



EASTERN RESERVE, SOUTH MELBOURNE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FEEDBACK RESULTS

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Saturday May 11 2013 10am -12pm

Consultation tent on-site

Community attendees at consultation – 20

Attendees against fence proposal- 11

Attendees for fence proposal - 9

Comments - Against
Prefer no fence for visual amenity
People can sit on lawn as it is not a dog park
Fence would prevent people using park for the right reasons (as intended)
Dog off-leash preferred on other side of Reserve(south)
Passive recreation zone for lunch & afternoon 'breaks'
Dog off-leash area would be detrimental to the current use of the park.
No to fencing & dogs – dog off-leash at Albert Park Lake.
Why ruin a perfectly good parkland with gates and fencing. Sad, sad, sad
No to fencing north side.
South side is fenced – no need to have north side fenced as well.
No fence - amenity
Discourages people walking through
Fence would make it less inviting for others (non-dog owners)
There are enough fenced dog areas in the City of Port Phillip

Comments - For
Would love to see area fenced
Support off-leash area
Support fencing & off-leash area
Support for fencing & dog off-leash trial
Support for fencing & dog off-leash trial
Supportive of fencing
Dog poo is an issue in the play area, best to provide separate off-lead area.
Ball throwing for dogs can scare some children. Dogs & kids should be separated.
Support off-lead and fencing
Staged dog off-leash times ie. 6-10am & 5-7pm
Prefer cyclone fence for heritage reasons
Agree with fence & off-lead area.
As a parent of three boys and a dog owner, the fence would allow ball games for children & inclusion of dog

Comments - Other
Difficult to access 'Have Your Say' online.
Group of dog-walkers meet at Eastern Reserve between 4-5pm each night.
Dogs use north side off-leash already, particularly in mornings.
Zone off-lead. Dogs that can't be off-lead near roads shouldn't be.
More seating in the park to encourage use.
Consider planting as a barrier/soft edge.
Management of leaf litter- stormwater drains overflowing.
Tree pruning (Elms) required.
Drinking fountain with dog bowl.
Heritage drinking fountain is over 100 yrs old needs to be restored & acknowledged.

Wednesday May 22 2013 12pm - 2pm
 Consultation tent on-site

Community attendees at consultation – 10 (+1 late vote)
 Attendees against fence proposal - 1 (+1)
 Attendees for fence proposal - 6

Comments Against

Against fence for visual and physical barrier.
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Comments For

Proximity of existing dog off-leash parks not within walking distance.
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Takes 20-25 minutes one way to walk to Albert Park safe off-leash area (time adds impact on other responsibilities)

What is reality of fence? Not that huge an impact.
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More traffic calming on Eastern rd – consider not fencing Eastern Rd side of park (like at sth side)
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People often find change positive, but resist initially.
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Closest off leash area parallel to Albert rd at AP Lake- heavy traffic and no fence

Albert Rd dog zone - conflict with swans. Need an alternative local park.

Would be very supportive of fence.

People who are older find it difficult to walk to Albert Park.
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Support timed off-leash.

Fence would encourage ball use/children

More people will use park; increase sense of safety.
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Supportive of fencing. Important to visualise fencing – proposed style looks good.
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Timed off-leash zones need to reflect summer & winter use ie. summer until 9pm.

Too scared to use off-leash with dogs as is – heavy traffic.
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Community asset- all people should be able to access.

Lunch-time users – need dogs on leash these times ie. 11.30 -2pm off-leash other times.

Comments Neutral

My dog cannot be walked off-lead and is intimidated by other dogs; my wife supportive of proposal.
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Comments - Other

Add more bins to reserve.

More seats x 2

Improve lighting

Drinking fountain needed (an accessible one)
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Dog poo bags.

Eastern Rd. – turn into cul-de-sac similar to other side of Eastern Rd.

Traffic speeds through Eastern Rd.& along Park Street – needs traffic calming; humps
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Excessive litter around Marquee Club, and their bins take up a 1 hr parking spot.

**Online consultation 'Have Your Say' page
May 2 to May 27 2013**

Survey Question: Do you support the fencing at Eastern Reserve north? Yes/No

Do you have any additional comments?

Total number of responses: **86**

Number of **No** responses: **40**

Number of **Yes** responses: **46**

Number of comments: **39**

* Note – comments have not been corrected for spelling or grammatical errors.

