

An aerial photograph of a coastal town and a large park area. In the foreground, a large green park features a winding paved path, several trees, and a large, dark, irregularly shaped play area with white outlines. To the left of the park is a building with a solar panel array on its roof. In the background, a residential town with various houses and buildings is visible, followed by a body of water and distant mountains under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

# Community Engagement Summary Report Warrina Lakes Nature Play

Prepared March 2024



**Cassowary Coast  
REGIONAL COUNCIL**



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**The Nature Play Project has been jointly funded by the Australian Government and Queensland Government in association with the Cassowary Coast Regional Council**





## Engagement Snapshot

**664**

YOURSAY VIEWS

**104**

YOURSAY  
CONTRIBUTIONS

**37,740**

PEOPLE REACHED ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA

**81**

PEOPLE LEFT FEEDBACK  
ON THE DOTMOCRACY  
BOARDS

**3 WEEKS**

ENGAGEMENT WAS OPENED

# Project Background

Crafted through a collaborative process and informed by the Cassowary Coast community, “The Warrina Lakes Strategic Master Plan” (the Plan) provides a roadmap to delivering a vibrant and inclusive space that resonates with the diverse needs and wants of our community, both now and in the years to come. Council's endorsement of the Plan on April 28, 2022, marked a significant milestone in our commitment to create and grow attractive spaces that invite locals and visitors to stay and enjoy the area.

The Plan has four core outcomes:



With Warrina Lakes recognised as a vital community asset, the Plan serves as an opportunity to develop an area that is used for leisure, recreation, and cultural activities.

Since the Plan's endorsement, Council has been proactive in advancing the implementation of its outlined activities with the \$400,000 pump track unveiled in August 2023 and funded from the Australian Government through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, and the \$200,000 car park upgrade complete in mid-2024, funded by the Queensland Government's Works for Queensland program. The Nature Play project marks Stage Three of delivery of the Plan.

## Engagement Purpose

The engagement purpose for the project aimed to gather valuable insights and preferences from interested community members and visitors regarding a draft concept design for a Nature Play area.

Through feedback on their favourite elements and inviting suggestions for incorporating local themes or elements, the engagement goal was to ensure that the final design of the play area not only meets the needs of the community, but also captures the uniqueness of our local environment.

# How We Engaged

The consultation was open for a period of three weeks commencing Monday 29 January 2024 to Monday 19 February 2024 generating valuable feedback across a range of engagement platforms including 104 submissions through the Your Say Platform.

Engagement activities included:

- Survey tool through the Your Say Website
- Dotmocracy boards at the Innisfail Library, Customer Service Centres
- Community Information Sessions at the Innisfail Library - Thursday 8 February, from 11:00am to 12:00pm, and a second session from 4:00pm to 5:00pm.
- Social Media Campaign through Facebook and Instagram - Total of 5 posts including boosted
- Video News Release to Channel 7 news aired on Friday 16 February 2024
- Council's Community Connect newsletter, printed in the Wet Tropic Times on 8 February 2024

Visual prompts in the form of corflute signs were placed in key playgrounds around Innisfail, and copies of the draft plan were displayed at the Innisfail Library and Customer Service Centre. This multi-pronged approach aimed to maximise visibility and encourage participation from a wide audience.

Overall, this comprehensive strategy played a vital role in fostering engagement and ensuring that all voices were heard.

## Warrina Lakes Nature Play Concept





# Engagement Summary

This report identifies and captures all feedback associated with the consultation and serves as a public document to close the loop on the engagement process on this stage of the project. The findings contained are presented in their entirety and draw no conclusions or recommendations on project or strategy outcomes going forward.

Throughout the community consultation period, there has been widespread endorsement of the proposed design, with the majority of feedback being positive. The community has demonstrated a high level of enthusiasm for a nature-inspired, interactive play space, emphasising a desire for water features, ample shade, and opportunities for imaginative play.

## Key Themes Identified

### Concept Design Elements

The most popular elements in the concept design were the slide, timber steppers and balance beams, the enchanted palm forest, climbing net and fort with talking tube.



### What local themes or elements they would like to see

Across all feedback channels, there was consistent feedback showing:

- Water elements including splash pads and waterparks.
- Shade provision, both natural and man-made
- Additional seating

### Alternative Themes and Open Feedback

- Integrating native wildlife and rainforest flora
- Magical elements - fairy gardens
- Desire to honour First Nations culture.

