

Great news! Thanks to strong community feedback, Brisbane City Council has reversed its decision and will now upgrade the Taylor Bridge Reserve and playground at Chelmer.

The playground, BBQ, seating and facilities will be fully restored. At this stage Council is saying they won't restore the pontoon, but I will keep lobbying for this as I know many families lost their private pontoons and jetties during the floods. Council has come up with \$75 million and five different engineering/design options to replace Riverwalk, so I can't see how one small community jetty at Chelmer is such a difficult proposition to replace.

I am sorry to say that the 'Can Do' Councillors did not support a motion in Council on Tuesday, with Councillor Margaret De Wit saying it was a waste of time to be debating park flood recovery. With more than a dozen parks in the ward still closed and awaiting repair, I will continue lobbying for Council support and focus to progress flood recovery works for damaged public facilities such as parks and playgrounds.

Without my question to the Lord Mayor during Question Time two weeks ago and the motion to Council, this playground and park would not be fixed. Thank you to everyone who emailed their stories and signed the petition. These really helped demonstrate the importance of the park to our local community during the debate in Council. You can read my full speech [here](#).

Here is the motion that the Administration Councillors voted down on Tuesday night.

I move that this Council repairs and re-establishes the children's playground, BBQ, picnic seating and pontoon/jetty at the Taylor Bridge Reserve, Chelmer, as part of the flood recovery remediation works for Brisbane parks following the devastating January floods.

It's beyond me why the majority 'Can Do' Councillors could not make a simple commitment to re-establish the park facilities and playground. Perhaps though it gives you some idea why they don't seem to want me in Council!

Council Declares Taylor Bridge Reserve Defunct

[Taylor Bridge Reserve Petition.pdf](#)

In a blow to local families, BCC has advised that it does not plan to fully reinstate the Taylor Bridge Reserve park and playground underneath the Walter Taylor Bridge at Chelmer.

This Reserve is popular with local families and as an outdoor picnic and lunch spot.

Council's proposed plan does not include replacement of the pontoon, children's playground, picnic seating or BBQ facilities. The new plan is noted below.

I have advised Council that I do not support their plans to cut community facilities from this park. The feedback that I have from Chelmer residents is that the park and playground is a popular picnic spot, venue for children's parties and with many pontoons damaged, the only local spot to launch canoes and kayaks," Cr Johnston said.

I have developed a petition calling on Council to fully reinstate this popular local recreation green space that I hope you will consider supporting.

If you support reinstatement of this Chelmer Park please sign the petition (feel free to ask your neighbours as well) and return it to my office by email Tennyson.ward@ecn.net.au or post at 180 Fairfield Road Fairfield Qld 4103.

