

Draft Playspace Strategy

Public Exhibition Submissions

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Public Exhibition Feedback Summary Table

Below is a table depicting the sentiments of those who participated in the Public Exhibition of the Draft Playspace Strategy. The Draft Strategy was on exhibition from 15 June to 19 July 2020 and Council received 76 responses.

Feedback	Council Response
Play Experience	
Submissions indicated the need for Council to upgrade current playspaces to larger ones with better play values. Respondents referred to outdated, unimaginative and sad looking equipment. Would like to see upgraded and challenging equipment for all young people within the Southern Highlands. (44 Respondents)	Agreed - the Strategy identifies priorities for the future which include master planning for key sites, landscape design for new playspaces, community consultation and focus on play features and natural elements to create attractive and imaginative play experiences. It also places a large emphasis on achieving better play values.
Request to include more age appropriate facilities and multi-age group playgrounds. Sentiment is Council's playgrounds are generally outdated and only cater for smaller children. Diversity is needed for older primary school aged children as well. (27 Respondents)	Agree - A number of the Shire's playspaces are outdated and require renewal. The intent of the Playspace Strategy is to renew playgrounds in consultation with the Community to deliver play experiences for multiple age groups at Playspace 1 and 2 levels of service.
Submissions indicated playspaces are important to keep kids active (21 Respondents)	Agreed - the intent of the Playspace Strategy is to increase play values at playspaces to ensure children remain engaged in play for longer durations and also provide the supporting infrastructure to assist extended visits (eg: toilets, drinking water, shade, seating, picnic facilities).
Submissions requested more supporting features to be located at playspaces such as toilets, fences, shade, access to water, BBQ areas and shelters, pathways. (17 Respondents)	Agree - supporting features are an important part of the overall experience at a playspace. The Draft Playspace Strategy seeks to improve ancillary facilities at playspaces and identifies supporting features in each category of playspace as part of the level of service.
Respondents advised that they travel out of Wingecarribee to enjoy larger, more challenging and better playspaces than what is available in the Southern Highlands. Submissions identified playspaces from which Council could draw inspiration. (12 Respondents)	Acknowledged - The intent of the Playspace Strategy is to increase the play value of the playspaces within the area, identify future destination playground location and source increased funding for capital/renewal and maintenance of facilities. Council recognises these locations and note that they include adventure and regional destination playspaces.
These locations included: Goulburn, Casula, Shellharbour, Wollongong, Dee Why, Lake Illawarra, Kiama, Jamberoo, Bathurst,	

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Orange, Albion Park, Tamworth, St George Area, Sydney Park, Canberra	
Respondents requested natural play elements within the playspaces be considered in the future to move away from the bright plastic colours and encourage children to play in a natural environment. (5 Respondents)	Agree - The Playspace Strategy includes design criteria for use of the natural environment in play and natural play features such as rocks, logs and hills and plantings.
Destination Playspace	
Respondents indicated that an adventure/destination playspace is needed for the area. (27 Respondents)	Acknowledged - Scenario 4 of the Playspace Strategy will provide a significant level of service increase for residents of the Shire including a Destination Playspace. A suitable location for the Destination Playspace must be determined.
Sentiments indicated that to wait 10 years for an adventure / destination playspace in the local area is too long. (11 Respondents)	Noted – a destination playground is a large-scale play area with comprehensive ancillary facilities. It should be located in near proximity to other visitor attractions and be easily accessed by most of the Shire. Currently, no suitable location has been identified.
Respondents referred to a possible adventure playground identified by the developer of the Retford Park Estate residential development. Respondents also made reference to the \$200K donation from the developer for an Adventure Playground at David Wood Playing Fields. (7 Respondents)	<p>Acknowledged - In accordance with the Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) between Council and the Developer of Retford Park, \$200,000 was paid to Council for the specific purpose of embellishment of David Wood Playing Fields, playground improvement and extension of car park. The funds identified in the VPA are for the embellishment of the existing facilities and not the creation of new. Council intends to develop a concept masterplan for the site to consult with the community and to better inform our understanding of the expected costs of any future projects. The development of the masterplan has not yet been programmed. In the meantime, the developer contribution will be reserved for the works specified in the VPA.</p> <p>David Wood Playing Fields is not considered an appropriate location for the Shire's Destination Playground as it does not have the appropriate level of supporting infrastructure (Sports Park, level of service 2), is not located in near proximity to public transport, is located in a predominately residential area with undesirable traffic implications and is not co-located near shopping or other CBD amenity.</p>