### Additional Concerns

- Maintenance
- Drainage
- Safety regarding potential mosquito breeding grounds.

# Your Say Survey

The Your Say survey comprised three questions soliciting respondents' favorite elements and suggestions regarding the concept design.

Survey respondents were asked:

Question One - Let us know your favourite element, up to three elements can be chosen?

Question Two - What local themes or elements would you like to see incorporated into the final Nature Play design?

Question Three - Is there any other feedback that you would like to provide?

**In total, the survey received 104 contributions**

## Performance Summary

### Overview

#### Performance Summary

**664**

Views

**530**

Visits

**467**

Visitors

**104**

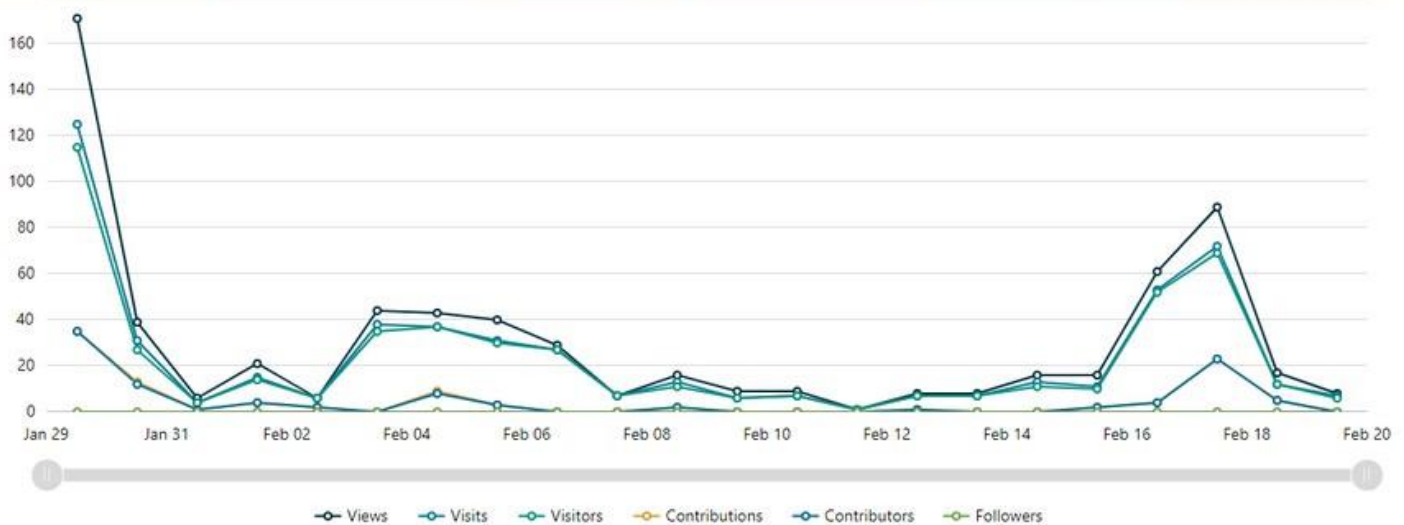
Contributions

**99**

Contributors

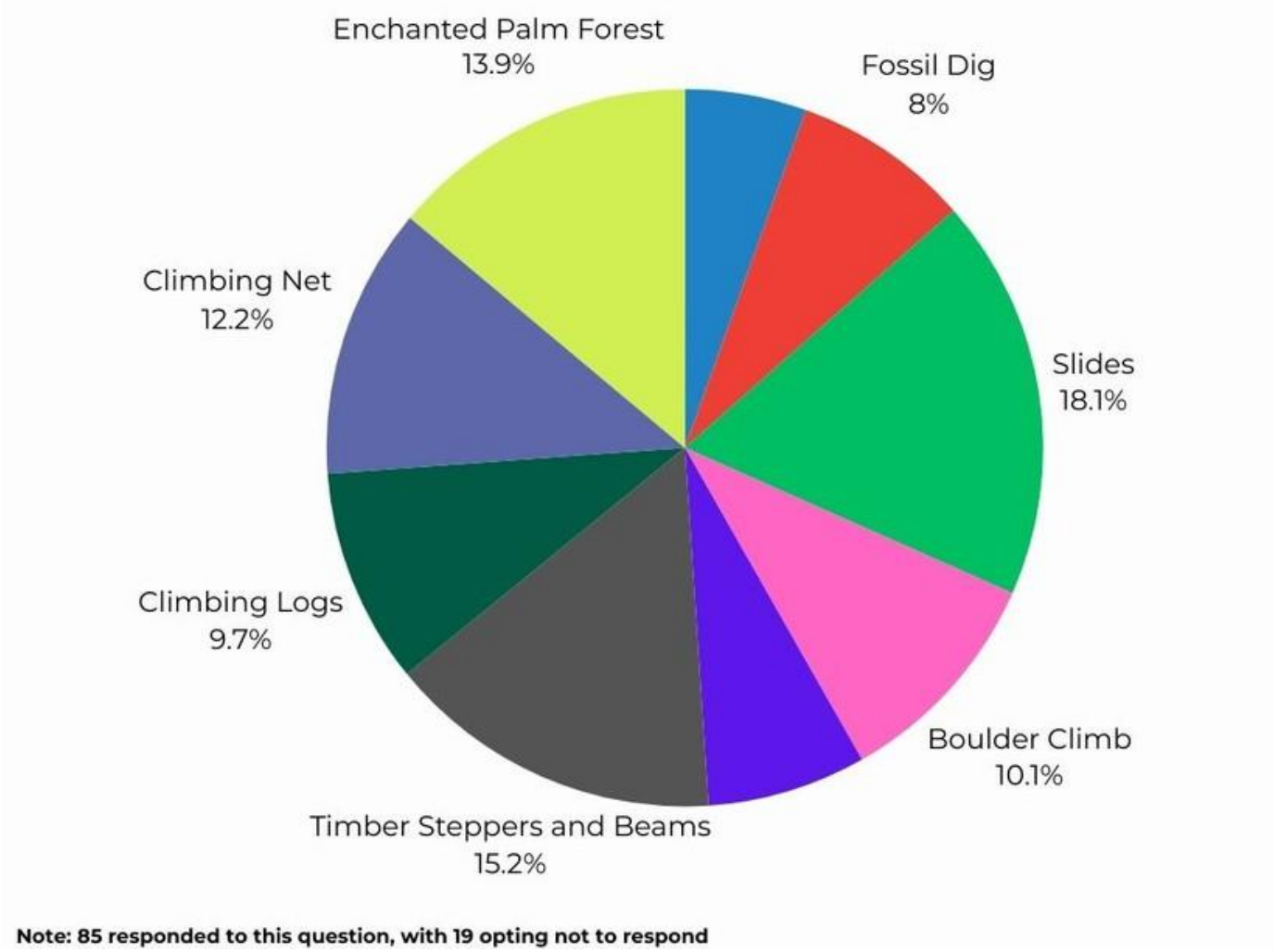
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Followers



# Cassowary Coast Your Say Platform

**Question One** Let us know your favourite element  
Up to three elements can be chosen.



## Results Summary



The slide emerged as the most favoured element, with slightly over 50% of respondents selecting it as their favorite option.



Following closely behind were the timber steppers and balance beams, garnering 42% of the votes.

The Enchanted Palm Forest and Climbing Net were also popular choices, closely trailing the leading options.



