



Places for Play - Play Space Strategy
VOLUME 2: DEMAND ANALYSIS
DECEMBER 2023

About the Places for Play- Play Space Strategy

This document is **Volume 2. Demand Analysis**

It is the second of three documents comprising the **Places for Play - Play Space Strategy**.

Other volumes include:

- Volume 1. Play Space Strategy, and
- Volume 3. Play Space Assessments

This Volume

An important part of this project was the analysis of demand information that was used to formulate recommendations for the Play Strategy itself, and the recommendations for each site. The demand information was sourced from:

- analysis of demographic data for the Shire
- previous Council Plans and reports, and
- from the detailed Community and Stakeholder Engagement process conducted for this project.

Volume 2 contains the detailed analysis of this information.

Authors

The **Places for Play - Play Space Strategy** has been prepared for Central Goldfields Shire Council by:

- Jeavons Landscape Architects and
- @leisure Planners.

Acknowledgements

Jeavons Landscape Architects and @leisure would like to acknowledge the support and assistance provided by:

- Carmel Pethick - Coordinator Recreation and Sport
- David Leatham - Manager Community Partnerships
- The project steering committee
- Residents who completed the survey.

The Dja Dja Wurrung People live in the area now known as Central Goldfields Shire Council. Council pays respect to leaders and Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Dja Dja Wurrung People. We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and our hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.

This project was sponsored by Sport and Recreation Victoria.



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Note: The views expressed in the consultation section of this document are those provided by the community. They do not necessarily reflect the views held by @leisure, Jeavons Landscape Architects, or Council.

Demographic Characteristics

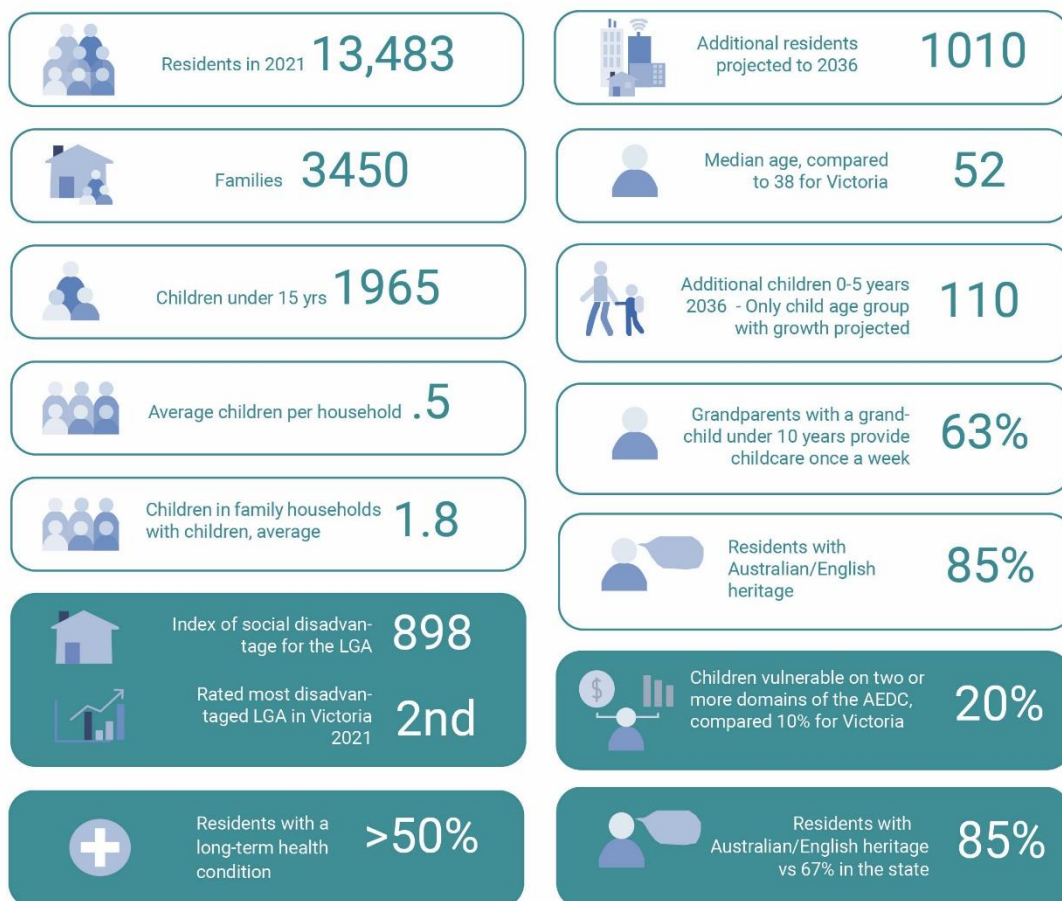


1 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Key characteristics

Demographic influences such as age, gender, cultural background, social disadvantage and disability are likely to influence a child's access to play opportunities, and development potential.

The diagram below shows key relevant characteristics of the Central Goldfields population.



Overall population and projected growth

In the 2021 census, the total population of Central Goldfields Shire was 13,483, including 3540 families.

There were 1965 children under the age of 15 years, an average of .5 children per household or 1.8 children in family households with children.

State government population projections (2023) show a projected increase of 1010 residents in Central Goldfields by 2036. The age group with the most significant projected growth is the 85+ age group, with 530 additional residents.¹ The only age group of children with growth is the 0-4 age group, with 110 children. All the other groups up to 19 years show a potential decline and 340 fewer children.

Age structure

The median age of residents is 52 years, compared to 38 for Victoria. Maryborough has a lower median age (46 years) than most smaller towns.

Central Goldfields has a lower proportion of children in all age groups than Victoria as a whole:

- 0 to 4 age group (3.9%) compared to Victoria as a whole (5.8%)
- 5 to 9 age group (5.0%) compared to Victoria (6.2%), and
- 10 to 14 age group (5.7%) compared to Victoria (6%).

¹ Victoria in Future 2023 (VIF2023)

Health, disability, and social disadvantage

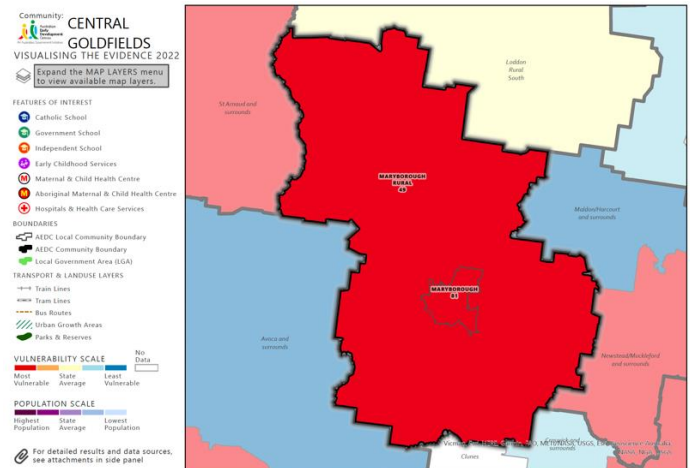
There is a high percentage of people needing assistance due to disability in Central Goldfields (10.4%), and especially in Maryborough (11.2%) compared to Victoria (5.9%). In addition, only 44% report no long-term health condition, as compared to Victoria as whole (61%).

More than 50% have a long-term health condition, compared Victoria as whole (39%).

The Index of Social Disadvantage 2 shows Central Goldfields LGA is ranked second in Victoria for disadvantage. The Shire has a high level of socio-economic disadvantage, in the top 7% of the most disadvantaged localities across Victoria.

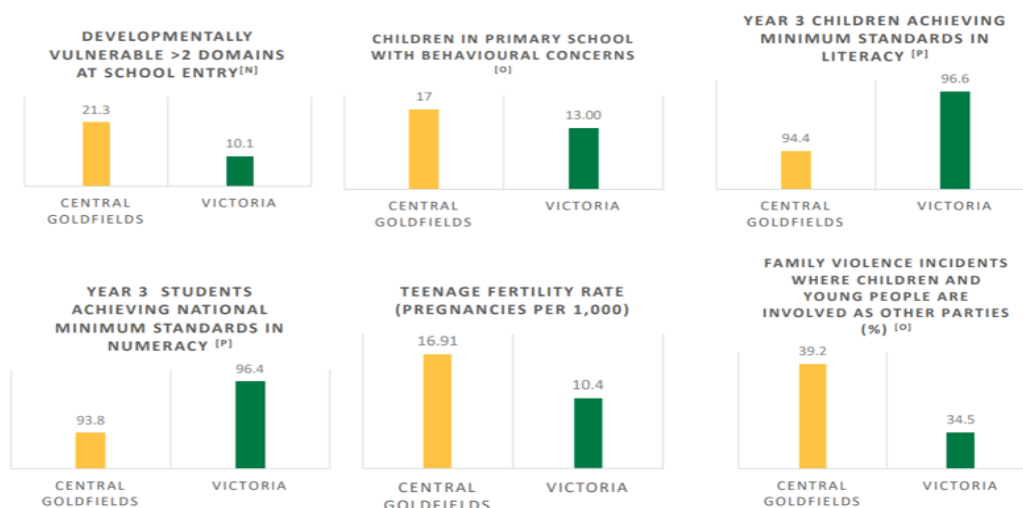
The Australian Early Development Census shows that children in Central Goldfields are “most vulnerable” (on the scale of most to least vulnerable), and 20% of children are considered vulnerable on two or more domains of the AEDC, compared to 10% for Victoria.

The following image shows that young children in Central Goldfields are classified as most vulnerable by percentage of developmental vulnerabilities.



The Australian Early Development Census also shows that children in Central Goldfields are vulnerable in several areas. For example, Since 2015 there are now fewer children in Central Goldfields whose primary caregiver reported completing some form of post-school qualification.

The image following shows vulnerability compared to Victoria as a whole.



² ABS 2021

Diversity

Cultural diversity in the population is increasing, but overall, there is a low percentage of people from non-English-speaking backgrounds in the Shire.

- The largest non-English ancestry group is of German origin (3.6%)
- The highest proportion of people born overseas from non-English speaking countries were born in the Philippines (.06%) and the Netherlands (.06%).

However, since 2015, Central Goldfields there are now more:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- Children born in another country
- Children with English as a second language
- Children with a language background other than English (LBOTE³) and who ARE proficient in English
- Children with a language background other than English (LBOTE) and who ARE NOT proficient in English.

1.2 Implications of demographic profile for parks and play spaces

Overall, the distribution and demographic profile of the Shire makes provision of play provision challenging and affects the ability to keep facilities well maintained.

The quality and play value of parks designed for play can contribute significantly to the development potential of children.

With the increase in population diversity, there is a need to increase the variety of opportunities available in play spaces.

Few play spaces are accessible to children and family members with a disability. Excluding these families from places of social interaction, fun, and learning will place these families at risk of further social isolation and disadvantage.

Children are becoming more dependent on a parent or caregiver taking them out to play, rather than moving around their neighbourhood independently. Many reasons underlie this trend, including parental fears, and safety concerns, due to traffic. With increased housing density in towns, many urban children do not have large back yards and have fewer opportunities to play outdoors at home.

In terms of the social context of Central Goldfields Shire:

- High quality play spaces are most important in the areas of highest disadvantage
- Families will need affordable places to socialise and play close to home
- Children may have fewer opportunities if their caregivers are unable to assist them to play
- Play spaces need to be made safe, welcoming, and inclusive of people of all ages and abilities

³ For the AEDC, children are considered LBOTE if they speak a language other than English at home or if they have English as a second language status.

More information on AEDC terms and definitions is available in the fact sheet Definition of AEDC terms (aedc.gov.au/defterm).

- Play spaces will also provide an important location for family and community gatherings.

Play spaces provide an essential location for family and community gatherings.

While the population is aging, an equitable distribution of play spaces is still required, not just where young families are present.

The ABS reports that 63% of grandparents with a grandchild under ten years provide childcare once a week, and in this way, play spaces support older family members. Play spaces need to be appealing and accessible to older adults.

It is increasingly important to ensure that there are opportunities for all age groups, preferably within the one space, and opportunities where teenagers, adults and older adults can be included and interact alongside children.

Design needs to accommodate varying degrees of challenge and 'opt-in' opportunities that allow all ages to select their preferred activities and minimise conflicts.

In terms of the design of parks and play spaces, the health and age profile of the Shire highlights the increasing importance of:

- Providing inclusive, multi-purpose opportunities for all age groups within any one space.
- Designing in opportunities for older adults themselves, as well as opportunities for them to interact with children
- Conscious provision for physical, social and environmental activities in parks designed for play.

Detail of the age structure and population profile of each locality

Volume 3 –Play Space Assessments provide more detailed demographic information that specific to each locality, rather than the Shire overall.

These assessments include the age structure and population profile of each locality in more depth, as well as

- the technical assessments of each play space, and
- relevant site and zoning information
- .



CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS
PLAY STRATEGY 2023

Demand From Other Council Plans



2 DEMAND FROM OTHER COUNCIL PLANS

Several Council projects provided secondary demand information about play spaces. Council documents reviewed with demand information included.

- The Recreation and Open Space Strategy, 2020
- The Community Plans available for many of the localities.
- Children and young people first report - July 21-March 2022 – CGSC in partnership with Vic Health 'Kids Co-Designing Healthy Places'- Consultation Results August 2021

Key points from these documents follow.

2.1 The Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2020-2029

The Recreation and Open Space Plan 2020-2029 is the main driver for the preparation of this Strategy.

The Strategy identified that around 21% of residents used play spaces.

Key issues related to play identified in the Strategy

Key issues raised by the community about play spaces included the following (summarised) :

- Playgrounds are not fenced; out of date equipment; poor quality / condition; not compliant.
- Maintenance – lack of consistency and approach (inequitable); lack of any standard of maintenance; amount of maintenance needed with ageing facilities including playgrounds.
- Outdoor pools – ageing; not enough shade; Maryborough Outdoor Swimming Pool - heritage listing impacts on upgrades and costs; no fun elements (e.g. diving boards, water play); limited operating hours.

