



# Kingborough



2017

## Kingborough Council – Dru Point Bicentennial Park Landscape Master Plan Consultation Findings



### About this document

This document is the Draft of the Kingborough Dru Point Bicentennial Park Master Plan Consultation Findings.

The views expressed in the consultation section of this document are those provided by the Kingborough community. They do not necessarily reflect the views held by @leisure or Kingborough Council.

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## 1 The project

### 1.1 The brief

Dru Point Bicentennial Park is a large recreation reserve located in Margate, Tasmania within the municipality of Kingborough. The park sits on a promontory, which is within the North West Bay and has views east to Howden and South towards Bruny Island.

The park is a busy regional park that offers a variety of facilities, which include:

- A playground and associated infrastructure
- Toddler bike track (traffic light park)
- Boat ramp and carpark (located outside of the park area)
- Off lead dog walking area
- Shared paths/trails
- Picnic/BBQ facilities
- Views of the water
- Tennis courts
- Water treatment/pumping station
- Large areas of open space

For many years, Dru Point Bicentennial Park has been considered as one of Greater Hobart's main destination parks, although recently it has become more of a park mostly used by Kingborough residents. The nearby suburbs have undergone increased residential development in recent years and there is a greater demand for better quality facilities.

Council has engaged Jeavons Landscape Architects and @leisure Planners to prepare a master plan that will guide the park development, planning, budgeting, and funding for the next 10 years.

Key tasks and outputs within this project include:

- Public consultation with the Kingborough community through interviews on-site, online surveys, and Facebook
- Meetings with Kingborough staff who are involved in the management of Dru Point
- Development of a landscape master plan for the whole site
- A brief report explaining the rationale behind the drawing
- An enlargement drawing of the play space

### 1.2 Methods

Consultation was undertaken using a number of methods. These were:

- Onsite, face-to-face interviews;
- Online survey to the broader community; and
- Facebook to gain feedback into the project.

The key user groups of Dru Point include:

- Dog walkers (both on- and off-lead)
- BBQ and picnic user groups
- Parents and carers of young children and toddlers
- Recreational walkers
- Playground users
- Tennis players

## 2 Online Survey Responses

An online survey was live between 5th and 21st September. There was a total of 75 responses with the majority coming from Margate. The sample was relatively small (75) and largely women. This will create some bias in relation to perception of priorities and the like.

### *Question 1. Do you live in Kingborough?*

Response	Responses	Percentage
Yes	71	94.67%
No	4	5.33%
Total	75	

### *Question 1a. If no, which municipality do you live in?*

Activities	Responses	Percentage
Hobart	0	0.00%
Clarence	2	50.0%
Huon Valley	1	25.00%
Sorell	0	0.00%
Glenorchy	1	25.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Total	4	

### *Question 1b. If yes, in which suburb?*

Suburb	Responses
Margate	24
Kingston	14
Blackmans Bay	10
Howden	6
Kingston Beach	4
Snug	3
Huntingfield	2
Sandfly	2
Allan's Rivulet	1
Lower Snug	1
Lower Longley	1
Electrona	1
Other	1

### *Question 2. Do you ever visit Dru Point?*

Response	Responses	Percentage
Yes	73	100%
No	0	0.00%
Skipped	2	
Total	73	

**Question 3. If yes, how often do you visit Dru Point?**

Frequency of use	Responses	Percentage
More than once per week	14	20.59%
Once per week	11	16.18%
Once every 2 weeks	14	20.59%
Once per month	20	29.41%
Less often than once per month	9	13.24%
Total	68	100%

**Question 4. What is/are your main activities during your visits to Dru Point?**

Main Activity	Responses	Percentage
Using the playground with smaller children	48	70.59%
Using the children/toddler traffic light bike facility	38	55.88%
BBQ areas/shelters	29	42.65%
Walking or running on the external trail network	23	33.82%
Walking the dog	20	29.41%
Using older children/teenager playground	20	29.41%
Playing Tennis	6	8.82%
Accessing the open space and foreshore areas	26	38.34%
Other (please specify)	5	7.35%

**Other activities specified:**

- Running a regular Bush Kinder for Channel Christian School
- Walk through
- Eating lunch and enjoying the views
- Paddle kayaks from Howden
- Children's birthday parties

**Question 5. Which part of the park do you utilise the most?**

One is the facility most utilised and 8 – the least utilised by respondents.