# Cassowary Coast Your Say Platform

## Question Two What local themes or elements would you like to see incorporated into the final Nature Play design?

**During the review process, community feedback was categorised into distinct themes. The analysis revealed several noteworthy trends:**



Water elements emerged as the most popular theme, with 30 comments expressing enthusiasm for their inclusion. Additionally, 15 respondents specifically requested a splash pad, and 10 suggested the incorporation of a waterpark.



Shade was another highly rated aspect, with 10 respondents emphasising its importance. Four additional comments advocated for the inclusion of an all-weather cover, while one respondent suggested a shade sail.



Several suggestions centred around celebrating the native wildlife of the Cassowary Coast and Far North Queensland. Cassowaries, crocodiles, ulysses butterflies, tree kangaroos, and green tree frogs were among the suggested elements. Furthermore, respondents highlighted the importance of incorporating native rainforest plants and tropical elements.



A notable suggestion from five respondents was the creation of a magical area featuring a fairy garden, fairy houses, or a fairy land.



Three respondents specifically requested the highlighting of First Nations culture as a preferred element within the project.

Resin or metal fossils and shells of local marine life, animals incorporated into the stepping logs of balance logs to make interactive and exploratory.

What makes our area/region unique is the abundance of WATER! Rain, rivers, and creeks.

Keep it open and safe for young ones and a water play area .Warrina Lakes is such a large beautiful place to have for residents and children .

