

Thames Centennial Pool Playground Surfacing

TO Thames Community Board
FROM Paul Dufty - Pool Manager
DATE 16 October 2015
SUBJECT Thames Centennial Pool Playground Surfacing

1 Purpose of Report

To seek approval from the Thames Community Board for funding of the safety surfacing at the Thames Centennial Pool Playground.

2 Background

The original Hauraki Terrace playground was replaced by a new playground designed in conjunction with Thames South School students in mid 2014.

Rather than dispose of the original playground it was decided to deconstruct it in such a way that all or parts of it could potentially be recycled if an opportunity presented itself.

The playground was taken apart by Council staff including the Pool Manager who identified that the Thames Centennial Pool offering could be enhanced by the provision of a playground, funds permitting. As a result the deconstructed playground was transported to the pool grounds to be stored.

The Community Development Officer for Thames secured \$20,000 of funding from the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) for Value 4 Youth Volunteering projects. The Pool Manager approached the Thames Swim Club about the young members taking on a volunteer project to assist in getting the playground installed at the Pool. As a result 16 young people signed up for the 'Thames Centennial Pool Playground Project' and \$4,000 (plus GST) of MYD funding was secured.

With the combination of the MYD funding to pay for materials and a Builders time, the Thames Swim Club volunteers and TCDC staff volunteers, the playground has been constructed with the safety surfacing the only work to be undertaken before the playground can be used.

3 Issue

For the playground to be safe for use it must have safety surfacing on the ground. With the playground being located within the pool grounds the traditional options of soft fall or sand are not appropriate as they would both track into the pool and damage the filter pumps. Therefore a tile system was identified as the preferred safety surfacing option with the grass retention tiles being the most cost effective tile option at a cost of \$10,000 plus GST (**Attachment A**).

4 Discussion

Installation of the grass retention tiles will complete the construction of the playground and make it safe for use. Once the tiles are laid the Thames Swim Club will donate the playground to the Thames-Coromandel District Council.

As a result, any maintenance of the area and equipment will become Councils responsibility and the pools operating expenses will need to be altered to reflect that. The majority of the equipment has an expected life span of 10-15 years and is likely to extend further than that as the playground is in a controlled and monitored area.

General maintenance of the equipment will be added to the facilities annual programme and if any maintenance requirements are identified outside of this time then the Pool Manager will liaise with the Parks Contracts Manager about what is required.

5 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Thames Community Board:

1. Receives the report.
2. Approves the increase of the Thames - Swimming Pool - Renewals budget by \$10,000 plus GST for the installation of the grass retention tiles at the Thames Centennial Pool Playground to be funded from Thames Consolidated Depreciation Reserves.
3. Recommends that Council approves the extra capital expenditure of \$10,000 plus GST to be funded from Thames Consolidated Depreciation Reserves
4. Accepts the donation of the Pool Playground from the Thames Swim Club to the Thames-Coromandel District Council.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *Playmatta Quote*

Attachment A - Playmatta Quote.