* Identifying text such as names and addresses have been removed for privacy reasons.

'No' Comments
This inner city space must not be enclosed by a fence. This park is used by a variety of people - local residents, local workers, and casual visitors to the area. A fence would restrict park usage and ruin the ambience.
this is a peaceful open space in a crowded area the visual and use changes thaT WOULD arise from fencing is very concerning I will write to the local councillor and parliamentarian and who ever came up with this concept does not live in south melbourne
The fencing seems to be linked to dooff the leash. This space is not appropriate for dogs off the leash. It has a water drinking fountain. The fountain is historical. A passive space for recreational needs is incompatible with dogs off the leash. This space is used by the employees of businesses/offices for recre
The park is a beautiful open green area, which is becoming a rarity in inner city suburbs. Fencing it will only serve to close it off, making it less inviting, less visibly appealing and lessen the appeal of the area. People, including myself casually stroll through the the park rather than around it, breaking up a walk through "the city". Don't turn South Melbourne a suburb with only enclosures as greenery.
I work at a nearby business and my colleagues and I enjoy visiting this park during our breaks. I strongly oppose any fencing of this park. Maintaining and creating an open, uncluttered environment should be the council's goal, rather than fencing-in a public park!!! I only visit this area during weekdays and I cannot attend the planned "community consultation" this Saturday. Today, during the lunch hour, this reserve had many people enjoying the sun - I suggest that the council holds a community consultation during a weekday to seek the opinion of non-residents.
Conceptually the plan seems flawed. The park currently works open for use by dogs at times and local residents who want to play, read or relax on the grass. If the fence is to stop balls or dogs going onto the road it may need to be quite high so what is the detail of the fence design and how will it detract and decrease value of adjoining properties? It's not manhattan! Plant a hedge or something softer... It would achieve the same thing. The dogs are contained.. A ball will fly over either. A fence will architecturally suggest exclusion.. For a gated community. Not an open aesthetic for the City of Port Phillip.
I am one of 2 co-owners of xxxxxxxx South Melbourne. I have yesterday been advised by

another resident of xxxxxxxx of the above proposals. In short I am flabbergasted by the lack of consultation with affected residents and property owners. All affected ratepayers should have had formal letters from the Council outlining these proposals at a very early stage of the developments. However, it is only by chance that I have become aware of the issues and it is very apparent to me that there are very many affected interested parties who will not yet know of the proposals. My views are very strong on these matters and are outlined below: Eastern Reserve North Side provides a very nice small recreation and walk-through area for residents and local workers who use this reserve during their breaks. Putting any sort of a fence around is visual pollution and only in the interests of the minority group of dog owners that might use it. I expect that that the great majority of dog owners who would use it would not be people that are directly affected by the unsightly fence and all of the other negatives and dangers that go hand-in-hand with off-leash dog areas. Off-leash dog areas should be much larger and expansive than the small reserve in question i.e. a designated area in the vast expanses of Albert Park. In fact I understand there is already a designated off-leash area only about 500 meters away. Should people wish to house dogs in inner built-up suburbs they must be prepared to travel a little extra distance to avail of off-leash areas. The users of these facilities are a minority group and should in no way be dictating negative outcomes for the majority of directly affected residents, property owners and local workers. I am a dog owner and regularly take my dog to off-leash areas. Many people who frequent these areas do not have full control of their dogs and do not always clean up their dog's excrement. Sometimes they do not see the litter but others will avoid cleaning it up if they think they will get away with it. It is unsightly and unhealthy for other users of this tiny park to have to accept these very negative outcomes to facilitate a minority who can't be bothered to travel a very short way to proper off-leash facilities. Creating an off-leash dog area in this park will negatively impact on property values close to the park. This is unacceptable. I understand that the child care centre on the south side of the park is a significant proponent on having Eastern Reserve North Side established as an off-leash area. The vast majority of users of the child care centre do not live in sight of Eastern Reserve North Side so are not affected residents or property owners. So why should they have any influence? I understand that they would not want an off-leash dog area on their own doorstep on the Southern side so why not just close it down and dog owners will just need to use other designated areas. The fact that there is opposition to the existing off-leash area on the Southern side is testimony to the negatives and down side of off-leash areas in very small areas. But what does the Council want too do? It wants to transfer the problem to our doorsteps. And no proper consultation - not acceptable. I thank you for the opportunity to put forward my views.