Local themes (cassowary) used in design as part of play activities.

# Cassowary Coast Your Say Platform

## Question Three Is there any other feedback that you would like to provide?

During the review, feedback was organised into categories to identify key priorities.



Water amenities emerged as a prominent theme, with 20 comments expressing support for various water elements such as pumps, water slides, creeks, and waterways. A further 15 comments requested a splash pad and two in support for a lagoon.



Shade garnered significant attention, with 14 comments emphasising its importance, though specifics on the type were not provided. Furthermore, four requests were made for man-made shade to be included, such as cover, cloth or tarps, and four comments advocated for natural shade.



Seating was highlighted by 7 respondents, with 1 suggesting backing on seats for elderly or breastfeeding parents.



Nine comments expressed approval for the draft concept and facility design.



Other notable suggestions included five related to natural elements such as obstacles and climbing structures, four for toddler-friendly features, and five for elements that catered to both older and younger children.

Feel strongly that Warrina Lakes needs some sort of water activity also attached to this project.

Lots of SHADE!!!

Love the current design and am keen for this amazing addition to the community.

I absolutley love this idea- and I think it'll be fantastic for local families, school excursions and tourists in our community.

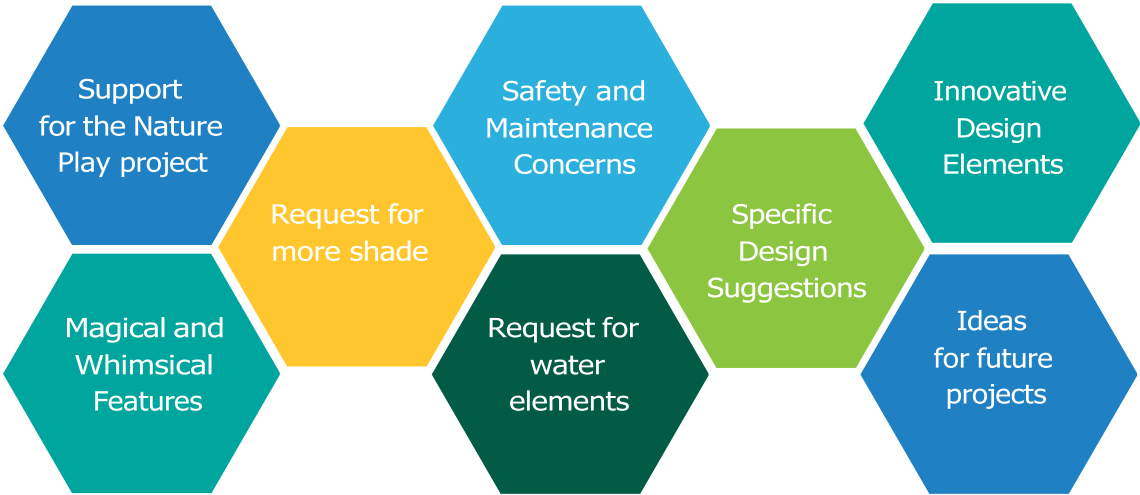
Just a safe and fun area for kids to explore that is different to the average playground. Incorporating things to climb, run around and over and explore around a beautiful landscape would be lovely.



# Information Sessions

A Council Engagement Officer ran two Community Information Sessions at the Innisfail Library. These ran on Thursday 8 February, from 11:00am to 12:00pm, and a second session from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. A total of 25 adults and 18 children were engaged during these sessions.

## Key Themes from the Community Information Sessions



## Thursday Morning Session

The morning session took place immediately following the Storytime Library session. Attendance comprised 12 adults and 11 children, accompanied by parents or carers who exhibited enthusiasm for the project.

There was a strong consensus among attendees in favour of including shade in the final design. Additionally, the majority expressed support for incorporating more water elements into the project, allowing children to turn the water on and off to play. The group expressed support for the proposed enchanted palm forest concept. Various suggestions were made to enhance its magical appeal, such as incorporating hidden elements for children to discover. Feedback also touched upon concerns regarding ongoing maintenance, drainage issues, potential mosquito breeding grounds, sand management, and animal waste.

## Afternoon Session

The afternoon session facilitated engagement with 9 adults and 7 children, including a Council Parks and Open Space team member who provided detailed feedback on the draft design. (Note that the team member attended in their own time.)

