

Project update – Goroke Little Desert Nature Playspace

July 2016

Goroke Little Desert Nature Playspace – project update

The Goroke Little Desert Nature Playspace project is rapidly progressing. The project will provide the community of Goroke with modern play facility and a place for social connectedness. Following the receipt of funding through the Commonwealth Drought Communities Program, planning commenced to deliver a quality community playspace for Goroke.

Country towns frequently revolve around their sport and recreation facilities and Goroke is no exception. The location of the Goroke Little Desert Nature Playspace is situated adjacent a range of existing recreational and sporting infrastructure with excellent connectivity to the rest of the town. The playspace has the opportunity of capturing the towns' positive approach to health and wellbeing with a community supported project that will provide a meeting place for the town and its visitors. The design will enhance the local environment, working with the local characteristics of the region making strong reference to the Little Desert National Park its geology, flora and fauna in a playful and artful way. The intention of the playspace is to provide a setting that attracts families and the community to play and relax that is inclusive and exciting.

Jeavons Landscape Architect have been engaged to undertake the detailed design of the playspace. Design Architect Felicity Brown is excited to be working with the Goroke community and Council to plan a facility that meets the town's needs. "The details of the design will be developed in the next couple of weeks, however, will be strongly nature based with cubby making opportunities, sand-play, water-play, along with a variety of inclusive play elements and social facilities," explains Felicity.

Consultation with the students from the Goroke College was undertaken this month, where the students were asked about their experience in using the existing play area. They were then asked to illustrate what they would like to see in a new playspace, through three dimensional design using objects such as bark, moss and stones. Of the students that participated, all were enthusiastic and had outstanding ideas. This input will be incorporated in to the design process.

Project Steering Committee Member Haydn Wearne is a strong supporter of the new playspace. "This project will provide us with an excellent space that can be used by all members of our community. We have already had valuable input and assistance from a variety of local clubs and organisations such as Goroke Apex, Goroke Lions, Goroke College, Goroke Kinder and the Goroke Recreation Reserve Committee. It is great to see the whole town involved and working together on a positive development for the town."

A draft concept design will be available for comment at the beginning of August. The community will have the opportunity to consider the draft plan and provide feedback to the Design Architect. A final plan will be confirmed by the end of August.

Council lodged an application last month in the 2016-17 Community Sporting Infrastructure Fund (Sport and Recreation Victoria) to leverage the existing funding. The application process involves two stages; council has received notification that it has progressed to the second stage and will submit a full application for this project by the due date (31 August 2016). This funding would allow a more flexible playspace that caters for a wider age range, significantly increasing the participation outcomes of the project. SRV will assess applications and make a decision by December 2016. Council will await the outcome of this application prior to commencing construction of the project.



For further details on this project, please contact
Kellie Jordan, Economic Development Manager
03 5392 7700 | kelliejordan@westwimmera.vic.gov.au