

Online Survey Summary

Introduction

The City of Holdfast Bay sought community feedback on the two concept options via a community survey on the Your Holdfast website, open from Novemeber 20 to December 10, 2025. The survey asked the community to vote for their favourite concept and provide comment on the reason behind their selection.

Overview of Participation

This consultation attracted responses from a broad cross-section of residents within City of Holdfast Bay, with participation spanning multiple suburbs and age groups.

Total survey respondents: 79

Location of respondents:

72% City of Holdfast Bay residents (mainly Hove, North Brighton, Brighton)
28% visitors from surrounding suburbs (e.g. Seaview Downs, Warradale)

Demographics:

Primary age groups: 25–39 years (25%), 60–74 years (34%)

Key characteristics include:

- Strong representation from adults aged 30–49 years, aligning with parents and carers of young children who are the primary users of the playspace.
- Notable participation from older adults aged 50–69 years, including grandparents and long-term local residents with an interest in community infrastructure.
- Responses linked to children under 9 years, reflecting the involvement of households with young children and childcare or early learning settings.
- Limited representation from teenagers and young adults, which is consistent with the playground-focused nature of the consultation.

Preferred Option

Option 1 (Stingray) received approximately two-thirds of all preferences, demonstrating a clear and statistically meaningful majority preference across respondents.

While both concepts were generally well received, the Stingray option attracted stronger and more frequent endorsement, particularly from families with children across multiple age groups.

Key themes from community feedback

Community priorities for Wattle Reserve include:

- Strong preference for Option 1 (Stingray) as the more engaging and versatile design
- Inclusive play for all abilities and ages, with particular emphasis on toddlers and younger children
- High value placed on the flying fox, swings and climbing elements
- Safety concerns, including traffic speed, fencing, supervision and proximity to roads
- Desire to retain a family-focused character, avoiding over-emphasis on teenage or high-intensity uses
- Mixed views on bike tracks, with frequent calls to reconsider or remove them due to duplication and safety concerns
- Noise sensitivity, particularly opposition to musical or chime-based play elements near housing
- Coastal and marine theming supported, provided it is visually cohesive and not overly pastel or faded
- Support for retaining shade, and providing seating and BBQ facilities to encourage longer family stay

Design Recommendations

1. Preferred Concept Direction

Proceed with Option 1 – Stingray as the preferred design framework.

2. Inclusive and Age-Appropriate Play

- Retain and enhance inclusive play opportunities that support toddlers, school-aged children and carers.
- Ensure play equipment provides graduated challenge and choice without disproportionately shifting the focus toward older children or teenagers.
- Maintain open layouts and clear sightlines to support passive supervision.

3. Key Play Elements

- Retain high-value play items strongly supported by the community, including: flying fox / cableway, swings (including accessible and group swing options), climbing and balancing elements.
- Ensure play elements are robust, durable and suitable for high coastal use.

4. Safety and Risk Management

- Consider perimeter fencing to support child safety, particularly given the proximity to roads and surrounding uses.
- Prioritise safe entry points and internal circulation to minimise conflict between play types.
- Continue to consider CPTED principles and safe sightlines throughout the design.

5. Traffic and Edge Conditions

- Acknowledge community concern regarding traffic speeds and safety along Wattle Avenue.
- Investigate complementary traffic-calming measures and pedestrian safety improvements in parallel with the playspace upgrade.
- Ensure interface treatments between the playspace and adjacent roads reinforce safety and visibility.

6. Bike Track Consideration

- Remove bike track from design

7. Noise and Amenity

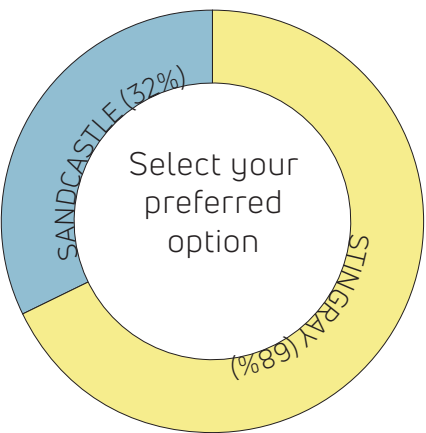
- Exclude noise-generating play elements (such as chimes), recognising the proximity of residential properties.
- Balance active play with quieter zones to support diverse user needs and neighbourhood amenity.

8. Coastal Character and Materials

- Continue with a marine-inspired theme that reflects the coastal setting without reliance on overly pastel or visually subdued colour palettes.
- Use durable, low-maintenance materials appropriate for coastal conditions.

9. Supporting Facilities

- Retain and enhance supporting infrastructure such as seating, shelters and BBQ facilities to encourage family and community use.
- Ensure paths, furniture and amenities are accessible and compliant with relevant standards.



Conclusion

Community feedback demonstrates strong support for the renewal of the playspace at Wattle Reserve, with respondents welcoming investment in a well-used local asset. The majority of participants expressed a preference for the Stingray concept, citing its broader range of play opportunities, inclusive and accessible design, and ability to cater to multiple age groups, including toddlers, school-aged children and carers.

Overall, the survey indicates a clear community preference for an inclusive, family-focused playspace that balances play diversity with safety, neighbourhood amenity and sensitivity to its coastal residential context.