Desired features included more water elements, a shaded picnic area, a more engaging slide, and imaginative play structures such as a Little Castle area resembling a hobbit house. The additional consideration of a double BBQ set-up to accommodate multiple groups. Additional feedback included concerns about sand cleanliness and maintenance protocols.

An innovative suggestion was made to incorporate a Serpent element, inspired by Dreamtime stories, flowing through dwellings in a First Nation style. The comprehensive feedback from this employee has been forwarded to the project team. This element would need further engagement with Mamu RNTBC.

# Dotmocracy Tool

The Dotmocracy boards were placed at the Innisfail Library and Innisfail Customer Service Centre throughout the consultation period to identify a group's preferences from a list of options. It was a quick and easy decision-making process for narrowing down options for the community's favourite elements.

A total of 181 responses were collected from both locations with the slide, timber steppers, and enchanted palm forest emerged as the three top-voted items.

The hardwood climbing logs and boulder climbs were determined to be the least-favourite elements by respondents.

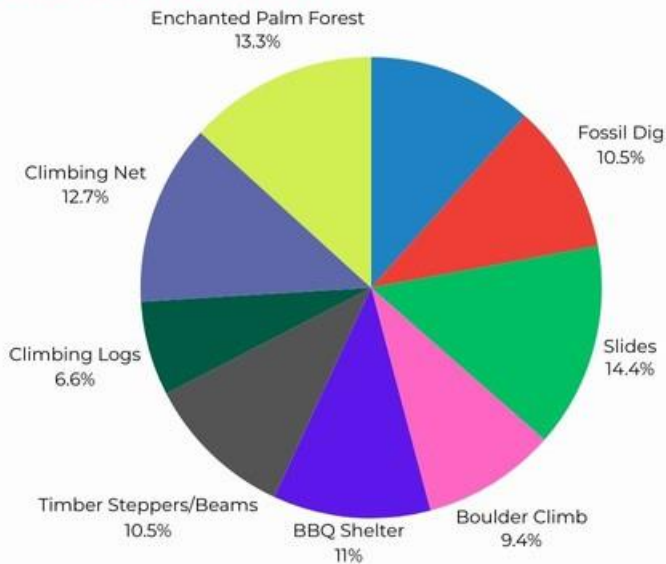
Total Responses



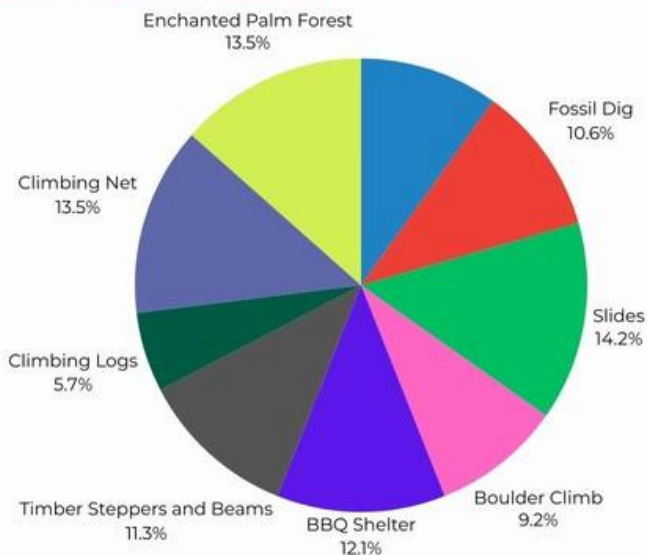
181



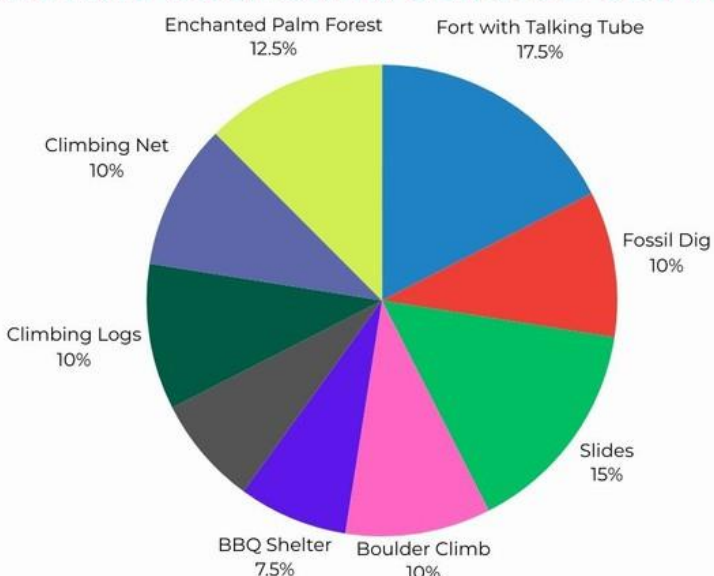
## TOTAL RESPONSES



## INNISFAIL LIBRARY



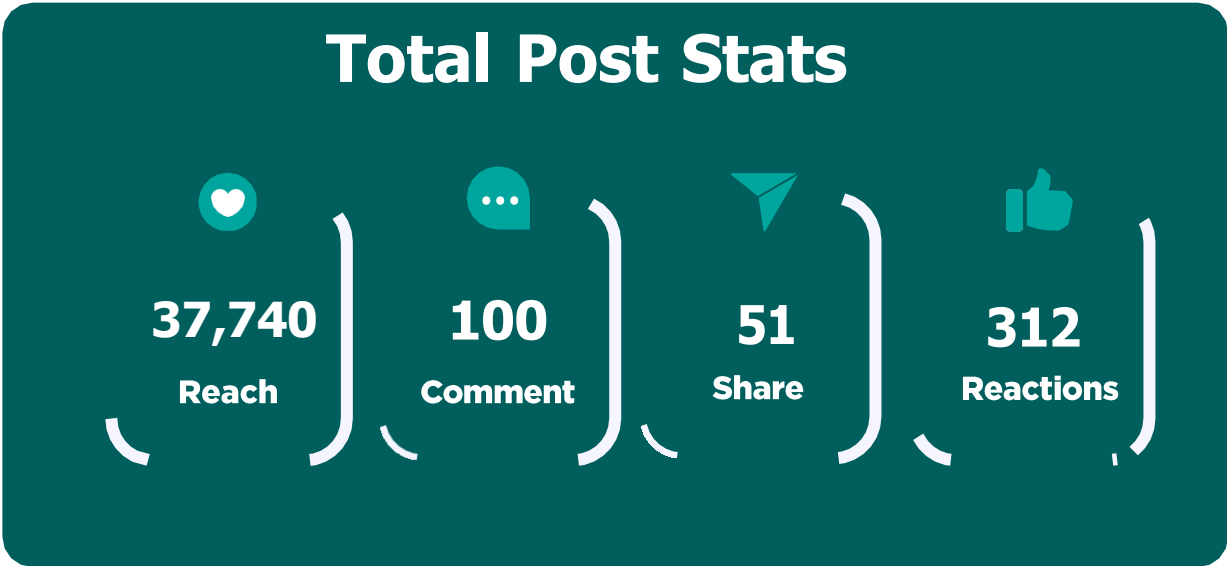
## INNISFAIL CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE





# Social Media

A social media campaign was run on Facebook with a total of five posts and one story throughout the consultation period.



A total of **75** comments were posted on the Facebook posts by both interested participants and Council officers. Upon review, it was evident that there was strong support for the project, with 9 comments explicitly expressing endorsement.



