



King Island Council

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GRASSY PLAYGROUND

Following a detailed risk assessment, the Grassy children's playground on Blackwood Street has been deemed unsafe and has been suspended from use. While Council regrets having to take this action, the safety of the playground's users is paramount, leaving Council with no choice but to isolate the equipment.

Council's Deputy Director of Infrastructure and Services is a trained Inspector of Children's Playgrounds and reports that his responsibilities are very clear, "If there is any chance of harm coming to a child we have no choice, we must shut down the equipment. In this instance, the rust on the ladder is so severe that it could cause an injury to a child's hand if we did not take action" he said.

In the current budget considerations, Councillors will look at any proposals to upgrade the playground equipment in Grassy but as has been shown with the Lighthouse Street playground in Currie, the rules and regulations aimed at ensuring the safety of playground users mean that works are not always able to take place as quickly as may be desired.

The Lighthouse Street playground was closed down last year for similar safety reasons but Council are pleased to report that the replacement parts and the new sections of the playground are starting to arrive on King Island. Once all of the equipment has been delivered by the manufacturers, a date will be agreed with the approved contractors to visit King Island to repair the existing equipment, and to recertify that equipment for use. This visit will also allow for the installation of the new Lobster Pot and Basket Seat Swing selected by local children and their parents during last year's community consultation.

Mayor McFie apologises for the inconvenience caused by the suspension of both playgrounds, "I would like to reassure the community that the safety of all community members is Council's primary concern. My colleagues and I will investigate and discuss the best way to remedy the unfortunate situation in Grassy."

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