

# Supplementary Information

## Ordinary Council Meeting

**Tuesday 9 December 2025**

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**Addendum - Item 10.3.1 - Play Space Plan Review 2025-2028**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The *Updated Play Space Plan 2019 to 2029* (**Attachment 1**) includes reference to a Council resolution from the 22 November 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting when this plan was last reviewed. This Council resolution at that time included the following:

*Requests the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that the playgrounds in the City cater for different age groups (including older children), and that consideration is also given to the materials that are being used in playgrounds and their likely exposure to sun, to increase usability and prevent burn risks for children. As well as the possible use of recycled materials.*

At the Agenda Briefing Forum held on 2 December 2025, confirmation was sought that the *Updated Play Space Plan 2019 to 2029* included specific references and sections that reflected these principles and considerations.

City officers can confirm that the City does consider the needs of different age groups when designing playgrounds, and sources materials that align with the best possible outcomes for heat resistance and sustainability. The consideration of target age and ability is referenced and considered in sections 2.1 and 2.2 of the PSP. Ability and inclusion are considered in section 2.4; Reference is also made to a 2015 Council resolution requesting that all District and Regional playground renewals are to include at least one piece of play equipment that is accessible. Section 6.2 – Classification Hierarchy references on pages 32 and 33 the consideration of nature play elements and within pages 33 and 35 further references the differing target age ranges.

The theme of play such as swing, climb, slide etc. is considered at the engagement phase of planning a new play space, together with appropriate user target age ranges and the style and nature of equipment to be provided, such as Nature Play, Traditional Metal / Plastic type play equipment or a combination.

Timber, concrete, metal and stone are common materials used in the provision of play spaces and have been considered as part of the engagement process both prior to and after the above 2022 Council resolution requesting community consideration in determining whether a site theme is to be timber / stone style nature play, traditional metal / plastic modular equipment or a combination of both. Many of the recycled plastics offer better heat-resistant qualities and colour choice also assists with reducing solar heat absorption. Consideration of the City's Environment and livability Framework is referenced in the PSP on page 11.

Section 6.1.1 on page 30 refers to providing a variety of play experiences in local areas in liaison with local community users. Pocket and local parks are noted to be suited to natural play elements such as balance logs, tree stumps or sand play.

Page 8 of the PSP notes that renewals will be adapted based on local needs and conditions. Community engagement and being responsive to community demand is a key factor in planning for play space renewals. Engagement and its outcomes are referenced in the PSP on pages 8, 9, 53 and 54.

To clarify the above, and to further strengthen the consideration of materials and age groups, the City officers recommend that the following additional text be added into the *Updated Play Space Plan 2019 to 2029*.

In Part 1, Section 2.1 '*All ages and abilities*', add the following (red text):

## **2.1 All ages and abilities**

*Types and components of play will differ according to age group and development. Due to the variety of play types and experiences, it is not possible to satisfy all of these in every play space, however the design of play spaces can target certain age groups or, in larger parks and reserves, a combination.*

*To ensure all age groups are considered, the City will undertake consultation within the immediate area that is inclusive of all age categories. The consultation will encompass age groups ranging from toddlers through to adults.”*

In Part 2, Section 6.3 ‘Park infrastructure and design’, add an additional clause (red text):

### **6.3.13 Play Equipment Materials**

*The City will take into consideration material types made from recycled plastics, timber (for nature plays) that offer improved heat-resistant qualities. Colour selection will also be considered, as it can assist in reducing solar heat absorption.*

*Where feasible, these materials and colours will be prioritised to enhance durability and environmental performance.*

*Where metal materials are used, the metal component should be positioned in shaded areas.*

#### Recommendation Implications

In light of the above, the Officer’s Recommendation is updated as follows:

**That Council endorses the updated *Play Space Plan 2019-2029* (previously titled *Play Space Strategy*) for the period 2025 to 2028, as contained in Attachment 1, subject to the inclusions noted in the addendum to this item.**