- Playgrounds - compliance; nature play; multi-age playground; lack of sensory playground.
- Accessible facility provision.
- MSLC - upgrades to group fitness and amenities; more family and accessible change rooms and changing places; warm water program pool; more water play; pool deck (non-slip).
- Outdoor pools - more shade; amenities upgrades (Dunolly and Maryborough); fun elements (e.g. replace 20m pool with splash pad and water play at Maryborough).
- Sustainability - managing climate change impacts; access to water; heat.
- Shade- at outdoor pools, along streets, playgrounds, mature trees.
- Multi-use and joint use facilities, sharing of facilities; partnerships with schools for use of ovals, play spaces, stadiums, etc.

2.2 Community plans

Several localities across Central Goldfields have community plans. Some of these are currently being reviewed.

Key points from each plan reviewed are provided in the overview of each locality in Volume 3. Play space assessments.

2.3 Children and Young People First Report March 2022

This project was conducted in partnership with Vic Health 'Kids Co-designing Healthy Places.

Action ideas and priorities

Relevant priorities included:

- A greater variety of activities, and
- More sports facilities, and
- Better access to equipment.

Under "A greater variety of activities" suggestions related to play included:

- Make more opportunities for bigger kids, on properties that aren't being used, (flying foxes, bigger slides etc.)
- More disability accessible playground and exercise equipment

Under "More sports facilities and better access to equipment" suggestions included:

- Upgrade existing facilities- more basketball rings more seats for spectators
- Utilise unused land and develop into parks such as Station Domain.

Cont./..

'If I was the Mayor....'

In a key question about public play spaces asked in the survey, children were asked to complete the sentence: "If I was the mayor I would"

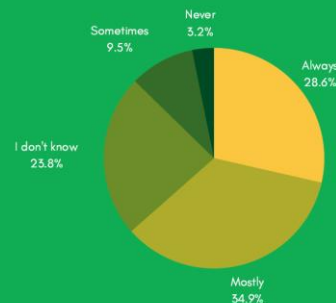
Key responses related to play spaces included:

- "Put in more playgrounds and more ovals
- Maybe adds some public toilets and a playground but there is some ovals near my house
- Gates on playground
- Making more places to play.
- Put a playground in so we can "exercise" and have fun.
- To make my neighbourhood a better and healthier place I would add more parks for kids to play around
- I would also make more playgrounds that can be used by disabled people.
- I would have more walking/ bike tracks for people to use."

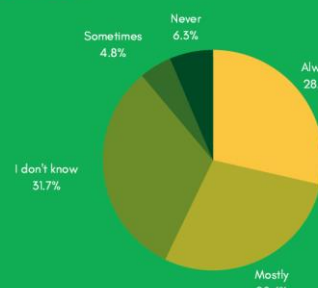
The project had additional research questions related to play. These are shown to the right.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Question 16: In my neighbourhood boys and girls feel that they have the same amount of places to play outdoors.

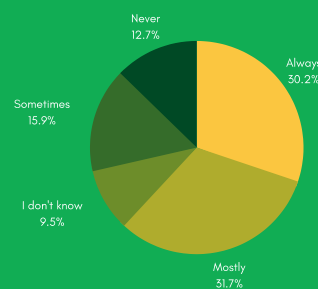


Question 17: There are lots of ways for kids from all cultures get involved in activities in my neighbourhood.

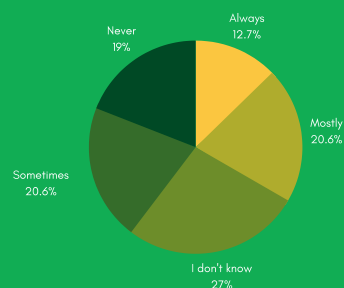


RESEARCH QUESTIONS

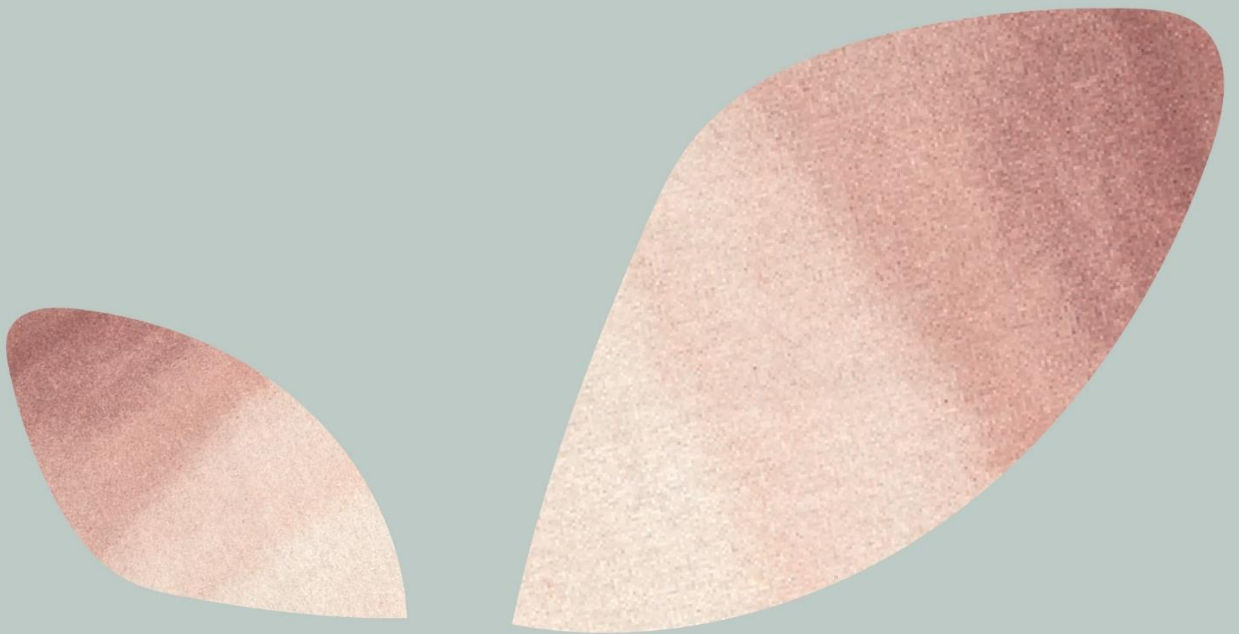
Question 14: In my neighbourhood, there are lots of good places for play, games and sports.



Question 15: The places for play in my neighbourhood can also be used by children with disabilities.



Community & Stakeholder Engagement



3 COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

3.1 Engagement process

Community and stakeholder engagement has been a key component of this Strategy. The process has included the following:

- Establishing a **'Your Say' web page** for residents to contribute their ideas and information about play in Central Goldfields Shire.
- A **poster** was developed to draw people to those on-line opportunities.
- A **Project Control group** was established to advise and provide feedback into the process. This group consists of:
 - Acting Manager Community Partnerships, CGSC
 - Recreation Co-ordinator, CGSC
 - Regional Manager, Sport and Recreation Victoria (Loddon Mallee)
 - Manager, Go Goldfields
 - Youth Worker, Children and Young People First Project Officer, CGSC
 - Manager Community Services, CGSC
 - Coordinator, Immunisation Services, CGSC
 - Coordinator, Maryborough Family Centre, CGSC
 - Health Broker – Healthy Loddon Campaspe
 - Manager Operations, CGSC
 - Coordinator Parks and Open Spaces
 - Program Manager, Sports Focus.
- **Informal telephone interviews** with key stakeholders, including key staff that have a role in the planning and provision of play spaces, or who provide services for young people, conduct planning, manage assets, or are responsible for maintenance.
- Interviews with representatives from other regional Councils with splash parks were conducted, including Golden Plains Shire, the City of Ballarat, Hepburn Shire, and companies who design and construct these facilities.
- A **community survey** was conducted which received over 300 responses.
- **Consultation data** from previous, related projects has also been reviewed, along with commentary from social media outlets being made about play and splash parks in Central Goldfields.
- Representatives who have advocated actively for a splash park will be consulted when preliminary directions are being prepared.
- An opportunity to **review the draft** documents will be provided following Council approval.

3.2 Highlights from the community survey

Over 365 people completed a survey.

The majority (68%) of respondents live in Maryborough, with another 11% in nearby Carisbrook, and 22% outside these two towns.

- 56% use a play space at least once a week.
- 64% travel to the play space by car
- Over 70% travel more than 1km to use a play space.
- 22% have a family member with a disability.
- 97% would use a water play facility.
- Over 50% of those who would use a water play facility would travel more than 10km.
- 86% prefer the paved spray pad style rather than natural water play
- 92% think a water play area is a higher priority than other park types.
- 70% travel more than 1km to a park for play and a slightly higher proportion (77%) travel more than 1km for Station Domain Play Space.
- Only 11% live within 500m of the main play space they use.
- 48% of respondents have a child aged 0-4, and 47% have a child aged 5-9. This is similar across the parks for play; however, Carisbrook play spaces are used by a younger demographic with 73% aged 0-4 and 53% aged 5-9 years.

The main (primary) play space used by respondents

More respondents use Station Domain

Playground in Maryborough than any other play space in the Shire. This is more than double the next play space, and four times the third most used. Two in five respondents use Station Domain.

The key reasons people use their main play space include:

- **The facilities (playground equipment as well as other items such as BBQ's)**
- **Location, and**
- **Safety (predominantly fencing).**

Safety is a particularly important feature of the Station Domain Playground, mentioned by almost half the respondents who use it as their main playground.

The facilities at Station Domain Play Space are also a key reason for using that playground, as is the shade/shelter.

The facilities at the Princes Park East Playground were the key reason people go there.

Over 50% of respondents use their main space once a week.

Most respondents (66%) travel by car to their main play space; this is typical across all parks/localities. As distance from the play space increases, the likelihood of using a car to get there also increases.

The following table shows the number of respondents and which space they use as their main (primary) playground.

SPACES USED AS MAIN 'PRIMARY' PLAY SPACE

Play Park Name	Respondents	%
Station Domain Playground - Maryborough	145	40.7%
Princes Park East Playground - Maryborough	69	19.4%
Maryborough Caravan Park Playground - Maryborough	34	9.6%
Carisbrook Park - Carisbrook	19	5.3%
Maryborough Leisure Centre - Maryborough	16	4.5%
Bucknall Reserve Playground - Carisbrook	10	2.8%
Goldfields Reservoir Playground - Maryborough	8	2.2%
Whirrakee Drive Playground - Maryborough	8	2.2%
Talbot Pioneers Reserve - Talbot	7	2.0%
Apex Park Playground - Maryborough	6	1.7%
Dunolly Public Recreation Reserve (Tennis and Skate Park) - Dunolly	6	1.7%
Coronation Park Playground - Maryborough	3	0.8%
Rowland Park Playground - Maryborough	3	0.8%
Majorca Town Hall Playground - Majorca	2	0.6%
Carisbrook Recreation Reserve – netball court swing - Carisbrook	1	0.3%
Daisy Hill Community Centre Playground - Daisy Hill	1	0.3%
Deledio Recreation Reserve - Dunolly	1	0.3%
Roscholler Park Playground - Maryborough	1	0.3%
Timor Rd Playground/Timor Tennis Playground - Bowenvale	1	0.3%
Other	15	4.2%
Grand Total	356	100.0%

Key improvements

The main themes were:

- 50% asked for more play equipment.
- 16% were non-specific about the items, with some suggesting a generic “items for younger kids” or “older kids”.
- The most common additional play item mentioned is water play (27%).
- No other specific item was mentioned more than 2% of the time.
- Water play was mentioned in relation to the 3 most used playgrounds: Station Domain, Princes Park East and the Maryborough Caravan Park.
- 8% of respondents suggested Shade/Shelter was required.

The closest play space respondents used

Over 290 people identified their closest play space as the one they used.

Thirteen didn't specify what improvements they wanted and 13 said "no change".

Shade/shelter, fencing, seating and tables were commonly referred to as desired improvements to the closest play space, compared to the main 'primary' play space, suggesting that these items were reasons people didn't use their closest play space and instead went elsewhere.

Additional improvements recommended by respondents in their closest play spaces were:

- More play equipment (70%), with 29% non-specific about the items
- Water play (25%)
- Shade/shelter (21%)
- Fencing (15%)
- Updates to the play equipment (13%), and
- Swings and a hard court.

Water play

The survey asked questions regarding a potential splash park for the shire.

- 97% would use a water play facility.
- Over 50% of these would travel more than 10km.
- 86% prefer the paved area style rather than natural.
- 92% think it's a higher priority than other park types.
- 250 respondents believe a water play area is a higher priority to build than other play space upgrades.
- 64% of respondents said that a splash park provided "variety" to activities offered.

Those respondents who supported Council providing a splash park provided a number of reasons:

- Its accessible / something that the whole family/ people of all ages and abilities can enjoy
- It's an activity needed by kids/ so many people would use it
- It would bring people to the town, an attraction.
- 18% thought it would be an attraction for the region.
- Free activities are important, so you don't have to travel and the pool costs money
- The outdoor pool is closed and the kids need somewhere to cool off 22% mentioned the lack of an outdoor pool

The survey results may be skewed by local promotion of the idea of a splash park.

"Mainly doing this survey to assist those who have been really persistent and vocal for the build, though I must say there needs to be more swings at the Princes Park playground that aren't catered to toddlers".

"A minority of the community is very vocal regarding a splash park, but many wouldn't understand the ongoing costs involved with the running of this, as well as the overall use each year. I wouldn't be taking my little kids there unless it's a hot day, which is only going to be over approximately 3 months of the year"

Not in favour of a splash park

- Two of the 8 respondents that don't want a water play space, have a family member with a disability (noting that 65 who have a family member with a disability do want a water play park).
- 92% believe a water play space is a higher priority to build than other play space upgrades.

Reasons for not prioritising a water play space above other options are that:

- money should be spent elsewhere (e.g. outdoor pool, updating current play spaces),
- particularly because a water play space would only be used for a portion of the year.

