10.1. Merrett Playground upgrade - project progress

AUTHOR: Alicja Batorowicz, Landscape Architect/Project Co-ordinator

ENDORSED BY: Peter Massey, Acting Director Open Space and Environmental Services

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. Submissions Summary Merrett Playground [10.1.1 3 pages]
- 2. Landscape Drawings [10.1.2 7 pages]

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a progress update on the proposed upgrade of Merrett Playground.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As Merritt Playground was next on the playgrounds list to be refurbished, tenders were called and seven submissions were received on 28 June 2022.

As part of the community feedback, the local Precinct group requested that the project be put on hold until the future of the ex-Waverton Bowling Club's site was determined.

Given the uncertainty re the future land ownership of ex-Waverton Bowling Club, the proximity of the playground to the Club, and the potential influence of the outcome of the land ownership discussions might have on the design of the playground, the project was put on hold.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

\$241,436 was allocated in the 2022/23 budget to fund the construction phase of this project. Should this project not proceed, the funds can be returned to the Capital Works Reserve.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council cancels the proposal for the contract 5/2022.

2. THAT the unspent funds allocated for the upgrade of Merrett Playground be returned to the Capital Works Reserve.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

- 1. Our Living Environment
- 1.4 Well utilised open space and recreational facilities

BACKGROUND

In recognition of the importance of playgrounds, Council developed a <u>Playgrounds Plan of</u> <u>Management</u> (PoM). The PoM led to the development of a Playgrounds Methodology, which prioritises Council's playgrounds according to their need, for progressively and strategically upgrading the valued community assets. The Playgrounds Methodology is used to inform Council's Capital Works Program.

In line with the recommendation of the PoM and Playgrounds Methodology, in the 2021/22 financial year Council allocated a budget of \$260,000 to complete the upgrade of Merrett Playground. Of this, \$18,564 was spent on consultancy in 2021/22, with the remaining \$241,436 carried over to 2022/23 to fund the construction work.

Between 14 March and 11 April 2022, Council sought feedback on a proposed concept plan for an upgraded playground in Woolcott Street, Waverton. A total of seven submissions were received. Attachment 1 to this report details the submission summary. Attachment 2 shows the details of the proposed design.

On 31 May 2022, tenders were called for the construction of the playground and seven proposals were received at the date of tender closing.

In early November 2022 the land of the ex-Waverton Bowling Club was handed to the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council, after the Land and Environment Court upheld an Aboriginal land claim over the site.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement has occurred in accordance with Council's *Community Engagement Protocol*. The detail of this report provides the outcomes from the engagement for Council to consider prior to adoption.

DETAIL

The existing playground is approximately 20 years old and has been very well-used during this time. As the allocated budget is relatively small, the proposal was to utilise as much of the existing infrastructure as possible, in order to save money and provide the best value for the community. The proposal aimed to:

- retain some of the existing play elements including an access ramp, timber boardwalk with two slides, outdoor gym equipment, and well-established landscape features and gardens; and
- expand the existing playground footprint by adding new equipment, providing opportunities for new play experiences.

Proposed improvements aimed to increase functionality and accessibility, and where possible new play elements were to be added to enhance the overall play experience for the children. The proposal is contained within the existing playground boundary defined by the safety fence, but extends beyond the outline of the existing play area so as to accommodate (i) a new zone dedicated to sand and water play, and (ii) a concrete tricycle track connecting to the existing pathway.

1. Public Exhibition

Community consultation was undertaken between 14 March and 11 April 2022, and four online and three written submissions were received. All submissions expressed general support for the proposed upgrade. The written submission made by the Waverton Precinct Committee called for consideration to be given to Stage 2 of the development which would consider provision of (i) a public toilet facility on the ex-Waverton Bowling Club site, and (ii) installation of a cycling circuit for younger children, linking the playground with Waverton Park.

1.1 Submissions

Seven submissions were received, all supporting the upgrade. The Submissions Summary (Attachment 1) responds to issues raised in the submissions.

2. Tender Status

Tenders were called for the construction of the upgrade on 31 May 2022. Seven submissions were received at the closing of tender period on 28 June 2022. All submissions were subsequently evaluated.

On 7 July 2022, the Waverton Precinct Committee requested that the project be delayed whilst the related Aboriginal Lands Claim was determined. The project was put on hold and the contract was not awarded to the preferred tenderer.