I am the second of 2 co-owners of xxxxxxx South Melbourne. The other co-owner has already provided views and my views are entirely consistent with those of my co-owner. I repeat our views below: We have yesterday been advised by another resident of xxxxxxxx of the above proposals. In short we are flabbergasted by the lack of consultation with affected residents and property owners. All affected ratepayers should have had formal letters from the Council outlining these proposals at a very early stage of the developments. However, it is only by chance that we have become aware of the issues and it is very apparent to us that there are very many affected interested parties who will not yet know of the proposals. Our views are very strong on these matters and are outlined below: Dog behaviour can be unpredictable. Where a number of dogs gather in small confined areas and are off-leash unpredictability is increased relative to that where there is much more room for the dogs to spread out and not be crowded. Accordingly we believe that there are greater dangers from off-leash dogs in smaller areas than in larger areas. Dog owners sometimes have little or no control of their dogs. It would be tragic if the designated area being too small contributed to some child or adult being bitten by a dog. Eastern Reserve North Side provides a very nice small recreation and walk-through area for residents and local workers who use this reserve during their breaks. Putting any sort of a fence around is visual pollution and only in the interests of the minority group of dog owners that might use it. We expect that that the great majority of dog owners who would use it would not be people that are directly affected by the unsightly fence and all of the other negatives and dangers that go hand-in-hand with off-leash dog areas. Off-leash dog areas should be much larger and expansive than the small reserve in question i.e. a designated area in the vast expanses of Albert Park. In fact we understand there is already a designated off-leash area only about 500 meters away. Should people wish to house dogs in inner built-up suburbs they must be prepared to travel a little extra distance

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I think that the proposed fencing will make the park less attractive to users (other than dog owners) and will decrease usage of the park. Also, the fence is visually unattractive and makes the park very uninviting.

Last weekend I saw a small boy being taught to kick a soccer ball by his dad .Shame on council , I would have that our childrens use of the park would be much more beneficial to young families , rather than a dog run.

I object to the proposed fence. I have used this park for many years - it should remain open and accessible to all, not just people wishing to let their dogs off the leash.

This reserve is for everyone, not just dog owners.

We have lived in xxxxxxx against the northern side of Eastern Reserve for almost 40 years and in that time have not seen any reason why it should be fenced. It is an open, welcoming space which we value - to the extent of picking up rubbish there regularly and to the badly needed watering of the recently planted trees. Many dogs have run freely without incident over the years, so we do not see any reason for the change. An extra garbage bin sited along the Eastern Road side to replace the one removed several years ago would almost certainly be useful. We have not previously heard any locals express a wish that this piece of parkland be fenced.

As a resident of xxxxxxx, living opposite the Eastern Reserve, I'm concerned the fencing will destroy the lovely streetscape we currently enjoy - including the heritage detail of the bluestone edging and the memorial fountain. The park is currently used by dog owners without fencing and it seems to be working well, and I'm concerned fencing off the area will restrict use by all the other people who regularly use the park. Its a popular place for people who work in nearby businesses to retreat to during their lunch hour or at other times during the day, and on the weekends its frequently used by young families as a play area. Keep the Eastern Reserve Fence Free please!

The use of this park as a recreational reserve for the wider community will cease if it becomes a 'dog park'. Please don't ruin this beautiful park by fencing it, and allowing dogs in, when Albert Park Lake is only a short walk away.

A fence would dissuade others from using the park.

I understand the purpose of the fence is to enable a dog off leash area - I do not agree that the park should be sacrificed for the benefit of only dog owners. Past fences erected by the CoPP in South Melbourne have been very unattractive (see Heather St south park or

Stammer Reserve. The fence location also wastes a lot of space and turns what is a small but attractive space into a "busy" looking pen. If council is determined to fence it, it should be a traditional Victorian-look which type fence. Also in keeping with the era the fence should be within 30 cm of the park boundary.

Why spoil what is there - a fence would be unsightly and give a closed space feeling - not the feeling of freedom that the park has now.

'Yes' Comments

To be zoned an off-leash dog area would be a great asset to the local community.

