

# City of Wagga Wagga

## Playground Strategy

2023-2043



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## Acknowledgement of Country

**Wagga Wagga City Council gulbali-yanhi ngurambang-gu Wiradjuri-gu walumaldhaany-galang. nganha bala mayiny Wiradjuri. yindyamali-yanhi mudyiganggalang-bu balumbambal-bu balugirbam-bu yindyamali-yanhi bagaraygan nguarambang-gawali-i yandu muran.**

**wigi wagga wagga-dha ngiyanhi gulbali-bu yindyamali-bu guwiinyguliyalagu buyaa-bu giilaang-galam-bu. ngiyanhi gulbali-bu yindyamali-bu guwiinyguliyalagu dhaagun-giyalam-bu bila-galang-giyalam-bu. gulbali-yanhi Wiradjui-mayiny ngurambangguwal-bu bala yarruwala-bu waluwin-bu walabangan-bu dhirrangan-bu.**

Wagga Wagga City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Wiradjuri people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future and extends our respect to all First Nations Peoples in Wagga Wagga.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the land and rivers. We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of the Wiradjuri and First Nations communities.

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## Executive Summary

Wagga Wagga is the largest inland city in New South Wales, the town is situated along the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. The city is known as 'the City of Good Sports' producing some of the nation's best athletes. This appellation is a credit to the quality open space and green areas that are on offer across the Local Government Area. Wagga Wagga's 100 playgrounds form an important element contributing to the creation of great play spaces.

Play contributes a critical role in childhood development; playing outside in nature in an urbanised setting has a special significance. This strategy provides a policy framework to guide future play space development in Wagga Wagga. The strategy sets out an approach that outlines the importance of diversity in recreation (not providing the same play experience everywhere) and the importance of the power of play and social interaction in childhood development.

Community consultation was carried out through an online survey in preparing this strategy review. Council staff have collated all community and stakeholder responses to help form this document. The results from the community consultation have indicated that community members like the number of playgrounds available across the LGA and the variety of equipment at each playground, they would like to see better shade protection over playground equipment and shade for parents and carers when supervising. Community members would also like to see more accessible play spaces for children and people with disabilities. Most people prefer to use the larger sized playgrounds with a greater variety of play equipment and space for activities. Small local playgrounds are still considered important to society as they are usually within walking distance (500 metres) of most residents.

This strategy aims to provide a balance between quality play spaces that provide adequate stimulation for children, services for carers, and the number of spaces that can be financially supported by Council over the next 20 years.

## Recommendations

**Recommendation 1:** That the renewal budget of a playground is increased to allow for accessibility improvements at all playgrounds as they are renewed.

**Recommendation 2:** That Council increase the annual playground maintenance budget from \$106,954 to \$176,600 an increase of \$69,646 to ensure compliance with Australian maintenance standards.

**Recommendation 3:** That Council increase the annual playground maintenance budget by \$1,500 (local minor and major), \$4,000 (suburban) and \$8,000 (regional) each time a new playground is added to the network.

**Recommendation 4:** That Council aims to have at least 40% of the playground area shaded at all local major, suburban and regional playgrounds.

**Recommendation 5:** That Council install shade sails at local major, suburban and regional playgrounds that do not meet the 40% shade benchmark.

**Recommendation 6:** That Council install two shade sails per year at playgrounds for the next five (5) financial years.

**Recommendation 7:** That Council install shade sails at all new local major, suburban and regional playgrounds.

**Recommendation 8:** It is recommended that at least one playground in every suburb and village has shade sails over playground equipment.

**Recommendation 9:** That Council plant at least four advanced deciduous trees to the eastern and western side of each playground.

**Recommendation 10:** That Council identifies future budgets for the newly developed Riverside Playground to cater for the replacement of key components, such a rubber softfall and climbing nets.

**Recommendation 11:** That Council do not use raised edging when constructing new playgrounds to ensure accessibility, and instead install a concrete path edge or similar as required.

**Recommendation 12:** That when constructing new playgrounds Council ensure accessibility to the playgrounds.

**Recommendation 13:** That Council install a regional playground in the southern suburbs of Wagga Wagga.

**Recommendation 14:** That Council install a regional playground in the northern suburbs of Wagga Wagga.

**Recommendation 15:** That Council install nonverbal communication boards at all suburban and regional playgrounds.

**Recommendation 16:** That Council incorporate a water play/splash park when planning the Bolton Park Master Plan.

## Section 1 – Introduction

### 1.1 Vision

Wagga Wagga is known as a family friendly city and a ‘city of good sports’. Playgrounds play a crucial role in attracting and keeping families within the city. Playgrounds are one of the most utilised recreation assets Council maintains, with approximately 500,000 annual visitations from local families and people visiting Wagga Wagga. The vision for this strategy is:

“Wagga Wagga will continue to be recognised for being one of Australia’s most family friendly cities through the sustainable provision and management of high quality, accessible, diverse, innovative, safe, and fun playgrounds that contribute to the developmental needs of all children. These play spaces will become community hubs that encourage interaction and community wellbeing.”

### 1.2 Purpose

This strategy will be a single document that will guide all aspects of playground management. The primary purposes of this strategy are:

- Listening and consulting to the community to inform the strategy
- Ensure the community has access to quality playgrounds for the next 20 years by applying best practice asset management principles.
- Create future play spaces in new subdivisions by providing policy directions to inform the Local Environment Plan (LEP) and inform future Development Control Plans (DCP).
- Ensure the future financial sustainability of the playground network.
- To set benchmarks for the provision of shade for open space and playground areas.

A secondary purpose of this strategy is to provide guidelines on maintenance management of playgrounds.

### 1.3 Scope

The scope of this strategy is to review the provision and maintenance of the following recreation assets:

- Playground equipment
- Playground support infrastructure that is funded from the playground budget. This includes edging, softfall, tree guards, shade sails, fences, signage and furniture (bins, seats and picnic settings) that are directly association with the playground.
- Parkland, if the playground is the primary feature of the open space.

The following assets categories are considered important to support play spaces. Depending on the size of the playground some or all of these assets will be provided:

- BBQs
- Toilets
- Shelters
- Irrigation

### 1.4 Strategic Context

Playgrounds are important in supporting the physical, social and intellectual development of children. They also play a key role in providing great outdoor spaces ensuring a diverse range of recreation and social opportunities for all members of the community.

Outdoor spaces are used for:

1. General play time
2. Picnic get-togethers

3. Refuges from urban stress
4. Centres of community activity, where people go to meet and socialise with their friends and peers

The planning context for this strategy is set by the following Council documentation and Government legislation:

Wagga City Council Recreation Open Space and Community and Implementation plan 2040 The aim of this document is to develop a connected, livable city, providing a strategic direction for the planning, development, management and use of community spaces over the next 20 years within the Wagga Wagga LGA. The document identifies five key themes as strategic priorities for the city.

- **Increase the activation of public spaces** – providing appropriate infrastructure, public spaces and community facilities will enable a wide variety of events and activities to be held.
- **Improve accessibility and connection** – accessibility and connection will be improved across the city and will become a key consideration in all future developments and redevelopments of public spaces.
- **Improve existing assets to maximise utilisation** – Improvements in existing assets will enable better utilization by the community. In many cases these improvements will negate the need for the development of additional assets.
- **Improve community health** – community infrastructure and public spaces will be designed in order to improve community health outcomes.
- **Collaborate where possible** – partnerships will be sought to ensure the efficient provision of community infrastructure and public spaces.

Community Strategic Plan 2040 The community Strategic Plan (CSP) is a plan determined by the community and gives an insightful look into the future of Wagga Wagga and the surrounding villages. The plan has been created through the aspirations, knowledge and values of the community. The document identifies four key words that have been chosen by the community to be used as principles in planning for our future.

- **Thriving**
  - Growth, Development, Success, Livability, Healthy, Sustainable, Strong Economy
- **Innovative**
  - Creative, New ideas and thinking, Entrepreneurial leading, Efficient and effective, Creating best practice
- **Connected**
  - Feeling part of the community, Relationships, Communication technology, Place and space integration, Heritage, Networking
- **Inclusive**
  - Including everyone, Accessibility, all cultures and backgrounds, Friendly, Inviting, Equal Opportunity, Fair, Welcoming

State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 enables public authorities, including the Council, to undertake certain development on land that is under the control of that authority without the requirement to obtain development consent for those works. This includes the ability to provide for a range of infrastructure that is required to support the use of public parks and reserves, including development that allows for the provision of items such playground equipment.

The State Policy details a range of infrastructure that can be undertaken as exempt development within public parks and reserves including a specific provision for of safe play equipment. In addition to this, the Policy allows the Council to also undertake a range of other developments to support the provision and use of play equipment including infrastructure such as:

- seats, picnic tables, barbecues, shelters and shade structures
- lighting
- landscaping and irrigation systems
- public amenities including toilets
- walking tracks, ramps and stairways
- bicycle-related facilities and cycleways

Whilst Council does not need to obtain development consent for these development types under the Policy, before Council proceeds it must ensure that it has carefully considered how the development may affect the natural and built environments, and also any potential social and economic impacts of the development in the locality.

## **1.5 Methodology**

### Overview

The methodology used to prepare this strategy was:

1. A literature review of Council's strategy documents.
2. A review of asset and GIS data
3. Community consultation through an online survey
4. Site analysis
5. A review of demographic data and population projections
6. Stakeholder and peak industry body consultations
7. Formulation of conclusions and recommendations

## **1.6 Community Consultation**

In September 2021 a community engagement plan was developed, the key deliverable within this plan was to create a survey for the community to give their opinion on playgrounds across the LGA. For the month of November 2021, the survey was opened online for the community to provide feedback. The survey was advertised on Council's social media platforms, through Council news and online on the Council's website.

There were 450 community member responses to the survey including 45 comments recorded on Council's social media platforms. Community members that participated in the survey were asked to answer four questions about playgrounds in the LGA. Council staff collated all responses to form this playground strategy review. The questions asked in the survey were:

- What do you like about the playgrounds in the Wagga Wagga LGA?
- What don't you like about the playgrounds in the Wagga Wagga LGA?
- What would you like to see improved/added to existing and future playgrounds in the Wagga Wagga LGA?
- Do you have anything else to add?

Of the 450 survey respondents the top four themes were:

- Shade
- Water Play
- Accessibility
- Maintenance

## **1.7 Community responses**

### **What does the community like about playgrounds in the LGA?**

Community feedback has shown that a majority of community members like the variety of playgrounds the LGA has to offer and the diverse range of equipment at each playground. The larger



suburban and regional playgrounds cater for a range of age groups and prove the most popular for families. Wagga City Council have 100 playgrounds across the LGA, which means most residents have a playground within walking distance or a short drive from their home.

### **What don't you like about the playgrounds in the Wagga Wagga LGA?**

The community overwhelmingly stated that they do not like the inadequate amount of shade across playgrounds in the LGA. Responses suggested that due to the extreme heat Wagga Wagga experiences over summer equipment cannot be used through the day as it gets too hot. Community members would like some sort of shade at each playground whether it be natural trees, shade sails or other infrastructure.

Other responses showed that the community doesn't like that some playgrounds around the LGA are outdated with old equipment and haven't been refurbished in recent years. The community also suggested that some playgrounds do not cater for the youngest cohort, which is children under three years old, and the equipment and infrastructure is not accessible for children and people with disabilities. Increased maintenance was also highlighted as an important issue.

### **What would you like to see improved or added to playgrounds in the LGA?**

The top three themes as a result of responses to this question were shade, water play and accessibility.

Shade is an important element to consider when designing a playground. Community members expressed their desire to see shade added and improved at playgrounds across the LGA. After consultation with the Cancer Institute of NSW, Council is recommending that at least 40% of the playground area is shaded whether this be natural shade from trees or shade sails. To achieve this benchmark Council will install shade sails at local major, suburban and regional playground that do not meet this recommendation. Council will ensure that residents will have access to at least one playground with a shade sail in each suburb and village, this means that some local minor playgrounds will have shade sails installed. Council will also plant four advanced trees at each playground in the LGA to the eastern and western side to increase the shade coverage. To carry out these recommendations the annual maintenance budget and renewal budget will have to be increased to cater for vandalism repairs, maintenance and end of life replacement costs.

Water play was a common theme in response to the community survey. As a result, water play will be incorporated into the Bolton Park Master Plan.

Council have worked and will continue to work to improve accessibility at playgrounds across the LGA. New playgrounds have been built with a concrete path or masonry edge to ensure children and people with disabilities can access equipment. Raised timber and plastic edging are being phased out over time. Since the last playground strategy was developed Council have constructed Livvi's Place playground at Bolton Park, which is an inclusive all-access play space where people of all ages and abilities can play side by side.

## **Section 2 – Wagga Wagga's Playground Network**

### **2.1 Existing playground network**

Wagga Wagga City Council manages 100 playgrounds within the LGA and across its rural villages. There are currently 58 local minor playgrounds, 28 local major playgrounds, 10 suburban playgrounds and 4 regional playgrounds. The table shows the number of playgrounds in the Wagga Wagga LGA located in each suburb and their average age.

**Table 2.2 Number of Playgrounds by suburb**

Suburb	Playground count per suburb	Average age	Age Range YRS (Original installation date)
Ashmont	7	13	1yrs-33yrs
Boorooma	3	6	5yrs-9yrs
Bourkelands	5	13	11yrs-16yrs
Collingullie	2	19	14yrs-25yrs
Currawarna	1	15	15yrs
East Wagga Wagga	1	5	5yrs
Estella	2	6	5yrs-15yrs
Forest Hill	5	11	5yrs-17yrs
Galore	1	14	14yrs
Glenfield Park	8	17	12yrs-31yrs
Gobbagombalin	2	2	1yrs-4yrs
Humula	1	15	15yrs
Koorinal	8	13	4yrs-26yrs
Ladysmith	1	16	16yrs
Lake Albert	8	19	9yrs-39yrs
Lloyd	2	12	5yrs-19yrs
Lockhart	1	12	12yrs
Mangoplah	2	10	16yrs-47yrs
Mount Austin	3	14	11yrs-18yrs
North Wagga Wagga	1	11	11yrs
Oura	1	18	18yrs
San Isidore	1	14	14yrs
Tarcutta	2	18	11yrs-25yrs
Tatton	3	12	13yrs-23yrs
Tolland	4	16	9yrs-35yrs
Turvey Park	8	12	1yrs-40yrs
Uranquinty	3	5	12yrs-38yrs
Wagga Wagga (Central)	14	10	1yrs-33yrs
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12</b>	

The average age of playgrounds shown in the above table are calculated at the original date the playground was installed. Some playgrounds have been refurbished or renewed since the original installation.