In early November 2022 the land of the ex-Waverton Bowling Club was handed back to Indigenous owners, after the Land and Environment Court upheld an Aboriginal land claim over the site.

Due to the uncertainty with the future land ownership of ex-Waverton Bowling Club, the proximity of the playground to the club, and the potential influence of the outcome of the land ownership discussions might have on the design of the playground, the project was temporarily put on hold.

As tender offers are open for acceptance for only 90 days from the date of tender closing, Council contacted all tenderers to confirm if they would still hold the price. All tenderers advised that they were unable to honour the original offer as the market had changed significantly in recent months, with prices for labor and materials increasing significantly.

As stated in Clause 178 (3) of the Local Government Regulation 2021:

A council that decides not to accept any of the tenders for a proposed contract or receives no tenders for the proposed contract must, by resolution, do one of the following-

- a. Postpone or cancel the proposal for the contract,
- b. Invite, in accordance with section 167, 168 or 169, fresh tenders based on the same or different details,
- c. Invite, in accordance with section 168, fresh applications from persons interested in tendering for the proposed contract,
- d. Invite, in accordance with section 169, fresh applications from persons interested in tendering for contracts of the same kind as the proposed contract,
- e. Enter into negotiations with any person (whether or not the person was tenderer) with a view to entering into a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender,
- f. Carry out the requirements of the proposed contract itself.

ATTACHMENT 1

Merrett Playground Upgrade Proposal Summary of submissions received during public exhibition period 14 March and 11 April 2022 (prepared April 2022)

The following criteria are used to analyse all submissions received, and to determine whether or not the plan would be amended:

- 1. The Merrett Playground Upgrade Proposal **would be** amended if issues raised in the submission:
 - a provided additional information of relevance.
 - b indicated or clarified a change in government legislation, Council's commitment or management policy.
 - c proposed strategies that would better achieve or assist with Council's objectives.
 - d was an alternate viewpoint received on the topic and is considered a better option than that proposed or;
 - e indicated omissions, inaccuracies or a lack of clarity.
- 2. The Merrett playground Upgrade Proposal **would not be** amended if the issues raised in the submission:
 - a addressed issues beyond the scope of the proposal.
 - b was already in the proposal or will be considered during the development of a subordinate plan (prepared by Council).
 - c offered an open statement, or no change was sought.
 - d clearly supported the proposal.
 - e was an alternate viewpoint received on the topic but the recommendation was still considered the best option.
 - f was based on incorrect information.
 - g contributed options that are not possible (generally due to some aspect of existing legislation or government policy) or; involved details that are not appropriate or necessary for inclusion in a document aimed at providing a strategic community direction over the long term.