It is essential as this park is utilised by children and in particular the kinder children before and after hours. Motorist speed along all parameters of the park and therefore fencing is essential!!

I do not endorse a leash free trial at this park under any circumstances given the proximity to the kindergarten and that it is used by a lot of children!!! Dogs and children do not mix and although you are suggesting north side only, do you seriously believe a dog knows or realises locations and invisible boundaries?? Seriously!!! It is fraught with immense danger and to endorse it would suggest the council has not taken any duty of care for the children...

Please remember there are a lot of dogs and dog-lovers living in the area. What are arrangements for dogs on the Southern side where all the new play equipment for children is located? Please ensure a suitable space for dogs on BOTH the Southern side and the Northern side.

There should be off leash dog areas within walking distance for all South Melbourne residents. Fencing this reserve will help achieve that aim. Green or black fencing (e.g. open mesh) will be very inconspicuous, even from houses facing Eastern Road. Fencing the Eastern Road side will discourage night loitering/intrusion in the reserve, and make the area safer for Eastern Road residents.

Fencing this area will create a safe place for children to play. I often see families use the space to kick a ball and think the fence will encourage more kids to use the area. An off leash dog trial would be very welcomed by dog owners, unfortunately there are a small minority of dog owners who let the rest of us down by not picking up after their dogs, if biodegradable bags and rubbish bins were included as part of the trial this might encourage these owners to clean up and keep the space tidy for all families and dog owners to use.

Living directly opposite the Eastern Reserve we notice that people often use the park for kicking the footy or dogs off the leash. So to have the reserve fenced off would make it more safe, it could even be an option to turn this reserve into a dog park and have the other park that is currently being redesigned into a family orientated park.

I am sick of tired of having to battle with irresponsible dog owners in the early evening and on weekends at Eastern Reserve. My young children cannot play on the grassed areas at all anymore as dogs simply run around them and jump on them. When you confront the owner they all say the same 'the dog is fine won't hurt anything'. Well it is not fine. Irresponsible dog owners (and there is many) also use the park as a form of toilet for their dogs. Dog poo is always a problem, and my children and I regularly get it on our shoes. A thorough inspection of any area for play is required prior. The dogs need to be removed from the park. Children and dogs running wild do not mix.

We'll be away and unable to attend the consultation morning. A piece of enclosed space for dogs north of Albert Road is needed for their exercise. The area is very rarely used by anyone currently so it would be put to good use.

I also support the use of the Eastern Reserve (north) as a potential location for an off leash dog trial. When I was in New York a few years ago I saw fenced off leash areas for dogs, like the Tompkins Square Dog Run, and I thought it was fantastic and wished there was one in South Melbourne. They even had separate fenced areas for small dog breeds. It's great, not just for dogs but for local dog owners to meet and get to know their neighbours. Also a separate dog park will mean parents won't have to worry about dogs in the kids' play park. Win win! Thanks City of Port Phillip!

With no fence this park is just to look good. With fence will be good for families and kids to play with balls and dogs

The wording used to describe the North side of the Eastern Road is very confusing. If this is the parkland on the biz hotel (now the Block) side of the road, this is fine, as it's a separate space from the children's playground outside the kindergarten.

As one of the many responsible dog owners in the local area I am strongly in favour of a fully fenced off lead dog park on the northern park of the reserve. The park already serves as a gathering point for people dog owners and non owners alike to socialise and foster community spirit. Fully fencing it would improve the safety. The company I manage, xxxxxx is a manufacturer of fence fittings. We would be happy to supply hinges and safety latches free of charge for the project. Regards, xxxxxxxxxx

Yes it will provide a safe space to exercise and socialise our small dogs that need a run, without being in the children's play ground. Please ensure the gates are self closing like on a pool fence & the area has seating & rubbish bins. Thank you for providing a space for the 2nd highest park users-dogs!

Need a local place for dog owners to provide a safe activity zone for their pets. It is a very positive facility for people to get out and get active with their pets, and improves a persons health and wellbeing.

