

16.1 LATE ITEM - PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

File No:	CP.682
Responsible Executive Officer:	Director Community Services
Reporting Author:	Manager Leisure Services
Date of Report:	15 July 2015
Applicant/Proponent:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachment(s)	Nil

PURPOSE

For Council to consider a reallocation of funds from the Stove Court Play Space Replacement project.

BACKGROUND

In 2014, a safety and compliance audit was conducted by Exceed Consulting which identified a playground replacement program to be implemented over a 10 year period. The objective of the report was to understand maintenance and compliance issues in the City's playgrounds, ensure the health and safety of residents using the facilities, and to mitigate any potential liability issues for the City.

As part of the plan, Stove Court Play Space, owned by Rio Tinto (RTIO) was earmarked for replacement in 2015/2016 and \$200,000 was allocated to this through the annual budget process.

In June 2015, the City sought RTIO's position on whether the upgrade should go ahead noting:

- The City would undertake the works;
- The City would seek a monetary contribution from RTIO to contribute to the project (proposed 50/50 split); and
- RTIO would retain ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the park after the upgrade.

Although Officers suggested to RTIO that Stove Court Play Space is required under the City's Play Space Standards, the discussions resulted in RTIO requesting that Stove Court Play Space be deleted from the 10-year plan, due to the high occurrences of vandalism, under-utilisation of the space and the high-quality of other existing public play spaces in Wickham. Following this, Officers investigated the potential to upgrade other play spaces in Wickham, and the potential to install shade at Saylor Park. All existing play spaces in Wickham have been constructed within the past three years and reach the City's Standards. Saylor Park Shade project has been identified through the RTIO Partnership Agreement for potential completion within 2015/2016 so has not been recommended as an alternative project.

Bulgarra Public Open Space

In June 2015, construction of the Bulgarra Public Open Space Stage 2 was completed and the facility was opened to the public. Feedback from the community has been positive however comments have been received via social media regarding the lack of shade.

Officers have reviewed the 10-year playground replacement program which outlines the following recommendations for the next five replacements;

Play space to be upgraded	Recommended year of replacement
Stove Court Park, Wickham	2015/2016
Jurat Park , Dampier	2017/2018
Kevin Richards Memorial Oval, Karratha	2019/2020
Smith-Delambre Park, Karratha	2019/2020
Windy Ridge Oval, Dampier	2019/2020

Officers suggest that there would no benefit to Council in expediting any of these works, as the play equipment at these parks is still within useful life. Rather, considering community feedback and the City's levels of service in existing parks, Officers recommend that the \$200,000 allocated to Stove Court Play Space in 2015/2016, be reallocated to the design and construction of a shade structure at the Bulgarra Play Space, to be completed June 2016.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

In accordance with Council Policy CG-08 Significant Decision Making Policy, this matter is considered to be of low significance in terms of financial, social, cultural & wellbeing issues.

COUNCILLOR/OFFICER CONSULTATION

No Councillor or Officer consultation is required however this report requests further direction around the now surplus funds. Council may choose to return funds to surplus for reallocation at a later date, or identify another project to be completed this financial year.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

No formal community consultation has taken place however Officers have considered feedback received from the community regarding Bulgarra Play Space. Officers have investigated other community requests and have determined that a shade structure at Bulgarra Play Space is the highest priority for play space upgrades at this time.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

This matter is in accordance with Section 6.8 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council Policy CE13 Tender Evaluation Criteria and Policy CG11 Regional Price Preference Policy will be applied to the tender process for the shade structure.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications pertaining to this report as Officers are recommending the funds are transferred to a new project being the Bulgarra Public Open Space Shade Structures. Alternatively, Council may resolve to return funds to surplus, or reallocate the funds for other uses. The proposed fund reallocation is outlined in the table below.

Acc No	Account/Job Description	Current Budget (2015/2016)	(Inc)/Dec	Proposed Amended Budget	Reason
934201	Playground Replacement Program	\$200,000	-\$200,000	-\$200,000	Recommend reallocation of all funds to below account.
934205	Playground Shade Structures	\$0	(\$200,000)	(\$200,000)	Increase of \$200,000 to complete Bulgarra Play Space Shade
	Total	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This item is relevant to the Council's approved Strategic Community Plan 2012-2022 and Corporate Business Plan 2012-2016. In particular the Operational Plan 2015-2016 provided for this activity:

Our Program:	1.a.2.6	Operate Community Facilities.
Our Services:	1.a.2.6.6	Plan new facilities and upgrade new facilities.
Our Program:	1.a.3.1	Provide open spaces which cater for the community's needs.
Our Services:	1.a.3.1.2	Improve open space as per community needs.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

There are no risk management considerations applicable.

IMPACT ON CAPACITY

Leisure Services will deliver the shade project though this will be in lieu of the work required to complete the Stove Court Play Space upgrade and will not have any impact on Officers' workloads.

RELEVANT PRECEDENTS

Council has previously constructed shade structures over the majority of play spaces throughout the City.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute Majority.

OPTIONS:

Option 1

As per Officer's recommendation.

Option 2

That Council by ABSOLUTE Majority pursuant to Section 6.8 of the *Local Government Act 1995* RESOLVES to NOT reallocate \$200,000.00 and return the funds back to the municipal account to be reallocated within the November 2015 budget review process.

CONCLUSION

Following discussions between Rio Tinto (RTIO) and the City, it has been requested by RTIO that Stove Court Play Space upgrades, earmarked for completion in 2015/2016, be deleted from the City's 10-year upgrade plan due to the high quality of existing parks in Wickham and the high rate of vandalism at the park. Officers suggest the \$200,000.00 allocated to this project be reallocated to the design and construction of a shade structure at Bulgarra Play Space after community feedback highlighted the need for shade.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council by **ABSOLUTE** Majority pursuant to Section 6.8 of the *Local Government Act 1995* **RESOLVES** to:

- REALLOCATE \$200,000 from account 934201 for upgrades to Stove Court Play Space to account 934205 for the design and construction of a shade structure at Bulgarra Play Space as outlined in the below table;**

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- NOTE the Chief Executive Officer has the authority to call tenders and administer contracts for projects under \$300,000.**