**Table 2.3 Hierarchy of playgrounds by suburbs**

Suburb	Hierarchy
Ashmont/Glenfield/San Isidore	12 Local minor 2 Local major 2 Suburban
Boorooma/Estella/Gobbagombalin	4 Local minor 2 Local major 1 Suburban
Bourkelands/Lloyd/Springvale	5 Local minor 1 Local major 1 Suburban

Central Wagga Wagga/North Wagga Wagga	6 Local minor 6 Local major 1 Suburban 2 Regional
East Wagga Wagga/Gumly Gumly	1 Local minor
Forest Hill	3 Local minor 1 Local major 1 Suburban
Koorinal	6 Local minor 1 Local major 1 Suburban
Lake Albert/Tatton	7 Local minor 3 Local major 1 Regional
Mount Austin/Tolland/Turvey Park	9 Local minor 3 Local major 2 Suburban 1 Regional
Collingullie	1 Local minor 1 Local major
Currawarna	1 Local major
Galore	1 Local major
Humula	1 Local major
Ladysmith	1 Local major
Lockhart	1 Local minor
Mangoplah	1 Local minor 1 Local major
Oura	1 Local major
Tarcutta	1 Local minor 1 Suburban
Uranquinty	1 Local minor 2 Local major

## 2.4 Age and Condition of Playgrounds

The average playground age in the Wagga Wagga LGA is 12 years. A playgrounds useful life is approximately 20 years and as such the condition of most playgrounds in the network is assessed as being 'average and above'.

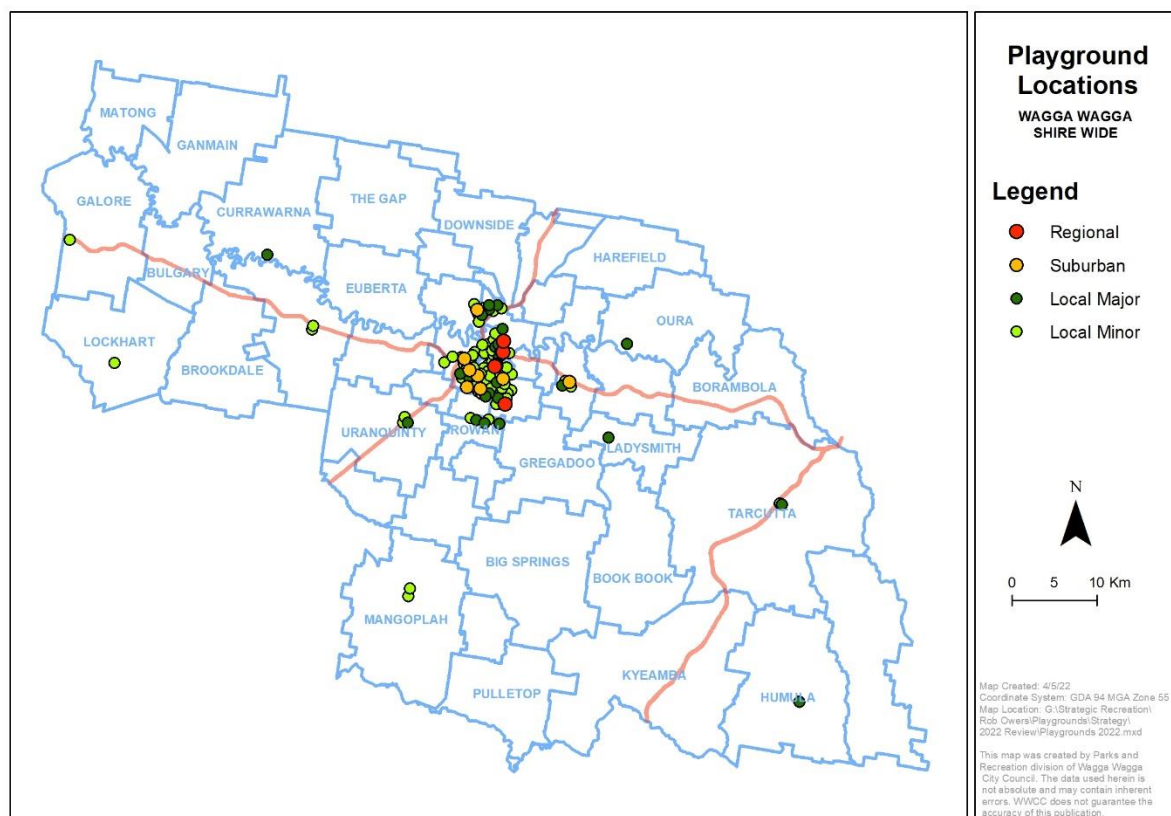
## 2.5 Equipment Type

Currently there is a broad variety of equipment types within playgrounds. Common pieces of equipment include swings, rockers, climbing nets/walls, slides, spinners and free-standing platform units. Community consultation has requested for more natural play, using features like rocks, logs, and vegetation. The community has also indicated that there needs to be an increase in equipment available to cater for the youngest cohort, which is one to three years old.

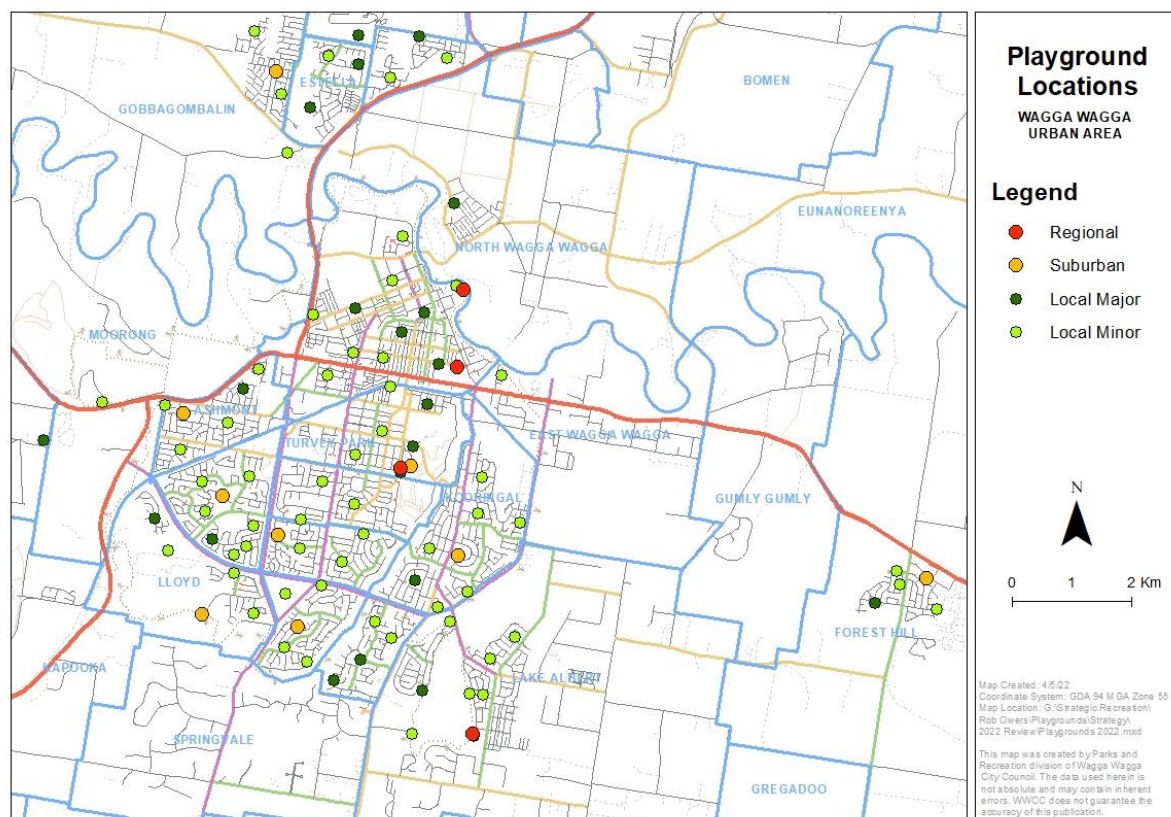
## 2.6 Playground Distribution

There are 100 playgrounds spread across 28 suburbs and localities. 14 of these are in rural villages. The remaining 86 are in the Wagga Wagga urban area.