The loss of the southern reserve as a dog off leash area is a very disappointing outcome for the large number of inner-city dog owners in the area and in particular at the xxxxx apartments where I reside. However, I accept that the use of the park as a children's play area should be separated from the use as a dog exercise area for safety reasons, particularly in the context of the parks proximity to the child care centre. Accordingly, the northern part of eastern reserve provides an ideal alternative for a dog park within close proximity. It is noted that the majority of dog owners excise their dogs before and after work, outside of the general times the parks are used by other community members- particularly those from nearby offices eating lunch etc. As such, I can see no conflict, notwithstanding the fact that many people enjoy the company of dogs and there is an argument that they shouldn't be separated... Please take these comments seriously, there is a large community of dog owners that use the park and have formed a tight night social group. This will all be lost if the north side of the reserve cannot be utilised as a dog-off-leash area.

yes too far to walk to other dog parks.... the one running along albert road is useless... unsafe, no fence - 6 lanes of traffic near by and swans on the lose!

This would be fabulous as this area doesn't have a lot of safe areas for children and dogs. Being close to kingsway drivers feel they have licence to speed down our small lane ways and we have a children playing in our street and it would be nice to know they have a safe area close by to go to. Ideal if the north space also has the ability to be off leash for dogs, with a small child its sometimes hard to get out for long walks so the ability to walk somewhere close to let him run silly would be fabulous!

Fencing will make this reserve safe for kids (slightly older kids) to play ball and running games. The reserve is too small, and with busy roads on 2 sides, for it to be safe without fencing. I live close by and have seen over time that north side gets very little use compared to south side. Without fencing the north side is mostly just a visual space, not a used space. I also strongly support having it an off leash area for dog walking. My family runs on tight

schedules morning and evening and walking the dog has to fit in with that. If we had no dependents and were not working perhaps we'd have more flexibility, but that's not our reality. Can't spare the time to walk to current off lead areas, run the dog and then walk home. So now drive to off lead area! Can you imagine that -- driving the dog to a place where she can run free! I believe that all residents should have access to an off lead area within a 10 minute walk of their home. Fencing this reserve will really help in our area. Also, if there was traffic calming on the eastern side of the triangle, there could be gaps in the fence there, like there was on the southern part of this reserve (where the play equipment is). Thank you for reading this. I hope council considers this and goes ahead with the fencing and off lead trial.

Eastern Reserve Playspace Upgrade
 Community Consultation One
 Onsite, Saturday November 26 & Monday November 28 2011

Reserve Layout & General Comments	Play Equipment	Dogs & Other Users
Provide softer surfaces, ie. Rubber for scooter/bikes	Climbing structures	Improved signage for dog owners re. responsible dog ownership.
Communal veggie plots/veggie patch.	Monkey bars (x2)	Conflict with dog use areas (x3)
Keep the open space & grass(x3)	Flying Fox (x3)	Retain dog space (x 6)
Don't do too much – don't change reserve too drastically (x2)	More swings for young & older kids	Provide doggie bags
I like it the way it is	More & better baby swing seats ie. Ashworth st. (x2)	
Improve drainage around shelter	No play structures that encourage unsocial behaviour.	
Keep grass short - long grass conceals syringes	Rope climbing frames	
Retain reserve as a shared space for all, everyday, not just children.	Climbing wall	
Improve shade of Reserve	More exciting/challenging things.	
Shade is adequate	'wild' play areas	
More covered areas	Tree house	
Upkeep lawns – install irrigation, for heavily used park	Fallen logs for play	
More diverse landscape features inc. sensory & sculpted spaces , interactive/educational landscape features.	Trampoline	
Group play areas closer together – consolidate areas	Play equipment for toddlers to older children	
Improve path intersection- more interest.	Slides – for young & older children	
	More interesting play equip.	

Eastern Reserve Playspace Upgrade
 Community Consultation One
 Onsite, Saturday November 26 & Monday November 28 2011

Feedback, Opinions and Comments continued,

Furniture & other assets	Fencing	Toilets	Other
Provide drinking tap(x4)	Completely enclose reserve with fencing, kid-proof (x 6)	Improve Toilets	Permit for coffee- shop or cart- profits diverted back into the Reserve.
Install a BBQ (x 5)	Continue fence with low, dense, shrub planting	Improve visibility/blind spot around toilet block. Safety of toilet –kids can accidentally lock themselves in.	Pedestrian crossings to park across Heather St & Park St. as parking around reserve is very limited.
Install picnic tables (x4)	Retain fence as is, partial fencing.	Toilets not cleaned properly many families do not use because of this (x5)	Time-limited free parking
Tap to wash hands	Separate kids & dog areas (2)		
Lighting			
Upgrade shelter area; more welcoming & user friendly (x4)			
Improve/replace paving under shelter			
No BBQ – will increase patronage of park too much			
Fixed bins with surrounds (2)			
More seats around play area (x2)			
Exercise equipment			

