maintain.
Yes	
Unsure	There is lots of adventure, climbing, and hiding. I'd like to see more nature play.
No	There was a lot of adventure and options of play on the original design. This comes no where close to that.
Yes	
Yes	Looks very similar to old playground - lots of places for hiding, adventure, climbing, etc,.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Unsure	It would be good to have a flying fox... needs a few more adventure elements.
Yes	
Yes	
No	The playground is not as elaborate and complex as the original design. Why not rebuild it as it was?

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Do you think the design reflects the top 6 themes?	Can you tell us why?
Unsure	<p>It doesn't seem as though there is much adventure incorporated into the design, or much variety- perhaps this is because that level of detail hasn't been provided. But if not, it should be.</p> <p>Other than a general design overview, the only things that are detailed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 slides a rope net a bridge a sandpit pole <p>The old park had the above and lots besides: of additional quirks, multiple sliding poles, games to play, multiple hidden alcoves and corners, a tunnel, a staircase with twists and turns, a climbing wall and climbing steps for smaller children, logs to climb under and over. Plus, externally there were see saws, balance beams, a flying fox, a tree house with a platform for kids to climb. There was just so much more than is in the plans presented here.</p> <p>I think all of the community want more than this, and if there is more, but it hasn't been detailed, then we need to see it. I'd also like to see what is not undercover.</p> <p>Hate to say it, but I find it a bit generic and underwhelming and lacking in the variety, uniqueness and scope of the previous park.</p>
Yes	
No	Not sure where the nature play element will be, nor the cognitive play. Not enough detail for hiding and adventure- there are lots of bare areas within the roof structure. Kids will get bored - the beauty of the old one was it's choice of levels and connecting up and down platforms and areas.
Yes	It's hard to see by these pictures but does look reflective of what we valued most about this playground. I have 4 kids and one in a wheelchair so I like that the wheelchair access is there too so my son can be with his siblings
Yes	This design looks really promising! I hope that the inclusive nature of the original playground is definitely carried over into the new one. I am glad to see the original designers are on the team for the new one. They did beautiful work last time so I do look forward to them honouring their own work and the community's requests.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Can see how the architects have tried to encompass some favourite activities from original design within a limited budget.
Unsure	It seems that the undercover area is smaller than the old playground, not the roof size but the play area. And also I hope there are as many activity zones, its hard to tell from the diagrams.
Yes	
Yes	With a range of spaces and activities under one roof it definitely is adventurous.

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Do you think the design reflects the top 6 themes?	Can you tell us why?
Unsure	I can't tell if there's enough to do in there for lots of children all at once. I can't see any monkey bars where children can climb on top and then sit there or keep moving (some sitting, some climbing) while talking and playing. The monkey bars and exercise bars were both used this way regularly. Rope structures don't work the same way - the whole thing moves if anyone else is on it, which interrupts the play or talk of some others.
Yes	
Yes	lots of these activities available and for broad age range
No	I think it needs some monkey bars - the most popular swinging/climbing activity in my family by far. Often whether a playground has them will determine whether we visit or not. The old playground had them and it would be a terrible shame to lose them after the fire.
Yes	
Yes	I can see all elements included. However I think the design could be more creative in offering an even better playground than previous one.
Yes	You can't recreate what was there; mainly because in 20 years a lot has changed - not least around play safety, and equipment has moved on. Selecting the original designers though was a lovely idea, thank you. Our son loved the playground, but as he managed to climb up to the top of the tall slide to call out 'Mama, I'm stuck!' I am really pleased the enclosed slide has gone.
No	there is clearly less activities & equipment in this design over the destroyed structures - very disappointing
Yes	it looks good for active and safe play.
Yes	
Unsure	Hard to tell the sizes of spaces for hiding. Hard to tell if the climbing challenges are at variable levels of difficulty for all ages/sizes (e.g., for a large but less coordinated kid as well as those who are confident). Can the playground be traversed from one end to the other in more than one way? Is the walled part of the play structure going to be positioned such that it blocks the wind from interrupting play?
Yes	
No	Adventure and Climbing - the old playground had ramps and stairs that wound their way up into the roof. Once up there, the bridge across was also not a straight shot. It revealed new play spaces in the roof. There were even stairs that led to nowhere but a look out. It was all part of the fun of exploring the space. All of that feels like it is missing from this new design. Swinging? How many have you got? Butterfly park doesn't have enough - please make sure you put in at least 3 toddler swings, and 3 big kid swings.
Yes	
Yes	I like the proposed concept and the desperation for younger children and juniors. I like the bringing together of the swing areas. I look forward to getting the next level of detail.