The topic of water remained a focal point, as evidenced by 16 comments discussing various water-related features such as water parks, water play areas, splash pads, or other water elements.



3 comments were specifically related to the importance of shade. Other comments including requests for water bubblers, and shade over the pump track.



Of particular note was a comment inquiring about the safety assessment of the project by an accredited individual or the Queensland Police Service.



Other comments primarily consisted of responses, tagging of individuals, or unrelated negative feedback.



## Next Steps

The Community Engagement report will be provided to key internal and external stakeholders and will also be accessible on the Council's Your Say website.

Additionally, project updates will be distributed at significant milestones, including the completion of the final design, commencement of works, and will be sent directly to identified key stakeholders and registered project email addresses.

Key insights were identified and summarised in this report. From these insights, Cassowary Coast Regional Council could consider and implement recommendations on the final project design, how they engage with stakeholders and the topics which require further attention.

## Acknowledgement

This document has been prepared by Cassowary Coast Regional Council – Communications and Engagement Team.

All information presented in this report has been presented in an accurate and unbiased manner and makes no recommendation on any project actions going forward. This report has been approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

For further information, please contact Council at 1300 763 903 or email [enquiries@cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au).



**The full Master Plan can be found by visiting [www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/master-plans-strategies](http://www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/master-plans-strategies)**