Survey respondents – 1 most utilised	
1.	Small childrens playground
2.	Children's/toddler traffic light bike facility
3.	External trail network
4.	Open Space and Foreshore areas
5.	Older children/teenager playground
6.	BBQ areas/shelters
7.	Enclosed Dog walking area
8.	Tennis courts

**Question 6. What facilities/environments would you like to see improved or upgraded at Dru Point?**

Facilities to be improved	Responses	Percentage
Smaller children's playground	38	58.46%
BBQ areas/shelters	24	36.92%
External Trail network	23	35.38%
Older children's/teenager playground	23	35.38%
Open Space and Foreshore areas	20	30.77%
Children's toddler traffic light bike facility	16	24.62%
Enclosed Dog Walking Area	15	23.08%
Tennis Courts	11	16.92%

**Question 7. If Council had capital funds available, what activities would you like to be able to participate in at Dru Point that you cannot currently?**

Below are the suggested additions / improvements for activities that respondents would like to participate in at Dru Point if funds were available.

Activities/facilities	No. of responses
Café	5
Gym / fitness equipment	5
More challenging play equipment for older children	5
Shelters	4
Swings	4
Bicycle track	4
Water Play	3
Sports facilities	3
Nature Play	2

**Nature**

- Nature area. Trees, shrubs, creek, water pump, space for children to be creative.
- More of a nature playground would be lovely, a creek, bridge, hill, trees, grasses some natural climbing structure, and loose parts for play.

**Play for older children**

- A challenging/interesting/exciting area for ages 8 and above.
- Adventure play area, something for older children, skate park, parkour.
- A more engaging playground - climbing, slides, etc., like the eastern shore (Clarence) has nailed with their foreshore developments.
- Older children's play area; the current park is suited to up to about age 4/5. The teen ranger section is rarely used. It would be great to see a play area suited to 4+ year olds.

- Introduction of 3 or 4 flying foxes like Mt Nelson (Hobart).

**Café**

- An attractive well-run cafe, open after school and holidays.
- Have the coffee shop open all year.
- An active cafe needs to be reinstated and developed.
- Dining.
- The cafe is always closed. Needs to change.

**Shelters**

- BBQ Shelters.
- Various and numerous shelters to protect against rain and shade in summer.
- Picnics in shelters and developed adjacent open space.
- A second BBQ shelter inside the small children's playground would be good as it's always booked out early in summer, and maybe some water fountains?

**Water play**

- Water play area for young children, e.g. Rocky creek bed and water pump like you see in some other playgrounds.
- A water play area would be fantastic too.
- Water Play.

**Cycle track**

- Family cycling circuit including pedal car and cycle hire.
- A small dirt pump track.
- Foreshore bike riding tracks.
- Perhaps a mini BMX track?

**Fitness equipment**

- Free exercise club?
- Adult exercise equipment.
- Outdoor gym/workout area.
- Outdoor bodyweight gym like at other parks in Hobart.
- Fitness Trail.

**Swings**

- More swings near the foreshore instead of plastic pipes to walk through.
- More swings for young children.

- More play equipment for children aged 5-10 currently only have one slide and one swing suitable for this age group.
- Pendulum type swing (similar to Mt Nelson and Simmons Park).

*Sports*

- Cricket nets.
- Good quality tennis courts.
- Basketball/netball/AFL/softball.

*Other*

- It would be great to have an afternoon/early evening market or semi-regular events on the open grass to bring the community together.
- Dog training, tai chi in park.
- Somewhere to safely launch kayaks and get out of water craft, as we often kayak across from Howden.
- The public toilets need upgrading, especially the baby change stations.
- Be able to park an RV inside the gates.
- Turn the big grass field into a producing public garden (community garden).
- A safer slide for the little kids.
- Climbing frame and slide similar to Simmons Park (Clarence).
- Community events, performances, workshops, activities.
- Would like a dog free walking area for my disabled son. Take into consideration that under section 28 of 2000 dog act, all dogs (whether on leash or not) must not go within 10 metres of a child's playground.
- Full size swimming pool facilities.