## 2.7 Current distribution of playgrounds across Wagga Wagga LGA

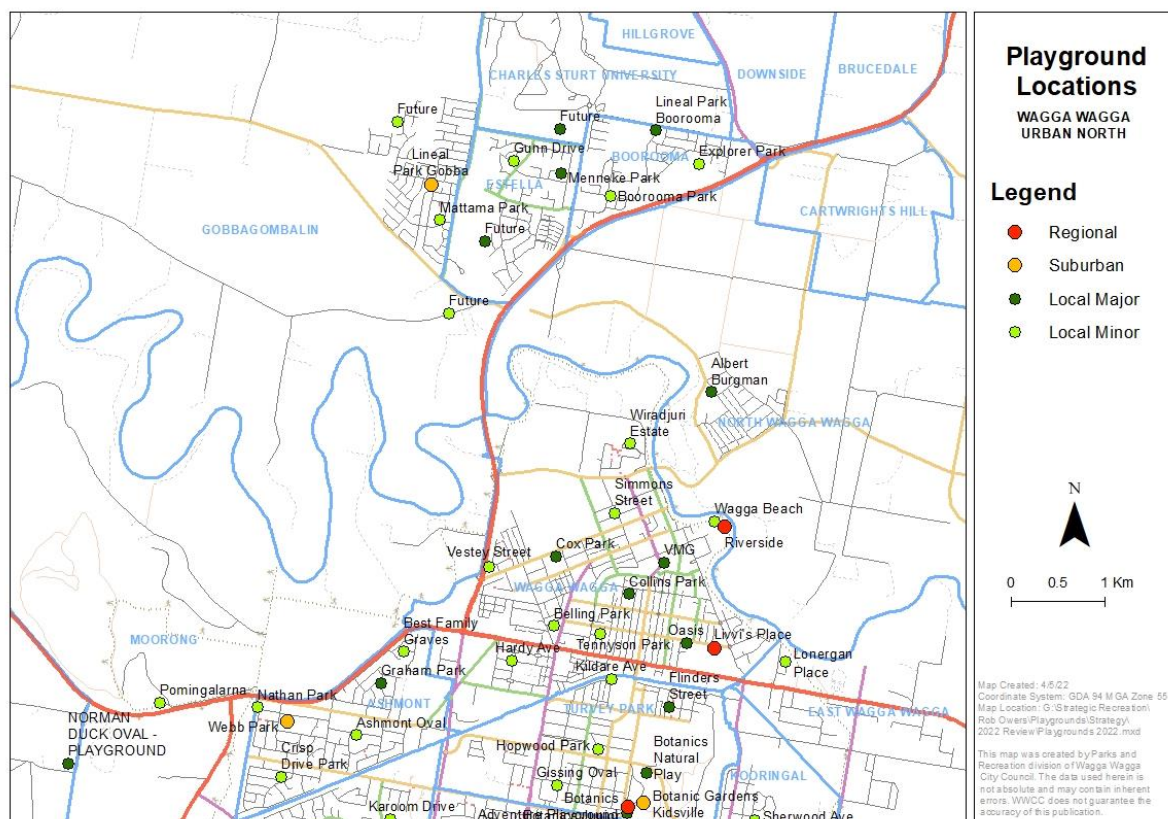


## 2.8 Current distribution of Playgrounds across Wagga Wagga Urban Area

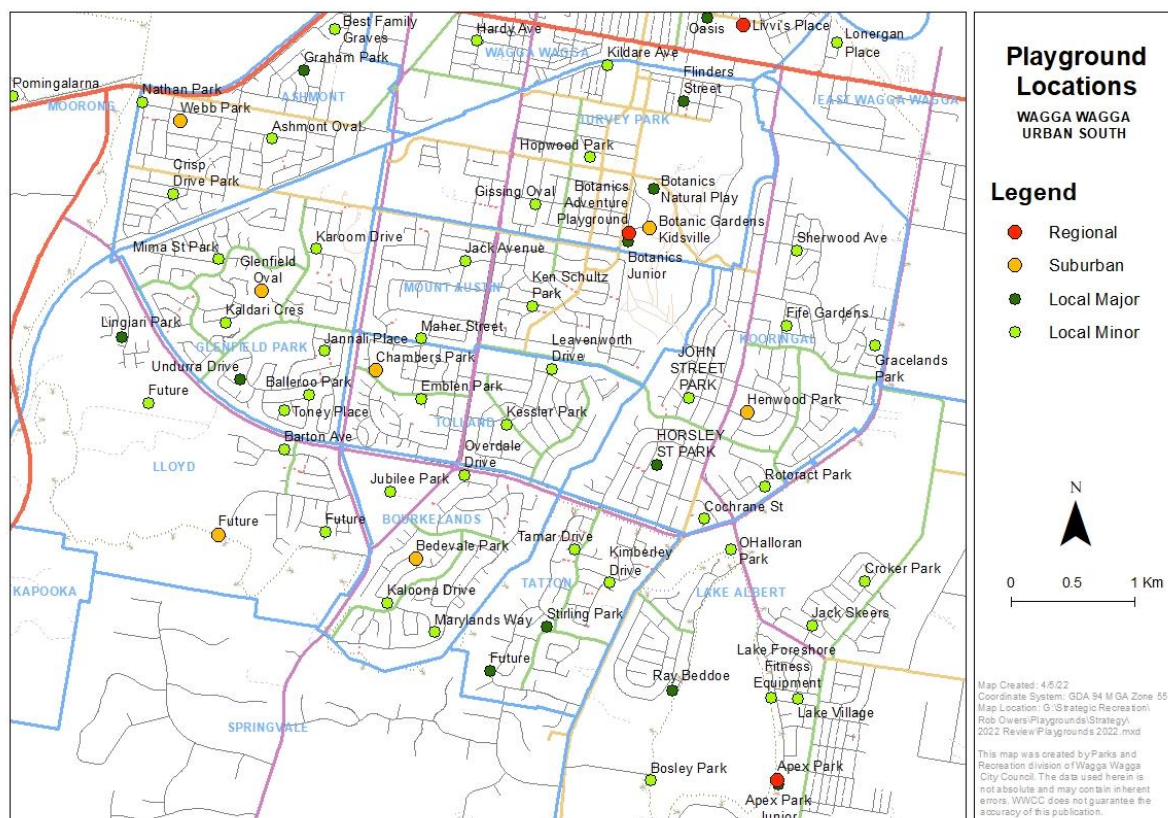




## 2.9 Current distribution of Playgrounds across Wagga Wagga Urban Area – North



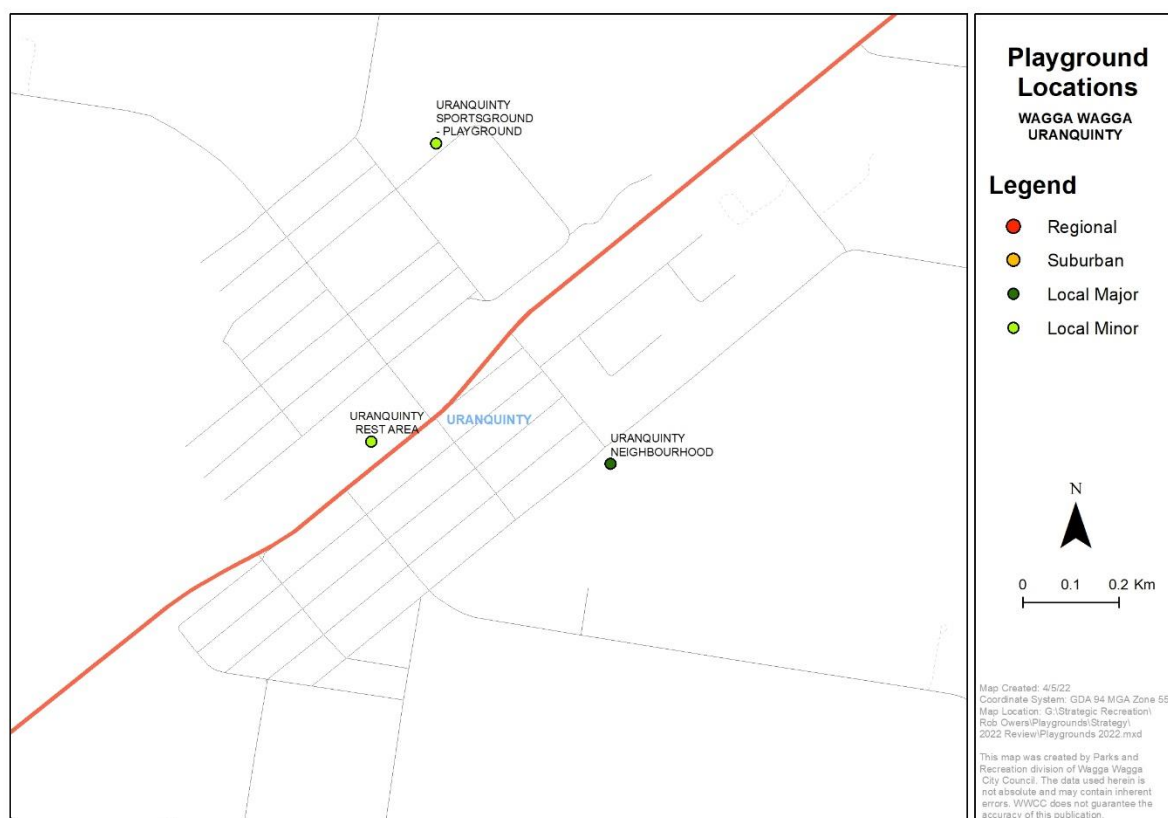
## 2.10 Current distribution of Playgrounds across Wagga Wagga Urban Area – South



## 2.11 Current distribution of Playgrounds in Forest Hill

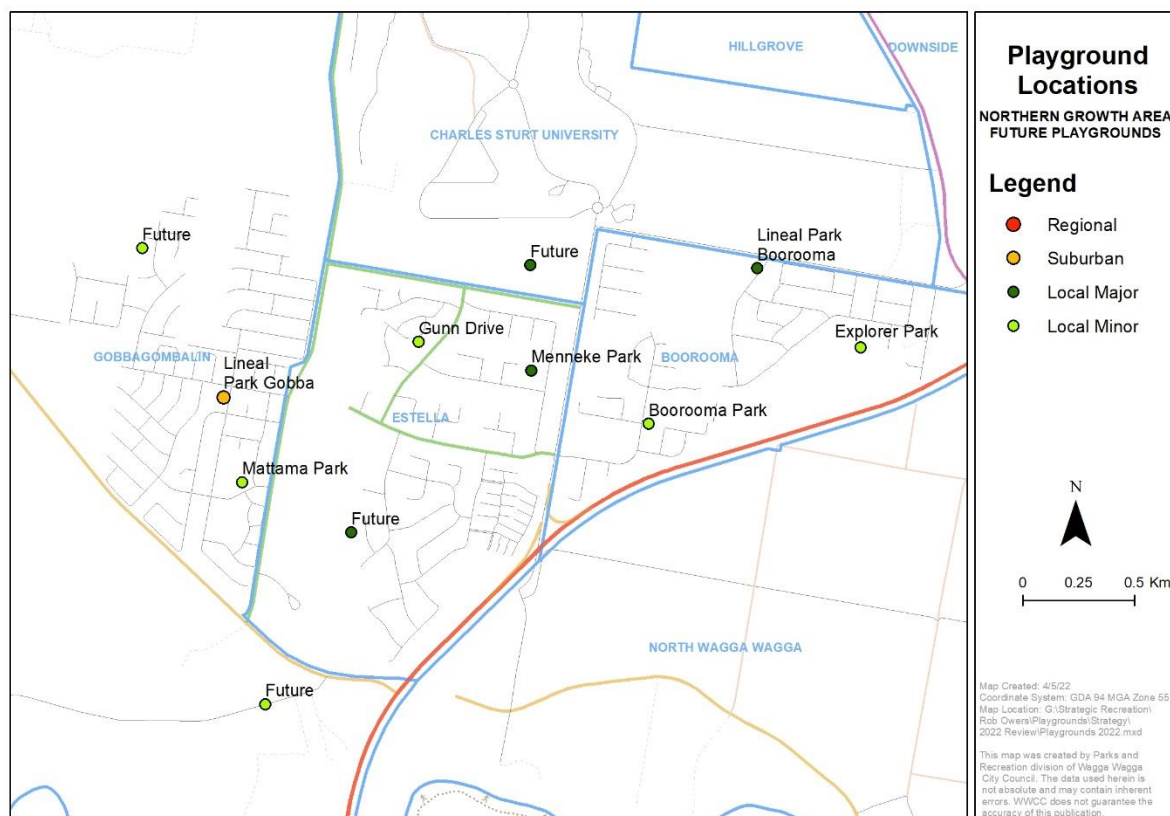


## 2.12 Current distribution of Playgrounds in Uranquinty

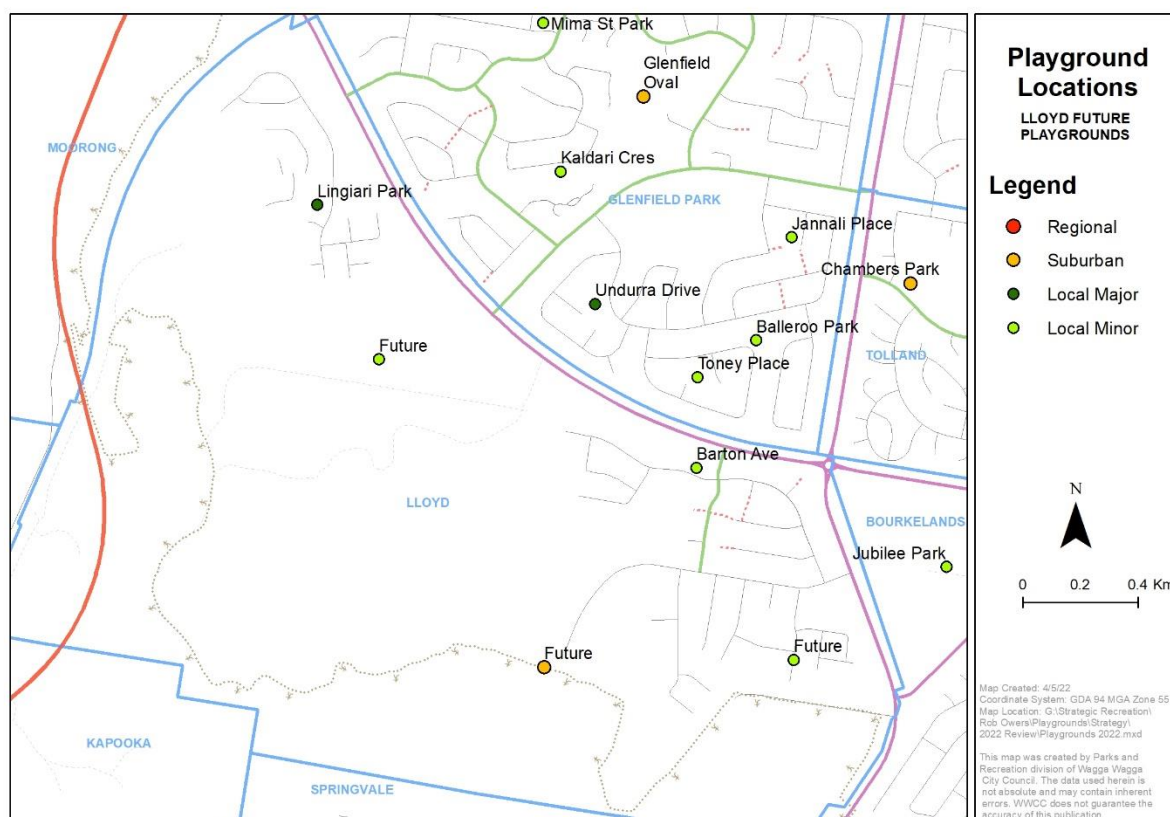




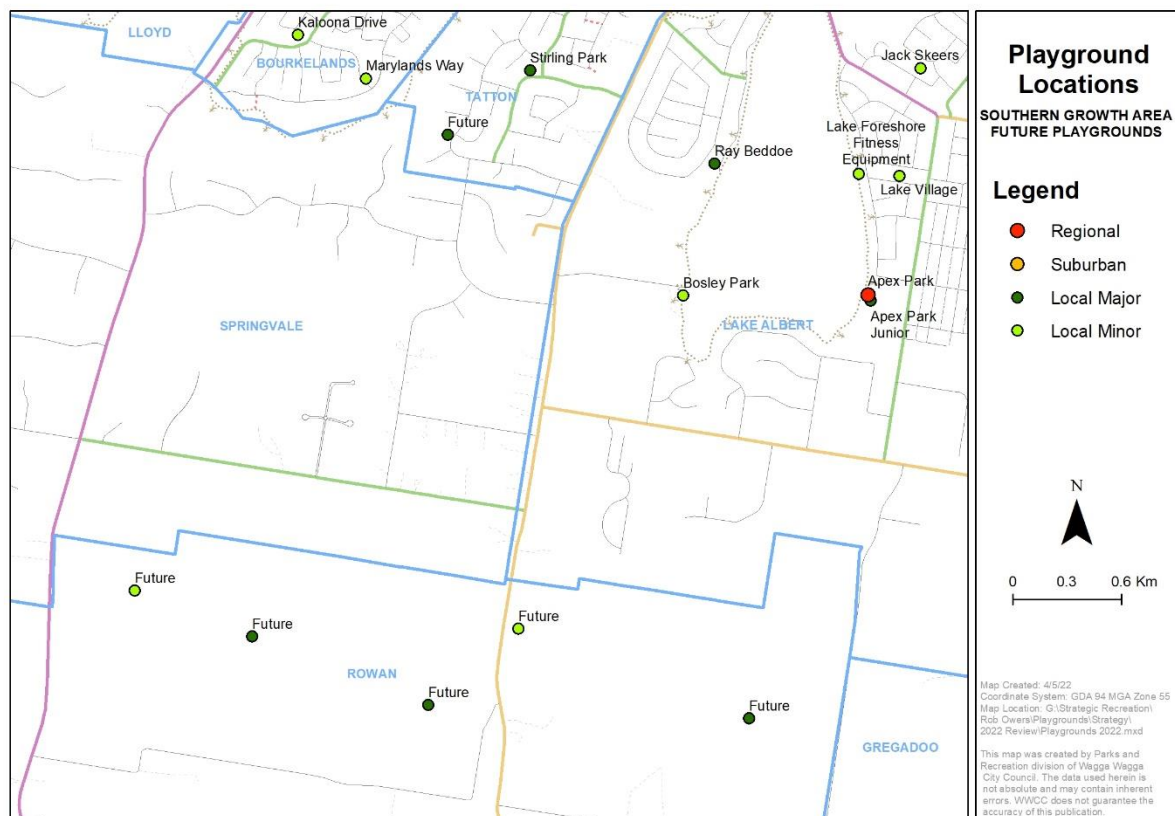
## 2.13 Northern Growth Area Future Playground Distribution



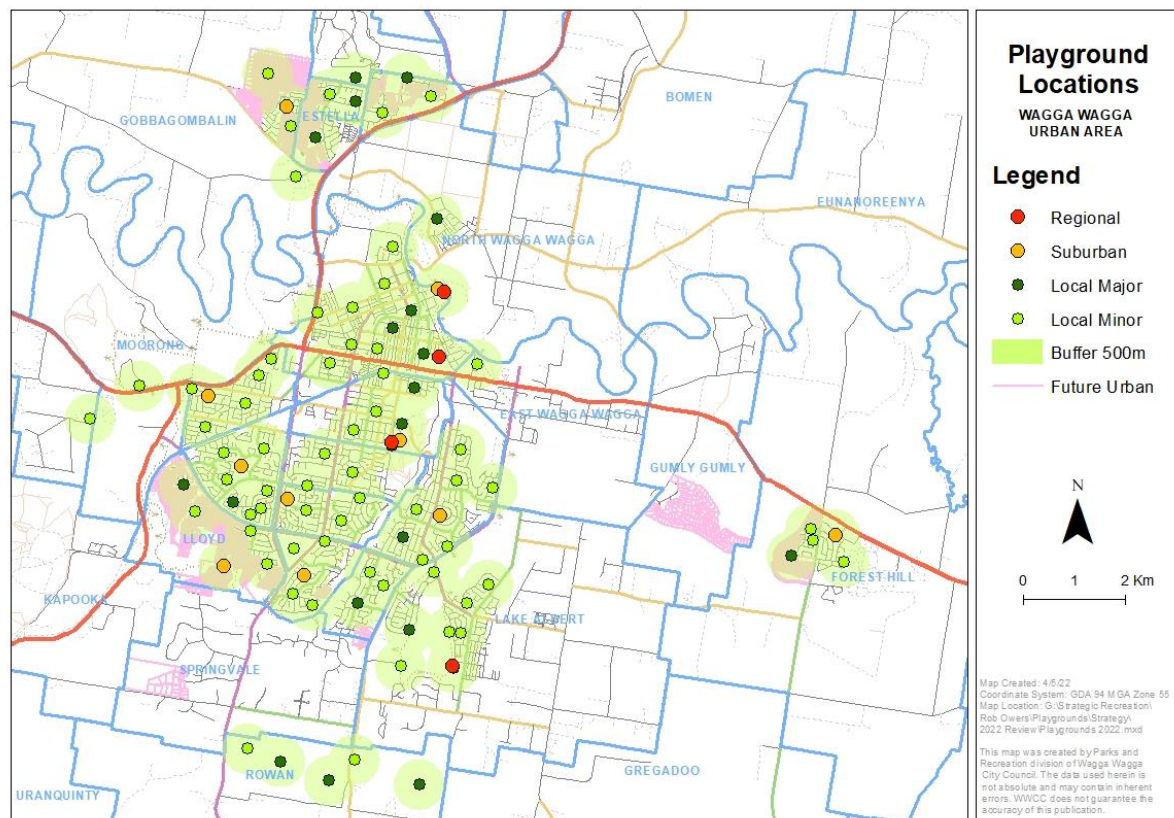
## 2.14 Lloyd Future Playground Distribution