"Having a full size fully functional outdoor pool would be more beneficial than a splash park or anymore play spaces. Currently our kids are learning to swim in an indoor pool where they can touch the bottom which is not ideal or overly realistic if they fell in fully clothed etc. if a splash park was to be considered this area should all tie in together. Utilise the derelict tennis courts as well. It's a great central space".

"We have many play spaces in the area that would get a lot more use if they were upgraded there is no point adding more and letting the older places go to waste".

"The ongoing cost and water usage concerns me. For the cost it is only one season so 3-4 months at most. I think the money could be used to better. Adding public use basketball rings and more nature play in numerous areas around the region would be my choice".

"The other play spaces are in desperate need of upgrading. It would be amazing to have both a splash park and upgraded park but a park that can be used all year around would be amazing".

Travel to a Splash Park

- The people who said they would travel less than 5km for a water play space live either in Maryborough or nearby and so would expect it to be within that distance.
- Those willing to travel further are in the outer regions of the Shire, and travel is likely to be "normal" for them.
- Place of residence doesn't have an impact on type of water play space.
- Carisbrook respondents predominantly wanted the water play space in Carisbrook,

Location for a splash park

- 34% preferred it to be located at the Maryborough Outdoor Pool. However, some did not want it in the pool complex because that requires an entry fee.
- The most common "Other" suggestion is near the skate park (Princes Park East). More gave this response than for Carisbrook.
- No notable difference in whether a water play space is a priority by age of kids.
- 145 people provided an additional comment at the end of the survey. 26% of those mentioned the need for water play.
- More detailed findings about the splash park from the community survey are summarised in the separate feasibility report.

3.3 Detailed survey results

Main play space

Question 1: What is the main public play space the children in your family visit most in Central Goldfields Shire.

The main play space used by respondents was the Station Domain Playground in Maryborough followed by the play spaces in Princess Park Maryborough, Carisbrook Park and Bucknall Reserve playground in Carisbrook. See table following.

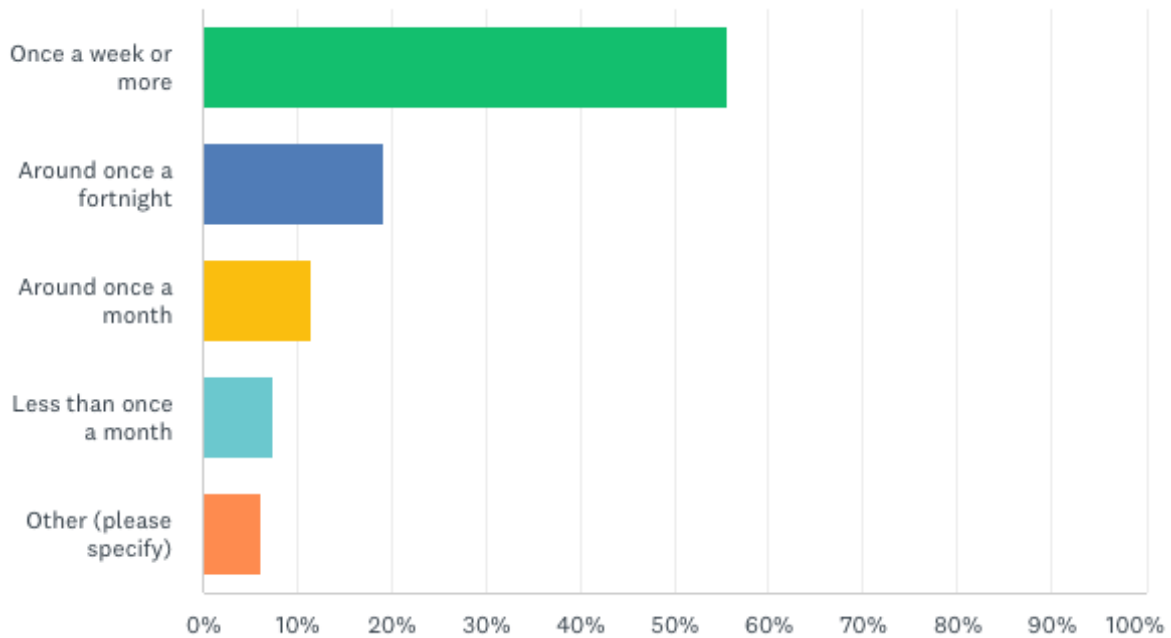
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Roscholler Park Playground - Maryborough	1	0.3%
Timor Rd Playground/Timor Tennis Playground - Bowenvale	1	0.3%
Grand Total	356	100.0%

Main play space used, by age of children

Play Space	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-17 years
Apex Park Playground - Maryborough	1	3	2	
Bucknall Reserve Playground - Carisbrook	7	6	3	1
Carisbrook Park - Carisbrook	15	10	4	
Carisbrook Recreation Reserve – netball court swing - Carisbrook			1	1
Coronation Park Playground - Maryborough	1	1	2	
Daisy Hill Community Centre Playground - Daisy Hill		1		
Deledio Recreation Reserve - Dunolly				
Dunolly Public Recreation Reserve (Tennis and Skate Park) - Dunolly	2	3	2	1
Goldfields Reservoir Playground - Maryborough	3	1	2	
Majorca Town Hall Playground - Majorca	2	1		
Maryborough Caravan Park Playground - Maryborough	13	18	15	1
Maryborough Leisure Centre - Maryborough	6	4	7	3
Princes Park East Playground - Maryborough	36	34	25	8
Roscholler Park Playground - Maryborough				
Rowland Park Playground - Maryborough	1	2	1	
Station Domain Playground - Maryborough	65	69	32	2
Talbot Pioneers Reserve - Talbot	6	4	2	
Timor Rd Playground/Timor Tennis Playground - Bowenvale		1	1	
Whirrakee Drive Playground - Maryborough	4	3	2	
Other (please specify)	9	5	1	1
Grand Total	171	166	102	18

Question 2: How often do you go to this (main) play space?

Almost 60% of respondents took children to a play space once a week or more. This was a was consistent across all play spaces.



The following table shows the frequency of use by main play space.

Play space	Once a week or more	Around once a fortnight	Around once a month	Less than once a month	Other	Total
Carisbrook Park	12	6			1	19
Maryborough Caravan Park	19	9	3	1	1	33
Maryborough Leisure Centre	10			2		12
Princes Park East	40	10	8	4	3	65
Station Domain	57	25	20	14	9	125
All Other	39	9	6	2	5	61
Grand Total	177	59	37	23	19	315

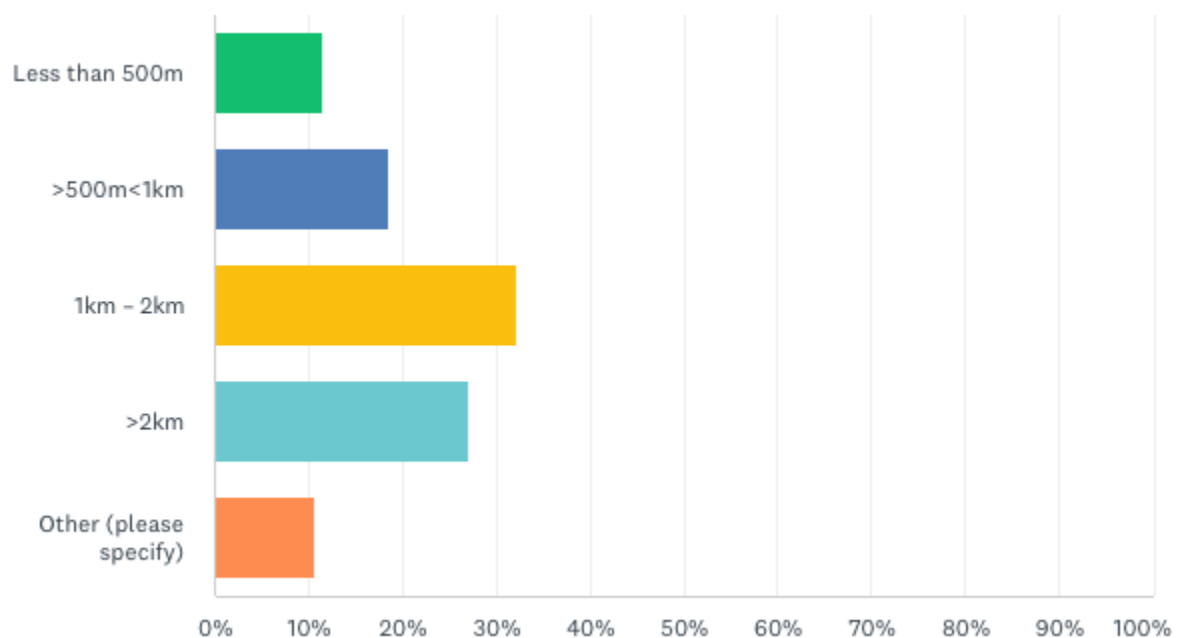
The following table shows the frequency of use by the origin of the respondent.

Location	Once a week or more	Around once a fortnight	Around once a month	Less than once a month	Other
Maryborough	59.6%	19.2%	9.6%	6.1%	5.6%
Carisbrook	71.0%	19.4%	0.0%	3.2%	6.5%
North	37.5%	0.0%	37.5%	0.0%	25.0%
Central	56.3%	31.3%	6.3%	6.3%	0.0%
South	54.2%	12.5%	25.0%	4.2%	4.2%
Other	6.3%	12.5%	31.3%	37.5%	12.5%
Grand Total	56.7%	18.4%	11.6%	7.2%	6.1%

Question 3: How far is this (main) space from your home?

The majority of play space users travel one to two kilometres to their main play space, followed by greater than two kilometres and then less than one kilometre.

Distance from home	Respondents	%
Less than 500m	35	11.1%
>500m<1km	59	18.7%
1km – 2km	103	32.7%
>2km	85	27.0%
Other	33	10.5%
Grand Total	315	100.0%



Respondents using Carisbrook Park travelled a shorter distance than the other main playgrounds used. The findings showed that most people using the larger most popular play spaces travel further. For all the other play spaces, a relatively equal number of or equal percentage of respondents travelled either less than 500 metres or more than one kilometre.

Play space	<500m	>500m<1km	1km – 2km	>2km	Other
Carisbrook Park	36.8%	10.5%	26.3%	21.1%	5.3%
Maryborough Caravan Park	9.1%	21.2%	36.4%	21.2%	12.1%
Maryborough Leisure Centre	0.0%	25.0%	25.0%	41.7%	8.3%
Princes Park East	6.2%	24.6%	35.4%	27.7%	6.2%
Station Domain	4.8%	18.4%	35.2%	29.6%	12.0%
All Other	24.6%	13.1%	26.2%	23.0%	13.1%
Grand Total	11.1%	18.7%	32.7%	27.0%	10.5%

Distance from home, of the main play space, by method of travel

More than 60% of families travelled to their main place base by car with only 22 per cent walking.

Distance travelled	Qty	Go by car	Ride	Walk	Other
Less than 500m	33	33%	12%	39%	15%
>500m<1km	58	47%	14%	36%	3%
1km – 2km	94	66%	6%	23%	4%
>2km	79	84%	3%	10%	4%
Other	29	90%	0%	3%	7%
Grand Total	293	66%	7%	22%	5%

Question 4: Why do you go to this play space to play?

There were three main reasons people travelled to their main play spaces:

- The nature of facilities was by far the most influential reason,
- Proximity was the second main reason, followed by
- Safety. In particular, access to a fenced space was a key determinant of use.

Summary

Category	Main	%
Nature of facilities	103	24%
Proximity/location	86	20%
Safety	77	18%
Enjoyment	41	10%
Activities	37	9%
Shade / Shelter	28	7%
Family	18	4%
Easy access / Parking	12	3%
Social benefits	8	2%
Features	4	1%
Nature	5	1%
Playground	3	1%
Seating	2	0%

Question 5: What do you think could be done to improve this (main) play space you use?

Apart from water play, (the largest response) the main types of improvements to play spaces respondents gave were:

- providing more equipment,
- shade and shelter,
- adding a BBQ,
- fencing and
- seating.

Additional cleaning, landscaping and trees and toilets, updating equipment, better general uptake more tables, hardcourts and more swings were also suggested.

The following table summarises the main types of improvements suggested by respondents, to the main play space they use.

Section 3.4 provides a more detailed breakdown of the improvements suggested, by play space.

Summary: Types of improvements to main play space

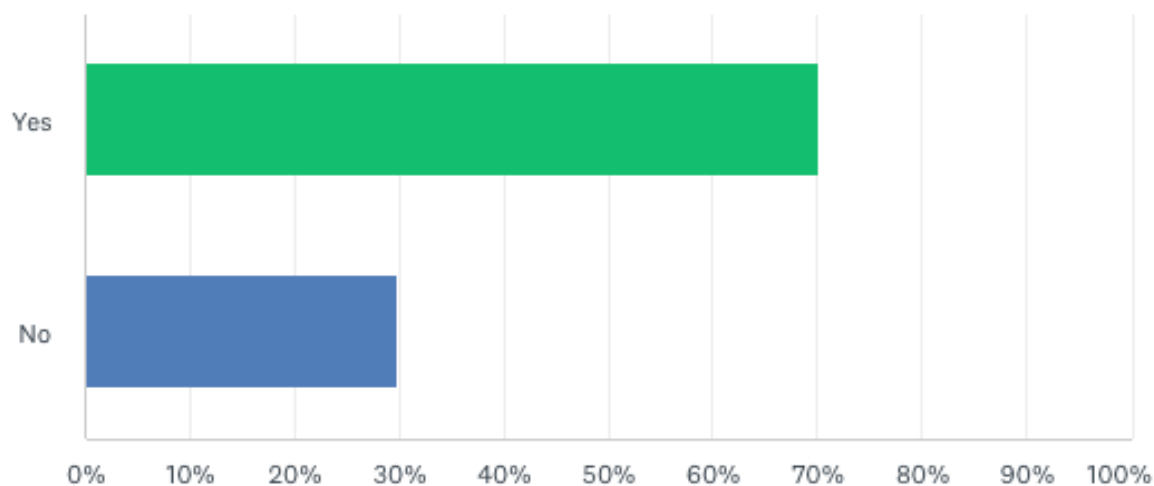
Type of Improvement	Qty	%
Water play	109	27%
More play equipment	65	16%
Shade / Shelter	31	8%
BBQ	25	6%
Fencing	24	6%
No change	24	6%
Seating	21	5%
Bins / Cleaning	15	4%
Landscaping / Trees	11	3%
Toilets	14	3%
Update play equipment	14	3%
Upkeep	11	3%
Tables	10	2%
Hard court	8	2%
Not specified	7	2%
Swings	7	2%
Accessibility	5	1%
Bounce	3	1%
Climbing frame	5	1%
Exercise equipment	3	1%
Slides	5	1%
Softplay	3	1%
CCTV	2	0%
Drinking fountain	2	0%

Summary: Types of improvements to main play space, cont.