**Question 8. What facilities/environments would you like to see added or made available at Dru Point?**

Below are the suggested additions /improvements for activities that respondents would like to see added to Dru Point.

Many of the same themes were raised as in the previous question.

Facilities	Frequency of responses
Play equipment	12
Cycle track/trail	7
Sports facilities	4
BBQ/shelters	3
Nature play	3
Café	2
Toilets	2
Fitness Equipment	2

See raw answers below.

**Dog issues**

- Off lead area for dogs.
- Fence off BBQ huts to keep dogs out.

**BBQ shelters**

- BBQ shelters.
- More BBQs in non-bush area (with a clear booking process).
- More picnic facilities and expanded vehicle parking.

**Nature play**

- Nature play area (2).
- Bush playground/nature play area.
- There should be an emphasis on local plants - this was the intention for the 1988 Bicentennial Park. Some current plantings are inappropriate.

**Gym Fitness Equipment**

- Exercise equipment.
- Gym equipment along foreshore.

**Sports facilities**

- Basketball court.
- Better tennis facilities.
- Basketball/netball facilities.
- Parents could also get some own exercise time too like playing tennis.

**Play equipment/elements**

- Skate park for older children.
- Flying fox.
- Big slides, more swings, climbing frames.
- Playground equipment for six to ten year olds is needed.
- More swings, shades, tunnels slide, climbing wall, water play area, round about, more seating and tables.
- Improved All Abilities Playground.
- Updated play equipment for younger children.
- The current sand and water table on the concrete is really unsafe so many children slip, slide, and fall.
- The train needs a make-over.
- More swings - for toddlers and older kids.
- More slides - one slide which is fairly boring for such a large area is poor.
- Water pumps, sand diggers, various natural environment walking/balance beams - make use of the space.

- Climbing play equipment.
- Rope net tower, flying fox, net swing, cricket nets.
- We used Dru Point a lot when the kids were under 6, it was a great meeting place, a diverse range of activities. Also a great place for birthdays parties. Now kids are upper primary they would like more of a challenge in equipment, they still love the yellow swing.

#### *Café*

- Coffee shop open all year round.
- Better cafe facilities (eat-in option and extended hours).

#### *Toilets*

- Toilet upgrade (universal access - it is ironic that there is an all-abilities playground but the toilets are not disability or carer friendly).
- Some updated toilets that include proper parenting facilities would be a great addition.

#### *Seating*

- More seats with views.
- More casual seating and planting.

#### *Cycle track*

- A dedicated family cycle way with pedal car and cycle hire.
- A dirt pump track.
- Walking/bike path extended through all the way through to Margate.
- Would like to see the play area fence incorporate the bike area.
- And a better range of play equipment for children aged 6-10, swings, climbing frames, etc.
- Pump track for scooters and bikes.
- Used to take kids when young on a long bike track around foreshore.

#### *Other*

- The wildlife displays are old and tired.
- Dru Point has tremendous potential, but compared to other parks it is lacking, my 3 children prefer to travel to Lindisfarne or Bellerive to play than go 2mins down the road.

- Water tanks plumbed in for kiosk/toilets.
- Solar panels.
- The gravel road either needs to be regularly maintained or needs to be replaced by bitumen.
- More rubbish bins.
- Large field area alongside is under-utilised - if council owned, this is a perfect spot for a swimming pool.
- Full size indoor swimming pool. Similar to Clarence Pool.
- More overflow car parking.

Playground and bike track ideas generally came from younger mothers with multiple children; while ideas and issues related to the off-lead dog walking areas came from older aged people.

*Question 9. What is your age group?*

Age group (yrs.)	Responses	Percentage
35-39	16	26.67%
30-34	13	21.67%
25-29	6	10.00%
40-44	6	10.00%
65-69	5	8.33%
45-49	3	5.00%
55-59	3	5.00%
Under 14	2	3.33%
50-54	2	3.33%
60-64	2	3.33%
20-24	1	1.67%
85 +	1	1.67%
15-19	0	0.00%
70-74	0	0.00%
75-79	0	0.00%
80-84	0	0.00%

*Question 10. What is your gender?*

Gender	Responses	Percentage
Male	9	15.25%
Female	50	84.75%

### 3 Findings from Interviews On-site

This section provides a summary of the interview responses collected from face-to-face interviews conducted on site.