Eastern Reserve Playspace Upgrade
Community Consultation One
Online Comments November 23 to December 30 2011

Reserve Layout & General Comments	Play Equipment	Dogs & Other Users
...create an interesting playspace for kids for years to come...colourful/interesting rubber surface around play equip...	50% online surveyer's did not like the existing play equipment.	Use the reserve as it has a grassed area (& fence) to take the dog x2
The ability to have a picnic without dogs running over your site or interfering with young children at play is not possible. Dogs should be banned from this park. It is not open play for dogs to run wildly. It is only a matter of time until a dog bites a child or incurs other harm which will leave council with a hefty legal bill to say the least. It is in dire needs of policing and the laws need to be enforced.	My kids lose interest quickly with the play equip. as its old & not very interesting...	Dislike number of dogs roaming & amount of dog poo on grass
The park is a great open plan space with plenty of grass and shade and that is its most valuable asset, open space, do not build too much infrastructure, but please control the number of dogs and users who simply have no regard for the space by letting dogs freely roam and poo. Dogs running wildly off leashes is dangerous to all users and council should patrol and enforce regulations.	Out of 13 online respondents – 53.8% said they did not want natural play elements.	Don't like - that there are too many dogs without collars running freely
If the current sheltered space is developed a BBQ area would be ideal. Also flexipave-type instead of concrete. Shade covers over the swings if possible	The online respondents who wanted natural play elements voted : 100% for log balancing & stepping stones. - 80% for smooth climbing/sitting boulders - 80% for more grasses & plants for play - 60% for water play	
Fencing on all sides would be a major improvement. The addition of a BBQ and some more bench seats would also be great.	Play equipment jnr responses: - 80% swings w toddler/baby seats - 80% Climbing equip - 50% slides & rockers	

There is also the space across Park St to be considered. I'd like a fenced area where dogs can be allowed off-leash on either side of Park St.	Play Equip snr. Responses: - 86% climbing options	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 71% slides - 57% flying fox/motion - 57% swings trad. Or basket. 	
Needs to be fully fenced, especially with speeding traffic along heather street. Water fountain, bbqs, upgraded shelter area added. Multi purpose games area would benefit area (basketball/ wall for tennis hitting/ cricket games). Regular pruning and maintenance of big trees to stop massive branches falling down and potentially injuring the children (as almost happened this week). There needs to be improved parking made available for the parents of the kindergarten and quietening of the streets (especially for those cars using it as a thoroughfare avoiding Moray St and kings way). There needs to remain an open grassed space that is large as most residences in the area lack this specifically.		
I think the best time to upgrade the playground would be at the end of 2012 - during the school hols so as to not interrupt the play before/after kinder during the school terms.		

Furniture & other assets	Fencing	Toilets	Other
Lack of bins, also seating is sparse.	Positive asset to park - the fence		Conflicting uses
...Also shelter area needs a makeover	Dislike - Not fully fenced x 2		
Dislike that there is no BBQ x2		Frequented by taxi & other drivers	
Dislike – no water tap			
Provide a BBQ			

Reserve Layout & General Comments	Play Equipment	Dogs & Other Users
More Open Space	Monkey bars	Doggy-bag dispenser
	Rocket ship	
	Fireman's pole	
'Swap' toddler areas with older kid areas for easier supervision of toddlers	More Swings	
	Larger' equipment for 'helicopter' parents	

Furniture & other assets	Fencing	Toilets	Other
More seats	Extend fence	Cleaning regime	Way-finding lights on footpath
	Only extend where necessary		
New signage on fence/gates	Increase fencing for safety-particularly Heather/Dow St end.		Path along Heather St, pedestrian crossing
Two BBQ hotplates	Fence around toilet – keep toilet use sep. from playspace.		Introduce temp.(1hr) parking between 12-1pm & 3.30-4.30pm.
Love to see BBQ			Speed humps to Heather St.