Type of Improvement	Qty	%
Lights	2	0%
No dogs	2	0%
Open hours	1	0%
Parking	1	0%
Paths	1	0%
Pump track	2	0%
Signage	1	0%
Windbreak	1	0%
Sand pit	0	0%
Nature play	0	0%
Amenities	0	0%
Dog park	0	0%
Facilities	0	0%
Larger area	0	0%
See Saw	0	0%

Question 6: Do you use any other play spaces on a regular basis?

Most respondents use multiple play spaces on a regular basis.



Question 7: Which other play space do you visit?

The majority of respondents identified Station Domain play space as their second most visited play space (37%). Others mentioned were Princes Park, Carisbrook Park, and Bucknall Reserve in Carisbrook. These sites are also the most popular main play spaces used.

Respondents also reported using the Maryborough Leisure Centre park, even though it doesn't have play equipment.

Many respondents mentioned Maryborough Caravan Park play space, but it is possible they meant Princes Park East.

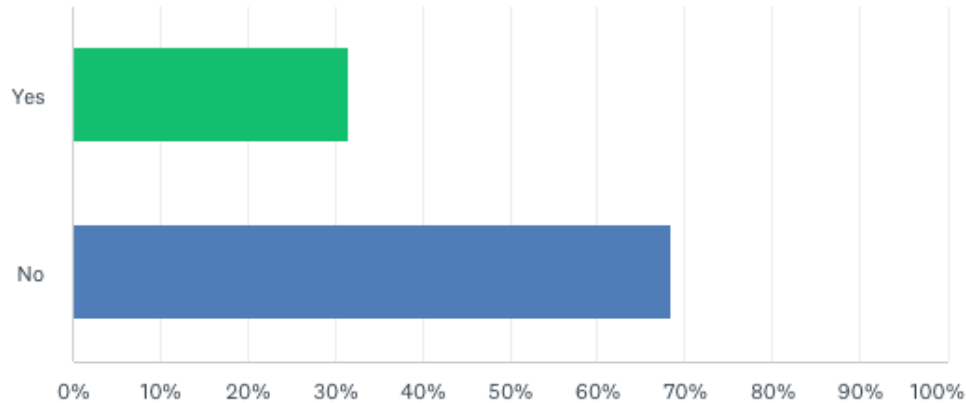
The following table lists play spaces and their use as both

- a 'main play space', and as
- 'other play space used regularly'.

Play Space	Other	Main	Total	%
Station Domain Playground - Maryborough	60	145	205	35.6%
Princes Park East Playground - Maryborough	44	69	113	19.6%
Maryborough Caravan Park Playground - Maryborough	21	34	55	9.5%
Carisbrook Park - Carisbrook	8	19	27	4.7%
Maryborough Leisure Centre - Maryborough	10	16	26	4.5%
Bucknall Reserve Playground - Carisbrook	8	10	18	3.1%
Goldfields Reservoir Playground - Maryborough	5	8	13	2.3%
Whirrakee Drive Playground - Maryborough	11	8	19	3.3%
Talbot Pioneers Reserve - Talbot	1	7	8	1.4%
Apex Park Playground - Maryborough	13	6	19	3.3%
Dunolly Public Recreation Reserve (Tennis/Skate Park) -	6	6	12	2.1%
Coronation Park Playground - Maryborough	4	3	7	1.2%
Rowland Park Playground - Maryborough	1	3	4	0.7%
Majorca Town Hall Playground - Majorca	1	2	3	0.5%
Carisbrook Recreation Reserve – netball court swing - Carisbrook	2	1	3	0.5%
Daisy Hill Community Centre Playground - Daisy Hill	4	1	5	0.9%
Deledio Recreation Reserve - Dunolly	2	1	3	0.5%
Roscholler Park Playground - Maryborough	4	1	5	0.9%
Timor Rd Playground/Timor Tennis Playground - Bowenvale	1	1	2	0.3%
Fraser St Playground - Maryborough	1	0	1	0.2%
Other	13	15	28	4.9%
Total	220	356	576	100.0%

Question 8: Is this play space the closest one to where you live?

In almost 70% of cases residents use play spaces (both main and other) that are *not the closest to their home*. Station Domain for example is used by 35% of respondents but is the closest playground to only 15% of those households.

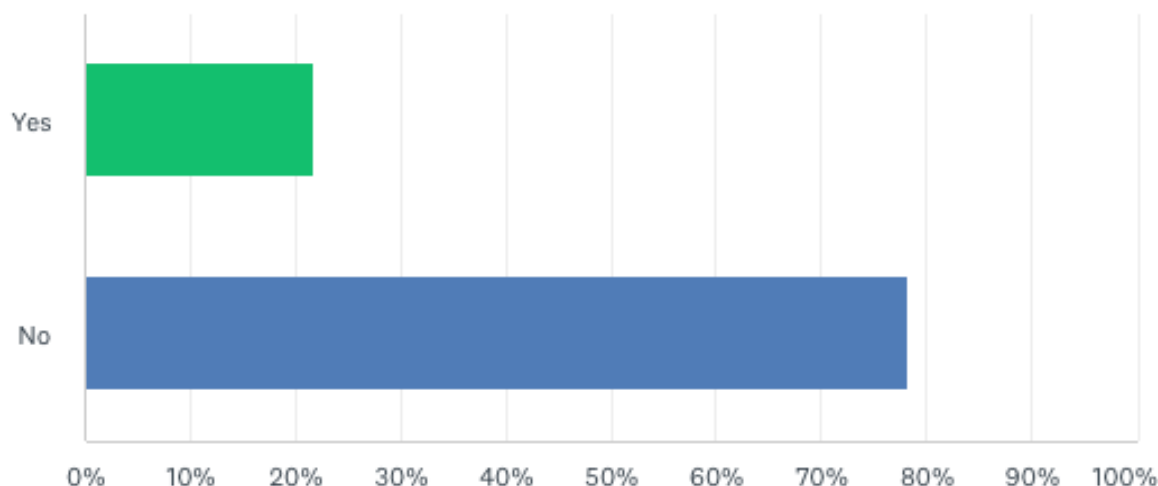


Question 9: Please select the closest play space to where you live.

Play Space	Total	%
Station Domain Playground - Maryborough	38	17.5%
Princes Park East Playground - Maryborough	31	14.3%
Whirrakee Drive Playground - Maryborough	23	10.6%
Other (please specify)	20	9.2%
Carisbrook Park - Carisbrook	14	6.5%
Apex Park Playground - Maryborough	11	5.1%
Bucknall Reserve Playground - Carisbrook	11	5.1%
Coronation Park Playground - Maryborough	8	3.7%
Maryborough Caravan Park Playground - Maryborough	8	3.7%
Maryborough Leisure Centre - Maryborough	8	3.7%
Talbot Pioneers Reserve - Talbot	8	3.7%
Daisy Hill Community Centre Playground - Daisy Hill	7	3.2%
Dunolly Public Recreation Reserve (Tennis and Skate Park) - Dunolly	7	3.2%
Herring Reserve Playground - Maryborough	4	1.8%
Rowland Park Playground - Maryborough	4	1.8%
Timor Rd Playground/Timor Tennis Playground - Bowenvale	4	1.8%
Goldfields Reservoir Playground - Maryborough	3	1.4%
Majorca Town Hall Playground - Majorca	3	1.4%
Roscholler Park Playground - Maryborough	3	1.4%
Deledio Recreation Reserve - Dunolly	1	0.5%
Fraser St Playground - Maryborough	1	0.5%
Grand Total	217	100.0%

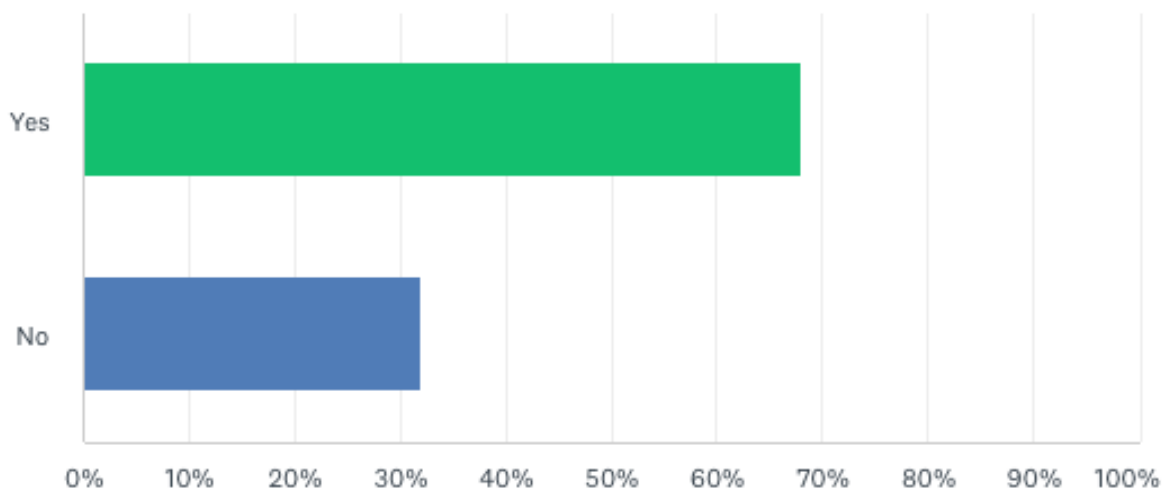
Question 10: Do you have a family member with a disability?

Just over 20% of respondents have a family member with a disability.



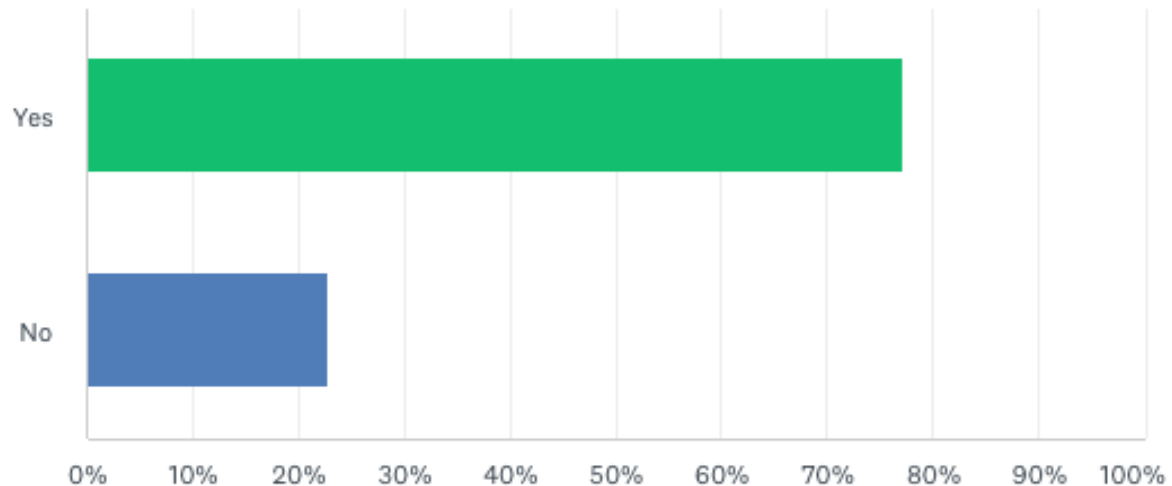
Question 11: Is the play space closest to where you live accessible to your family member with a disability?

Almost 70% of those say that their closest play space is accessible to their family member with a disability.



Question 12: If the play space closest to where you live was accessible to your family member with a disability, would you use it?

Almost 80% of respondents said that they would use the play space closest to them if it was accessible.



Question 13: What do you think could be done to improve the play space closest to where you live?

The most frequent suggestion for improvement to the play space closest to where respondents live was:

- more play equipment.

Most suggestions for improvements (see table below) applied to play spaces closest to where people live, rather than to the 'main play space visited'. This may suggest that local play spaces need the most attention and improvements.