A total of 17 face-to-face interviews were conducted during site observations over two days (Tuesday 29th Aug (morning) and Saturday 2nd September (afternoon)). The weather on the Tuesday morning was cool and cloudy (10 degrees), and the weather on the Saturday afternoon was cool and windy (about 12 degrees).

#### *Q1. What brought them to the park today?*

- The reason given by seven of the people who came to the park on the day was to participate in children's activities, including the kids bike track and playground.
- An additional five of the people came to the park for dog-walking or walking for recreation.
- Only two people came to the park specifically to play tennis.
- Other activities included undertaking activities within the broader open space, working in the kiosk, and coordinating a community event.

#### *Q2. Are you a Kingborough Resident?*

- Some 14 of the 17 people interviewed lived in Kingborough. The suburbs in which people lived included Howden, Blackmans Bay, Margate, and Kingston.
- One of the people lived in Clarence (Lindisfarne) and one of the people lived in the Huon Valley. (Ranelagh)

#### *Q3. Age group of interviewed people?*

Below are the age groups of the people interviewed at Dru Point.

- 6 people were aged between 35 and 39
- 3 people were between 15-19
- 2 people were between 65-69
- 2 people were between 30-34
- 1 person was between 70-74
- 1 person was between 60-64
- 1 person was between 50-54
- 1 of the people was between 25-29

Observations undertaken at the park over the two days identified the following observations about the ages of people and the activities they were doing:

Interviews conducted on the Tuesday morning were predominantly younger people, most with young children and some playing tennis. Saturday had a larger sample of families doing a variety of activities including tennis, BBQs within the shelters, and general open space activities. The majority of people using the dog off-lead exercise area were older people, while the majority of people using the playground and the toddler bike track were younger people; but there were numerous grandparents with children in this area as well. Most people observed undertaking general walking on the external trails were older people.

*Q4. Facilities/environment that you would like to see added to Dru Point or made available?*

*Play equipment/mix*

- Happy with the current mix of facilities and activities.
- Need some play equipment for 7 years and up. Her 7-year-old was bored with Dru Point now. Considering the future activities in the area for older children.
- The park seems to offer plenty for young children but not older children. Need a next stage bike track for kids that are too big to use the traffic light track.
- The park needs more swings facing out to the water. Not nearly enough of these.
- Maybe some climbing equipment in the playground and more swings.

*Dogs*

- The area that she uses is perfect for the purpose of off-lead dog walking, no need to change this.
- Currently dog walking is not allowed on the edge of the park (waterside) even on-lead - need to change this.

*Cycle tracks/ trails*

- Would like to see the trail network at Dru point connect to places like Howden and Margate, to connect to other trail networks.
- Would like to see a loop trail that has the ability to cater for kids riding, as well as adults doing riding with their kids or on their own. It is flat and large and there are almost no opportunities for bike riding loops in Kingborough like this.

*Nature*

- Would like to see more natural area be added to Dru Point within the landscape.
- Really like and appreciate the large trees around the point.
- More nature play elements.
- Need to give people more access to the good views across the wetland at the far end of the park.

*Tennis Courts*

- The tennis courts have always been so popular that as long as he can remember, they are always busy on weekends. Could even do with an additional court or at least upgrading.
- Tennis courts are extremely popular even in their current condition.

*Toilets*

- Toilets need to be improved/replaced.
- Can see some benefit if toilets being added near the entrance to the park to service the boat ramp users. This area gets very busy on weekends and the current Dru Point toilets are too far away.
- Toilets are not big enough for the demand and need upgrading or replacing.

*BBQs Shelters*

- Need more BBQs in the enclosed area.
- Not enough parking near the large bbq shelter, need to control the speed of cars through the park,
- Everyone wants more BBQs that can be hired inside the enclosed playground - so much demand for these all year round.