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Do you think the design reflects the top 6 themes?	Can you tell us why?
Yes	Looks good. But maybe could have included 1 or 2 more completely new elements to move the game on.
Yes	
No	
Unsure	Look too open for hiding - won't be able to hide n seek, missing flying fox.
Yes	
Yes	Very similar to the old one. Great use of space and plenty to do for the kids.
Yes	Because most aspects have been incorporated, though I'd like to see more of the nature play/risky play aspects eg climbing trees, mud pits, water play
Yes	
Yes	Different activities can take place according to individual children's maturity and interests
Yes	All themes are addressed.
Yes	The design reflects these. I think recycling and sustainability should be included even more than in the original playground (eg, old tyres)
No	<p>Adventure: I do not think that it is adventurous. You have tried too hard to cover all ages and levels which has compromised the adventure for all levels.</p> <p>Swinging: What swinging? What about a flying fox? What about monkey bars? What about hanging and dropping?</p> <p>Climbing: One end offers climbing.</p> <p>Can't see any cognitive play.</p> <p>Can't see any nature play, especially now the park has been relocated to barren open car park.</p> <p>Hiding: Hiding is offered at one end. But what's the point of that, when playing hide and seek and everyone is hiding within a 2 metre radius</p>
Unsure	This playground appears smaller and more formal. It is also NOT weather proof all year round. The previous playground you could go at anytime of the weather and be able to not get wet or cold. It is too open.

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Do you think the design reflects the top 6 themes?	Can you tell us why?
No	<p>The playground misses the mark on the top 6 themes.</p> <p>Adventure? Lacking. There appears to have been a major compromise and adventure lost out.</p> <p>Swinging? Hanging and dropping could readily be incorporated here.</p> <p>Climbing? Only at one end.</p> <p>Cognitive play? Appears to have been forgotten in its entirety.</p> <p>Nature play? Zero nature play too. The awful siting in the car park area means that access to the great nature play area is lost and replaced with nothing.</p> <p>Hiding? One end only. Playing hide and seek will result in everyone hiding at one end and being instantly found.</p> <p>Lose the sandpit, please. The original one didn't have a sandpit - and for good reason.</p> <p>Sandpits should be separate.to the playground.</p> <p>The entire structure is too open, too dull and lacking intrigue.</p> <p>It is simplistic and is also missing a slide.</p> <p>Landscaping must include additional and substantial undercover seating and tables.</p> <p>The area must include a nature play area similar to Wombat Bend. At Wombat Bend, Council staff frequently deliver natural material for the kids with which to construct and play.</p>
No	<p>It isn't adventurous, the rock wall, climbing net are not challenging enough... for example. The Design appears focused on early preschooler abilities rather than primary school children's abilities. Have a separate gated park for the preschoolers.</p> <p>And add larger slides, that twist curve, rope course, a deck that is in the tree tops, more hiding places... for the primary school kids.. add more natural play area so the children can build their own cubbies etc</p>
No	<p>Seems very sterile and boring. Not at all the feel of the old one. Especially since it will be situated in the car park. Not at all the exciting feel of the old. Doesn't seem to have the hiding and the slide is not at all challenging. Thinking it's beige.</p>
Unsure	<p>From the video the new playground seems much more open [probably safer for that] but much less adventurous than the old one. Surely some compromise is possibly. I wonder to what extent this new design is promoted by costs, eg the simple roof line. The old shearing shed idea gave so many possibilities. So why can't we rebuild to the old design, perhaps with a few added safety features added in. Would we redesign the Taj Mahal or the Eiffel Tower, or the Great Pyramids? Not that the playground is in the same league as those world icons, but just saying.</p>
No	<p>I don't believe the design addresses the adventure component or the swinging. The design forces all of the activities to one end of the playground which will not work. It will become overcrowded and not function in the same way as the old playground.</p> <p>All the hiding places are at one end of the playground and half the area of the playground is designed for kids under 2 years.</p> <p>The playground is smaller than the previous one and has no real adventure. I shouted the animation to my 8 and 4 year old children. The 4 year old said where are the swings there are no swings</p> <p>The 8 year old said the slides weren't as good and why was the sandpit so big - he said it is smaller and doesn't look like it has as much to do as the one that burnt down.</p>

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Do you think the design reflects the top 6 themes?	Can you tell us why?
No	I can't see any balance beams (apart from the stepping logs around sandpit). From early walking stages the longer balance beams are so popular. For preschool age & beyond they become part of active games ("don't fall off into the lava pit!"). The only other element perhaps missing is some nature water play. This wasn't in the original playground, but the kids loved the bridge over the rocky creek area & pretending they were in the water.
Unsure	It's not entirely clear what will be included in the playground but despite the three levels, there does not appear to be huge scope for adventure. Given the undercover area is larger than the old playground, it doesn't seem to have as much underneath, with a lot of open space instead of the pathways, steps, hollows, tunnels, obstacles, ramps etc which took up almost all of the old playground. Hiding is important but it appears that areas to hide within the structure are almost all squashed at one end. Such a large open space in the middle doesn't lend itself to great games of hide and seek. I can't see any nature play in the plans.
No	Needs high ropes play like the Childrens Hospital playground. Great for tweens. Great for adventure, climbing and swinging.
No	Not very adventurous. Can't see older children being entertained on it for long. The old playground had all the areas linked so they could move between them without coming down on the ground. Lots of climbing stairs and great high slides. If yr nature play is the sand pit - urgh - my worst nightmare - poorly supervised kids flicking sand everywhere (all over the other kids etc) - attracts possums & cats to use it as a toilet. Could totally live without it!! Surely there's more interesting and challenging things that such a big area could be used for.