The most frequent suggestion for improvement to the main play space respondents visited was:

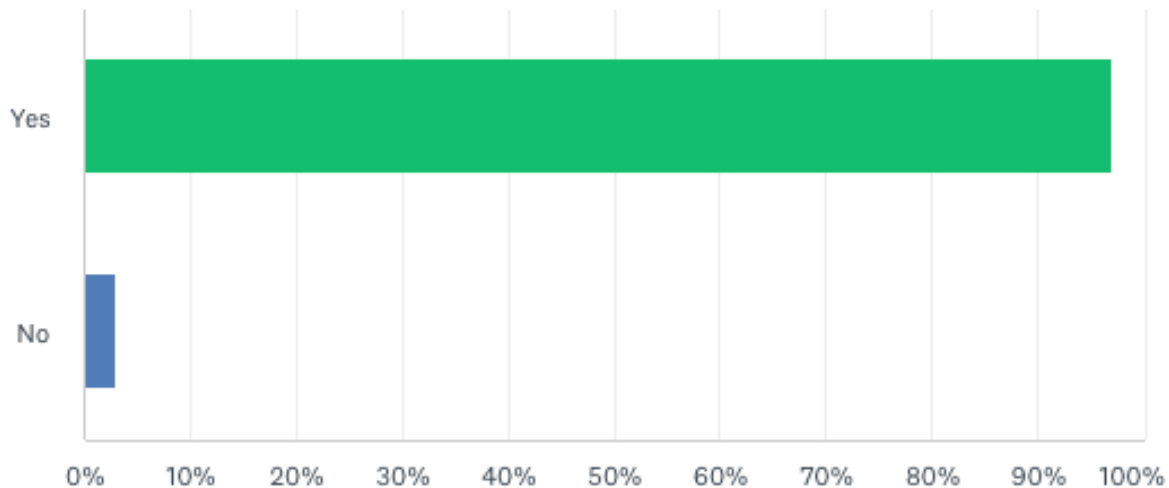
- water play

Suggested improvements	Qty	%
More play equipment	78	35%
Water play	67	30%
Shade / Shelter	57	25%
Fence	41	18%
Update play equipment	34	15%
Seating	26	12%
BBQ	19	8%
Swings	18	8%
Tables	17	8%
No change	13	6%
Not specified	13	6%
Toilets	10	4%
Bins / Cleaning	10	4%

Suggested improvements	Qty	%
Accessibility	9	4%
Landscaping / Trees	9	4%
Hard court	7	3%
Climbing frame	4	2%
Drinking fountain	5	2%
Pump track	4	2%
Upkeep	5	2%
Dog park	2	1%
Exercise equipment	3	1%
Facilities	2	1%
Nature play	3	1%
No dogs	2	1%
Paths	3	1%
Sand pit	2	1%
Slides	2	1%
Softplay	2	1%
Amenities	1	0%
Bounce	1	0%
CCTV	1	0%
Larger area	1	0%
Lights	1	0%
Open hours	0	0%
Parking	0	0%
See saw	1	0%
Signage	1	0%
Windbreak	0	0%

Question 14: Would your family use a free access summer water play facility if there was one available in the Shire?

Most (97%) survey respondents would use a free summer water play facility if provided.



The reasons given for *not* using a splash park, if provided, were as follows:

'It's for toddlers mostly. But if it was connected to a greater play space, such as the caravan playground/skatepark.... well maybe'.

"No children of a young age"

"We would probably use it but I disagree with it being free, I don't think as a ratepayer that our Shire can afford the construction and ongoing costs of this project."

"It will end up being a dirty space as people will bring dogs and rubbish".

"Waste of money. We need a swimming pool that all members of the community can use. A pool that is open on hot days."

"Because people think their dogs have the same rights as children"

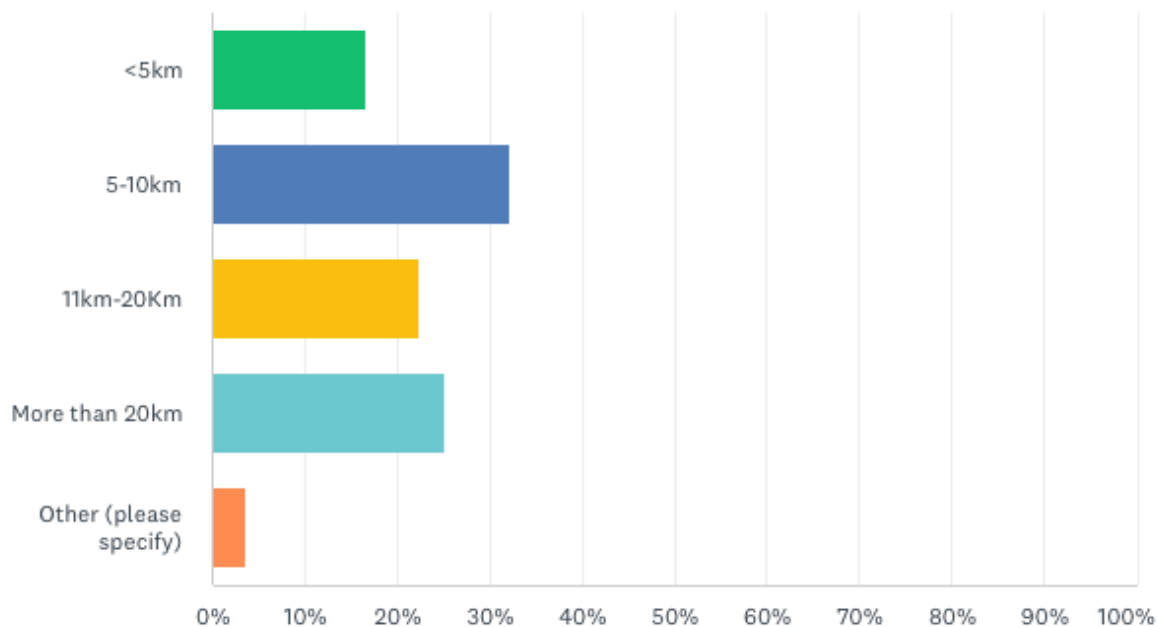
"Would rather the money be put into the outdoor pool. We need an outdoor pool !!!! "

"Prefer places to sit, have a BBQ, sheltered. Allergic to chlorine...no no!"

Question 15: How far would you travel to use a small water play area?

The majority of respondents said they would travel 5 to 10 kilometres.

Many were also prepared to travel more than 20 kilometres to use a splash park.



The following table shows the distance likely to travel to a splash park, and where the respondent lived.

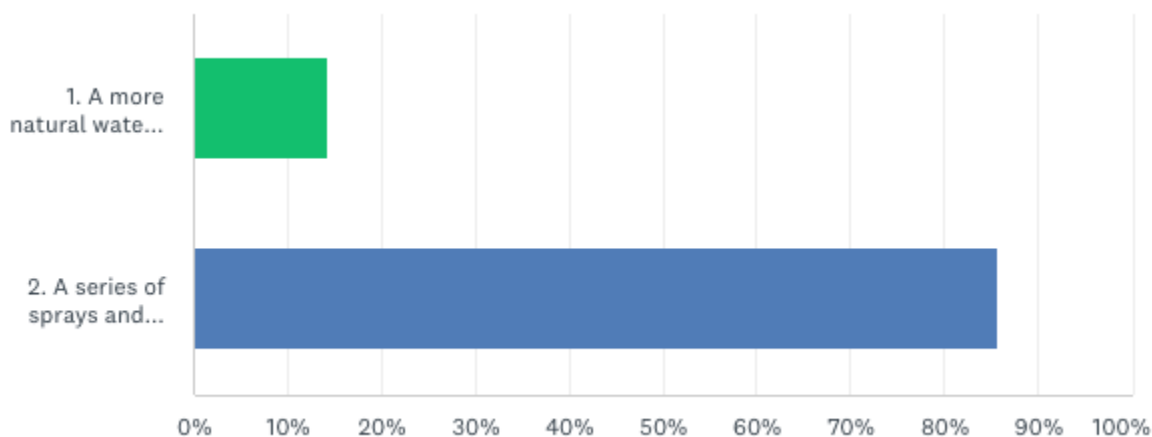
Location	<5km	5-10km	11-20km	>20km	Other	Total
Maryborough	42	73	32	37	7	191
Carisbrook		14	10	4	2	30
North part of the Shire			1	7		8
Central part of the Shire	4	3	5	4		16
South part of the Shire		4	12	8		24
Outside CG		1	1	12	2	16
Total	46	95	61	72	11	285

Question 16: What type of water play area would be best provided by Council?

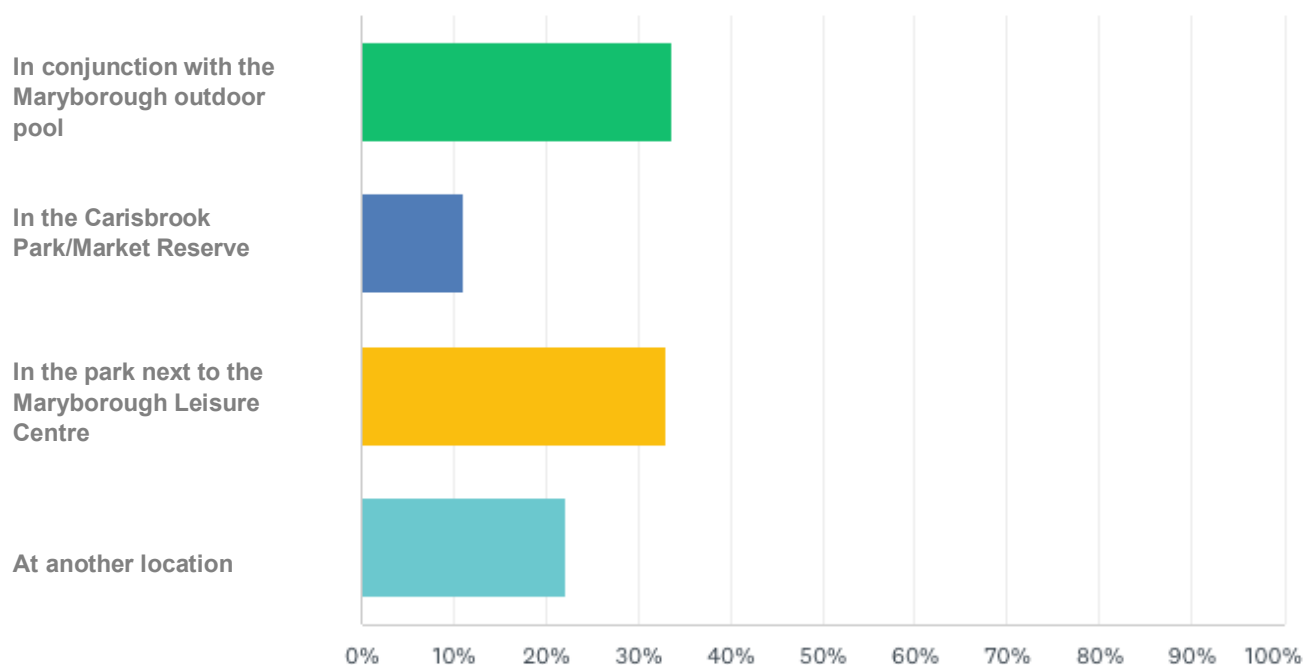
Respondents were asked about the nature of water play that they would prefer:

- a) A more natural water play area with hand pump, zero depth channels, sand play with vegetation etc., or
- b) A series of sprays and water play equipment on a paved apron.

Over 85% of respondents preferred the spray apron style of water park over a more natural water play elements.



Question 17: Which location for a water play facility do you think would suit the most people in the Shire?



A very similar number of respondents thought the best location for a water park was at the Maryborough outdoor pool as those who chose next to the Maryborough Leisure Centre.

64 respondents suggested another location other than those options provided.

The most common "Other" suggestion was near the Skatepark (Princes Park East).

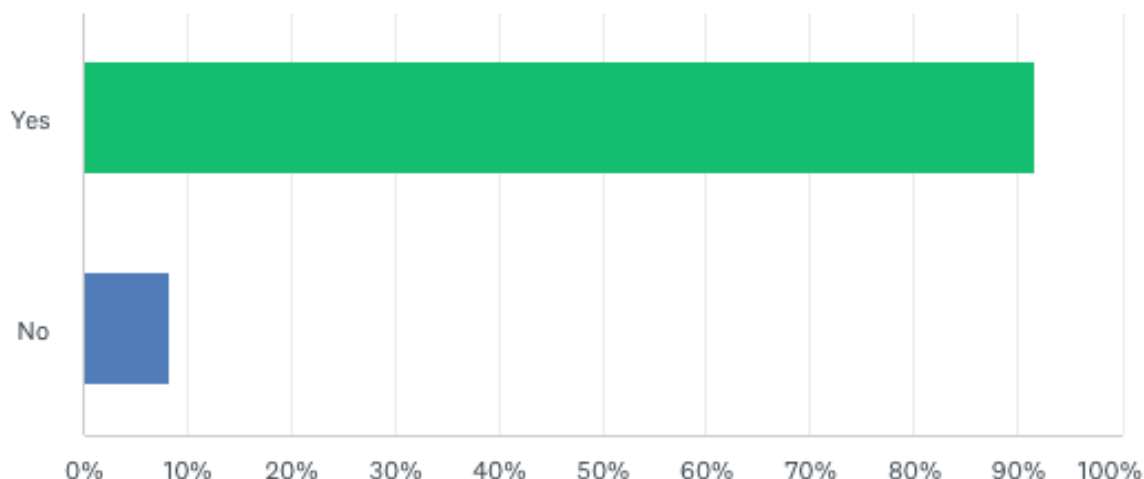
More gave this response (40) than for Carisbrook (32).

Location	North	Central	Maryborough	Carisbrook	South	Other	Total
With the Maryborough Outdoor Pool	5	3	71	3	11	3	96
Next to the Maryborough Leisure Centre	2	7	64	5	7	8	93
At another location*	1	5	48		5	5	64
In the Carisbrook Park/Market Reserve		1	8	22	1		32
Grand Total	8	16	191	30	24	16	285

Question 18: Water play areas such as splash parks will most likely cost more to build and maintain than a typical play space.

Do you think a water play area is a higher priority to build than other play space upgrades?

More than 90% of respondents thought that a water play area was higher priority than other play space upgrades.



Question 19: Reasons why a water play area is a higher priority to build than other play space upgrades

The following table summarises the main reasons why respondents rated a water play area as a higher priority than other play spaces.

Summarised Reason	Qty	%
Adds variety to opportunities available	160	64%
No outdoor pool	54	22%
Attraction	45	18%
Free	28	11%
Activity	23	9%
Accessible	21	8%
Prefer to pool	9	4%
Safer than a pool	9	4%
Other	6	2%
Cost	2	1%
Water familiarisation	1	0%

Question 20: If no, please provide your reasons why a water play area is not high priority.

