

8. TAKAHE DRIVE RESERVE PLAY EQUIPMENT

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The purpose of this report is for the Board to allocate capital works expenditure for the upgrading of Takahe Drive Reserve play equipment.

Takahe Drive Reserve is situated on the corner of Kidson Terrace and Takahe Drive. The present play equipment is an older style fort. The fort no longer meets the New Zealand safety standards.

There is funding of \$25,000 set aside in the current financial year for upgrade of the play equipment.

A letterbox drop was made in July 1999 to ask local residents about what type of equipment they would like and at what location. A total of 58 households replied (comments are in the attachment).

The results are as follows:

Play Equipment Type	
Composite structure incorporating a number of items (similar to the Botanical Gardens playground)	36
Individual items – (seesaw, slide etc.)	15
Age Group Preference	
Suitable for children 2-6 years of age	27
Suitable for children 6-12 years of age	31
Preferred Location	
Existing location	38
Closer to the road where the picnic table currently is.	10

The Parks Unit had decided that they would replace the fort with a composite structure for mixed age groups, and site it on the existing location.

A letter has been received from the Cashmere Residents Association requesting that the Cracroft Reserve (adjacent to the Sign of the Takahe) also be considered as an alternative site for the play equipment.

Before bringing this item back to the Board, it was considered prudent to write to the residents who had put in submissions and ascertain the general feeling as to where residents would like the equipment placed.

The following are the results from the second questionnaire. A total of 44 households responded to where they would like the play equipment sited. Comments are attached.

- Takahe Drive Reserve 35 households
- Cracroft Reserve 7 households

Cracroft Reserve is zoned Conservation 2 (historic and garden city parks), and is located next to two busy roads. Concerns were raised about children crossing to the Reserve and the possibility of present parking problems increasing. There are no clear sight lines into the Reserve, which may impact on the Parks Unit “Safer Parks Policy”.

The Takahe Drive Reserve is a neighbourhood reserve. The Parks Unit has a strong commitment to providing recreation areas within walking distance. The funds from the capital works budget are for the upgrade of the equipment for Takahe Drive Reserve. If the money is not spent in this Reserve, the equipment will be removed and not replaced.

There are many more issues about placing equipment on Cracroft Reserve. It is a conservation zone so some consent would be required. Cracroft Reserve would be considered more as a metropolitan park than a local neighbourhood reserve. Therefore, if play equipment were to be sited on Cracroft Reserve, wider consultation would be required.

The results from the second survey strongly support the play equipment being upgraded on the local reserve.

Recommendation: That the Parks Unit upgrade the play equipment at the Takahe Drive Reserve.