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Attributes" survey responses	
Do you think the design reflects the most popular attributes?	Can you tell us why?
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	good amount of wood and undercover. I just hope the size is as big if not bigger.
Yes	It's wooden and undercover
Yes	
Yes	The design reflects the key priority of uncover areas for all weather access.
Yes	
No	The design is too straight and industrial. One of the attractions of the original playground was how organic it was, like it had grown, with odd shapes.
Yes	Directly addressed
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Good use of undercover spaces and wooden features.
Yes	Absolutely, the timber element and undercover was the best part of the original design and the new plan reflects these attributes well.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Because there is a large roof and lots of wood. Duh
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Lots of wood and natural materials. Undercover.
Yes	Looks well covered.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Includes all cognitive senses for young children.
Yes	
Yes	

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Attributes" survey responses	
Do you think the design reflects the most popular attributes?	Can you tell us why?
Yes	
Yes	Its made of wood with plenty of undercover.
Yes	Both these points appear to be ticked.
Yes	
Yes	The undercover is good but the sitting areas for parents do not need to be undercover.
Yes	Has both
Yes	Yes, absolutely - all weather, all natural where possible and it really does sound like you are going to do this. The community would utterly disappointed if council did anything else!
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Could be more open air activities as in original design. Kids loved beam balances, swings, bridge and tree house.
Yes	It is a similar design to the old and that is good and is the fact that most of it is undercover.
Yes	
Yes	It's made of wood and is mostly undercover.
Unsure	I think it will only work if there is enough to do in there for lots of children at once.
Yes	
Yes	these great attributes are key in the new design. interesting look and inviting for children to explore. It will be even more popular
Yes	Those things are what made the old playground so different and so popular. An all weather playground that was distinctively Eltham.
Yes	
Yes	Good to see strong use of both elements in the design

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Attributes" survey responses	
Do you think the design reflects the most popular attributes?	Can you tell us why?
Yes	Having the shelter meant on a rainy day I can still run an energetic seven year old around. It's been missed this year, as we've had to utilise play centres which cost to go in, or equipment at shopping centres. I liked that it was dry, had fresh air and in all weathers it was used so he could socialise and interact with others. To be honest, with the wood - I'm ambivalent. It was easy to score graffiti into, we sometimes had splinters and yes it looks nicer than plastic, but plenty of playgrounds are now being upgraded to wood and metal (Yarra Glen's new one is great), so it's not as if it's as much of a thing as it was 20-odd years ago.
Unsure	it appears to but with a description to go with the artist's impression it is unclear
Yes	love all the wood and modern design.
Yes	
No	Why is there a mound with artificial grass? That rubbery mat substance that is often included in playgrounds is awful, and fake turf is horrid. Some of our friends will not be able to join us here if there are chemical-laden materials used as ground surfaces. The natural materials in the original playground made it user-friendly for those with chemical sensitivities.
Yes	
No	Wood, yes. Undercover - partially. My impression is that the big open sides will let the sun and the rain in. The great beauty of the big old shed was that it was a haven from the sun in summer, and a haven from the weather even on a cold and wet day in winter. Please put some walls in!
Yes	
Yes	I'd like to see more about dry river bed and water play (and linking it with the sandpit) which currently is only a tiny section for disabled children. Let's make it inclusive for all children as it's always popular. I'd also like to see the tunnel raised like it was in the original play park to avoid getting bogged with mulch and dirt and wet. I'd like to see some of the slides covered (tube) so it can be used in all weather.
Yes	The concept design looks great with predominantly wood and minimal plastic. The undercover aspect is covered really well.