Reasons why a water play area is not high priority (summary of comments)	Count
Short season/ only suitable for the summer Playgrounds can be used all year around	5
Costs	3
Need an outdoor pool more	2
All other playgrounds would get more use	1
Outdoor pools don't have much variety for toddlers	1
No one community deserves it over another	1
All parks are basic / not up to date, need more going on e.g. basketball rings, more nature play and fences, e.g. Whirrakee Rise	2
Not everyone will use them	1
Can do water play at home	1
Incorporate water into other playground spaces; don't need a dedicated space	1
We need more indoor play spaces i.e., for birthday parties	1

Full comments:

Reasons why a water play area is not higher priority to build than other play space upgrades?

- A minority of the community is very vocal in regard to a splash park, but many wouldn't understand the ongoing costs involved with the running of this, as well as the overall use each year-I wouldn't be taking my little kids there unless it's a hot day, which is only going to be over approx. 3 months of the year.
- Other okay areas need updating first.
- Having a full size fully functional outdoor pool would be more beneficial than a splash park or anymore play spaces. Currently our kids are learning to swim in an indoor pool where they can touch the bottom which is not ideal or overly realistic if they fell in fully clothed etc. if a splash park was to be considered this area should all tie in together. Utilise the derelict tennis courts as well. It's a great central space.
- We have many play spaces in the area that would get a lot more use if they were upgraded there is no point adding more and letting the older places go to waste.
- I think all growth to our community is beneficial in the long run. Our local outdoor pools offer baby/toddler pools but not much variety when it is keeping the kids interested in long enough periods times especially when a parent pays an entry fee.
- At the same time no area of community deserves more than the other. But it's not just our local community that benefits from growth it's the wider community to
- It's a hard question, I don't think any of the parks are up to date or have enough going for them especially having twin boys who like to run off. I think all parks should have fences. So I can't answer that one

- We don't have a swimming pool in the town!
- There would be more things to do at a splash park and more water and fun for kids to play with
- The ongoing cost and water usage concerns me. For the cost it is only one season so 3-4 months at most. I think the money could be used to better. Adding public use basketball rings and more nature play in numerous areas around the region would be my choice.
- Not everyone will use a splash park. More families would use playgrounds any time of the year
- The other playgrounds are in desperate need of upgrading. It would be amazing to have both a splash park and upgraded park but a park that can be used all year around would be amazing.
- There are other options for water play at home
- Our play spaces are very basic. I think spending the money and improving the beautiful area near the lake would be more useful. The splash park would only be used for a couple of months a year
- You have an indoor pool with a play area and an outdoor pool where children can play in water, they will play on other maintained playgrounds.... Splash parks are really only suitable for the summer.....
- Have a pool and safer play in backyard compared to this, splash park so limited to time of year. Playgrounds all year around.
- Water play can be more economically incorporated into other playground spaces; we don't need a dedicated splash park per se, as it's use would be limited to the handful of very hot days. Water play in a playground setting can be used year round.
- It would be great. Not a necessity over improving other spaces.
- I think Whirrakee rise has a very large proportion of young children and families, making a series of upgrades to make the area user friendly would be my preference first.
- I suppose you can only use a splash park for a few months of the year and playgrounds can be used all year!
- Water parks are only for summer and warmer months. Parks we can use all year round. We take a towel and dry the slide and swing so we get more use out of them
- We need more indoor players, especially when kids want to have birthday parties and don't want to have it at home. There's not much places to have a kids party.

Question 21: In what suburb or locality do you live?

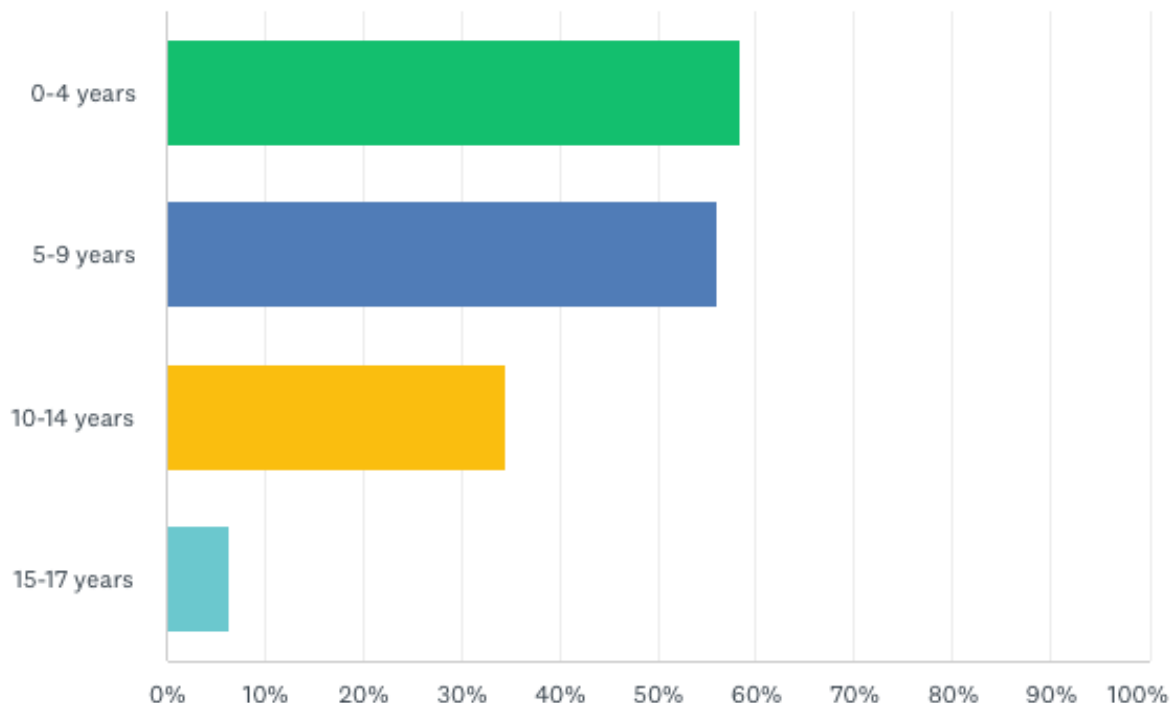
The majority of respondents to the survey were from Maryborough, as expected, as this town has the highest population in the Shire.

Location	Qty	%
Maryborough	198	67.6%
Carisbrook	31	10.6%
North part of Shire	8	2.7%
Central “	16	5.5%
South”	24	8.2%
Outside Goldfields	16	5.5%
Total	293	100.0%

Suburb	Qty	%	Location
Adelaide Lead	1	0.3%	South
Alma	2	0.7%	Central
Amherst	2	0.7%	South
Bet Bet	3	1.0%	Central
Betley	2	0.7%	Central
Bowenvale	3	1.0%	Central
Bromley	2	0.7%	North
Carisbrook	31	10.6%	Carisbrook
Craigie	2	0.7%	South
Daisy Hill	7	2.4%	South
Dunluce	1	0.3%	North
Dunolly	4	1.4%	North
Flagstaff	1	0.3%	Central
Havelock	1	0.3%	Central
Majorca	3	1.0%	South
Maryborough	198	67.6%	Maryborough
Moliagul	1	0.3%	North
Other	16	5.5%	Other
Red Lion	1	0.3%	South
Simson	2	0.7%	Central
Talbot	8	2.7%	South
Timor	1	0.3%	Central
Timor West	1	0.3%	Central
Total	293	100.0%	

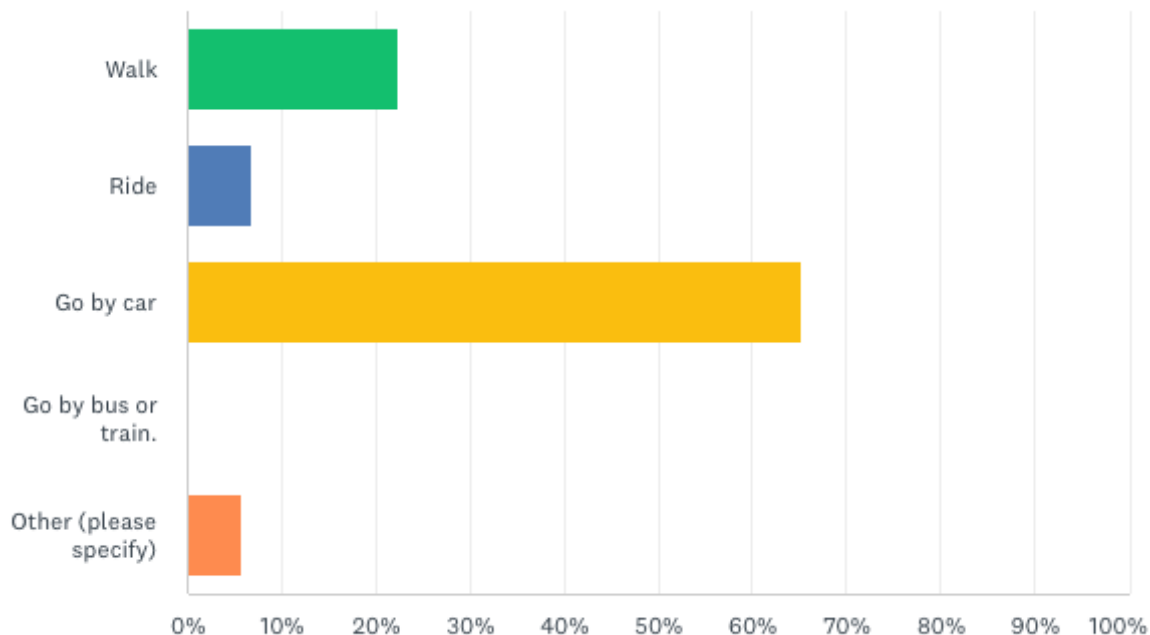
Question 22: How old is the child/children using the play space?

The majority of respondents take preschool children to play spaces.



Question 23: How does the child/children mostly get to the play space?

Most children are driven to play spaces.



The method of getting to the play space to each place space is shown in the following table.

Play space	Go by car	Ride	Walk	Other
Majorca Town Hall Playground - Majorca	50%	0%	50%	0%
Bucknall Reserve Playground - Carisbrook	33%	11%	44%	11%
Whirrakee Drive Playground - Maryborough	14%	14%	43%	29%
Rowland Park Playground - Maryborough	0%	67%	33%	0%
Maryborough Caravan Park Playground - Maryborough	66%	3%	28%	3%
Goldfields Reservoir Playground - Maryborough	75%	0%	25%	0%
Maryborough Leisure Centre - Maryborough	58%	17%	25%	0%
Carisbrook Park - Carisbrook	42%	21%	21%	16%
Princes Park East Playground - Maryborough	63%	10%	21%	6%
Apex Park Playground - Maryborough	80%	0%	20%	0%
Other (please specify)	60%	0%	20%	20%
Station Domain Playground - Maryborough	76%	3%	19%	3%
Talbot Pioneers Reserve - Talbot	86%	0%	14%	0%
Coronation Park Playground - Maryborough	100%	0%	0%	0%
Daisy Hill Community Centre Playground - Daisy Hill	100%	0%	0%	0%
Dunolly Public Recreation Reserve (Tennis and Skate Park) - Dunolly	100%	0%	0%	0%
Timor Rd Playground/Timor Tennis Playground - Bowenvale	100%	0%	0%	0%
Total	66%	7%	22%	5%

The only play spaces where the majority of people walk were:

- Bucknall Reserve playground in Carisbrook, and
- Whirrakee Drive Playground – Maryborough.

The playground with the highest proportion of children go by bike was Rowland Park Playground – Maryborough.

There were four play spaces where all respondents who use them travelled by car:

- Coronation Park Playground - Maryborough
- Daisy Hill Community Centre Playground - Daisy Hill
- Dunolly Public Recreation Reserve (Tennis and Skate Park) – Dunolly, and
- Timor Rd Playground/Timor Tennis Playground - Bowenvale

Question 24: Other than what you have already included in this survey, do you have any other comments to make about play spaces in Central Goldfields Shire?

Themes in comments (summary)	Qty
Water play	39
Accessibility	11
Shade	10
Variety	10
Upkeep	9
Fencing	7
Attraction	5
Bins / cleaning	5
All good	4
CCTV	3
Nature play	3
Seating	3
BBQ	2
Exercise equipment	2
Action	1
Activity	1
Bark near skate area	1
Bike racks	1
Drinking fountains	1
Dog park	1
Location	1
Parking	1
Safety	1
Softplay	1
Toilets	1
No Comment	28
Total	145

3.4 Suggested Improvements by play space

NOTE: it is not always clear that respondents have used the correct name for the park they describe.

Apex Play space (Bristol Hill) Maryborough

As the closest space

- A splash park
- More bins to around to keep play area clean.
- Open the toilets
- New updated play equipment and more things for toddlers/ smaller kids
- Fencing to make it safer for little ones as it faces the very busy park road and is exceptionally close to the road.
- Add a fence to make it safe from a busy road.
- Amenities upgrade, shade, more play equipment. Really, it needs to be redone completely.
- New play equipment
- Everything

As main space

- More shade there are trees, but they don't always cover the main part of the playground
- Not sure
- More activities for everyone
- Replace the chip bark as it's dangerous
- More equipment for tiny kids like small climbing things
- A fence around the park so kids can't run out on the road / safety .

Carisbrook Recreation Reserve -swing

As the closest space

- Gated area for young children

As the main play space

- More modern equipment

Bucknall Reserve, Carisbrook

As the closest space

- More equipment cleaner area
- Drinking fountain
- More equipment suitable for older children
- More play equipment, eg swing,
- Better sitting area on the creek banks
- BBQ area, more equipment
- Fence. These play areas are open to traffic
- The disability swing is always locked. It's not easy for a parent to hunt down the key & return it when you have a disabled child to look after
- Safe fencing from main road.
- Splash Park for warmer weather
- More equipment like swing, see saw and also shade nearby. As there is no shade, it makes it unusable in summer months
- Fencing. Softplay- ie rubber or better ground - more interactive equipment and SWINGS!
- Make it bigger with more options
- Bland reserve playground and area is beautiful to ride bikes, have a quick play on playground or kick a ball/footy. We love the walking track and enjoy sitting on the seats for a break to sit in nature. Well done CGSC.
- It's a beautiful playground and fully fenced so that's a bonus but an added splash park in Maryborough be great.