## 2.15 Southern Growth Area Future Playground Distribution



## 2.16 500m Buffer Playground Distribution



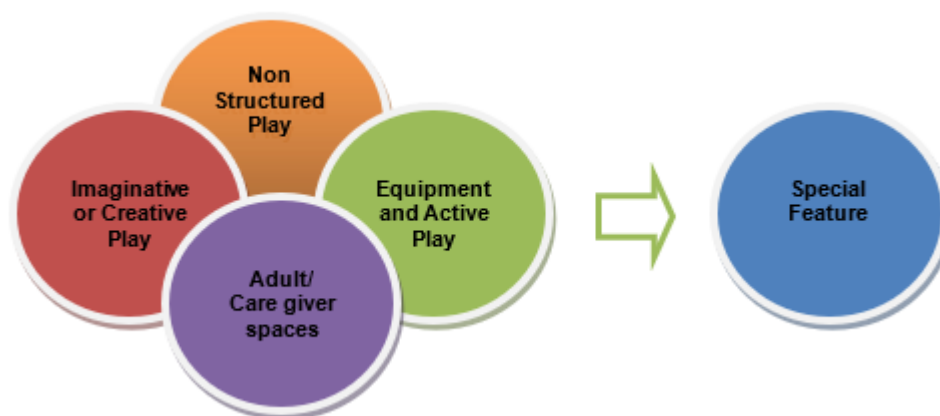


## Section 3 – Design and Provision

### 3.1 Play space and age groups of children

When designing a new playground, or upgrading an existing playground, it is important to consider both the equipment design and the context within the park that the equipment is being placed. This context is often referred to as the 'play space'. Figure 3.2 below identifies the key elements of a play space.

**Figure 3.2 elements of a play space**



Source: *The Good Play Space Guide: "I can play too"*.

A report by the Children's Institute for Learning and Development (CHILD) in 2004 distinguished children into three (3) main age groups, based on ability. These age groups are 0 to 3 years; 4 to 7 years; and 8 to 12 years. If we consider this in relation to the elements of play model, we can identify the developmental needs of children in each group, and subsequently highlight appropriate equipment, facilities and environments for playground design based on each age group. This will assist Council in providing diversity in playground provision for children of all ages across the LGA.

Ensuring equity in accessing playgrounds across the City is important to ensure all Children regardless of economic capacity have access to quality play facilities. Council will ensure equal access to all members of the community when redeveloping and planning new playgrounds.

### 3.3 Wagga Wagga Demographics and New Subdivisions

The life of this strategy is 20 years, from 2023 to 2043. The Population Forecast ID website, which draws information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data, states the estimated population for the Wagga Wagga City in 2022 is 70,339, growing to 80,984 in 2036 (Forecast ID). Therefore, playground demand will increase in the future, particularly around new urban releases.

Table 3.4 represents data that needs to be considered when designing and providing playgrounds. This strategy states that the major users of playgrounds are children 12 years and under. The data below references children 14 years and younger which is in line with the collected ABS data.

**Table 3.4 demographic data affecting playground design**

Suburb	Families	Median Age	Median household income	Households with Vehicles
Ashmont	1,508	33	\$872	1,537
Bourkelands - Tatton	1,838	35	\$1,983	1,859

Estella-Boorooma-Gobbagombalin	857	25	\$1,703	864
Forest Hill - East Wagga Wagga	958	30	\$1,370	973
Glenfield Park	1,953	32	\$1,383	2,027
Koorringal	2,855	35	\$1,197	2,911
Lake Albert	2,247	42	\$1,513	2,227
Mount Austin	1,616	37	\$891	1,603
North Wagga Wagga – Bomen	598	31	\$1,762	624
Rural East	1,055	43	\$1,493	1,073
Rural West	944	36	\$1,587	930
Springvale – Lloyd	935	30	\$2,320	957
Tolland	1,376	34	\$955	1,396
Turvey Park	1,293	34	\$1,550	1,299
Wagga Wagga – Central	3,267	37	\$1,206	3,270

Source: \_ data is based off 2016 Census

The key points from the above table when considering playground development are:

- Lake Albert has the highest median age while Estella - University has the youngest by a significant margin.
- Springvale – Lloyd has the highest median income, while Ashmont has the lowest.
- Families living in Wagga Wagga (Central) and Koorringal have the most access to cars.

**Table 3.5 Population Growth by Urban Suburb**

Suburb	Population 2022	Population 2036	Change between 2022 and 2036
Ashmont	3,916	4,030	+114
Bourkelands - Tatton	5,953	5,803	-150
Estella-Boorooma-Gobbagombalin	4,700	8,049	+3,349
Forest Hill – East Wagga Wagga	3,423	4,324	+900
Glenfield Park	5,393	5,339	-53
Koorringal	7,488	7,857	+369
Lake Albert	6,582	6,823	+242
Mount Austin	4,207	4,354	+147
North Wagga Wagga – Bomen	2,533	3,021	+488
Rural East	3,229	3,554	+325
Rural West	2,807	3,324	+517
Springvale – Lloyd	4,929	7,736	+2,807
Tolland	3,546	3,707	+161
Turvey Park	3,463	3,512	+49
Wagga Wagga (Central)	8,171	9,551	+1,381
<b>Total population</b>	<b>70,339</b>	<b>80,984</b>	<b>+10,645</b>

Source: <https://forecast.id.com.au/wagga-wagga/population-age-structure>

### 3.6 Classification of playgrounds

The playground hierarchy is a framework that sets out a consistent approach to the management, development and maintenance of play space areas which are similar in scale, scope and function. The framework enables Council to plan for a suite of facilities providing diversity for the community and a distribution throughout the LGA which minimises duplication of like spaces and facilities within neighbourhoods and districts.

The playground hierarchy framework determines:

- The indicative construction cost
- Catchment areas
- Level of facilities and amenities provided
- Variety of play elements included
- Preferred land area

### 3.7 Playground Hierarchy Table

Category	PG Average Value	Example	Toilets	Average renewal period (actual renewals will occur based on asset condition)
Local minor	\$70,000	Muttama Parade Playground, Gobbagombalin	No	20 years renewal
Local major	\$104,000	Webb Park, Ashmont	No	20 years
Suburban	\$174,000	Cootamundra Blvd, Gobbagombalin	Yes	10 years refurbish (approximately 25% of capital cost) 20 years renewal
Regional	\$450,000	Botanic Gardens Adventure Playground, Turvey Park	Yes	10 years refurbish (approximately 25% of capital cost) 20 years renewal

The above figures are based on recently installed playgrounds. For example, the Muttama Parade (local minor) playground in Gobbagombalin cost approximately \$40,000 for equipment, infrastructure and installation, \$15,000 for excavation, drainage and access path works and \$15,000 for rubber softfall to access various pieces of equipment such as swings and carousels. The value of installing new playgrounds has been increased to incorporate improved accessibility at playgrounds.

Due to the extensive utilisation of suburban and regional playgrounds the playgrounds will be refurbished after ten years to ensure they meet the twenty-year renewal.

The playground hierarchy has been developed to meet the needs of the Wagga Wagga Local Government area. Table 3.8 below lists the characterises of each of the four hierarchies for Wagga Wagga – local minor, local major, suburban and regional Playgrounds

**Table 3.8 Wagga Wagga City Council Playground Hierarchy**

	Local Minor Playgrounds	Local Major Playgrounds	Suburban (District) Playgrounds	Regional Playgrounds
Catchments and Length of Stay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service local residents</li> <li>5-10 min walking distance (about 500m)</li> <li>About 20 minute stay</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service local residents</li> <li>10-15 min walking distance (about 750m)</li> <li>About 30 minute stay</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At a minimum, services the whole suburb</li> <li>Residents will come from other suburbs</li> <li>Most people drive to these.</li> <li>About 1-2 hour stay</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serves the Riverina Region</li> <li>Visitors may stay for a number of hours</li> </ul>
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kerbside car parking</li> <li>Walking (connections with footpaths) and on street parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kerbside car parking</li> <li>Walking (connections with footpaths) and on street parking</li> <li>Preferred off road cycle network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usually off street parking areas</li> <li>Usually a range of pedestrian and cycle way connections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major car parking, public transport</li> <li>Range of pedestrian and cycle way connections</li> </ul>
Age Ranges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least one (1) age group</li> <li>Generally, seven (7) years and below</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least two (2) age groups</li> <li>Generally, seven (7) years and below</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad range of children and carers</li> <li>Multiple age groups (0-2), (3-7) and (7-12) years catered for. May cater for older people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All age groups up to 12 years catered for.</li> <li>Will have activities for teenagers and / or adults within the play space</li> </ul>
Equipment Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic playground, Up to three (3) small items of equipment</li> <li>Minimum, one (1) set of swings, and one (1) single platform structure</li> <li>When renewing consultation with local residents required</li> <li>Indicative value \$70,000</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater than three (3) items of equipment</li> <li>Includes at least one (1) set of swings, and one (1) combination unit</li> <li>When renewing consultation with local residents required</li> <li>Indicative value \$104,000</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More advanced equipment than local parks</li> <li>Graded challenges for wide appeal + multiple play experiences, depending on surrounding recreation attractions</li> <li>When renewing consultation with whole suburb</li> <li>Indicative value \$174,000</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major all-age playground, possibly access-for-all playground system</li> <li>Large number of play activities</li> <li>Equipment caters for wide range of age groups, at minimum 0-12 years</li> <li>When renewing shire wide consultation</li> <li>Indicative value \$450,000</li> </ul>



Supporting Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least one (1) setting</li> <li>Natural shade for at least part of the area</li> <li>Often close to another better resourced playground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least two (2) settings</li> <li>A combination of shade sails and natural shade</li> <li>Usually irrigated</li> <li>Landscaping and irrigation optional</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to public toilets</li> <li>A combination of shade sails and natural shade</li> <li>Numerous picnic settings</li> <li>Shelters and BBQ's</li> <li>Bubbler and Bins</li> <li>Irrigated and landscaped (incorporating imaginative play areas)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BBQ's, picnic furniture, attractive landscaped areas.</li> <li>A combination of shade sails and natural shade</li> <li>Public toilet and change facilities</li> <li>Informal play spaces or sports fields</li> <li>Dedicated car parking</li> <li>Bubbler and bins</li> <li>Disability facilities available</li> <li>Irrigated and landscaped (incorporating imaginative play areas)</li> </ul>
Approx. Land Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.3 to 0.5 hectares of usable land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.5 to 1 hectare of usable land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 to 2 hectares of usable land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater than two (2) hectares of usable land</li> </ul>
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simmons St Park (0.2ha) Central and Boorooma Park (0.4ha) Estella</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undurra Dr (0.9ha) Glenfield and Menneke Park (1ha) Estella</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Glenfield Oval (2ha) and Collins Park (2.1ha) Central</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adventure Playground at Botanical Gardens (2.5ha) and Apex Park (4ha) Lake Albert</li> </ul>
Planned Renewal Cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan to renew after 20 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan to renew after 20 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan to renew after 20 years, consider replacing high use equipment after 10 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan to renew after 20 years, consider replacing high use equipment after 10 years</li> </ul>

### 3.9 Examples of playground category types



**Local Minor  
Playground:**  
Barton Ave, Lloyd



**Local Major  
playground:**  
Lingiari Drive,  
Lloyd





**Suburban  
Playground:**  
Cootamundra  
Blvd,  
Gobbagombalin



**Regional  
Playground:**  
Riverside,  
Wagga Wagga

### 3.10 Park Land Selection Principles

The following principles are used to guide the selection of land for playgrounds:

- Proposed park land should be reasonably flat with a slope of no more than 1 in 10.
- In order to lessen the visual impact, proposed electrical boxes and other infrastructure is to be strategically incorporated into the open space areas.
- Active and passive open space areas will not be located under major power lines, or in detention basins or evidence will be provided that the identified location will not reduce functionality or amenity of the open space.
- The suitable land area for a park ranges from 0.3 hectares for local playgrounds to in excess of two hectares for regional playgrounds. This allows enough room for informal play such as ball games, running, and family picnics along with playground activities. The hierarchy also recommends maximum areas as excessive land areas become a burden for perpetual maintenance, particularly mowing.
- The park and playground layout should provide for decent supervision (clear lines of sight) to allow for passive surveillance as a deterrent for inappropriate behaviour.



**Photo:** Bourkelands Estate Playground, Overdale Drive Bourkelands. This is a poor location because the playground is situated in a drainage basin and faces the back of houses. Passive surveillance from the road is almost zero.

### 3.11 Play Equipment Selection Principles

The following principles are used to guide the selection of playground equipment (Adapted from Ryan, K. (2006). *Play to live, live to play: Playground development, from design to construction and beyond*):

- a. The playground hierarchy is to be used as a guide during the concept design phase,
- b. Based on previously identified best practice design, the selection of equipment needs to provide maximum play value. Equipment should be varied and involve activities that are of interest for a range of ages and developmental stages. Individual pieces cannot cater for all age groups and abilities, and as such, several pieces of varied equipment are recommended for local playgrounds suburban and regional parks must have varied equipment.
- c. Equipment for cognitive (imaginative) play – involves thinking and reasoning, observation and exploration. Examples may include sandpits, water play, funnels and building blocks. These must be provided at suburban and regional playgrounds.
- d. Equipment for creative /explorative play – can be provided for with interactive elements, creative landscape design and plant selection. Examples may include interactive artworks, mazes, and areas of sound, sand and water. The key here is to provide quiet, solitary spaces that provide opportunity for imagination and interactions with the environment. These must be



provided at Suburban and regional playgrounds.