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Attributes" survey responses	
Do you think the design reflects the most popular attributes?	Can you tell us why?
No	
Yes	It is reflective of the environment it is being built in.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Because that's what's largely been incorporated-black butt woods and covered areas
Yes	Incorporates the general look and feel of the original, as well as some of the play elements.
Yes	Well now in the plan there is wood and undercover!!!
Yes	Both attributes are heavily addressed
Yes	Both very important features to the old playground
Yes	I'm not a fan of these skinny slates around it. They make it look like a cheap pergola.
Unsure	It certainly does not have enough cover for yearly playing
Yes	The design is primarily a timber structure with a roof. The roof line is lack lustre and I fear will allow too much rain and sun in.
Yes	
No	You've lost the country feel. It's just a beige shed in a car park. Not challenging and no old shearing shed feel. With hiding and gates etc. just a bit boring.
Unsure	
Yes	Yes I think it reflects this request but it is very open. The rain will get into this on a winters day and there is not as many activities under the roof. - just open space
Unsure	The pitched roof design of the old playground really protected from windy rain. Not sure a slanted roof would give the same protection.
Unsure	Yes, it is wooden and undercover, but as stated above, there is a lot of open space undercover rather than actual playground things undercover. The sandpit, seating and the through path take up a massive amount of the space.
Yes	
No	Nature play??? Like what?? Nature play?? Where??? It's going to be built in a barren carpark???

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Like" survey responses
What do you like most about the design?
The new roof adds a wonderful contemporary update :)
Great!
i like the sandpit, ropes, undercover, the junior and bigger child section and use of wood. I know its hard to tell due to scale but the original seemed to have more detail in the levels, climbing up and through the levels like the netted play spaces in play centres with multi levels.
it looks quite nice with a lot of options for kids i expect that it will be made from sustainable timber :)
The design is very similar to the original plan - love the new location where road safety can be assured.
Undercover.
Opportunities for mastery and hide and seek with the whole family involved.
It looks new and fresh... wood looks great
The sandpit and slide and shop area
The timber and iron roofing
I like how well it captures the key elements of the old playground.
I love the timber elements, areas for different aged children and the fact it is over multiple levels.
I think the minimal supervision play can lead to independent child play.
Unique and natural looking
The levels and use of timber.
It looks good
Undercover and tractor and addition of a sandpit
It looks a lot like the old one. Love that there's a tractor again.
Climbing rope looks good.
The rope climb. The undercover sandpit. The adventure elements
It looks a bit safer than the old one.
Freedom to move from one area to the other.
It seems familiar.
It's complex which is nice
Not sure.
Wood and undercover appears to have been covered.

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Like" survey responses
What do you like most about the design?
It is designed to blend with the surroundings like the original and will age better than the plastic equipment that is prone to sun damage. There is lots of different textures for sensory play.
The roof
It fits in with the natural feel, has plenty of shade and has wheelchair accessibility
That it looks to be a lovely marriage of the original and new features - I love that the liberty swing is going to be incorporated as it always felt a bit isolated over there.
I spent many hours playing hide and seek here with my daughter. The beauty of the design was that it suited a large range of ages and as my daughter matured we could still play and enjoy the area. The design seems to stay consistent with the versatility of the types of play it will provide.
It seems to cater for various levels of children's abilities. Seems to be quite compressed.
I like the similarity to the old design but have concerns about the tree canopy surrounding the playground.
The child up the tree in the NW Elevation! The integration of areas for younger and older children is well done.
It looks potentially good. I can't tell what it will really be like. I like the sandpit, and that there will be a range of swings together.
It is a lot like the original while essential wheelchair access is available and more up-to-date play features are included. play space designs and materials have changed a lot.
The slope of the roof and the wooden construction. Also the ability to see/find your children easily.
It looks like a contemporary version of the old park which is perfect.
Undercover
That it is more accessible for people who don't have as much mobility as others than the previous design. What was there before doesn't mean that was best, time has moved on and so should the design and expectations of use of the playground. I am disappointed with the vitriol some members of the community have shown towards the design, please don't let the vocal few override the majority. It looks great! The seven year old loves the look of the climbing net, he's itching to get it built so he can play there again.
the cover
the active play areas.
Natural material being used and large under covered areas. Disable access are being considered as well.
the varied levels, for climbing, jumping, playing tiggy games

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Like" survey responses
What do you like most about the design?
I love the tractor. Many happy days were spent sitting in the trailer space eating snacks with my kids.
I love that it has a roof, though still think the shelter needs improvement.
Great that you are relocating the liberty swing into the plan instead of having it sitting forlornly by itself near the toilets.
After that it all feels pretty generic - does it really need a shop counter like every other playground in town? Going to stick in a telescope and a steering wheel bolted to something very un car or ship like too?
Accessibility. Extra roof space yet still lots of light through the vertical slats. Separation of areas for older and younger children.
The different levels. The higher level accessibility limited by ability. The wood!
It lacks features. It needs more attraction drawing people in from all around Melbourne.
Perhaps a child proofed fence, gate, to promote safety if people are concerned. It should stay where it is among the trees and shade. How many people have complained about safety. How many accidents have there been over the years?? Is this whingeing nana state. parents and kids need to be responsible. They could just as easily be run over running from the proposed move to the oval
Inclusivity. Modern. Reflective of the area.
Undercover, variety of activities.
The size
Includes increased levels of accessibility for all users. Provides a modern interpretation of the original concept, whilst catering for a wider range of ages and abilities of participants.
It looks good and has elements of the lost playground that will remind at least the adults of what we have lost.
But as with everything we will not know until we see how children interact with the playground
Undercover space that suits all ages and abilities.

