



Stuarts Point & District Community Organisation

A stronger future together.

30.3.2024

Kempsey Council
Tozer Street
Kempsey

To whom it may concern,

Topic: Grassy Head Playground

Issue: Stop installation of planned playground at Grassy Head.

Why:

The values of Grassy Head, cherished by the community are not being met by this playground addition and proposed upgrade. The values appreciated at Grassy Head are: the natural feel, low key, underdeveloped, unique for beach reserve, natural beauty, local flora and fauna richness and no development and little infrastructure. This area is a gem in Kempsey Councils local Government Area. People visit the area because of what it is, not what facilities it has.

Strong community concerns were evident at our recent SpADCO community meeting for the following reasons.

- Lack of any community consultation,
- no community opportunity to review plans,
- no collaborative approach,
- no evidence of a needs study and finally
- no structural evidence to require replacement of the existing swing set (as stated) .

Further Spadco's submissions Operational Plan 2022/23 and the Crown Lands Plan of Management and a site visit with the General Manager in 2022, all relating to this reserve have not been addressed, honored or even acknowledged.

The trees in the reserve are just recovering from the drought and the many which didn't make it were never replaced but cut down leaving the stumps as a reminder of what was. The new site for the playground will require further tree removal or trimming as leaves and fruit drop onto the structure which may cause upset and complaints in the future by park users. To add when staff were preparing for installation of the playground they have cut into



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the root zone severing many feeder roots of the bloodwoods. A known habitat for the endangered phascogale. This is the very reason staff chose to resite the playground.

Park management practices of dumping vegetation in the bush surrounding the reserve shows little respect as does this playground and this whole process of the project.

Notification in Feb is not adequate time to pass onto the community their local park is having major changes.

Recreation facilities in this park should be in harmony with the environment. The proposed structure is loud in colour made from plastic materials and suitable for such a narrow age cohort. It appears to be purchased off the shelf to meet a budget with no consideration to the users or the environment it is within.

The state of the Park has been appalling for years and we have tried to rectify this through the appropriate channels.

The value the local community hold is evident with the level of outrage people are experiencing.

This park, an entry to Grassy Head Beach and surrounded by nature at its best, is the very reason many of us live here.

We call for a collaborative approach to any works at Grassy Head Reserve.

Regards

Mary-Lou Lewis

Chairperson SPaDCO