*Other*

- Caravan/RV park.
- More kiosk hrs and improved service.

*Q5. How often do you come to Dru Point?*

- 7 of the people visited Dru Point every 2 weeks;
- 6 of the people visited Dru Point once per month;
- 3 of the people visited Dru Point every day; and
- 1 person visits Dru Point every week.

*Q6. Main activity at Dru Point?*

- 8 people said that their main activity at Dru Point was children's activities;
- 4 people said that their main activity involved dog walking;
- 3 people said that their main activity is playing tennis and the open space areas; and
- 2 people said their main activity is walking the external trail network.

*Q7. Part of the park that you use the most?*

- 3 people use the kids bike track the most;
- 5 people use the enclosed dog walking area and the external trails the most;
- 6 people use the children's playground (enclosed) the most; and
- 1 person said they use the tennis courts the most when visiting.

*Q8. Of the existing facilities, what would you like to see upgraded?*

- The tennis courts.
- The carpark need to be sealed due to puddles when wet in the gravel sections.

- Toilets upgrade.
- Would like to see a supernova or Flying fox added to Dru Point.
- Would like to see a true loop track for walking as well as kid's bike riding. The trails don't seem to loop up.
- Would like to see trail facilities that suit older children plus perhaps a loop that can be mostly viewed from a central location.
- Kids playground facilities.
- Older children bike riding opportunities.
- Would like to see if there could one day be a better access to the water for swimming - pontoon type activities.
- Tennis court surfaces need improving and the little pavilion needs replacing (but only needs to be a basic shelter).
- Bike riding facilities and skate activities such as a hard surface trail for scooters, etc.
- Perhaps a rock climbing facility or maze.
- Would like to see some goal posts, both AFL and Soccer, to enhance the open space area.

*Q9. Activities that you would like to do at Dru Point but can't at the moment*

- Really enjoy using pump tracks and her kids are starting to enjoy the one at Kingston. Would be really popular at Dru Point.
- The playground needs to be more Nature Play in nature. Is a bit boring.
- A destination park like Dru Point really needs access to a decent coffee - not available at the kiosk and the kiosk is not often open.

*Q10. Issues/Opportunities*

- BBQs inside the enclosed playground are booked months ahead and are in great demand. Not enough of these.
- The least popular BBQ facility is the older large pavilion at the far end of the park, although this is popular at certain times for things like work Christmas parties, etc.
- It is good that the BBQ on the open space side of Dru Point is not bookable giving people just driving through an opportunity to use it at busy times.
- The ducks make a big mess around the bike track causing this to not be at its best.
- The playground needs more swings and perhaps a big slide of some kind.
- The current booking system (which comes through the kiosk guy) does not really work that well. This should be done through Council and paid for online or over the phone before use. People often don't pay and the kiosk guy doesn't chase it up.

## 4 Submissions made about Dru Point Master Plan

Submissions were made regarding the Dru Point Master plan. Below are the main themes presented from the submissions:

Main issues raised
Play equipment
Dogs walking/exercise
Cycle tracks/trails
Sports facilities
BBQ/shelters
Nature play
Café
Toilets
Fitness Equipment

The full content of the submissions made are provided below:

*Email (Dog walking, walking loop tracks, and café)*

We love Dru Point and now with the footpath that's so exciting!! I'd love to be able to walk the foreshore path with a dog on a lead as I live on Incana Rd and if I go down past Channel Christian School unless you go through the dog run area (which gets a bit snaky) I couldn't do a loop around the foreshore. I think that would be amazing to just be able to utilize that outside path for those walking with dogs on leads who don't necessarily want to let their dog off lead. Would also love to see a restaurant or decent cafe run with opening hours the same as the parks.

*Facebook (Indigenous recognition within playground)*

If it is alright with our indigenous community, perhaps a copy of indigenous shelter could be made as a playhouse in respect & recognition to the indigenous peoples that lived and thrived there for millennia only up until a couple of hundred years ago. It could be made of solid materials, and covered with bark to make it safe for children, as they wouldn't be able to pull it to bits.

*Facebook (Better facilities in other parts of Kingborough)*

Not Margate related, but I would love to see better children's play facilities at Snug, Tasmania.