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Like" survey responses
What do you like most about the design?
I think swapping the playground and carpark is fantastic! There was always a bit of stress with kids & cars in close proximity. I often saw kids wandering toward the carpark or crossing without looking. This will be much better.
I like the end with the slides, hiding and climbing.
I am unsure as to the design. The tractor is good although the tractor was a major attraction in the old structure.
Not a great deal.
The roof
Timber not plastic
The tractor being retained in the design is nice The climbing net is ok The use of timber is excellent I don't like much else as it just doesn't live up to the old playground
Its very spread out & has 3 good slides, a fantastic sand pit area and there seems to be lots of "adventure" elements (cubbys, rope ladders, high bridge)
I like the style and the concept, I just think the structures with different levels are too compact and not extensive enough.
The roof, and my preschool aged kids will probably love it. Not sure it will keen their interest when a bit older

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Other comments" survey responses
Are there any other comments you would like to make on the design?
I love the concept of the original undercover and wood playground but would like to see elements that are present in new playgrounds added like mini built in trampolines, different types of monkey bars, stepping stones, water pumps in rock bed streams etc. Hopefully there will be picnic tables and bbqs still present.
There doesn't look like there is that much there. Is there a water sand play area that I'm missing? Or hiding spots? Hard to tell in this plan. I hope there is because it looks a little bit bland.
some additional things would be great such as a scooter area. a swing. a flying fox. water play. a drinking fountain. tunnels and tunnel slides. wobbly bridges. balancing beams. a maze. climbing structures. i have seen a fabulous bike park in i think it was taggerty.... it has a seesaw type thing to ride over and all sorts of obstacles. it was incredible! we would love one of those. :)
Our children were very keen to see some water play activities included into the design - hoping the the water tank will support some of theses activities such as a water pump into the sandpit or creek bed - overall very impressed with design and keen to see this implemented before Christmas - we have two very excited children who can't wait to see their favourite park rebuilt from the ashes. Thank you so much.
The playground is too small for its patronage. Council needs to extend the budget if this is the issue.
I didn't get enough sense that it catered for all forms of inclusion. I note that the liberty swing is being retained. I wonder how the potential users of this feel. I find this to be the most poorly designed piece of equipment - degrading and embarrassing for anyone who'd use it. Not surprised that I have never seen it used. Please consider removing it. Difficult to interpret from the drawings but I get the sense that the materials are a bit uniform and manufactured. If there was a way to mix things up with different wood shapes or wood surfaces and imperfections that might be nice. The sight lines and proximity to BBQs and picnic tables is critical. There are many many parties in this park. I think that using vision/photo boards and scrapbook type aids would have been a useful vision and reference point for people - the infographic loses something I think. Otherwise well done on a highly sensitive project. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
Not enough slides. This is such a busy busu park and it just doesn't seem like enough to do to keep everyone occupied. It just looks very very basic compared to the last park.
thanks for your hard work and taking community feed back on the project. We look forward to the new playground
Please revisit the original design and be more true to it. This looks quite boring by comparison
Would be nice to see a few more multi-age adventure/climbing/balance elements suitable to both older and younger kids, however just being picky ;)
Great design! Can't wait to test it out once it's built

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Other comments" survey responses
Are there any other comments you would like to make on the design?
Would like to see more interactive water play, large rocks and old timbers.
Too simple
I am concerned about the height of that large slide. It doesn't look safe. Although you state it is for older children in your design notes, it is difficult to prevent younger children using it. The last tunnel slide was high but much safer. I would be concerned if the current open high slide design is retained.
It seems like there isn't as much 2nd story play space as the old playground but it's difficult to tell from the drawings.
I'm concerned that there might not be much for the younger children (under 3 or 4). A lot of people who have older kids who will enjoy the playground will also have younger ones who need a good play space.
It is a bit bland and doesn't look to be as big as the old one. Looks a bit steril and not very child friendly.
Will the junior play space provide lots of play opportunities for toddlers - including a smaller slide and smaller climbing obstacles?
It would be great if it was fenced. Young children utilising the different areas of the playground are prone to wander so a fence would be a fantastic attribute (similar to the Eltham copper butterfly playground)
Great design. Needs to be safe for children and have high visibility for parents.
It looks a bit smaller than the original design, more compact. It doesn't seem to have the interesting smaller details that the original had.
It needs to be so much more complex, just like the original one. The new version is too simple and empty.
See above.
The old design was quite dark due to the cover, it would be great to incorporate some laser light sheeting in a small amount to let light in safely & extend play time on cloudy days.
It doesn't seem to have enough way finding and choice of levels and lookouts- I also loved the separate fort connected by balance beams on the last one as a connected but different area but this is not in the new design. The best areas for parents were the incidental perching areas beside the playground. I don't think this needs to be central under cover - this space should be dedicated to the kids play.
It's hard to see from design but I'm hoping it has good ramps for wheelchairs to get up and about
Just be sure that the risky play factor is still there - those original slides were amazing and a good challenge of a child's bravery and they loved that! Thank you for listening to community feedback about the playground - it means a lot to those who the original playground meant a lot to, if that makes sense.
Hopefully there will allowance for further extension/ funding in the future, e.g. Where there are some open areas like at Eltham Butterfly and Wombat park where there is water play and separation of play areas. Information boards, local interest/ history to connect play to learning. I am concerned that crowding will be an issue with the numbers of children who visit this site - particularly when multiple groups visit the site.
There seems to be a lack of shade and vegetation and surely it will be hard to establish vegetation around the new playground, particularly if the site is moved. I see there is seating for adults but are there tables and chairs around the area for parties etc, this will be lost if it moves to a smaller location. Also please protect and reuse the ceramic path done by local children.