- e. Equipment for social/dramatic play – provide opportunities for acting out and role playing. Examples include shop fronts, steering wheels, trains and train tracks, cubby houses and forts.
- f. Equipment for physical/active play – include equipment and open space facilities for crawling, running, jumping, swinging, spinning, climbing, balancing, ball games and bike/skate tracks. It is important not to be repetitive in the selection of play features, cater for both upper and lower body activities.
- g. Equipment provision must provide for graduated levels of challenge. Older children enjoy using physical apparatus, but they should be more challenging than that provided for lower age groups.

### 3.12 Support Infrastructure Selection Principles

Support infrastructure such as seating; BBQs; shelters; toilets; bubblers; garbage bins; bicycle facilities and signage shall be installed as per the hierarchy. A risk assessment shall be carried out when designing the play space. This will consider, but not be limited to, the following areas of risk:

- BBQ use
- Food preparation areas
- Site distances
- Child friendly toilets
- Disabled toilets
- Distance to toilets from play area
- Passive surveillance
- Likelihood of vandalism
- Suitability of equipment to withstand vandalism
- Design and location of infrastructure complies with relevant standards
- Access to potable water
- Adequate garbage bins
- Safe access, particularly in regard to conflict with traffic
- Need for fencing
- Need for signage
- Tree species – falling limbs
- Distance from water such as open storm water drains and catchments

When designing playgrounds, it is important for the designer to consider play space, not just the play equipment. The design when finalised should provide a layout for play equipment, softfall, edging, guarded trees, seating, and if required, shade sails, fences and bins after considering the following items:

- Initial consideration is given to the slope or topography of the specific playground site. This has important implications to the location of the playground equipment and associated features for provision of inclusive access, playground safety and any potential drainage issues.
- The design will provide suitable entries, exits and access to the play space and the ease of movement through the playground by both children and caregivers must be considered. It is important to identify relationships between both play facilities and support amenities. For example, the positioning of toddler play areas close to support amenities such as toilets with a baby change room.
- The design will consider the conflict of activities. Moving equipment such as swings and flying foxes should not be located near traffic flow lines. Other examples include avoiding positioning exit points of slides onto creative sand play areas. Play areas for differing age groups will be separated appropriately.

### 3.13 Risk Management and Safety Standards

As a requirement of statutory and common law, local government authorities have legal obligations (duty of care) to the public. This duty of care requires Councils to take reasonable care to avoid foreseeable risks to visitors using areas under their management. The question of what is “foreseeable” and “reasonable” is complex. To ensure Council is meeting its duty of care obligations the following Australian Standards are used to guide the design, maintenance and management of playgrounds:

- Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4486.1-7: Playgrounds and playground equipment

Part 1: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation.

Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4422: Playground surfacing - Specifications, requirements and test methods

- Australian Standard AS 1428: Design for access and mobility
- Australian Standard AS 4685:2021 Parts 1-: Playground equipment
  - Part 1 – General safety requirements & test methods
  - Part 2 – Additional safety requirements & test methods for swings
  - Part 3 - Particular safety requirements & test methods for slides
  - Part 4 - Particular safety requirements & test methods for cableways
  - Part 5 - Particular safety requirements & test methods for carousels
  - Part 6 - Particular safety requirements & test methods for rocking equipment
  - Part 7 – Guidance on installation, inspection, maintenance and operation
  - Part 10 - Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for fully enclosed play equipment
  - Part 11 - Particular safety requirements & test methods for spatial networks
- Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS ISO 31000: Risk management - Principles and guidelines.

Council has adopted these standards as the minimum benchmark required for playground equipment, design, compliance, installation, maintenance and inspection. Although these standards are not mandatory through legislation, in a litigation case they will be referenced as the minimum necessary requirements. This approach is consistent with the requirements of State-wide Mutual's Best Practice Manual for Playgrounds (2020).

Council should also ensure the provision of comfortable areas for caregivers to encourage them to stay and supervise the play activities. Previous evidence has linked effective supervision to a reduction of injuries and crime. Designers should also consider the location of playgrounds to take advantage of passive surveillance from adjacent houses and streets and have clear lines of site to enable public supervision from users within the park.

Mature trees are often the primary source of shade for playgrounds. During routine safety inspection of playgrounds, a visual inspection of the adjacent trees is undertaken to ensure stability.

New play spaces are designed in accordance with the 'Safer by Design' principles. These principles were developed in co-operation between NSW Police, Local Councils, Government Departments, and private sector organisations. These principles ensure that development proposals are routinely assessed for crime risk and preventable risk is reduced before the development is constructed. The 'Safer by design' website can be viewed at:

[https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/safety\\_and\\_prevention/policing\\_in\\_the\\_community/safer\\_by\\_design](https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/safety_and_prevention/policing_in_the_community/safer_by_design)

### 3.14 Access and Equity

Where possible as part of the playground renewal process there will be an ongoing commitment by Council to consider accessibility in existing play spaces throughout the LGA. All new playgrounds will be developed incorporating universal design principles which ensures play opportunities for people of all abilities.

The NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 has two key aims. One of them is that NSW continues to be a place where people with a disability have access to mainstream services and are part of our community. Under this Act Local Government is required to have disability actions plans, and by 2017 be implementing improvements to remove barriers to equitable access to services such as playgrounds.

Specifically, provision of universal access requires the following items to be considered from Australian Standard AS1428-2009 (Design for Access and Mobility):

- **Physical Access:** Vehicle access and drop off points should be provided with ramps; gates should have an opening width of at least 900mm and there should be sufficient space around the gate to manoeuvre a wheelchair or walking aid; there should be access for people with mobility difficulties around the area and between equipment, and the surfaces should be non-slip, firm and stable.
- **Supporting Amenities:** Toilets should be accessible for children and adults with mobility difficulties and should allow enough circulation space for the wheelchair/mobility aid and a carer. Consideration should be given for the provision of a larger change table and the installation of a ceiling hoist for transfer; tables provided should be able to be accessed by people in wheelchairs; seating provided should include high backs and arm rests.
- **Accessible Equipment and Activities:** Equipment and activity selection must consider people with specific disabilities. The equipment will encourage movement, creative and sensory play. Differing degrees of challenge and scale is vital, as is including artistic and natural play elements and opportunities to manipulate the environment. Items such as steering wheels, knobs to pull or handles to twist must be at ground level and arranged in a way that a person using a mobility device can get into position to use them. Climbing structures that are accessible from ground level ensure a person in a wheelchair can get involved by holding on or pulling themselves up out of the chair. A raised sandpit is another example of an item with universal access.
- Care should also be taken not to socially isolate people with disabilities from their non-disabled peers. They should have opportunities to join in with all people.
- Consultation with community members and Council Officers with experience in accessibility planning to advise on concept and detailed playground designs.



**All-inclusive playground:**  
Livvi's Place Playground,  
Morgan Street Wagga Wagga

### 3.15 Community Consultation for New Playgrounds

Consultation is a vital component in the development of playgrounds for public use, and can assist in a number of areas including:

- Determining community aspirations and expectations
- Keeping the community informed by providing information on proposed or desirable developments
- Expanding perceptions of what is possible
- Generating support for proposed developments of new playgrounds and for playground upgrades
- Encouraging community discussions and debate

The extent of community consultation required on any given project will vary depending upon several factors including:

- The playground hierarchy
- The location of the development
- The budget
- Potential cultural implications
- Potential environmental implications

Community consultation is conducted by Council when a new playground is being installed or an existing one is being renewed.

- For new playgrounds the community is asked to vote for their preference on design through [connect.wagga.nsw.gov.au](https://connect.wagga.nsw.gov.au).
- Playground designs are posted on Council's social media platforms and advertised in Council News.

### **3.16 Natural Play spaces**

The importance of variety and diversity in playground settings was highlighted by Sport and Recreation Victoria in their Good Play Space Guide: I can play too (2007). Much of this theory indicated that children find much of the playground equipment available today challenging for only short periods of time. The imaginative side of children's play therefore takes place with elements other than equipment.

Other elements are required to provide for our children's total play experience. Such elements that Council seeks to include in play space designs include rocks, large logs, vegetation, and safe water features.

Planting a variety of trees, shrubs and ground cover are essential when planning for play. Appropriately and imaginatively placed dense foliage creates imaginative and creative play environments. Subject to passive surveillance, it is virtually impossible to over-plant a child's play environment.

Increasing the variety of textures and elements present in playgrounds increases the interest in children dramatically. Sensibly arranged rocks and/or tree logs (large, fixed against movement) are excellent ways of including abstract items that can be used for a wide range of activities.





**Example of a Natural Play Playground:**  
Mukanthi Playground,  
Adelaide  
<https://natureplaysa.org.au/places-to-go/playgrounds/>

### 3.17 Water play

Water play is fun, educational and performs an important role in early childhood development. Water play provides a wide range of benefits including:

- **Develop motor skills-** Water play promotes the development of motor skills and movements by interacting with water features encouraging children to run, jump and dodge.
- **Improve social skills-** Water play improves social skills encouraging them to connect with others, problem solve and use their imagination.
- **Connect with nature –** Water play promotes outside play and to engage with nature and allows children to cool off in the warmer weather.

Council acknowledges how important water play is for skill development. A common theme throughout the survey responses was that the community would like a water playground or splash park located in the LGA. A water play/splash park has been included in the Bolton Park Master Plan.



**Example of Splash Park:**  
Midlands Reserve Splash Park, Ballarat  
**Source:**  
<https://www.goldfieldsguide.com.au/explore-location/339/midlands-reserve-splash-park/>

### 3.18 Softfall

Council uses the Australian standard AS/NZS 4422 Playground surfacing – Specifications, requirements, and test method to guide the management of softfall. The purpose of this standard is to reduce injuries by defining the type and depth of surfacing required to achieve the necessary energy attenuation (impact absorption).

Certified softfall surfaces come in a range of natural surfaces including varying grades of wood chips and artificial surfaces such as rubber. The installer shall use the most appropriate type of under-surfacing for the playground site, considering the topography, potential for drainage issues, needs for



inclusive access, level and frequency of use and the prescribed maintenance period and available budget.

Hard surfaces should only be used for the provision of access, e.g., pathways, areas for ballgames, for wheeled toy areas (cycle ways) and decorative purposes. Despite the benefits of synthetic rubber softfall it should only be considered for inclusion at regional Playgrounds as it is expensive to install and has a useful life of only 10 years in high wear areas.

### **3.19 Existing soft fall and edging materials**

The current playground network includes a variety of softfall types and edging. Wood chip/natural bark is the predominate type of softfall used in the playgrounds. Concrete path edging or masonry edging are now the preferred option when installing new playgrounds. Existing raised timber and plastic edging will be phased out over time. Wet pour rubber and synthetic softfall types are used within high usage playgrounds and under high wear areas such as under swings and slides. These have a useful life of approximately 10 years

### **3.20 Shade and Sun Protection**

Cancer Council NSW states that Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. At least 2 in 3 people who have grown up in Australia will be diagnosed with skin cancer. The major cause of skin cancer is exposure to UV radiation from the sun. 'Shade is one of the best and easiest ways to protect against UV radiation' (Cancer Council).

It is recognised that "Local Government should ensure that the issue of playground shade is comprehensively addressed in all relevant planning and policy documents so that it becomes an increased priority when developing and upgrading parks and playgrounds" (Anderson 2014).

Provision of shade should be included in all playgrounds for at least partial sun protection for both users of play equipment and caregivers. It is not considered appropriate to shade entire areas as the users will require sunlight in the cooler months. As a benchmark Council will aim to have at least 40% of playground equipment shaded at local major, suburban and regional playgrounds, to achieve this a mix of shade structures and natural shade will need to be installed.

Shade sails will be installed at all new local major, suburban and regional playgrounds constructed in the future. In addition to shade sails, new playgrounds will have four trees planted to the eastern and western sides to maximise the use of natural shade.

Council will continue to plant trees which will in the future ensure all playgrounds are shaded. The following should be considered when using trees for shade in a play space:

- Where appropriate, locate new playgrounds to the east side of existing, mature shade trees.
- Using advanced trees for those existing playgrounds that lack appropriate shade.
- Tree planting in play spaces is to be treated with priority.
- Select trees that also provide other environmental benefits including wind protection, habitat for local fauna and improvement to the visual amenity of the area.
- Use tree species that will be a minimal hindrance to passive surveillance.
- Trees must be guarded to increase their protection against vandalism.

Council understands that shade is an important element to consider when designing a playground as ensuring sun protection for children and carers when using a playground is extremely important. However, constructing purpose-built shade structures over equipment, or erecting shelters, can become costly.

Shade sails are an asset that are prone to misuse and vandalism, this means having shade sails at every playground within the LGA would result in a necessary increase to the annual maintenance budget to take into consideration repair costs and end of life costs. If shade structures become mandatory when installing a new playground or upgrading a playground, the budget for refurbishing and renewing will need to be increased significantly.

Council will install shade sails at existing local major, suburban and regional playgrounds that don't meet the 40% shaded benchmark. Council will ensure that at least one playground in each suburb or village has shade sails. To meet this recommendation some local minor playgrounds will have shade sails installed.

There are currently 24 playgrounds across the Local Government Area that have shade sails. The playgrounds consist of local minor, local major, suburban and regional Playgrounds.