As the main space

- Better creek access, a drink fountain
- the play space is great but it does have more space to be even better. table and chairs in the actual play space would be good.
- Adding more equipment for older children.
- Nothing
- A BBQ and more equipment
- Fence area .
- More play equipment & fence between the car parking area from Bucknall street entrance & play / open area. This would make it safer for all children
- Splash park

1. Carisbrook Park -Market Reserve

As the closest space

- Not sure
- Splash park (8) / Splash park in this area. A splash park would be great for the kids as there is no pool in Carisbrook. Water play or splash park for warmer months
- Additional play equipment
- As provide in previous answer
- Fencing around the area as it is near the creek, and extending on the equipment as it is very basic.
- A more natural play space with logs and boulders would be ideal in the area.
- Expansion of attractions
- Shade more picnic tables. And a splash park. Carisbrook has minimal play spaces unlike Maryborough who has multiple plus the indoor pool.
- Answer in first question- same park
- The local park is usually busy
- It's very small
- Shade improvement Pump track Tunnels Trampoline Natural play space - use of hills, rocks, grass to encourage play in nature
- Pump park, splash park lots of room available
- More footpaths added to streets leading up to the park.
- Pump park for ages 2-6 somewhere for kids to ride bikes
- A splash park, more things for toddlers in the park area as it's mostly for big kids apart from the swings.

As the main space

- More shade, grass area, soft matting instead of chip bark. Less basic equipment.
- Splash park somewhere in the surrounding area
- Removal of large boulders/rocks. They are not necessary and just become a trip hazard for the kids
- A splash park, maybe a little work on tidying up the bike track area.
- Plenty of room and good central location for many local communities and a boost to the local community.

- More shade.
- Better shade, maybe some more garden or paths to link the fenced play equipment to the smaller play area next to the fire station, to make the whole area feel like one space
- Play space for younger children, shade whilst playing.
- Pump park, water park
- Inbuilt trampoline in the ground and include a splash park in the space nearby
- Extended and upgraded play equipment. Splash park added onto the park for the warmer summer months as creek is no longer swimmable after multiple floods.
- Rubbish bins! Update the BMX track! Sensory activities
- A young children's pump park would be great. There are no safe areas for toddlers to ride bikes
- It's a big space but still not much there for the kids to do. A tad boring after awhile

Coronation Park (Park Rd), Maryborough

As the closest space

- Regular upkeep, good for what it is
- Add fences so that it's not a worry if the child goes near the water
- Something for younger ages to do (under 2)
- More variety
- Fence it off from the busy road.
- The cars along Park Road were a real worry when my children were younger, so perhaps fencing around the junior equipment would be appreciated. And an upgrade to the climbing/slide equipment around the fire truck.
- The monkey bars are too high for most kids. More shade would be great.
- Update the play equipment
- Shade, BBQ's extra seating

As the main space

- Fencing
- More variety
- Fence near the water, I have a variety of aged children with disabilities and its hard to keep them from the water.

Daisy Hill Community Centre Playground

As the closest space

- Toilets available and picnic table and seats in the playground fence of area
- More play equipment. Open public toilets.
- Shading
- More facilities and seating perhaps BBQ
- Have 4 kids to small for all to play on
- More equipment, more shade
- Seating inside the playground, picnic table, strength training and fitness equipment, TOILETS AVAILABLE!

As the main space

- Picnic table and chairs inside fence area and toilets available

Deledio Rec. Reserve, Dunolly

As the closest space

- More playground activities like tunnels climbing net etc.

Dunolly Public Recreation Reserve

As the closest space

- Add more fun equipment for all rangers of children
- More play equipment, more shaded areas/picnic tables
- More shade and sitting areas
- Tanbark is shit on rollator-walker wheels (FYI, I've been using a rollator-walker because of disability and I'm only 50 years old, not 80!!). Sometimes I've used my manual wheelchair and footpaths are not wide enough for a wheelchair user and a person walking the opposite way. The bogans in this shire (and there are far too many) think they shouldn't have to move out of the way. Well, Sunshine, wheelchairs and walkers are designed for pavement. Bogan parents will complain when you're coming up the footpath and their little Bogan spawn is in a pram. Their pram can handle grass, but filthy bogans think they are entitled to everything and wouldn't understand basic human decency even it were explained using hand puppets and simple diagrams. Save the planet, sterilise a bogan! I've seen gorillas with better manners.
- I already said. Improve safety of new spinny thing and more green grass.
- More tables and chairs for picnics
- Fencing for those kids that require containment for their safety

As main space

- Add more child friendly adventures
- Extending the play area or maybe adding some sort of water activities
- My 10 year old believes the new spinning thing needs to be safer as you could fall off it easily as he nearly fell of it. More green grass.
- Shade cover
- Fence it entirely to make play safer for kids.

Fraser Street Reserve, Maryborough

As the closest space

- Shade, seating, equipment!

Goldfields Reservoir Park, Maryborough

As the closest space

- Appears very outdated not overly interactive- needs to be more appealing
- All playgrounds could do with more upkeep and closer and better toilets.
- Electric BBQ
- More equipment more shade more tables and chairs

As the main space

- Improved toilet facilities
- Toilets needs improving and more seating.
- Some more equipment suitable for the little toddlers
- A splash park then I would not have to go to Ballarat all the time.

Majorca Town Hall Playground - Majorca

As the closest space

- A lot! It's terrible. A new play set.
- The ground needs to be suitable for a wheelchair to make it easier to push the wheelchair
- More equipment
- Shade and more equipment

As main space

- More equipment
- Everything. This park has no equipment other than a swing and spiny thing which is not usable for my 1 and 2 year old. There are no gardens, only one tree, no fencing and most of all just nothing for kids to play on other than one baby swing.

Herring Reserve, Maryborough

As the closest space

- I think it needs a complete makeover, new equipment as the equipment there is very old and outdated, i think it would benefit from shade sails, more swings and a fence. My kids (8, 4 & 3) get bored easily there because it's not very big.
- The play equipment closest to us is not suitable for my children's ages, not much they can actually do there, i think more equipment would help and maybe a fence
- It's a small area, it's a good park for its size.
- More fun for the kids

Maryborough Caravan park (possibly confused with the Princes Park East)

As the closest space

- Live out of town closes place to drive in
- Would love water feature, for summer
- A free to use splash park during the spring/summer season
- Splash park
- The playground closes to me is the station playground, there is nothing there for the older kids, my son is 10 and my youngest is a baby, my son would rather go to the skate park because there is something there for all family members. a BBQ area would be nice.
- A splash park would be a perfect addition to Maryborough
- Tables in the play space
- Nothing
- Splash park
- Splash park
- Fence, especially the side closest to the lake, splash park added for more fun in summer (won't have to travel to Ballarat and Creswick)
- More shaded area and more seating
- Water park
- Splash park
- What is mentioned in question 6 in regard to fencing
- I live out of town boundary so that's why I choose to go there
- More play equipment for kids with special needs
- Updated play equipment.
- Up graded play equipment
- More shelter/ trees

As the main space

- Water activity area for hotter months
- More variety of equipment. Gym equipment to encourage activity for adults
- A free to use splash park for the spring/summer months

- Seating not always in shade where youngest child plays. Can be hard to supervise both areas
- More play equipment
- Pretty good space I think
- Splash park A splash park would be amazing. The kids would love it/ A splash park would be great with the extra space, (11)
- basketball court, cameras up to help control bullying and damage to the area example spraying painting.
- Its fine the way it is
- More table and chairs and shade areas. Seating around skate park
- Something for smaller children (under 2) to enjoy
- More play equipment, splash park, more bins, gardens, shade over equipment
- Nothing, it's pretty entertaining have a kid
- Adequate fencing to stop young children been able to come in contact with the main road behind
- More seating
- Shade sails
- It's great the way it is
- Something for the kids in summer
- More trees / shelter
- Better grassed area

Maryborough Sport and Leisure Centre Park

As the closest space

- A barbecue More undercover seating.
- More wheelchair and disabled access
- Add a splash park in th adjacent space
- Water/Splash Park desperately needed in town. Don't care where.
- Splash Park for the children to enjoy in summer
- Water park. There is plenty of free space
- Is missing night lights so U can see
- And a splash park
- Make it a community space with amenities and access for kids of all ages A splash park would be amazing in the summer

As the main space

- Splash park
- More variety
- regular maintenance, building improvements BEFORE big issues arise
- A slash park and new heating at pool
- Longer times on weekends
- Outdoor water park
- Shade and more options
- More family friendly change rooms, a swim playgroup to help parent introduce their children to the water
- More fun for the kids
- Cooling in the basketball stadium as it's so hot when playing in the spring/summer season. Another basketball court would increase participation in Maryborough
- Splash park or playground and open the toilets
- Picnic area with BBQ and bins Interactive outdoor games like a froth course or hedged maze
- Day care at the pool

Princes Park East, Maryborough

As the closest space

- More seating
- Not a lot its pretty safe
- It's old and badly kept, Maryborough is looking tired
- More play equipment possibly an enclosed play space for younger children being that it is close to the water and bigger equipment separately for the bigger kids
- Put a water park in it that be awesome
- Gated off play spaces or splash parks for the summer.
- Splash park, another playground area and more seating
- Having surfaced that is better for wheelchair.
- Same as last answer
- Fence it off
- maybe a fence, and some more spot to sit down that have cover
- A fence on the roadside of that turtle playground would be good.
- More shaded areas, fencing
- A splash park would be great for summertime as the pool is no longer open
- More shade, path access from Burns Street carpark, more table and chairs and fencing to keep a boundary between playground and lake
- More then just a swing and a slide
- The closest is the one across the road from Mitsubishi and there is no bins or shade.
- A splash park A splash park at one of the playgrounds (14)
- More variety
- I find it too close to road. It's smaller. It could use some safety fencing
- Shade
- Firm, even ground surfaces. Play equipment at a level they can use without leaving their wheelchair. Sensory friendly play equipment.
- More shaded tables
- Update the playground equipment, possibly add to it as its vary small with only maybe 5 things for kids to play on
- More trees, outdoor gym thing, and splash park
- Add extra activities. A splash park would be great at this area.
- Updated play equipment! Ours are so old! We need something modern like everywhere else has built or building.
- more shade
- Maybe an area fenced off for very small (runner) tots.
- A bit more equipment for toddlers and a place for water play in the Summer
- A variety of equipment
- Off lead dogs area, fenced
- Signage about being inclusive and safety in public spaces
- Indigenous signage place names
- Maybe re wheelchair and mobility device pathways, access
- More swings
- Modern play equipment
- More equipment for little kids.
- Some older kids equipment like a rock wall etc.
- More seating and shaded areas
- More equipment
- There is no shade protection, there are no safety fences and it's next to a lake
- A lot, dogs are always at the park, teens get at the skate park swearing and yelling making it very un-family friendly for small children. It is also a small, crowded area. With no shade over the play equipment.
- More modern, better play equipment, monkey bars are too high, playground outdated.

Cont./...

Princes Park East, Maryborough, cont.

As the main space

- More shelter
- More shaded play equipment
- Oversized chess board - a small bicycle/pedal car track with road traffic signs/lights, pedestrian crossings, 'carparks', etc (for those who may be learning/ just learnt to ride a bike) - automatic door on handicapped toilet/ easier to open toilet doors = physically impaired struggle to open - a few more bench seats/picnic tables
- Remove or fence in the ADULT exercise equipment as it's dangerous for kids and I see them climbing all over it every time in there
- It only has baby/toddler swings - it would be nice to have a flat seat option there too, similar to the 4 swings at station domain. However, the swing on the left is fantastic & appreciated by many parents.
- More eye-level play for the young toddlers would be ideal - the current playground is great but they can only really play noughts/crosses, play with the steering wheel & go down the small slide.
- The steps to get up there are also quite slim/narrow & steep for little ones, wider steps for little learning feet would be a nice touch.
- Some shorted monkey bars & the two height chin-up bars would be a great addition for the middle aged children too as they only really have the flying fox, spinning seats & monkey bars that are quite hard to use.
- Fencing/gates for smaller kids
- I think we need more things for children all ages a splash park or more play equipment
- Bit more play equipment
- have more equipment to play on
- Shade!
- The ground surface could be more suitable/firm/even for wheelchair access, more play equipment for a child in a wheelchair to be able to use at their level without having to leave their chair or access a key.
- The swings only have baby seats now and my older children can't use them any more
- Especially with no outdoor pool option for families at the moment, young children are missing out.
- More activity's and more spots to sit/ have a bbq as it's a well-loved spot
- More bins around the area to keep the play area clean.
- More trees, an outdoor gym thing, a water park
- A few more sheltered BBQs as there is usually a few families wanting to have the picnic in the park feel.
- Update the playground. It is definitely outdated compared to other towns. Quite embarrassing actually
- more shaded seating
- Also a big wooden climbing tower. Or a big climbing tower. We are very much lacking for things to do with kids in Maryborough. Especially with the outdoor pool closed! A water splash park with trees planted would be better
- Maybe some have splash park around for kids to enjoy
- Would love interactive water park
- Add more/ update playground
- A water park would be great for when it's warm
- More seats in shade
- Fencing. To stop the Ducks from dropping fecies on B.B.Q eating area.
- More variety
- Better equipment
- Bigger things for bigger children
- More toddler and baby friendly play equipment. Fenced area
- as well to make the whole area a huge play space for kids like the one we visit in Creswick.
- More climbing objects and smaller play areas for younger kids, a rope circle swing kids love them, water park for hotter weather days and shade sails
- n night lights above skate park
- It's tatty and old.

Princes Park East, Maryborough, cont.