Colour code: Green = Support

No.	Name and Address	Key Points Raised	Council Response	Code
1	Phoebe McEvoy	Look great. One of the key features families love this playground is it has a tree that	Seating and table in shade is retained.	2b
	119 High St	provides shelter and a dedicated area for parties to set up. Could seating and a table in the		
	North Sydney	shade please be retained?		
2	Lee Ng	The overall plan is generally good, though as regular users of the park we are a bit sad about	The proposal was amended to reinforce	1d
	14/26 Carr St	losing the car theme to the park. "Taxi park!" as it is currently referred to by lots of kids. I	the existing car theme.	
	Waverton	think that theme was a point of difference from some of the other parks in the area. It		
		would also be good to see more shade apparatus/trees as this park has not had much shade	Additional tree planting has been	
		since that large tree near the swings was cut down. We tend not to use the park in the	considered as part of the proposal.	
		mornings as it is extremely sunny and too hot in parts of the park. To be honest, St Leonards		
		playground could do with more of an upgrade than this one.		
3.	Susanna Cheng	Can you please consider installing a filtered water dispenser that allows for easy filling up of	Water fountain included in the proposal.	2b
	9 William St	water bottles, similar to the one in Waverton Oval? Also, I would like the rest of the fenced	Merrett playground is not a suitable area	2g
	North Sydney	area to be an off-leash dog play area. Many thanks.	for an off-leash dog park.	
4.	lan Johnson	Hi there, While I support very much what you are trying to achieve with Merritt Playground,	Provision of off-leash dog park on the ex-	2a
	30 Ancrum St,	I currently use the playground when otherwise unoccupied to run my dog as the playground	Waverton Bowling Club's site is outside of	
	Waverton	is enclosed. He is an "explorer" and has skin allergies when he comes in contact with various	the scope of this proposal.	
		plants. I am always very careful to clean up after my dog and pick up anything else I see at		
		the playground. Could you please consider properly enclosing one of the bowling greens at		
		the now defunct Waverton Bowling Club so that we can enjoy an enclosed area for our dogs		
		and not impede children also playing. Many thanks.		
5.	Christina Lara	I currently use this area early in the mornings when the playground is empty to run my	Provision of off-leash dog park on the ex-	
		energetic large dog and yes away from the play equipment. It's the only opportunity to run	Waverton Bowling Club's site is outside of	
		him off-leash due to allergies suffered from exploring through plants and bushland. If the	the scope of this proposal.	2a
		adjacent vacant lawn bowls could be fenced off properly, then myself and other dog owners		
		who rely on a contained dog-play area can confidently have a place to go to.		
6.	Samantha	I have reviewed the information on the proposed upgrade to Merrett Playground. As a	Support noted.	
	McEnroe	resident directly across the road and mother of two young children, I am very supportive of		2d
	1/38 Woolcott St,	the proposed changes. I especially like the inclusion of the bike track, as it is hard to find		
	Waverton	safe places in Sydney for children to learn to ride.		
7.	Waverton	1. Waverton Precinct recently received an invitation to comment on the proposed	Support noted.	2c
	Precinct	upgrade to Merrett Playground. There is a great interest in the future of this area		
	Committee	with the recent demise of the bowling club adjacent to the playground. We		
		appreciate the opportunity to provide comment.		
		2. The suggested upgrades to the existing park are broadly supported. However, we	Provision of an amenity block on the	2a
		think the opportunity should also be taken to at least plan out and consider a Phase	Waverton Bowling Club's site is outside of	

No.	Name and Address	Key Points Raised	Council Response	Code
		2, which would be to extend the current Playground into the former bowling greens area, should that become available. We are assuming the bowling club building would be demolished but that - given the connections are already there - the opportunity might be taken to build a toilet amenity and baby changeroom on site related to the larger Playground. After all, a sand and water play area can result in a fair mess to the players, who may need a wash off and have a change of clothes before heading home!	the scope of this proposal.	
		3. The Precinct would also like Council to consider the suggestion that, with this planned current upgrade it take up the idea suggested now several times over the past few years, by formal resolutions of Precinct meetings, to install some extra pathway in this area to create a 'learn to cycle' circuit for young children. A diagram of the suggested pathway extension is attached and it is noted this starts from the exit gate from Merrett Playground into the park top level. We note that this suggestion has already been costed by Council and comes in under \$100,000. This concept has been informally discussed for quite some time locally, and the idea has had wide support from local residents and Park users. A part of that support is because it is tucked over near the playground area and so, once the derelict bowling club building is demolished and a larger playground created in that space, parents can easily supervise children on the bike /scooter circuit from that location.	Provision of pathways outside of the playground area are outside of the scope of this proposal. Bike circuit is being proposed as part of the playground upgrade and will be contained with the proposed play area.	2a



LOCATION PLAN

UMBACO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS LANDSCAPE DOCUMENTATION Merrett Playground, Waverton NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL

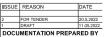
Dwg	NAME	ISSUE
LOX	COVERSHEET	2
L01	DEMOLITION & TREE PROTECTION PLAN	2
L02	GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLAN	2
L03	SURFACING, EQUIPMENT & CONCRETE JOINTING PLAN	2
L04	PLANTING PLAN	2
L05	TYPICAL LANDSCAPE DETAILS	2
L06	WATER PLAY DETAILS	2