**Table 3.21 Playgrounds with Shade Sails**

Playground	Suburb	Hierarchy
Pomingalarna Playground	Ashmont	Local minor
Webb Park	Ashmont	Suburban
Collingullie Park	Collingullie	Local major
Currawarna Recreation Ground	Currawarna	Local major
Clive Brunskill Park	Forest Hill	Local minor
Glenfield Park Oval	Glenfield Park	Suburban
Cootamundra Boulevarde	Gobbagombalin	Suburban
Henwood Park	Koorinal	Suburban
Apex Park - Junior	Lake Albert	Local major
Bosley Memorial Reserve	Lake Albert	Local minor
Lingiari Playground	Lloyd	Local major
Jack Avenue Playground	Mount Austin	Local minor
Oura Recreation Ground	Oura	Local major
Paddy Osborne Park	Tarcutta	Suburban
Family Day Care (Botanical Gardens)	Turvey Park	Local major
Natural Play Space (Botanical Gardens)	Turvey Park	Local minor
Hopwood park	Turvey Park	Local minor
Uranquinty Neighbourhood Centre Playground	Uranquinty	Local major
Belling Park	Wagga Wagga	Local major
Cox Park	Wagga Wagga	Local major
Livvi's Place	Wagga Wagga	Regional
Oasis	Wagga Wagga	Suburban
Riverside Playground	Wagga Wagga	Regional
Cabarita Park	Wagga Wagga	Local minor

Council will install shade sails at 22 local minor, local major, suburban and regional playgrounds. This exercise will contribute to achieve the 40% Council shade benchmark. Table 3.22 contains a list of playgrounds that have been identified to have shade sails installed. (Size and costs are based estimates from local shade sail providers and the total cost has been estimated as an average from two contractor quotes). Local major playgrounds that meet the 40% benchmark have not been recommended to have shade sails installed.

**Table 3.22 List of playgrounds that will have shade sails installed**

Playground	Suburb	Hierarchy	Estimated Size of shade sail	Estimated Capital Cost \$ (inclusive of 10% contingency and 10% project management)
Graham Park	Ashmont	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Lineal Park	Boorooma	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,664

Bedervale St Park	Bourkelands	Suburban	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Lonergan Place Playground	East Wagga	Local Minor	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Menneke Park	Estella	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Eucalypt Park	Forest Hill	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Galore Reserve	Galore	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Undurra Drive Park	Glenfield Park	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Humula Park	Humula	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Ladysmith Park	Ladysmith	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Apex Park	Lake Albert	Regional	20m x 22m	\$65,165
Ray Beddoe Park	Lake Albert	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Brookedale Hall playground	Lockhart	Local Minor	10m x 15m	\$36,664
Mangoplah Park	Mangoplah	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Pomingalarna Reserve Playground	Moorong	Local Minor	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Albert Burgman Park	North Wagga Wagga	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Norman Duck Oval Playground	San Isidore	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Tatton Park	Stirling Blvd	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Chambers Park	Tolland	Suburban	15m x 18m	\$41,523
Kessler Park	Tolland	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,644
Uranquinty Sportsground Playground	Uranquinty	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,664
Wiradjuri Estate Playground	Wagga Wagga	Local Major	10m x 15m	\$35,664

The estimated cost to install shade sails at all 22 listed playgrounds is \$820,928. It is proposed that the shade sails are installed over a number of years to lessen the financial impact. With this being said it needs to be noted that the cost of installing shade structures will continue to increase over time due to inflation and other factors. Council will allocate funding for the next five (5) financial years for the installation of two shade sails per year. Adding to this Council staff will look to seek grant funding to install shade sails at an additional 22 playgrounds identified in the above table.

In addition to capital costs, additional annual maintenance costs would be required to maintain shade sails as they are a highly vandalised asset. Local suppliers recommend a 12 monthly visual inspection, and re-tension of sails every 3-4 years. This costs typically \$1,200-\$1,500 depending on the sail size and equipment required. The cost of replacement would also need to be considered as the average useful life span of a shade sail is 15 years. Replacement of shade sails can start from \$8,000 to upwards of \$19,000.

Council will install at least four advanced trees to the eastern and western sides of each playground. Advanced trees are a specimen that are grown in at least a 100-litre pot and are typically around three metres tall. When planting advanced trees (typically deciduous) reasonably fast-growing trees are planted. Some advanced trees can take up to ten years of growing to provide adequate shade.



**Photo:** 100 litre Chinese Elm trees at Lineal Park planted in 2017.

In March 2022 Council Staff conducted a shade audit of all 100 playgrounds in the LGA. The audit judged each playground against the following six categories to determine the amount and type of shade at each playground. (Please note that 3 playgrounds have had shade sails installed since the audit was conducted).

- Current Shade sails over playground equipment
- Continual shade over playground equipment from tree canopies
- Partial shade over playground equipment
- Minimal shade over playground equipment from tree canopies
- No shade over the playground equipment
- Shade for carers who are sitting

**Table 3.23 2022 Shade Audit Results**

Category	Number of Playgrounds	Percentage %
Shade sails over playground equipment	19	19%
Continual shade over playground equipment from tree canopies	7	7%
Partial Shade over playground equipment	29	29%
Minimal shade over playground equipment from tree canopies	34	34%
No shade over the playground equipment	29	29%
Shade for carers who are sitting	90	90%

The audit found that 19 playgrounds in the LGA have shade sails over equipment and the majority of playgrounds that have shade sails also have trees that provide natural shade throughout the day. 7 playgrounds have continual shade over playground equipment from tree canopies; 29 playgrounds have reasonable amounts of shade over playground equipment throughout the day, either from natural shade or built structures; 34 playgrounds have minimal shade over equipment from tree canopies and depending on the time of day natural shade from trees will vary; 29 playgrounds have no shade over the equipment; and 90 playgrounds have shade for carers who are sitting, whether this is natural shade from trees or purpose built shade structures.

Since the shade audit took place in 2022 an additional five shade sails have been installed at playgrounds including; Webb Park, Pomingalarna Playground, Lingiari Playground, Cox Park and Jack Avenue Playground.



The breakdown of shade audit results can be found in appendix 4 (Attachment: Shade audit results spreadsheet).

### **3.24 Fencing**

Wagga Wagga LGA currently has thirteen (13) fully fenced playgrounds. These include the Uranquinty Neighbourhood Centre Playground, Kidsville and Family Day Care Playgrounds at the Botanic Gardens, Apex Park Playground, Mangoplah Playground, Mangoplah Sportsground, Hardy Avenue, Livvi's Place at Bolton Park, Oura Recreation Ground Playground, Lineal Park, Galore Reserve Playground, Currawarna Recreation Playground and Oasis Playground.

While fencing does provide a degree of safety and amenity, consideration to the location of the playground needs to be given before installing fencing. This will include a risk assessment of the site and proposed play space design. Generally, fencing will not be installed at a local minor playground because of its lower use and because these playgrounds are usually located in quiet residential areas and have smaller budgets.

Pending a risk assessment (see sections 3.4 and 3.6), fencing may be necessary in areas where there is a potential conflict between the use of a playground and other activities associated with the playground. Examples include the playground is located close to a busy road; is adjacent to a body of water; near other activities (sporting field); there is a demand for a dedicated enclosure for children or families (play area for toddlers).

If Council provides fencing, it is important to ensure that the type of fence is both attractive and suitable for the specific play space. Its design should allow for passive surveillance by neighbours and others.

Careful landscaping using natural features such as mounds, rocks and plantings can be used as an alternative to manufactured fencing. If this type of landscaping is to be implemented, consideration must be given to ensure the line of sight for supervision purposes is not obstructed.

### **3.25 Minimising Maintenance by Design**

In order to minimise the impact of ongoing maintenance, Council will ensure sound design principles are implemented when new playgrounds and play spaces are constructed. An example is constructing softfall at ground level with subsurface drainage. This reduces the amount of maintenance required to keep the softfall at the correct level compared to above ground softfall.

Regular maintenance of loose softfall, including raking and maintenance of required depths is an important but time-consuming task. The impact of this issue can be minimised through the well-planned use of rubber softfall material pads. High usage areas including under swings and spinning elements are considered appropriate locations for this treatment.

Shade sails are an expensive item to maintain as they are a common target for vandalism. It is common for holes to occur in shade sails from slashing or burning. Shade sails are also a high wear item because of deterioration due to wind and ultraviolet light.

The selection of material types for playground equipment is also very important for managing graffiti. Materials with a rough surface, such as some recycled plastics, can be difficult to clean as the graffiti paint is near impossible to remove. Other common vandalism types in some suburbs of Wagga Wagga is the burning of equipment and breaking smaller components. When developing playgrounds in suburbs where vandalism occurs more often, robust equipment needs to be selected.

## **Section 4 – Playground Asset Management**

### **4.1 Asset Management**



Council assesses the condition of its playground network on a bi-annual basis. There are five (5) condition factors that combine to produce the overall playground condition. These factors are:

- Functionality – Does the playground fulfil the level of service desired by the users?
- Aesthetics – How does the playground look?
- Obsolescence – Is the playground dated?
- Utilisation – How many visits does the playground get?
- Softfall – What condition is the under-surface softfall in?

All measures are graded anecdotally by Council staff. This condition data, along with playground age, is used to produce priorities for renewal programs. Renewal programs include considering upgrading, refurbishing, or removing the playground.

The underlying principle in Asset Management is Life Cycle Cost Analysis. This is important when assessing sustainability as it considers both the capital expenses for a new asset, and the perpetual maintenance costs to keep the current asset in usable condition.

**Table 4.2 – Playground Useful Lives and Unit Rates used for Asset Management**

<b>Playgrounds</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>Life (Years)</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Av. Cost/Unit</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Local minor <b>Renewal</b>	20	Each	\$78,000	When possible, it is planned that local minor playgrounds be renewed after 20 years.
<b>Refurbishment</b>	10		\$20,000	
Local major <b>Renewal</b>	20	Each	\$113,000	Local major playgrounds are not refurbished only renewed.
Suburban Playground <b>Renewal</b>	20	Each	\$184,00	Examples are Glenfield Oval (South City Shopping Centre) and Henwood Park Koorringal.
Regional Playground <b>Renewal</b>	20	Each	Cost depending on playground	Apex Park is \$200k, Botanic Adventure \$350k plus \$100k for softfall
<b>Softball Materials</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>Life</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Cost/Unit</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Wood/bark Chip Mulch</b>	5-10 years	M3	\$55	Delivered to stockpile. Mulch requires regular top ups dependent on usage
<b>Rubber Softfall</b>	10-12 years	M2	\$160-\$240	Cost dependent on size of job. Repairs often required in high use/wear areas

Renewing playgrounds based on their asset condition results in different amounts of funding being required to be spent each year. For example, when a regional playground such as the Riverside Playground at the Wagga Beach Precinct is due for renewal, a larger budget will be needed. One option to allow for this variation is to develop a reserve so unspent funds during years with smaller programs can be saved for when larger budgets are required.

The rubber softfall at the Adventure Playground was partially replaced in June 2021. Due to significant price increases only 320m<sup>2</sup> of rubber softfall was replaced. The high wear areas, at the flying fox, the spinner zone and the swing zone, were replaced as a priority. Other areas were patched as required.

### 4.3 Naming of Playgrounds

The naming of a playground needs to align with the Wagga Wagga City Council Parks Naming Policy POL 055. This policy provides a mechanism for the appropriate naming of open space areas within

the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area and provides an opportunity for the community to put forwards names for consideration by Council.

As per the policy the following inclusions will apply:

- Names that are readily recognised and used by the community are to be used.
- Names of Aboriginal origin are encouraged.
- Names acknowledging the multicultural nature of our society are encouraged.
- Names with a historical background relevant to the area are encouraged.
- Names suggested for any place that owes its origin to a particular natural feature such as shape, vegetation, or animal etc are encouraged.
- Names may perpetuate eminent persons.
- Names of persons are normally only to be given posthumously but Council at its discretion may approve a place name which honours a living person. Such a person's contribution to the local community is to be of the outstanding benefit to the community.
- When choice is offered between two or more names for the same place, Council will adopt one name as appropriate.

As per the policy the following exclusions will apply:

- An application for a new park through the subdivision process to be named after a previous land owner will not be considered.
- Approval will not be granted for the name of a person still holding public office.
- The replacement of an existing established place name with a new name is generally not accepted subject to a detailed review.
- Duplication of place names already used for other features or locations is to be avoided.

Applications for the naming of playgrounds are to be submitted in writing to Council with detailed supporting documentation on the place or person. This may include the following:

- Newspaper articles
- Certificates and awards for service of a person
- Committee newsletters
- Signed documentation from third parties
- Government reports

For a playground name to be adopted, Council staff will review submissions and if the name meets the Parks naming policy criteria a report will be prepared for a Council meeting. If endorsed, the report will be placed on a 28 day public exhibition period where the community can provide feedback, once the public exhibition period has ended the playground name will be adopted if deemed appropriate.

#### **4.4 Partnership Opportunities**

In order to maximise the community benefit from the playground network the option of partnership opportunities will be explored by Council staff. These partnerships could be either works in-kind with a local community organisation or a financial contribution.

The types of in-kind works that could be completed are:

- a) Assist Council's certified playground officer with renewal works
- b) Install minor infrastructure such as seating
- c) Tree planting
- d) Routine raking and topping up of softfall
- e) Rubbish removal,

Ongoing financial contributions will be explored via the selling of advertising or sponsorship. An example of this could be a business paying for advanced trees to shade a playground in return for them having a plaque on the tree guard.

Any advertising signs and plaques would need to be carefully considered so as to have minimal impact on the amenity of the park, and to comply with relevant legislation.

Council staff will also continue to apply for grants for playground renewal works when grant funding programs are available.

For local minor Playgrounds, Council will look to create and adopt a park model where local community organisations or businesses contribute funding or works in kind to provide shade for playgrounds. This model would give participating organisations or businesses acknowledgement of their contribution to the playground, this acknowledgement could be recognised through a plaque or media coverage.

## Section 5 – Playground Distribution

### 5.1 Playground Distribution per suburb per children under 14

Suburb	Population under 14	Number of PG	Children per PG
Ashmont	866	7	124
Bourkelands-Tatton	1,481	8	185
Estella-Boorooma-Gobbagombalin	1,027	7	147
Forest Hill – East Wagga Wagga	830	6	138
Glenfield Park	1,269	8	159
Koorinal	1,560	8	195
Lake Albert	1,389	8	174
Mount Austin	813	3	271
North Wagga Wagga – Bomen	630	1	630
Rural East	695	5	139
Rural West	684	11	62
Springvale – Lloyd	1,167	2	584
Tolland	866	4	217
Turvey Park	658	8	82
Wagga Wagga (Central)	1,177	14	84

All suburbs across the region, except for North Wagga-Bomen and Springvale-Lloyd, have 300 or less children per playground. This is considered acceptable given it is well below the 300 maximum children per playground threshold.

Springvale and Lloyd have over 500 children per playground with only two playgrounds across both suburbs. As part of the playground strategy recommendations Council will; consider installing a Local Major playground in the Southern area of Bourkelands/Lloyd/Springvale, consider installing a suburban Playground in the Southern Suburbs of the LGA and consider installing a local major Playground on Brindabella Drive, Tatton.

Ashmont, Turvey Park and Wagga Wagga (Central) have around 150 or less children per playground. It could be argued these suburbs are over supplied with playgrounds compared to other suburbs. Estella, Boorooma, Gobbagombalin, Springvale, Lloyd and Forest Hill will have an increasing number of children per playground as new subdivisions are released.