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Other comments" survey responses

Are there any other comments you would like to make on the design?

Strong echoes of the old playground but manages to be different - and I think will prove better.

I would like low level fencing to reduce dog walkers casually walking through the playground area. The previous playground had a fence between the river path and the playground. Dog walkers often don't care that some children are scared of dogs. I want my children to play in peace.

plenty of opportunity has existed for community input, I attended one session at the park and I saw only a few people wanted fencing. I think the proposed location is a safer one and to a degree reduces the argument for fencing which the minority requested.

For many years parents have expressed the road being a danger and I think its a great opportunity for the Council to address and improve safety by relocating at this time. Now I say let the council get the build underway.

All 3 of my children played hide and seek for hours and hours. The laughter and shreaking is what I will always remember and would love that to be there for future generations.

Will there be undercover picnic tables surrounding the playground as I believe this is an important feature. Also the dry creek bed was a great place for children to play and would love to see more natural elements included in the design to encourage creative free flowing play.

I think there is more opportunity to include something more than what was previously there whilst still holding onto that original element.

Please don't publish my name on the report as I work at council. I'm not drinking the Kool Aid, but neither do I need abuse online!

lack of nooks & crannies for imaginative play

maybe some table and chairs around play ground so parents can sit and feed there active children. you would need two on each side to fit with the size of the play ground.

I like the use of stones and logs, both are great for natural climbing play. Large, uneven boulders would be awesome.

Monkey bars please!

Also, I am concerned about the safety and security during the nighttime hours. We live across the road from the park and can frequently hear hoons doing burnouts in the existing car park. Please can we find some way to stop this kind of behavior in the new space.

' - Unless I missed them in the design images - where are the monkey bars? Monkey bars - in easy reach of prep-aged kids or younger - are playground essentials and I know many kids would be devastated to see they have not been included.

- Obviously local residents (myself included) don't want to see a horrid plastic playground but if you'd asked whether the slide/s should be metal - in the hot sun - or plastic like the old ones I think you'd get votes for plastic. Ever witnessed a child burning themselves on a sizzling hot slide in Summer? There is a place for plastic when it's sensible. Or maybe there are some even better materials these days.

- Speaking of slides, where are the fun twisty, turny ones? These are just boring.

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Other comments" survey responses

Are there any other comments you would like to make on the design?

There were two challenging/fun slides in the old playground, only one of these looks like a challenge. One junior slide is enough! Make the other two big!

The large area of the mulch in the junior space appears to be a wasted opportunity. If you recall the old playground, it had tyres to clamber over, timber of various heights on its end to step on and over. My kids loved that part of the space when they were young and I am sure many others did too.

The old design felt vast, tall and grand. This does not. It feels like a huge picnic shelter with some playground equipment stuck up one end. Can the playground component be expanded??

Does it need a sand pit? Go look at the sand pit at the Butterfly park at Eltham Lower - not well used, not well maintained. Not a great part of the playground.

Does it need a water play space? My experience is that water play areas last two days before they stop working. Councils never maintain them well. Go visit the butterfly park for reference on this too.

Finally - many many families have fond memories of holding birthday celebrations at the old playground in its BBQ/picnic shelters. Why have they not been included in the new design? Bring them back too!

Could a modern spin be included to indicate this is the new playground. Could the inclusion of an old Melbourne tram be utilised somewhere?

Allow for drinking water fountains. Would also like to see more about the water play area for summer days - incorporate a splash park?

Happy to hear that the design is not limited to this phase of development but that design and planning considerations, possible community projects and other funding are being sought to continue to build and improve this park we loved so much.

Looks great - as suggested to one of the designers - a few benches - very low, not necessarily oblong-shaped to be dotted around the playground. eg: like the low square benches at Alistair Knox Park and the low caterpillar-shaped benches at Eltham Lower Park.