NOTES

- ALL WORK SHALL BE CARRIED OUT TO THE SATISFACTION OF NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL.
- CONTRACTOR TO OBTAIN UNDERGROUND SERVICES INFORMATION FROM DIAL BEFORE YOU DIG 1100 AND SATISFY THEMSELVES OF THE LOCATION OF ALL SERVICES PRIOR TO ANY EXCAVATION.
- PROTECT EXISTING/ADJACENT ITEMS AT ALL TIMES (FOOTPATH, LIGHTPOLES, KERBS, PITS, SERVICES, BUILDINGS ETC.) ANY DAMAGE TO EXISTING ITEMS TO BE REPORTED TO NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL SUPERINTENDENT AND RECTIFIED AT CONTRACTORS EXPENSE.
- DO NOT SCALE FROM DRAWINGS, LARGER SCALE DETAIL DRAWINGS AND WRITTEN DIMENSIONS TAKE PREFERENCE.
- DIMENSIONS OF PIPES AND PITS ARE AS SHOWN ON DRAWING. IF NOT SHOWN SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM SUPERINTENDENT.
- TREE PROTECTION MEASURES ARE TO BE IN PLACE PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORKS. REFER TO DWG L01 FOR DETAILS.
- SEDIBITATION AND EROSION CONTROL DEVICES SHALL BE INFLUENTED PRIOR TO ON IN COLUME/TION WITH THE FROT THASE OF BARTHVORKS AND SHALL DE REMOVED ONLY WIGH THE AREAS ABOVET THWE EBEST STRAIDED EACH SEDIMENTATION AND EROSION CONTROL DEVICE SHALL BE INSPECTED PERIODOLALLY & AFTER EACH STORM FOR STRUCTURAL DAMAGE OR CLOSGING BY SILT AND OTHER DEBISS AND PROMITY USES LITE. OR PARKED OR REMACED FEODIMES.
- SOIL EROSION CONTROL MEASURE SHALL BE MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES OF THE NSW DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AND NSW EPA AS NECESSARY TO PREVENT SEDIMENT RUN OFF FROM THE SITE RESULTING FROM WORKS.
- ALL AREAS NOT SUBJECT TO CONSTRUCTION WORKS SHOLL BE ENTANGE PREF FROM KYTURKC OR DUNKE OF THE DURATION ON WORKS TOPSOL STOCKPILES SHALL BE LOCATED OUTSIDE HAZARD/PROTECTION AREAS SUCH AS DRAINAGE DEPRESSIONS OR TREE PROTECTION ZORS.

CLIEN

FOR TENDER



DRAWING MERRETT PLAYGROUND Woolcott Street, Waverton, Cou**NSW**eeting - 13 March 2023 Agenda

COVERSHEET

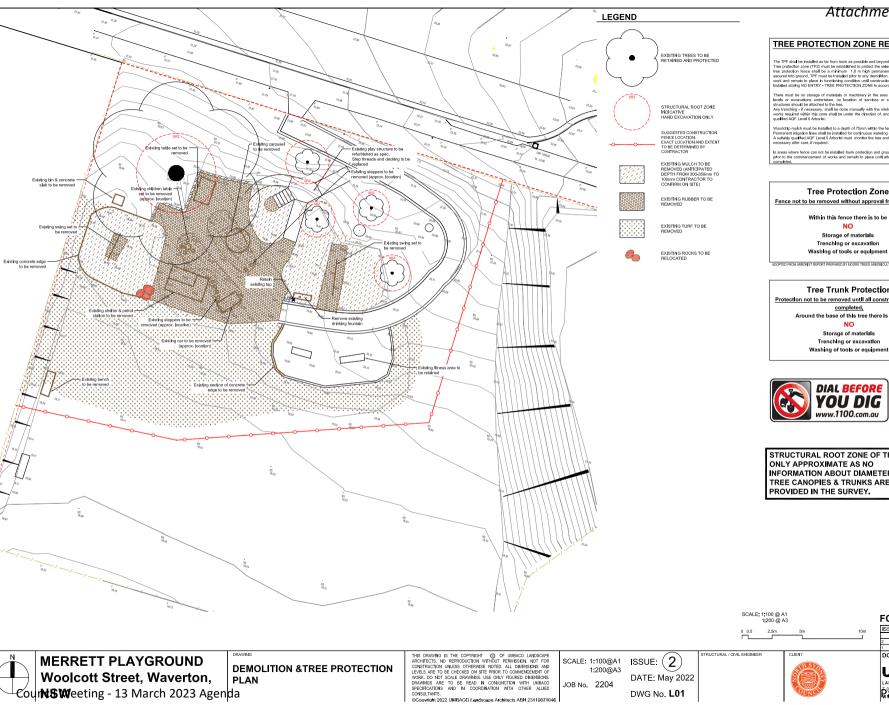
THIS DRAWING IS THE COPYRIGHT OF OF UNBACO LANDSCAPE ARCHTECTS, MO REPRODUCTION WITHCUT PERMISSION NOT FOR LEVELS ARE TO BE CHECKER ON ISTEPHONE TO COMMENSIONER. UNDERS ARE TO BE CHECKER ON ISTEPHONE TO COMMENSIONER WORK DO NOT SCALE DRAWINASE, USE ONLY FOR/RED DIMENSIONS. SPECIFICATIONS AND IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER ALLED CONSULTATIONS AND IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER ALLED CONSULTATIONS. Copyright 2022 UMBACO Landscape Architects ABN 23119071046

