

Re: Urgent Action Needed: School Playground becoming a Battlefield

To: james.williamson11@gmail.com

Dear Councillor Williamson,

I write to you with a heart weighed by the agony that students face as they step inside of Silverwater Heights playground, a playground that Silverwater Public School adopted for children to jubilantly play in. Now it is a barren wasteland that is not only eroding itself, but also our joy, and safety. According to Section 3.6.2, paragraph 7 of the safety requirements that every structure must have, the very safety standards that you had enforced, this playground is inhabitable, and should be evacuated from. This playground lies in your jurisdiction, and so I request your help to revive this now blinded monstrosity.

Silverwater playground's metallic deteriorating gaunt frame reflects the smell of blood when children face lacerations from it, not just physically but mentally. The tantalising monkey bars are far too high in the air to provide any chance of surviving. The chains that hold the swing together have oxidised and are corroding, like daggers awaiting their victim. Over the course of 3 years, this playground has led to 43 fractures, 24 of them being complex fractures (when the bone is sticking out of the skin). "39% of youth hospital visits in our district have been because of this playground, the rest occurring from other hazardous playgrounds.", Dr. Emily Wilson, a senior nurse at Silverwater Hospital proclaims, "There are even multiple returning visits from children who had been severely injured because of the playgrounds

Last month, I saw kindergartener Evan Mane, who dreams of being an astronaut, fall off the climbing frame, and twist his entire leg, letting out a cacophonous screech that didn't just carry pain, it carried the betrayal of trust of the playground's safety. His small body crumpled when he hit the ground, seeing not just the playground, but Death behind it. Now he is in a wheelchair, his ambitions demolished. I still hear the morbid scream whenever I look at the playground. How can you sleep at night seeing the eternal agony suffered by children? How can you sleep at night hearing the screeches of children, when they fall off the playground that you commissioned to be built? How can you sleep at night knowing that this is your responsibility?

Opponents of rehabilitating the playground may argue that rebuilding the playground would imbalance economic stability, and that the playground is just a structure built for joy. I understand that this perspective may be true, as it acknowledges real-life cost, and questions the need of the playground. However, I believe otherwise, as this playground causes injury that costs more to heal than to rebuild the playground, and that the playground is an epitome for not only joy but also to maintain fitness and to stay healthy. Additionally, property values around the area are plummeting at an abysmal rate of 45% per annum due to the unwanted playground. Thus, the economic argument, while realistic, fails to consider the other factors that the playground could provide, and the economic hardship that now is happening because of it.

Our research shows that the Council Emergency Funds could pay for the rebuilding of the playground, as outside of school hours community members use this playground, and that according to council code 2.4.6, this situation is considered an accurate use for the

emergency funds. I, along with the other students at my school request an immediate safety inspection as soon as possible to analyse the changes needing to be made to the playground. Our community deserves a trustworthy playground that offers safety and fitness, and your leadership is the only way to do this. Either choose between creating a haven that benefits all, or cold green cash.

Thank you for your time.

Nandu Praveen,

Student Representative of Year 6,

Silverwater Public School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Praveen', written in a cursive style.