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<p>Respondent requested the Draft Playspace Strategy identify a location for a future Destination Playspace</p> <p>eg: Exeter Village has land which is more likely to be available and it will aid in general tourism to the region (1 Respondent)</p>	<p>Noted – A Destination Playground is a large-scale play area with comprehensive ancillary facilities. It should be located in near proximity to other visitor attractions and be easily access by the majority of the Shire. Currently, no suitable location has been identified.</p> <p>Disagree – Locating a large-scale tourist attraction in a heritage conservation area (Exeter) will detract from the village atmosphere and heritage values.</p>
Proposed Removal of Playspaces	
<p>Respondents indicated they do not support the removal of smaller playspaces throughout the Shire. Feedback indicated that local playspaces are an important social area to the community surrounding the park. (20 Respondents)</p> <p>Of the 20 objectors, 11 identified a specific playspace/playspaces from the disposal list that they would like Council to keep. The playspaces identified were:</p> <p>Berrima River Reserve (2 Respondents) Jensen Park, Exeter (2 Respondents) Colo Street, Mittagong (1 Respondent) Broughton Park, Bundanoon (1 Respondent) Coromandle Park, Moss Vale (1 Respondent) Goode Park, Moss Vale (1 Respondent) Henderson Park, Moss Vale (1 Respondent) Argyle Street Park, Moss Vale (1 Respondent) Keep all parks in Moss Vale (1 Respondent)</p> <p>Cook Street, Mittagong (4 Respondents) Acacia Park, Moss Vale (1 Respondent)</p>	<p>Sentiment Noted - The current level of funding allocated to renewal of playspace facilities is insufficient to meet the desired level of service, operation and maintenance requirements. Reducing infrastructure and reviewing future budgets will allow for increase in play values across the Shire. The Strategy provides for proportionate distribution of playspaces in towns and villages and encourages provision of additional playspaces through new development.</p> <p>Investigated - Recommend removing Berrima River Reserve from the disposal list. This facility is a tourist destination precinct which includes the local riverbend walking track, picnic area, short term camping area, bbq shelter and public toilets. It is well used by travellers as well as locals.</p> <p>Recommend no change to remaining playspaces identified for disposal. When playspace structure has reached end of life, area will be rehabilitated to grassland for continued open space use by the Community.</p> <p>Agreed - Cook Street, Mittagong and Acacia Park, Moss Vale are not listed for disposal.</p>
<p>Respondents indicated support for the disposal of smaller playspaces to improve larger spaces with better equipment and play value. (10 Respondents)</p>	<p>Support Noted</p>

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Objections were received to sale of parkland when playspaces are removed. (6 Respondents)	Agree - A playspace is considered a component of the park. This Strategy refers to the progressive removal of a number of identified playspaces at the end of their life. It does not include the proposed sale of any parkland. When a playspace is planned for disposal at the end of its life, the remaining park area will be rehabilitated to grassland for continued use by the Community.
Inclusive Play	
Comments referred to inclusive play being incorporated in playspaces. (2 Respondents)	Agreed - A fundamental objective of the Playspace Strategy is to ensure inclusivity is provided for all members of the community in line with the NSW Government's <i>Everyone Can Play</i> design guidelines.
Youth Facilities	
Respondents expressed a desire for more youth facilities including: bike tracks, skateparks, ninja warrior courses, pump bike tracks and learn-to-ride tracks. (10 Respondents)	Acknowledged - these facilities were intentionally not included in the Draft Playspace Strategy; rather, they will be considered in the proposed Sports Facilities Strategy.
General Comments	
Respondents disagreed with the 2016 National Census prediction relating to the proportionate decrease of children within the Shire over the next 10 years. (12 Respondents)	Noted - Council Staff queried the information and received additional advice to verify the 2016 Census prediction. Whilst the total population is predicted to increase over the next 10 years, the proportion of children under the age of 15 will decline slightly (250 children). This population demand driver can be reviewed following future Census publications.
Respondents expressed concern for the state of Cook Street Park, Mittagong regarding the removal of all play equipment, extremely poor state of the current bare park, no playground for children in the area and the need to cross the main road to reach Welby Oval playspace. (4 Respondents)	Acknowledged – The play equipment was removed due to its condition and end of life of the asset. The playspace is not identified for disposal and has been listed for replacement in the first year of renewals as an outcome of the Playspace Strategy (2021/22). Community consultation and planning for the renewal of the playground will commence in the 2020/21 financial year.
Submissions indicated disappointment that David Wood Playing Fields playground is still shut and the length of time of the closure is unacceptable. (3 Respondents)	Acknowledged - The works to be undertaken at the David Wood Playing Fields playground are limited to replacement of the softfall and stormwater drainage improvements. The softfall is no longer meeting minimum safety standards and requires replacement in order to return the playground to operation. The play