SCALE: AS SHOWN ISSUE: (2)DATE: May 2022 JOB No. 2204 DWG No. LOX



RUCTURAL / CIVIL ENGINEER





Attachment 10.1.2

TREE PROTECTION ZONE REQUIREMENTS

The TPF shall be installed as far from trunk as possible and beyond the TPZ where space allows. Two protections zone (TPZ) must be setablished to protect the select trees during construction. The second to graving. TPF must be installed prof to any direction, clustring andirection construction work and remain in place in functioning condition undirection is complete. Signage must be studied utility and DRTN - TPE PROFECTION ZONE Is accordinated with \$13.0.

There must be no storage of materials or mochinery in the area of the TP2. No alteration in soil levels or executebre undertaken, no brackion of services or stockajing of soil or noble. No storatoris shock the alteriative table have another table and the storage storage and the storage and works required within this zone shall be under the direction of, and to the selfastication of, a suitable quarties / Abrotist.

Woodchip mulch must be installed to a depth of 75mm within the fenced off protection area. Permanent ringsion lines shal be installed for confinuous watering during hot summer wasther A subably qualified AOF Level 5 Arbordst must monitor the tree and provide advice on any necessary after care, if required.

In areas where fence can not be installed trunk protection and ground protection should be installed prior to the commencement of works and remain in place until after construction works have been

Tree Protection Zone Fence not to be removed without approval from Arborist Within this fence there is to be

NO

Storage of materials

Trenching or excavation

OPTED EROM ADDIDIGT DEDIDT DEEDARED BY MOODE TREES ADDIDIG'S IT IDAL SERVICES

Tree Trunk Protection Protection not to be removed until all construction works completed. Around the base of this tree there is to be NO Storage of materials Trenching or excavation Washing of tools or equipment



STRUCTURAL ROOT ZONE OF TREES IS ONLY APPROXIMATE AS NO INFORMATION ABOUT DIAMETERS OF TREE CANOPIES & TRUNKS ARE PROVIDED IN THE SURVEY.