*Facebook (Better facilities in other parts of Kingborough)*

That would look good on Bruny Island but won't happen council don't care about us.

*Facebook (Inspiration from other playgrounds within Hobart)*

Maybe go and have a look at the new Bellerive beach park! And get some inspiration from that! What we have is pathetic.

*Facebook (Shade required)*

Need more shade within the park.

*Facebook (additional/different play equipment required, toilet upgrade)*

Dru point is already a good park, would rather see the funding go on an all abilities playground in Kingston - 5 years is a long time to wait for a good park in a family area. Keep up the good work.

*Facebook (Shade and other parks within Kingborough)*

Absolutely needs more shade! Also agree Kingston needs a better park, 5 years is long way off!

*Facebook (Basketball)*

Basketball Court required.

*Facebook (additional/different play equipment required, toilet upgrade)*

Remove stinking waste water plant!! have more than one swing. Upgrade the toilets. Have more interactive play equipment for kids between 6&10. The "Teenranger" is too big & the play options in the enclosed area are for babies & toddlers. Model some idea from the Lindisfarne play area (Simmonds Park)- climbing net, big basket swing, flying fox etc.

*Facebook (condition of facilities within Kingborough are poor)*

Thanks Kingborough Council for looking to the future for Dru Point, but I have to agree with some of the points made above. The municipality is lacking enough playground/family facilities for such a growing community. It's a sad indictment that we travel to Clarence for our son to have a great playground time. Kingston Beach, Snug and Kettering are all lacking, and the public toilets at Kingston Beach are appalling.

*Email (Fitness Trail, basketball, teenager facilities)*

Fitness trail/run/equipment. Basketball hoops and court. The children and teenagers will enjoy that. Great to Play basketball while the family enjoys a

BBQ. There are so many basketball playing teenagers in Margate who would love this. It needs to be a professional full basketball hoop and court. Great for practising. Great for community building.

*Email (General Management of the Park)*

With the upgrading of the waterfront along the Esplanade and the imminent de- commissioning of the sewage lagoons, it can be assumed that visitor numbers to

Dru Point will significantly increase. With this popularity in mind, it will become increasingly important to have a responsible manager on site. (It is not sufficient to simply indicate a Council phone number for contact as a need arises, to include a functioning café, to ensure that closing times of the Park are observed, to keep the gravel road well maintained, or preferably replaced by bitumen, to replace the sewage lagoons with a visually attractive natural feature ... a small lake or wetland?

*Facebook (Basketball, teenager facilities, outdoor gym)*

Currently not much to do or on offer for teenagers at Dru Point. My teenagers would love a basketball hoop and playing court. Sport connects people. Sport builds families and communities. There are many children in Margate that have huge interest in basketball. There are many basketball playing kids in Kingborough!! The park is well equipped for young children. There is not so much for older children. Some healthy challenges would be great. Another option would be fitness equipment. A fitness trail. My kids would love outdoor gym equipment.

*Facebook (Currently only good for small kids)*

I too find there is little for kids over about 5... Seems like a big space with a lot of potential.

*Facebook (MTB/BMX facilities)*

Pump track for mountain bikes please.

*Facebook (Exercise equipment)*

With so many visitors now to Dru Point we should have an exercise park as well. We love to walk and doing exercise there morning or evening.

*Facebook (Nature play needed - more natural areas)*

Please do not over-develop this area. We use the foreshore and bush and open areas for Bush Kinder. We just love it. But adding an area for more nature play near existing playgrounds would be good. A creek, bridge, trees, grasses, hill, large log to clamber over, a plant maze to explore. But please, please, please recognise that this area is beautiful, be very careful that what you do does not detract from the natural shoreline. Nature really does have its own beauty, the whole bay area is haven for swans, pelicans, cockatoos, blue wrens, and all sorts of other birds. How about supporting the Swift Parrots?

*Email (RV/caravan park)*

We think the foreshore area just before the gates to the park should be made suitable & available for self-contained Motor-homes to park free, overnight, up to 3 nights. As well as introducing more travellers to this beautiful part of Kingborough, it would add to the security of this area when the park is closed.

