

CCA Rationale for contacting Nature Based Play to undertake works in the Vlamingh area of Cottesloe

The Cottesloe Coastcare Association strongly supports the use of Nature Based Play as the contractor to undertake Stage 1 of development of a Nature Discovery Space for children in South Cottesloe.

Context

-) Cottesloe Coastcare Association (CCA) has championed the concept of establishing a Nature Discovery Space for children in the Vlamingh area of south Cottesloe as part of its long-term commitment to the restoration of natural areas in Cottesloe.
-) Funding of \$50,000 has been allocated from the Town of Cottesloe (T of C) to undertake the 1st Stage of a Nature Discovery Space for children.
-) The CCA has partnered with T of C to undertake the work and will undertake fund raising to complete the 2nd stage of the project, also estimated to be in the region of \$50,000.
-) CCA will also commit its members to substantial additional activities focussed on restoring the natural vegetation at the site which is currently highly degraded. The value of this in-kind input will be in excess of \$20,000.
-) A concept design has been completed by Nature Based Play and is the basis on which plans for staged development have been drawn

Rationale

In initially scoping the possibility of a Nature Discovery Space for children, members of CCA looked at a number of existing sites. All of the sites which positively attracted our attention had been built by Nature Based Play and it was clear that they were the preferred contactor in a specialised area of activity.

In observing past projects, it was clear that there was a strong connection between the conceptualisation, design, site layout and structure installations. There are clear advantages in using a contactor that has experience dealing with all aspects of connecting design to this specialised function, understands the opportunity to link function and general aesthetics and has experience in design and construction of installations that provide the challenges needed for children's adventure play. From our census of providers, it was clear that Nature Based Play possessed these attributes and a relatively unique skill set.

Nature Based Play was selected by seeking two quotations as per the Town's procurement policy to undertake the initial concept plan development and demonstrated a willingness to listen and liaise with the client on key issues of concept design. Over a number of planning meetings the CCA team developed an appreciation of the creative capabilities of the Nature Based Play operational staff and could see the special value they were adding to the project. Given that CCA will have a role in project management, we see strong advantage in exploiting this special value through all stages of the project.

Nature Based Play have the capacity to commence the Stage 1 works soon after a contract is finalised and complete the task promptly. This is important because Stage 1 needs to be completed to allow for substantial efforts by CCA in further plant establishment in the 2020

growing season. This activity needs to commence in March 2020 with preliminary weed control.

CCA has already commenced fund raising for the \$50,000 plus required to complete Stage 2 of the project. Amongst other elements, this will involve play related structures utilising designs that have been uniquely developed by Nature Based Play. CCA sees great advantage in using Nature Based Play as the contractor for Stage 1 as they will be the contactor for Stage 2 which will be project managed by CCA.

This is an innovative project and based on our research Nature Based Play have a unique set of skills that are not available from other contractors in Perth. Their budget is in line with other projects of a similar scale that do not offer the same aesthetic and environment values as this project. This will be the only site of this type on the Perth coast and it is essential that it is of high-quality design and construction. In our view the desired outcomes will be best achieved with Nature Based Play.