> 100 FOR TENDER DRAFT DOCUMENTATION PREPARED BY Umbaco



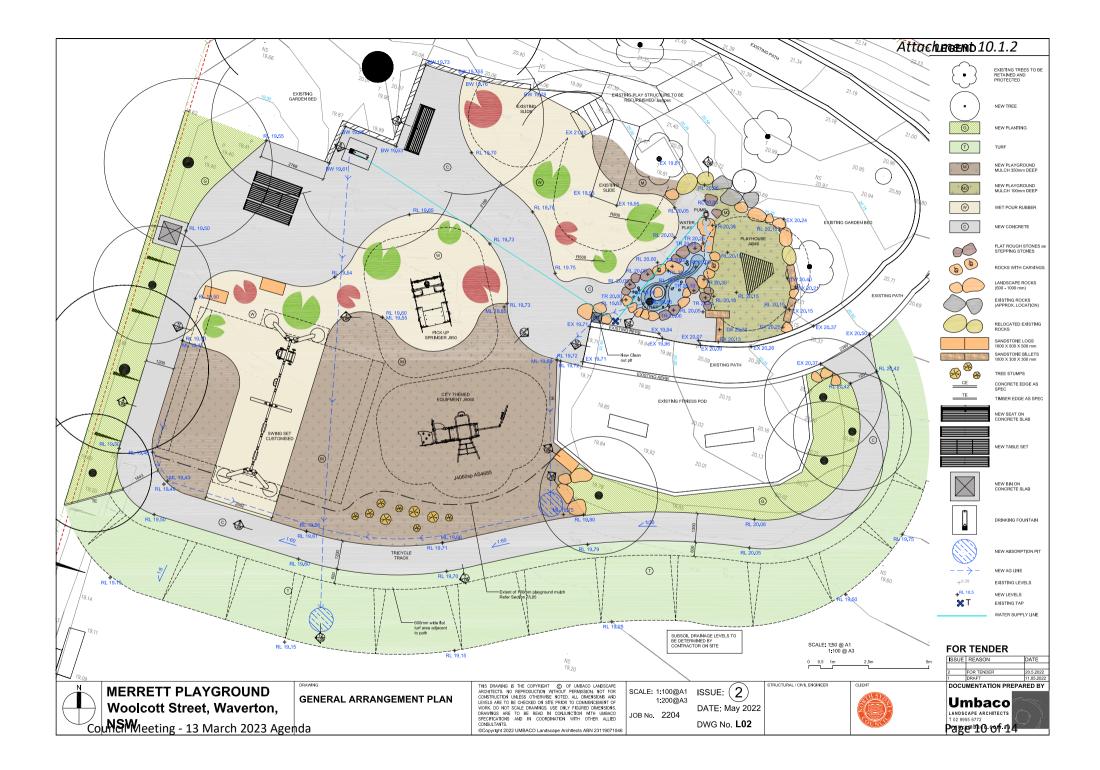
DATE

20.5.2022

11 05 202

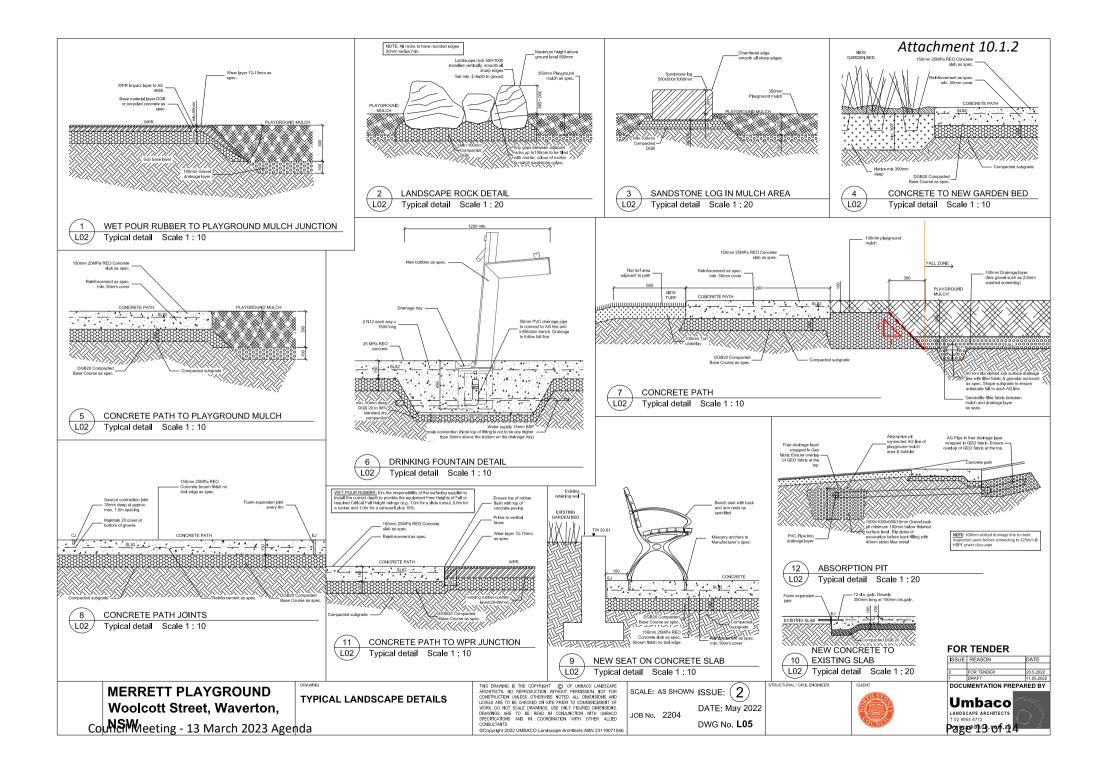
FOR TENDER

SSUE REASON









Attachment 10.1.2