### 5.2 Playground Development Requirements

Section 3 Design and Provision provides guidelines for creating great play spaces in the future for new subdivisions in Wagga. To ensure these playground design and provision principles are incorporated into new developments this strategy should be used as the base document to guide all future playground developments. It is important to note that universal design principles are required to be applied to new playground developments in all play spaces.



Further, it is desirable to have parks and playgrounds installed at an early stage of the residential development. An attractive park with landscaping and a playground, located in an obvious spot should attract more purchasers and make land lots more saleable. It also avoids parks development becoming a “nuisance afterthought” when the residential development is nearing completion.

## Section 6 - Playground Maintenance Management

### 6.1 Maintenance budget

Softfall maintenance is the single biggest expense in the maintenance of playgrounds. It is a challenging exercise to keep softfall to the standard depth of 300mm across the whole playground area. Based on the surface area of Wagga’s playgrounds the expense is as follows:

Softfall Items	Unit	Value
Surface Area of Softfall	m2	22,200
Average depth	mm	300
Total quantity of softfall required	m3	6,660
Percentage of bark replaced each year	%	20
Amount of bark needed	m3	1,332
Cost of bark delivered to stockpile in Wagga	\$	50
Total value of bark stockpiled in Wagga	\$	<b>66,600</b>
Bobcat and truck to get bark from stockpile to playgrounds	days	25
Bobcat to spread bark	days	25
Bobcat and truck cost per day	\$	1,000
Total cost for bobcat and truck	\$	<b>50,000</b>
Maintenance of rubber softfall	\$	<b>10,000</b>
<b>TOTAL COST FOR LABOUR, MACHINE AND BARK</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>126,600</b>

Council currently has a maintenance budget of \$106,954. Using the above softfall figures combined with all other maintenance activities, the current expenditure (budget) and recommended budget are:

Playground Maintenance Task	Current Budget	Recommended Budget
Softfall Maintenance materials and labour	\$80,000	\$126,600
Replace Wearing Parts like swing bolts, swing seats etc - Materials only	\$8,250	\$15,000
Materials for vandalism such as sail shade punctures, burnt panels, broken fence panels graffiti	\$8,704	\$20,000
Contract labour for playground maintenance	\$10,000	\$15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$106,954</b>	<b>\$176,600</b>

### 6.2 Safety Inspections

To ensure playgrounds remain safe to use, the following inspections will be undertaken by a certified playground inspector.

- Post installation inspection
- Quarterly operational inspections
- Comprehensive annual inspection

Routine visual inspections occur approximately on a fortnightly basis. This is usually done by the park's operation staff when they are inspecting the park as a whole.

The process utilises the playground asset list from Council's playground register (Assetic) which is downloaded onto a tablet device. A visual inspection is carried out on the edging and softfall, playground equipment, associated trees, landscaping and furniture. Each component of the play equipment is inspected, and records documented. The data collected is:

- Date inspection due
- Date inspection done
- Inspector name
- Component Defect recorded in Work Ticket
- Cause
- Photographs
- Comments
- Date Repair Completed (Documented when repair is complete which could be the same time as inspection if the repair is simple)

This process reflects best practice as outlined in the Statewide Mutual Best Practice Manual for Playgrounds (2020). In addition to this, Council's Parks Operations staff conducts visual inspections of playgrounds during the regular maintenance of parks and open spaces.

### **6.3 Maintenance**

To ensure all playgrounds and play spaces are safe for community use, Council must ensure the ongoing maintenance of these facilities. After inspections take place, a risk assessment is undertaken to determine urgency of identified repairs required – low, medium, high. Response times Council works to are:

High risk defect– make safe within one (1) day

Medium risk defect– make safe within two (2) days

Low risk defect – four (4) to eight (8) weeks

Defects with no risk– completed when time and resources permit

Major repairs or equipment replacement is completed as quickly as possible taking into account factors including ordering parts and delivery times. Depending on the nature of the damage, Council staff typically barricade/block access to the damaged component, or close the playground if damage is significant or not possible to effectively barricade.

Approximately 80% of maintenance jobs are completed in response to issues identified in the quarterly safety inspections. The remaining 20% are completed after customer requests. The most common fault which requires maintenance attention within playgrounds is loose fill softfall having insufficient depth. This can occur through decomposition and compaction in high traffic areas or it being shifted by users.

Replacement of high wear items of equipment such as springs, swing seats and chains/chain fittings are also a common maintenance issues, along with vandalism. Public open spaces are prone to being subjected to regular graffiti and vandalism.

Public facilities tend to be subjected to vandalism particularly when there is a lack of supervision or passive surveillance from nearby residents, passing pedestrians or motorists. Higher levels of local activity tend to act as a deterrent to vandalism. Employing principles such as ensuring sight lines into the space, locating facilities in visible areas, selection and provision of robust materials and sturdy equipment all help contribute to reducing the effects and likelihood of vandalism.

It has been found that one of the strongest deterrents of vandalism to public facilities is community ownership. Council must also support the concept of playground ownership through prompt action in addressing vandalism or graffiti in playgrounds to ensure they are not left in a damaged state.

### **6.4 Handover of a new installations from playground suppliers**

New equipment is required to have a compliance plate specific to the equipment item as per Australian Standards. The equipment supplier is required to provide a handover letter stating compliance with Australian Standards.

Council carries out onsite inspections of completed playgrounds as part of the handover process. This inspection takes place between the Council project manager and the playground supplier representative. The inspection involves ensuring that the playground, including all equipment and surfaces, meets current Australian Playground standards.

Once a new playground is taken over by Council it is listed in the Asset Register. The following details need to be included:

1. Name and contacts of supplier
2. Name and contacts of installer
3. Council project manager
4. Cost information
5. Photos
6. List of all the equipment components
7. WAE Plans
8. Condition information

DRAFT



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## Appendix

### Appendix 1: Examples of Council News Advertisements throughout the community engagement.

# Help shape the future of our play spaces

ADVERTISEMENT



Residents are being encouraged to have their say on the management and development of new and existing play spaces across the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (LGA) through a four-week online survey.

Wagga Wagga City Council will be conducting the survey from Monday 1 November to Friday 26 November 2021.

Council's Strategic Asset Planner Ben Creighton said it is the first step in a review of the current Playgrounds Strategy 2016-2036, which guides future play space development in the LGA.

"There are 100 Council playgrounds in our suburbs and rural villages," Mr Creighton said.

"We want the community's opinion on our current approach to developing new playgrounds and to upgrading or improving existing play spaces, and what they would like to see changed.

"This could range from a wider variety of play activities for different ages and abilities, more infrastructure for carers and children, such as seating areas and public amenities, or more shade protection.

"The feedback we receive through the survey will inform a Draft Playgrounds Strategy, which will go out to public consultation next year."

Of the 100 playgrounds Council manages, there are 84 in the Wagga Wagga urban area and 16 in the surrounding rural villages,

which provide a variety of play opportunities for younger and older children.

The majority are classified as local level playgrounds - within walking distance of residents - or suburban playgrounds, which service the whole suburb as well as drawing people from other locations.

There are also three regional level play spaces - Livvi's Place Inclusive Playground at Bolton Park, the Adventure Playground at the Botanic Gardens, and Apex Park at Lake Albert - which offer a wide range of play elements and support infrastructure.

A regionally significant playground is being developed as part of the Riverside Stage 2 project at Wagga Wagga Beach.

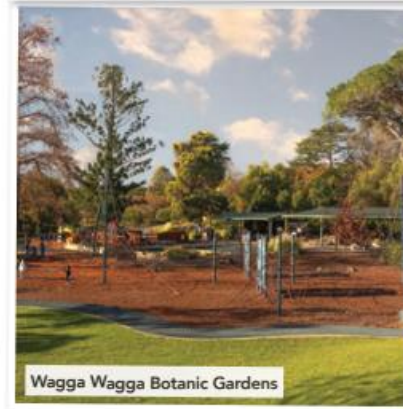
"Our strategy aims to deliver high quality playgrounds across the LGA, which are accessible, innovative, diverse, safe, and fun for children of all ages, and their caregivers," Mr Creighton said.

"It is important to find out the community's aspirations and expectations around the quality and diversity of the playgrounds in their areas.

"We want to make sure that we achieve the right balance in our approach to upgrading existing or building new play spaces."

To help shape the future of our play spaces, visit [wagga.nsw.gov.au/playgrounds](http://wagga.nsw.gov.au/playgrounds)

The survey closes at 5pm on Friday 26 November 2021.



## PLAYGROUNDS SURVEY CLOSING SOON

Residents still have a week left to help shape the future of play spaces across the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (LGA) through Council's Playgrounds Review survey.

The online survey was launched on 1 November and is open until Friday 26 November 2021.

It is the first step in a review of the current Playgrounds Strategy 2016-2036, which guides future play space development in the LGA.

Strategic Asset Planner Ben Creighton said the Council would like to hear from the community about its management and development of new and existing play spaces.

"Council manages 100 playgrounds, 84 in the Wagga Wagga urban area and 16 in the surrounding rural villages, which provide a variety of play opportunities for younger and older children," Mr Creighton.

"Our parks and playgrounds are very popular, particularly with young families, so it's important that we get the community's input into how we manage and build our future playgrounds and play spaces.

"We want to know what residents

do and don't like about our current playgrounds and what they would like to see improved or added to existing and future playgrounds.

"This could be range from improving accessibility to ensure the play spaces are more inclusive for all abilities, to adding more shade protection or more seating or amenities for everyone who uses the playgrounds."

The feedback received through the survey will inform a Draft Playgrounds Strategy, which will go out to public consultation next year.

To have your say on the future of our play spaces, visit [wagga.nsw.gov.au/playgrounds](https://wagga.nsw.gov.au/playgrounds) or you can pick up a copy of the survey at Council's Customer Service desk.

The survey closes at 5pm on Friday 26 November 2021.



**Did you know there are more than 90 Council playgrounds in our suburbs and surrounding rural villages across the Wagga Wagga LGA?**

We'd like to hear from you about our approach to developing new playgrounds, improving existing playgrounds and what you would like to see changed.  
Help shape the future of our playgrounds. Survey closes Fri 26 Nov 2021.

Visit: [wagga.nsw.gov.au/playgrounds](https://wagga.nsw.gov.au/playgrounds)

Community engagement advertisement featured in Council News throughout November encouraging the community to complete the survey to provide feedback on playgrounds across the LGA.



## Strong community feedback for Playgrounds Survey: 400+ responses received

Wagga Wagga City Council is working through feedback received from the community in our recent Playground Survey on how we manage new and existing play spaces across the Local Government Area (LGA).

The survey, held at the end of 2021, is the first step in a review of the current Playgrounds Strategy 2016-2036, which guides future play space development in the LGA.

Council received a great response with 405 replies; shade and a water park topping the list of issues raised by respondents.

Strategic Asset Planner for Parks and Recreation Ben Creighton said Council was pleased to see such strong interest from the community.

"We want to thank those residents who took the time to participate in this survey, giving us feedback on how we develop new playgrounds and upgrade or improve existing play spaces, as well as what they would like to see changed," Mr Creighton said.

"There were many positive comments about our current playgrounds, along with plenty of suggestions on what could be changed or improved.

"It's important we hear their aspirations and expectations around the quality and diversity of the playgrounds to help us make sure that we get the right balance going forward."

Council manages 100 playgrounds across the LGA, 84 in the Wagga Wagga urban area and 16 in the surrounding rural villages.

Most of these are classified as local level playgrounds or suburban playgrounds, and there are also three regional level play spaces. We are also currently building the regionally significant playground as part of the Riverside Stage 2 project at Wagga Beach.

Mr Creighton said the number one issue identified in the survey was the provision of shade for all levels of playgrounds.

"While it would be wonderful to have shade sails across every playground in the LGA, they are quite costly to install and maintain, which would require a significant increase in the playgrounds budget,"



**FEEDBACK:** Shade cover at all playgrounds and a water park topped the list of issues raised by the community in our recent Playground Review Survey.

Mr Creighton said.

"Shade sails are the most expensive part of our annual maintenance costs as they are the highest vandalised and damaged playground item that we have.

"Council is examining the possibility of installing them at regional and suburban level playgrounds as they're the destination playgrounds; they've got the toilets, the barbecues, the skate parks and all the other bits and pieces that go with it.

"In the meantime, we will be applying for government grants focusing on planting more shade trees at every park."

Number two on the list of suggestions from respondents was a water park for the city.

As part of broader recreational strategies in addition to the playground strategy, Council is currently looking at how this could be facilitated in the Bolton Park Master Plan, which is currently being developed.

Other findings identified in the survey include more accessibility/inclusivity, a wider variety of play activities for different ages and abilities, more infrastructure such as seating areas and public amenities, ongoing maintenance and upgrades, and fencing around play spaces near water/high traffic roads.

The responses are being collated and will inform a Draft Playgrounds Strategy, which will go on public exhibition for comment and feedback later this year.