As the main space

- Better use of the space. Think of the play space at Eaglehawk, and picture that in Maryborough
- More equipment for older kids the tween ages
- Making it more enclosed as it is around a decent body of water. Yes supervision is key but having high fencing with a child lock safe gate would improve it tremendously.
- another small playground area, also more seating around the area especially near the playground so we can have a seat and not be so far away
- Needs a windbreak, an icy wind blows through often even on an otherwise mild day.
- Could do with more play equipment, adventure/nature themed including some fenced off play equipment.
- better landscaping around skate park (get rid of bark on gardens it's a hazard to the skate park, grow turf or ground cover plants).
- Grassed open areas need better grass for playing and picnicking on.
- A splash park (22) if it could incorporate a windbreak. Doesn't need to be a huge fancy one, even a nature themed creek/waterfall like Warrnambool, or a small splash pad.
- Perhaps a windbreak wall that could double as a bouldering/climbing wall like Ararat skate park has.
- Could also have basketball hoop and handball etc.
- More bbq/picnic areas designed with kids parties in mind. A deck/boardwalk on the lake for fishing, launching kayaks and just sitting by the water.
- Infrastructure for holding community events and markets on lake Rd and the EBT track between the skate park and lake.
- A coffee van/ shipping container cafe spot.
- Better access to the park/skatepark by footpaths for kids on skateboards and scooters and bikes, there are NO footpaths leading to it from any direction!
- Consider parking overlooking lake designed for workers on their lunch break.
- Lots park in strange spots to get a view! Encourage them to get out and walk a lap?
- Seal the walking track around the lake to help connect footpaths to the skatepark.
- Lighting and more shade at the skatepark. More seating around the skatepark.
- Some parkour equipment.
- A fenced area/playground could be beneficial for smaller children
- Swings for older children/adults to be able to swing with their kids. Water park, especially with the outdoor pool complex being indefinitely out of action. An extra BBQ area would be great as it's a popular area.
- Keeping it maintained. Maybe a smaller slide for our littlest people.
- I think a splash park would really finish off the area as well as extending the playground slightly or even just adding a bigger slide like the one at the station playground.
- Maybe a bit more seating.
- I really think it needs more play equipment when you go to places like Ballarat, they seems to have a few areas of play so more would be better and there is plenty of space for it! Other towns also have a splash park that would add some entertainment for the kids and keep them cool in the warmer months!
- Fence around it
- A shade sail over the fun and fitness equipment, a splash park
- It is excellent
- So that everything is in the one fecundity
- Better shading and an access path from the carpark area on burns Street, along with more table and chairs
- I find this one good. It's got seating, skate park, BBQs.
- Things for variety of ages including disabled.

Roscholler Park, Maryborough

As the closest space

- Bigger playground
- More play equipment for 2 1/2 year-old
- More variety for younger kids

As main space

- Giving us a splash park.

Rowland Park, Maryborough

As the closest space

- More/updated play options, shade
- Tables and chairs more play equipment
- More equipment
- Better play spaces for summertime, more lunch tables and bbq areas
- Rowland park could do with a makeover! I would love to be able to walk my kids down as it's the closest playground to our home. Some things to consider:
- There is no fence around the play space- dangerous near such a busy road (Derby rd & Napier st) - playground equipment more for bigger children & not a lot of options to pick from to play on. - needs more seating - garden not well attended & needs some TLC - could do with some landscaping and grassed areas to make it more appealing.
- A dog park
- Fencing as it's on a main road. More play equipment variety

As main space

- Seating tables and more equipment
- More play spaces for younger kids
- More equipment for older kids.

Station Domain Play Space, Maryborough

As the closest space

- Adding more drinking taps, toilets
- more seats
- cleaner picnic table and concrete, outdoor toddler bench seat and table, outdoor pretend kitchen play space, more bench seating near growing trees.
- Make there more to do for the older kids there is not much to do as it gets boring doing the same 4 activities on repeat every time you go there
- Water play/A splash park add a splash park nearby for on hot days/ SPLASH PARK FOR KIDS! Including toddlers. And for all ages. (8)
- A splash park, or disability play area for children
- More play
- updated
- Not many children so I think it's fine
- More little toddler equipment. It's aimed at older children
- More things to do
- Toilet facilities close
- bins regularly emptied
- Maintenance on equipment.
- Add more activities
- More shade area More shade additional shade space. shade. Better shade trees and shade cloth covering Shade (7)
- More options for smaller kids
- Different equipment
- Bouncing area
- More seating
- Nothing (3) Nothing as station park is suitable to younger kids
- Public BBQ Area
- More undercover area
- Inclusive play equipment. More play options ie sand play, water play, riding play
- Need more options
- Rubbish checks It shouldn't be up to the shire because people should put their own rubbish in the bin
- More for toddlers to do as there is only a small playground for them to play on
- More equipment
- It could be tidier.....
- Keep dogs away
- Better back support and buckles on the swings for smaller kids/ babies and maybe a little toddler playground with balance beams and small climbing frames?
- Nearby cooking facilities
- Shade and a fence so kids can't run off
- Updates
- The one down the road from me isn't fenced in.
- Better equipped for all abilities
- More sensory stuff or more things equipped for kids with disabilities
- It's actually really great for children with additional needs except for the drink station. The drink station is a nightmare

As the main space

- Toilets closer (10) Closer toilets with change facilities. regular cleaning and a zip slide
- BBQ area (17) for kids parties/ Another undercover Area/Another eating area
- Better enforcement of people taking their dogs into the play area (2) / Patrolled to ensure dogs are not in there/ Nearby cooking facilities
- It be locked after hours to keep alcohol consumption and other activities.

Cont./...

Station Domain Play Space, Maryborough, cont.

As the main space, cont.

- Not always clean. Clean up the used condoms Regular cleaning Tables could be cleaned better or more often. (6) More frequent cleaning/maintenance (13) Just general upkeep. Making sure you maintain the area and equipment that is there regularly. Better upkeep of the equipment, Painting, checking the gate lock etc.... Regular tidy up. Keeping an eye on the damage that is being done by older children they draw explicit images and other disturbing stuff that our younger children don't need to see / Regular maintenance check. Broken gate, clean equipment/It can be messy at times/ I think council do a great job of looking after it, but it does get misused/damaged often by (I'm assuming) teenagers/ Maintenance and cleaning of space / Few repairs and upgrades/ Swings need regular maintenance/checks.
- Upgraded or new play options
- More tunnels to explore
- More seating, cleaner tables/concrete. / More tables and chairs for families to sit at (9) / undercover area/Perhaps more seating in a shaded area./ A second undercover area, but unsure how it would fit / More shade and table and chairs/ Maybe more tables for families
- Outdoor nature play kitchen and or bench seat and table for toddlers.
- Could possibly utilise the green space across the road in conjunction with the area.
- Maybe some climbing frames, ninja park
- Stuff for older kids
- More passively interactive pieces of equipment, so that more kids and their families would feel enticed to come out onto the town, also maybe introducing a kind of weekly food activity thing to be organised so more movement from the town is spent less at Coles and Woolies and more trying to move the local economy
- A splash park (36). I wish the original water pump was still operational. We travel out to Avoca quite a bit to use the water pump at their playground. Good for younger children, safer than pools Well every kid that uses it plays in the water tap, so it would be good to have water play/ Splash Park nearby. Or near Skate Park near lake. All play spaces are too hot in summer/ Water feature in park like pop up Sprinklers that stop and start with movement
- Small area with some green grass
- More swings.
- Better parking
- Nothing/ Nil (11) It's a good enough playground/ It's very good now, Not a lot the space is great/ This space is good. No further work / Not much/ The play area is fine/ We love it how it is/ We need more like this.
- More play equipment (4)
- The station playground is too secluded. Too many bushes etc
- Make it bigger/ Add to the space, create more area (3)
- more shade/ Replace shade sails (3)
- A few more activities for toddlers/ Smaller kid options/Create a bigger space that is for toddlers. (8) Add more equipment for smaller children to play with/ Bucket style swing for small children / More for young toddlers and babies such as tunnels at ground level, smaller slide on the moulded hill, more soft fall rubber
- A bouncing area/ Add a trampoline (2)
- More inclusive play equipment. /Brighter, more inclusive of children with disabilities. (2)
- Upgrade
- If other parks were fenced, I would visit them instead
- It's tired and not very imaginative compared to modern playgrounds. The swings need to be higher; the flying fox needs a lot of force to move across, and there is nothing for the older kids/teens to use
- Adults swing and fits equipment
- Better steps for the slide facing the road as hard for young ones to climb the ladder

**Station Domain Play Space, Maryborough,
cont.***As the main space, cont.*

- Better lighting for early evenings
- Swings need to be adjusted so they sit a little higher as they are so low most children have to awkwardly lift their legs in order to swing.
- We have a heap of issues with the drink fountain.
- Because of his autism he's a sensory seeker so the open drinking tap is extremely inviting to him and almost impossible to stop him being at because it's open. Probably sounds harmless but this includes him trying to constantly lick the dirty water that gathers in the bowl that catches and puddles on the ground. It would be wonderful if the drinking station could have a small fence around it to help be inclusive for those children with additional needs that can't help but be over stimulated by it's open existence to come play in it.

2. Talbot Pioneers Reserve, Talbot

As the closest space

- Incorporating a safe water space such as splash park. We have travelled to Creswick to use theirs and end up spending money there and not Maryborough
- Proper fencing and shade
- more activities for kids
- As before
- Already provided my feedback.
- I think by living in Maryborough that everyone can travel, and if it's close to the street or whatever you'll get plenty of kids down there
- More equipment and seating.
- Maintained more often

As the main space

- More fencing stop cars being able to drive in
- Nothing, it's fine
- More equipment
- Full fenced. It's not secure and near a busy road
- Secure fencing is required. At market times in particular there is opportunity for parents to sit and enjoy a few minutes break. However with only a pipe barrier to designate the area it is not secure. It needs a pool type fence to give some security to the area which is bordered by 3 roads
- The landing where the slide is becomes extremely hot in warm weather and has burnt my child more than once in summer. More climbing spaces should be put in and a concreted space for basketball or ball games/ bike riding etc.
- Maintained on a regular basis.

3. Timor Road Playground, Bowenvale

As the closest space

- Toilets opened
- Timor playground is nearly non-existent. The equipment is old and there is nothing to stop my child running to the road that is quite close
- Needs to be fenced, needs better equipment.
- A whole lot of Play equipment - gardens and a fence

As the main space

- Toilets opened.

Whirrakee Drive Playground, Maryborough

As the closest space

- More shade, more equipment suitable for younger ages also. Maybe a set of swings. Would be amazing to add a small basketball court because I think the kids around the neighbourhood would use it all the time
- A larger playground with more to offer for all ages. It currently is quite small and only really suitable to primary aged children. There is nothing there for children younger. Also some shade sails/coverage would be good to protect from the upcoming hot summer
- Better playground facilities for small children - swing etc. shade areas Basketball ring?
- Needs more to do. Not enough equipment. Maybe some swings and some things for the smaller kids. Tables and chairs. Climbing frames for the older kids. Also some general upkeep. Doesn't appear like it's been touched much since it was first put in.
- Would be great to have something for the teens to utilise
- More play equipment better equipment
- It's fairly small and there is no swing, so a swing would be good
- Bigger play space, more shelter, water tap, more play equipment for all ages including babies/toddlers and older kids. Adding swings and basketball court/ring
- A lot as previously stated
- Shaded space, seating in shaded space, BBQ area, more play equipment to entice families to be outdoors and utilise the space.
- Whirrakee had so much room up in that area, that playground up there is for older children. It needs more things for younger children.
- More family friendly with seating, BBQ, better play space
- More variety of equipment
- The play space is not suitable to younger kids and not much to do there at all keeps kids entertained for like 2 Minutes and they're bored it's needs more such as climbing space easier access lower play areas swings more slides
- Improved playground suitable for all ages, shading
- Fence the space in so kids can't run near the busy road. Don't waste money on a BBQ, put in some swings, and an age appropriate play space for younger kids/toddlers under 5. Concrete space for bikes and a basketball ring space
- Concrete border around play equipment is a hazard. Replace / upgrade play equipment. Young children unable to use, older children don't want to use. Not practical. Not useful. Include more trees, shade, tables and chairs. Improve facilities such as basketball ring, playground equipment, Swings, gate rather than open fence near playground near busy road!
- A splash park
- BBQ area, a half court with a basketball ring. Larger area for kids to play, pump track.
- Larger with more equipment. Add swings.
- It could be made more appropriate for children and babies of all ages, it could be fenced, there could be shade/cover for days that are too hot or too wet.
- The playground is very limited. Very limited seating, no BBQ, no other all ages equipment such as exercise equipment or paths for bike riding etc
- Update playground equipment, as it is a very high playground for the younger children and very minimal to do, so better equipment, shade, BBQ's it's a beautiful area and could be so much more
- More play equipment, shade, water, BBQ area toilets
- Bigger play space, BBQ, picnic area, swings, slides with stair access not just climbing access. Shade Enclosed and shaded with more play options. It's really not suited for younger children. Cont./...

Whirrakee Drive Playground, Maryborough, cont.***As the main space***

- But for Whirrakee it definitely needs huge improvement. Bigger play space, picnic space, swings, slides
- Full or half basketball court
- More play equipment for more ages groups. Equipment for babies/toddlers, swings, equipment for bigger kids like basketball court/ring
- A lot. Swings, more play equipment. Shelter, seating, basketball court etc
- BBQ area More seating maybe undercover Larger playground suited for more ages. Concrete pad with basketball ring or netball ring
- Everything. It's a good space but not age appropriate for children under 5, not fenced in and dangerous being so close to cars and road. No swings or smaller slide and climbing station for smaller toddlers and kids compare to others in town
- Put swing on it
- There are all ages here, we really would love an update of a playground to provide for most ages, it would be nice to get some shade some BBQ area to be able to walk down and have some fun, instead of getting into the car to be able to go to the parks

End of volume 2, and consultation results report analysis.