Add bigger slides or a hamster wheel, add something kids will enjoy. Kids want adventure or something new that they haven't seen before. Personal the design looks nothing like the old one and honestly looks very boring.

Monkey bars.

Monkey bars please!

Yes, more nature/risk as previously stated, and the use of recycled plastic tables/benches/signage posts

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Other comments" survey responses

Are there any other comments you would like to make on the design?

I would like to see incorporated:

Some seats with backs and arms to support children and adults

Spaces within or close to the playspace to allow parking of prams, strollers, wheelchairs and mobility aids. These spaces should be next to seats with backs and armrests

Shade and weather protection for slides that are not undercover

Play or exercise features to encourage intergenerational activities

Possible location of exercise stations connected to paths and adjacent to the playspace

Design elements to strongly discourage climbing on top of tank, roof and pergola sections

At least one slide accessible by children with disabilities with an accessible, connected pathway at the base of the slide to enable a user to safely exit the landing space.

Handrail support on ramps, stairs and level changes as required

Clear, tactile and braille signage

Effective colour contrasts of play elements

Design to allow for potential inclusion of additional play facilities

Consider lighting

Consider improved security

I would like to see some balance beam, low down and stepped up for children of different ages - learning to balance is a great skill need throughout life.

TREES for shade and for playing hidy around and for and for... and other vegetation so it blends into the bush which was a wonderful feature of the previous location

My daughter (aged 6) was very disappointed at the absence of monkey bars. I have spoken to numerous parents in the area and all have mentioned that the absence of monkey bars was the only complaint they had on the new design.

Would love to see recycled materials such as tyres & plastic waste incorporated to showcase sustainable principles. The tyres were used well in the old playground.

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Other comments" survey responses

Are there any other comments you would like to make on the design?

I am not happy that a lot of the space has been wasted on a sandpit. We didn't have a sandpit in the old one. A sandpit should be separate. Its too open. My kids and their friends loved the old one so much for all its hiding spaces, and various routes to hide and then chase in a parkour fashion. With only one end to do this in now, and all the open space it seems that the main attraction is lost.

Its very baby-ish

Its short one slide.

It looks to be set up for parents rather than the kids. Open space, seating, yawn.

The park was also popular for after school parties and kids parties on the weekend so the landscaping needs to include lots of additional undercover seating and tables.

The area should also include a nature play area like Wombat Bend where the council regularly delivers natural material for the kids to build with.

Lack of seating around the playground. The previous playground had many tables and benches and other spots to sit and eat out of the elements

Yes. There needs to be considerable improvement.

Please if safety was such a concern (for moving it -which please a full fence would have fixed!!) then have a separate gated toddler/preschool park with a roof and shelter and have this shed design be more adventurous- more height more enclosed places...the deck in the tree tops like the old one... add water play!!! Build a paddling creek... like the park at Royal children's- such fun for all age groups ...

Very basic. More about undercover seating for mums.

I am really disappointed you have chosen to relocate the playground, u think this is misguided and consultation has not been well managed by councils.

I am really disappointed you are removing the bbq area and shelter and have not committed to re doing this

I am really disappointed that you are planing to remove swings and not replace them

I am extremely concerned about the lack of eyeline to the toilets this wil make it unsafe for my 8 year old

I am concerned that you are removing nature play area and that overall the playground and surrounding space will be smaller

Nillumbik I am very disappointed, it looks like you are being stingy and trying to save money and I am concerned you will not deliver a playground and space that can live up to the old playground

Very disappointed

I think the suggestion of building it at the other end of the parking lot is a good idea & makes sense with the overall area (soccer/cricket/school/Edendale).

Eltham North Adventure Playground - "Other comments" survey responses

Are there any other comments you would like to make on the design?

I think the new design is very open and would benefit from having more walls/screening similar to the old playground. Not only will this help with children's play such as hide & seek etc but will also make the playground nicer on days when the driving rain is horizontal! At the moment, it looks like a couple of areas of playground under a roof rather than there being an entire play structure which has a roof on it. Recalling the old playground, there were very few parts where you could stand at floor level and look straight up at the roof whereas a massive percentage of the new playground there is just air between floor and roof. I think the sandpit would be better positioned outside of the main roof and the area where the sandpit is shown should contain another multi-level playstructure similar to the opposite end with the upper connection between the high levels at both ends, running the length of the playground up in the roof space.

One of the great things about the old playground was how children of all ages created their own neverending 'obstacle courses' over the whole of the playground, each time dashing round following a different route over, under, through, up, down. There were not separate areas, the whole playground was just one big playground. With it's smaller discrete areas of actual structure, the new playground doesn't seem to allow for continuous uninterrupted movement through it like the old one did and I think it is a big draw back.

Request high ropes play similar to Childrens Hospital playground.