Council News article January 2022: Strong Community feedback for Playground Survey



## Appendix 2: Playground Renewal Plan sorted by Suburb then Asset name Alphabetical Order

Asset ID	Asset Name	Location	Suburb	Hierarchy	Action Proposed Year	Installation Date of existing	Action Refurbishment/Renewal
PG-437	Tamar Dr Park	Tamar Drive	Tatton	Local Minor	2022/2023	2001	Refurbish (replace 2032/33)
PG-48	John St Park	John Street	Koorungal	Local Minor	2023/2024	2007	Replace
PG-35	Gissing Oval	Blamey Street	Turvey Park	Local Minor	2023/2024	2003	Refurbish (replace 2033/34)
PG-47	Jannali Place Park	Jannali Place	Glenfield Park	Local Minor	2024/2025	2003	Refurbish (replace 2036/37)
PG-435	Sherwood Ave Park	Sherwood Avenue	Koorungal	Local Minor	2024/2025	2003	Refurbish (replace 2034/35)
PG-432	Ray Beddoe Park	Lakeside Drive	Lake Albert	Local Major	2024/2025	2003	Replace
PG-416	Lloyd Open Space	Barton Avenue	Lloyd	Local Minor	2024/2025	2003	Replace
PG-404	Ken Schultz Park	Ceduna Street	Mount Austin	Local Minor	2024/2025	2004	Replace
PG-33	Forest Hill Oval	Brunskill Avenue	Forest Hill	Suburban	2025/2026	2005	Replace
PG-433	Rototract Park	Koorungal Rd	Koorungal	Local Minor	2025/2026	2004	Replace
PG-13	Bosley Memorial Reserve	Nelson Drive	Lake Albert	Local Minor	2025/2026	2004	Refurbish (replace 2034/35)
PG-429	Oura Recreation Ground- Playground	Oura Road	Oura	Local Major	2025/2026	2004	Refurbish (replace 2035/36)
PG-30	Emblen Park	Bruce Street	Tolland	Local Minor	2025/2026	1987	Replace (Refurbished 2016)
PG-40	Hardy Avenue	Hardy Avenue	Wagga Wagga	Local Minor	2025/2026	1993	Replace (refurbished 2016)
PG-427	Oasis Aquatic Centre	Morgan Street	Wagga Wagga	Suburban	2025/2026	2004	Replace
PG-425	Nathan Park	Connorton Street	Ashmont	Local Minor	2026/2027	1990	Replace (Refurbished 2016)

<b>PG-36</b>	Glenfield Park Oval	Tanda Place	Glenfield Park	Suburban	2026/2027	2006	Replace
<b>PG-452</b>	Toney Place Park	Toney Place	Glenfield Park	Local Minor	2026/2027	1991	Replace (refurbished 2016)
<b>PG-409</b>	Ladysmith Reserve- Playground	Humula Street	Ladysmith	Local Major	2026/2027	2006	Refurbish (replace 2036/37)
<b>PG-27</b>	Crocker Park- Playground	Jasmin Crescent	Lake Albert	Local Minor	2026/2027	1983	Replace (refurbished 2016)
<b>PG-411</b>	Lake Village Park	Ontario Drive	Lake Albert	Local Minor	2026/2027	1990	Replace (refurbished 2016)
<b>PG-42</b>	Hopwood Park	Sunshine Avenue	Turvey Park	Local Minor	2026/2027	2006	Refurbish (replace 2036/37)
<b>PG-12</b>	Boree Avenue Park	Boree Avenue	Forest Hill	Local Minor	2027/2028	2005	Replace
<b>PG-431</b>	Karoom Drive Park	Karoom Drive	Glenfield Park	Local Minor	2027/2028	2007	Refurbish (replace 2037/38)
<b>PG-424</b>	Mima Street Park	Mima Street	Glenfield Park	Local Minor	2027/2028	2007	Refurbish (replace 2037/38)
<b>PG-419</b>	Mangoplah Park	Kyemba Street	Mangoplah	Local Major	2027/2028	2006	Replace
<b>PG-447</b>	Victory Memorial Gardens	Baylis Street	Wagga Wagga	Local Major	2027/2028	2006	Replace
<b>PG-23</b>	Collingullie Park	McDonnell Street	Collingullie	Local Major	2028/2029	1997	Replace
<b>PG-28</b>	Currawarna Recreation	Old Narrandera Road	Currawarna	Local Major	2028/2029	2007	Refurbish (replace 2038/39)
<b>PG-423</b>	Menneke Park	Pugsley Avenue	Estella	Local Major	2028/2029	2007	Replace
<b>PG-34</b>	Galore Reserve	Hall Road	Galore	Local Major	2028/2029	2008	Replace
<b>PG-459</b>	Cootamundra Blvd Park	Cootamundra Blvd	Gobbagombalin	Suburban	2028/2029	2018	Refurbish (Replace 2038/39)
<b>PG-37</b>	Gracelands Retention Basin	Delvin Place	Koorringal	Local Minor	2028/2029	1996	Replace (Refurbished 2018)
<b>PG-430</b>	Paddy Osborne Park	Sydney Street	Tarcutta	Suburban	2028/2029	1997	Replace (refurbished 2018)

<b>PG-14</b>	Botanic Gardens-Adventure Playground	Macleay Street	Turvey Park	Regional	2028/2029	2008	Replace
<b>PG-15</b>	Botanic Gardens - Family Day Care Playground	Macleay Street	Turvey Park	Local Minor	2028/2029	2008	Replace
<b>PG-16</b>	Botanic Gardens-Kidsville Playground	Macleay Street	Turvey Park	Suburban	2028/2029	2008	Replace
<b>PG-24</b>	Collins Park	Fox Street	Wagga Wagga	Local Major	2028/2029	2007	Replace
<b>PG-448</b>	Wagga Beach	Johnston Street	Wagga Wagga	Local Minor	2028/2029	2007	Remove
<b>PG-8</b>	Bedervale St Park	Bedervale Street	Bourkelands	Suburban	2029/2030	2006	Replace
<b>PG-17</b>	Bourkelands Estate Park	Overdale Drive	Bourkelands	Local Minor	2029/2030	2009	Replace
<b>PG-403</b>	Kaloon Dr Park	Kaloon Drive	Bourkelands	Local Minor	2029/2030	2009	Replace
<b>PG-44</b>	Humula Park	Mate Street	Humula	Local Major	2029/2030	2007	Replace
<b>PG-439</b>	Tatton Park	Stirling Boulevard	Tatton	Local Major	2029/2030	2009	Replace
<b>PG-412</b>	Leavenworth Dr Open Space	Leavenworth Drive	Tolland	Local Minor	2029/2030	2009	Replace
<b>PG-4</b>	Apex Park - Junior	Eastlake Drive	Lake Albert	Local Major	2030/2031	2008	Replace
<b>PG-426</b>	Norman Duck Oval-Playground	Benedict Avenue	San Isidore	Local Major	2030/2031	2008	Refurbish (replace 2038/39)
<b>PG-49</b>	Jubilee Park-Playground	Bourke Street	Bourkelands	Local Minor	2030/2031	2011	Replace
<b>PG-407</b>	Kaldari Cres Playground	Kaldari Cres	Glenfield Park	Local Minor	2030/2031	1999	Replace (refurbished 2020)
<b>PG-438</b>	Tarcutta Sportsground	Hay Street	Tarcutta	Local Minor	2030/2031	2011	Refurbish (replace 2040/41)
<b>PG-445</b>	Uranquinty Sportsground-Playground	King Street	Uranquinty	Local Major	2030/2031	2010	Refurbish

<b>PG-5</b>	Apex Park	Eastlake Drive	Lake Albert	Regional	2030/31	2010	Replace
<b>PG-38</b>	Graham Park	Montgomery Street	Ashmont	Local Major	2031/2032	2011	Replace
<b>PG-41</b>	Henwood Park- Playground	Lake Albert Road	Koorungal	Suburban	2031/2032	2021	Refurbish (replace 2041/42)
<b>PG-428</b>	O'Halloran	Koorungal Road	Lake Albert	Local Minor	2031/2032	2011	Replace
<b>PG-18</b>	Brookedale Hall Playground	The Rock- Narrandera Road	Lockhart	Local Minor	2031/2032	2010	Refurbish (replace 2041/42)
<b>PG-45</b>	Jack Ave Park	Jack Avenue	Mount Austin	Local Minor	2031/2032	2010	Replace
<b>PG-418</b>	Maher Street Easement	Maher Street	Mount Austin	Local Minor	2031/2032	2011	Replace
<b>PG-422</b>	Albert Burgman Park	William Street	North Wagga	Local Major	2031/2032	2011	Replace
<b>PG-22</b>	Collingullie Oval- Playground	McDonnell Street	Collingullie	Local Minor	2032/2033	2008	Replace
<b>PG-449</b>	Webb Park	Blakemore Street	Ashmont	Suburban	2032/2033	2012	Replace
<b>PG-31</b>	Fife Gardens	Boronia Street	Koorungal	Local Minor	2032/2033	2013	Replace
<b>PG-46</b>	Jack Skeers Park	Oleander Crescent	Lake Albert	Local Minor	2032/2033	2013	Replace
<b>PG-20</b>	Chambers Park- Playground	Bruce Street	Tolland	Suburban	2032/2033	2013	Replace
<b>PG-405</b>	Kessler Park	Nordlingen Drive	Tolland	Local Major	2032/2033	2013	Replace
<b>PG-478</b>	Riverside Park	Johnston Street	Wagga Wagga	Regional	2032/2033	2022	Refurbish (replace 2042/43)
<b>PG-434</b>	Clive Brunskill Park	Mangrove Crescent	Forest Hill	Local Minor	2033/2034	2013	Replace
<b>PG-434</b>	Sackville Drive Park	Sackville Drive	Forest Hill	Local Minor	2033/2034	2013	Replace
<b>PG-21</b>	Cochrane St Park	Cochrane Street	Koorungal	Local Minor	2033/2034	2013	Refurbish (replace 2043/44)



<b>PG-454</b>	Boorooma Park	Messenger Ave	Boorooma	Local Minor	2034/2035	2013	Replace
<b>PG-450</b>	Wiradjuri Estate Playground	Wiradjuri Crescent	Wagga Wagga	Local Major	2034/2035	2012	Refurbish (replace 2042/43)
<b>PG-6</b>	Ashmont Oval	Lae Ave	Ashmont	Local Minor	2035/2036	1989	Replace (refurbished 2016)
<b>PG-461</b>	Explorer Park	Bradman Drive	Boorooma	Local Minor	2035/2036	2016	Replace
<b>PG-39</b>	Gunn Drive park	Gunn Drive	Estella	Local Minor	2035/2036	2015	Replace
<b>PG-436</b>	Simmons Street Park	Simmons Street	Wagga Wagga	Local Minor	2035/2036	2016	Replace
<b>PG-440</b>	Tennyson Park- Playground	Oates Avenue	Wagga Wagga	Local Minor	2036/2037	2017	Replace
<b>PG-455</b>	VIC playground	Tarcutta Street	Wagga Wagga	Local Minor	2036/2037	2016	Replace
<b>PG-26</b>	Crisp Drive Park	Crisp Drive	Ashmont	Local Minor	2037/2038	2018	Replace
<b>PG-458</b>	Lineal Park	Sturrock Drive	Boorooma	Local Major	2037/2038	2017	Replace
<b>PG-417</b>	Loneragan PI Park	Longergan Place	East Wagga Wagga	Local Minor	2037/2038	2017	Replace
<b>PG-474</b>	Eucalypt Park	Eucalypt Street	Forest Hill	Local Major	2037/2038	2017	Replace
<b>PG-43</b>	Horsley St Park	Horsley Street	Koorringal	Local Major	2037/2038	2018	Replace
<b>PG-462</b>	Lingiari Dr Park	Lingiari Dr	Lloyd	Local Major	2037/2038	2017	Replace
<b>PG-446</b>	Vestey St Park	Vestey Street	Wagga Wagga	Local Minor	2037/2038	2018	Replace
<b>PG-11</b>	Livvy's Place Playground	Morgan Street	Wagga Wagga	Regional	2038/2039	2018	Refurbish (replace 2038/39)
<b>PG-442</b>	Undurra Drive Park	Undurra Drive	Glenfield Park	Local Major	2038/2039	2019	Replace
<b>PG-32</b>	Flinders Street Park	Flinders Street	Turvey Park	Local Major	2038/2039	2019	Replace

<b>PG-4433</b>	Uranquinty Neighbourhood	Connorton Street	Uranquinty	Local Major	2038/2039	2019	Replace
<b>PG-420</b>	Mangoplah Sports Ground- Playground	Holbrook Road	Mangoplah	Local Minor	2039/2040	2019	Replace
<b>PG-9</b>	Belling Park	Bolton Street	Wagga Wagga	Local Major	2039/2040	2020	Replace
<b>PG-469</b>	Cox Park	Kincaid Street	Wagga Wagga	Local Major	2039/2040	2019	Replace
<b>PG-10</b>	Best Family Graves Park	Truscott Drive	Ashmont	Local Minor	2040/2041	2020	Replace
<b>PG-408</b>	Kimberley Dr Easement	Kimberley Drive	Tatton	Local Minor	2040/2041	2021	Replace
<b>PG-7</b>	Balleroo Easement	Balleroo Crescent	Glenfield Park	Local Minor	2041/2042	2010	Replace
<b>PG-477</b>	Muttama Parade Park	Muttama Parade	Gobbagombalin	Local Minor	2041/2042	2021	Replace
	Botanic Gardens- Natural Playspace	Macleay Street	Turvey Park	Local Minor	2041/2042	2021	Replace
<b>PG-476</b>	Pomingalarna Playground	Bagley Drive	Ashmont	Local Minor	2042/2043	2022	Replace
<b>PG-444</b>	Uranquinty Rest Area	Olympic Highway	Uranquinty	Local Minor	2042/2043	2022	Replace

### Appendix 3: Results from Benchmarking Exercise with other Councils

Council	Total Shire Pop	No of PG	Ppl per PG	Children U14	CH per PG	Maintenance Budget	PG Strategy	Renewal Plan	Water PG	Local PG Dist.	PG hierarchy	Innovation
Cumberland	239,834	333	720	44,365	133	Do not have a separate maintenance budget for playgrounds. Looking to create a budget in the future.	No	Yes	Yes	400m radius walking distance across majority of LGA.	Yes- Pocket, local, district and regional	UV Smart playgrounds, inclusive play spaces for ages and abilities.

Dubbo	36,919	34	1,085	8,252	243	NA	Yes	15-20 years	Yes	400m (local), 2km (district), 6km (Regional)	Yes- regional, district, neighbourhood	NA
Orange	38,097	33	1,154	8,122	246	\$43,000 playground maintenance budget.	Yes	Yes	No	<700m	Yes- regional, district, neighbourhood	NA
Casey	390,793	325	1,202	93,777	288	\$800,000 maintenance budget and \$300,000 on variation to repairs.	Yes	Yes 5 to 10 year plan	Yes	500m-1km	Yes- local, district, regional	Limiting the use of rubber, encouraging adults and children to participate in new design, inclusive play, whole of park renewal
Bathurst	45,568	41	1,111	8,500	207	\$16,000 per year, larger works require a submission to Council for funding.	No	Yes 20 years	No	150-200m	Yes	Council has resolved to consider NSW Govt Everyone Can Play principles in future design and upgrades
Bendigo	119,980	144	833	25,608	177	\$50,000 maintenance budget	No	Yes, 3 year draft plan	Yes	500m-1km	Yes- municipal, suburb, neighbourhood	Developing a combination playspace/learn to ride park



Wagga Wagga	70,339	100	703	15,110	151	\$106,954 maintenance budget	Yes	Yes 20 years refurbish, 30 years renewal	No	500m	Yes- local minor, local major, suburban and regional	Improving accessibility in new and existing playgrounds by installing masonry edges like concrete paths. Future planning for a water splash park to be included in the Bolton Park Master Plan.
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Some population statistics are based off the 2016 census data and NSW Government 2019 NSW population projections.

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