We know there is a caravan park in Snug, but many self-contained Motor-homes wish to freedom camp and will leave the area to go to another area which is RV friendly. As an ex-Motor-home traveller, we accessed our travel guides & deliberately went to areas that were RV friendly.

*Email (useful general comments on all things Dru Point)*

We have lived on the Esplanade on Dru Point for nearly thirty-five years. We walk through the park almost every day, so know it well. The original concept for the Dru Point Bicentennial Park was for a very natural landscape with emphasis on local endemic plants, a concept that we hope is honoured in the future. Since then, development has been very ad hoc.

Service and community clubs, with the best of intentions, built barbecue shelters that leave much to be desired.

Seats have been positioned behind signs that obstruct the view! Plants and 'landscaping' have seemed to reflect the whims of the council workmen.

The stone grave-like flower bed to the left of the road about 40 metres from the gate is a prime example that has had us scratching our heads. The news of a master plan is welcome indeed.

The all-abilities playground is wonderfully inclusive and popular with very young children, but there is little to challenge able-bodied school-age children who are too young for the 'Teen Rager'. (I've seldom seen teens using this equipment - perhaps by the time they're raging, their interests are elsewhere. Time to go?)

There are far too many signs. Some sound downright unfriendly. A large sign at the entrance, clearly indicating open hours and facilities in lettering large enough to be read from a car would, however, be very good.

The off-lead and fenced dog exercise area is a wonderful asset that we used almost daily from its inception until earlier this year. It would also be very nice to allow dogs on leads on the paths through the trees. Apart from the dog exercise area, Dru Point is not dog walker friendly. I can understand why dogs are not allowed in the playground area or on the foreshore where shorebirds might be nesting.

Information about history of the area, Aboriginal and that of early European exploration and settlement, should be displayed. The current Baudin plaque is quite inadequate.

Our other pleas are to keep some open areas, especially along the shore, so that people can enjoy the wonderful views across the bay.

*Email (BBQ issues, signage (in and outside the park), RV parking areas, carpark issues)*

The biggest problem with using this area for BBQs and picnics is the cutting breeze. Some simple L shaped protection will make a big difference. A low-cost variation is posts with latticework fixed and climbers growing on them, plus a shade cloth roof for against the summer sun and the itty bitty spring showers.

Number two problem is advertising. The sign outside Pear Ridge is often not noticed

- many potential visitor wings up in the Channel Museum asking for directions.

Three - Highway advertising should have more detail - toilets, play area, KIOSK - to entice visitors

Car park could have free parking for grey nomads. Internal carpark areas need to be hardened, no potholes or lakes.

*Email (Off lead dog area extension, foreshore/wetlands, Margate walking connection)*

We live in Beach Road, Margate and I walk our dog daily to Dru Point.

I feel that we have a lovely area at Dru Point and this can only improve with the closure of the sewerage treatment work - no doubt improved the air and water quality.

I trust that the off lead dog walking area will continue to be there and possibly be extended. It is well used and well-kept and is appreciated by the many dog owners.

I would like to see a little more attention paid to the foreshore and the wetlands. My property is adjacent to the wetlands and just up from Dru Point.

The entire area, including the approaches to Dru Point has multiple weeds, black berry, ragwort, capeweed, etc.

As North West Bay River and the Wetlands drain into the bay and then the

D'Entrecasteaux Channel, we need to take care that we protect the already degraded waterways. I understand that there is some Kingborough Council plan for a footpath from Pear Ridge to Dru Point along the edge of the wetlands.

This would be an ideal opportunity to weed clear and protect the North West Bay catchment. It would provide an alternative, interesting, informative, educational approach to Dru Point.

Also reduce traffic down Beach Road as people could walk/cycle to the Park rather than drive. Beach Road is already very busy.

The only other approach, along the Esplanade has already had a very good upgrade, carrying on through the park to Pear Ridge and connecting with the Margate Rivulet Track, will also complete the circular route of paths around Margate with Dru Point at its heart. Benefitting not only the environment but our health too. Encouraging us all to walk and cycle rather than drive.

Perhaps making an educational health/exercise hub at Dru Point could be considered.