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	equipment itself is still in reasonable condition and will require replacement in 10-15 years. Unfortunately, the project delivery has been delayed due to COVID-19 related boarder closures currently in force.
Comments referred to playspaces being in decline as a result of poor maintenance. (2 Respondents)	Agreed - The Draft Playspace Strategy identifies that minimal funding for playspace maintenance and renewal has resulted in a number of poor-condition playspaces throughout the Shire. The Strategy outlines levels of service and required funding to improve maintenance.
Comments were received that the Strategy was too long for people to read and a summary should have been available. (2 Respondents)	Noted – As part of the Public Exhibition of the Draft Strategy, the Community was given the opportunity to review the information in its entirety. Public Exhibition is conducted in order to share information in an open and transparent way and provide an opportunity for feedback prior to any final decisions being made by Council on the matter. An Executive Summary and Introduction are available at the beginning of the document.
Respondent recommended a qualification be added to the Strategy to indicate that not all playspaces are currently active as this could have an impact on the ratio discussed in the current provision section on page 6 - cites Cook Street, Mittagong and David Wood Playing Fields, East Bowral as examples. (1 Respondent)	Disagree – the Draft Strategy considers the 48 identified playspaces in the Shire and acknowledges these are in varying conditions. Council further acknowledges playspaces will come in and out of service due to safety concerns periodically. The intent of the Strategy is to strike a reasonable balance between affordability and meeting current and future playspace needs for the Shire.
<p>Comment referred to Railway Avenue and Jurd Park playspaces located in Colo Vale. Respondent requested upgrades to Colo Vale playspaces as Jasmine Street has been identified to be disposed.</p> <p>Submission mentioned that Colo Vale has no Level 2 spaces. (1 Respondent)</p>	<p>Agree – The Draft Strategy has identified the Jasmine Street playspace for disposal at end of life due to over-provision and line of sight issues. The objective of the Draft Strategy is to improve play value for all remaining playspaces.</p> <p>Disagree - Jurd Park Playspace is located at the sporting oval and supports the local sporting hub, public school and afterhours care. This playspace is categorised as a Playspace 2.</p>
Respondent notes placemaking and future development may have impacts on playspace categories proposed in the Draft Strategy. Recommends a comment be included acknowledging the fluidity of this. (1 Respondent)	Agreed – The Draft Strategy has been amended to include a review period of 5 years.

Feedback	Council Response
Respondent recommends the Draft Strategy include opportunity to theme playspaces in line with the local area. (1 Respondent)	Agreed – The Draft Strategy places an emphasis on playspace design and community participation in design development. See General Guidelines, Design Guideline – ‘Character’.
Respondent objected to arbitrary categorisation of playspaces in line with overall park category as identified in the Parks Strategy 2016. Respondent requested remarks be added to the Strategy acknowledging some sites may need to change category based on surrounding development. (1 Respondent)	Acknowledged – Whilst the Park Strategy 2016 guides the categorisation of the overall park, the playspace is categorised based on location and provision as well as the park’s service level. In this way, Playspace Strategy does not assign level of service categories arbitrarily.
Respondent recommended new developments be required to ensure the playspace strategy objectives are met through planning instruments. (1 Respondent)	Acknowledged – Council utilises its Open Space strategies to inform the provision of open space areas and amenities for future residential developments. This Draft Playspace Strategy will be used in reference to any new public playground developments.
Respondent noted that, in densely populated areas, playspaces may be appropriate in proximity closer than 800mtrs; recommended consideration of the 800mtr concept in these cases. (1 Respondent)	Agreed – The Draft Strategy identifies that in extraordinary circumstances playspaces may be provisioned less than 800m from one another, however, in these cases the playspace will be a Level 3 playspace to avoid over investment in close proximity.
Respondent indicated the Draft Strategy lacks an acknowledgement that the Community have been waiting for playground improvements and the issue is important to them. Recommended significant improvements in the next 4-year delivery plan. (1 Respondent)	Noted – Capital Works programming will be informed by the adopted Playspace Strategy and available funding.