Poor direct line vision of the toilets is very challenging once you have more than one child - this new location will create a major problem with this. Make sure there are enough swings!! At least 2 adult & 2 toddler. Lots of natural shade and more interesting nature play aspects would be appreciated! And no flying fox to take out kids who wander in it's path.

Received via email:

My 8 and 10 y.o. boys and I rode past the site where our favourite playground used to be and my youngest remarked "At least the swings are still there". One of the volunteers there heard this and came to talk to us about council plans for rebuilding the playground. I am very glad she did, otherwise I would not have known that council was to vote on this tomorrow. Since then I have read the article in Nillumbik news.

I am very pleased to hear that you have engaged the original architect and company that designed Bollygum in Kinglake. We were there on Saturday and it is one of our favourite playgrounds. I am sure they will do a good job and would like to add my suggestions.

Having enjoyed Eltham North Adventure Playground at least monthly for about 7 years we loved the woody outlook over the creek towards the train line and the hill beyond. It was a place my boys could play in all elements. The roof made it a goto on wet weekends, and also on hot summer days when other playgrounds with shade-cloth offered inadequate shade. My boys liked spotting the trains, especially the "steamy" that runs on the day of the Wattle Festival

If what I heard today is true, this site is going to make one of the most attractive carparks in the state of Victoria. I was dismayed to hear that the playground would be shifted to the current dustbowl area. This site is nowhere near as attractive as the original. My kids loved waving to the trains including the steam train once a year on the day of the wattle festival. This, and the beautiful outlook would be lost if the playground site is shifted. Let's face it, the bend in the creek looking over towards Edendale is nowhere near as attractive as the current site, even if it were landscaped.

Why can't the carpark go over the dustbowl? Much easier to turn a large vehicle there and I can't see that there would be any insurmountable safety concerns keeping the playground where it is. This was hallowed ground for my young family and many others. Indeed Eltham North Adventure Playground drew visitors from well outside the Nillumbik Shire and, by my reckoning, would have been second only to Eltham Miniature Railway as a weekend attraction for young families outside the shire. We think the community's claim to this area should be greater than either the cricket club or nearby school.

If this decision is related to funding then I think you would find support for a community contribution. For instance, why not approach Eltham Miniature Railway and ask if they would consider raising ticket prices by \$1 temporarily - with appropriate advertising of the purpose? I am sure that would raise the money very quickly and draw funding from outside the Eltham community.

The aesthetic appeal and all-weather capability of the original site and playground should not be underestimated in evaluations of its popularity. My boys and I are relieved we passed by today and heard about the vote, and look forward to hearing further news on the project.

Received via email:

Have to say i am a little disappointed in the proposed design.

It seems very open and sparse, particularly in the middle and at one end. One of the attractions of the old playground was all the hidey spaces and mazelike feel. Bulk it up and make it feel more solid and PLEASE make sure you cater for the older kids as well, not just the little ones.

Received via email:

I wish to object to the relocation of the new Eltham North Adventure Playground. I attended the Library today to view the proposed changes and for the reasons outlined below feel the playground should remain at its present site.

1. The historical value is very important. Many parents strived hard and long to bring the playground together in the 90's and has been a valuable asset to the community of Eltham North. The beautiful tiled path is a historical reminder of children who made these tiles.
2. The safety issue, which council reps indicated to me today, is the main concern for the relocation. They also indicated that whether the site is changed or not, fencing will be required at both sites. If tasteful fencing and a gate were installed as is the case for most larger playgrounds, i.e. at Wombat Reserve Templestowe and Lower Eltham Park, at the original site, safety would not be an issue. The speed along this road is walking pace anyway with the speed humps provided.
3. The walking trail borders the perimeter of the original site and is a pleasing aesthetic one side the playground and the other treed open space.
4. The treed aspect that is around the perimeter of the original site is a valuable asset and aesthetic to the whole outlook.
5. The toilet facilities face the original site also and are at a convenient location.
6. Bird life habit the original site because of the surrounding tree canopy and native bushes. This haven will definately be impacted with a car park in place of the playground.

The cost of relocation does not justify its worthiness when all of the councils safety concerns can be eliminated by careful and tasteful fencing. Hence the park can continue to be a reminder to the families of Eltham North of the wonderful past efforts of the Eltham North Community at that site.

Received via email:

I am xxxx, who is a resident in Eltham and have been living here near 2 years. My family and I deeply love this beautiful and green eco environment, including the old wooden Eltham North Adventure Playground!

But so sadly it was burned, and so happy that it would be rebuilt. However, to be honest, I feel much disappointed after checking the new design of the playground. How to say, it lost its unique character and more industrialised, personally I feel less connection with it!

Of course, I understand the difficulties of city council, like lack of funds. So my point is, if possible, could we do more fund raising work and make the playground better? Once built, it will be used for many years and leave a beautiful memory for one or more generations!

Looking forward the further information.